

# Greece: Assassination attempt against a women trade-unionist

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Assassination attempt on the 22/12, at 12 midnight, in front of the house of Konstantina Kouneva, general secretary of the Attica Union of Cleaners and domestic workers, which has 1700 members. Unknown persons dropped acid (of unknown type as yet) on the face, head and shoulder of the 42 year woman, who was immediately transported in hospital by ambulance, and she is since in the intensive care unit where doctors are fighting first for her life, and secondly, if she survives (as we all of course hope and wish) for reparation of face and basic functions. One of her eyes is considered totally destroyed, for the other there are chances.

The biggest employer of the workforce covered by this union, is a contractor (outsourcing) for cleaning in huge companies, like the city trains (HSAP) and the Hellenic Vehicles Industry (EVO) and perhaps others.

This employer is employing 900 workers in all, which means is a big company, on terrible conditions of flexible, short hours work, fraud in insurance stamps and contravention of laws about working hours. Terrorisation of the workforce has been denounced by this union to the Ministry of Labour, Work Inspection Service, the General Confederation of Labour, the Labour Centre of Athens etc, but to no avail. There is also another union in this work area, to serve the interests of the employer.

All the members of the Union board have been terrorised by the employer for years, and despite the denunciations of the Union and the information to the public companies for which the sub-contractor was working, there was no intervention for improvement of working conditions.

The board of the Union considers that this assassination attempt comes from the side of unknown employers in the area of cleaning, who had interest in terrorising the union.

After the Christmas holidays the struggle for the right of the precarious workers to full unionisation will be at the top of the movement's agenda, after this extreme and incredible attack.

The students and pupils have cancelled until the end of the holidays most of the occupations, but the movement will continue after the holidays. The next big appointment is on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January, when a big rally and protest of the education world and is planned in Athens and other cities.

Best wishes

Sissy Vovou

Greek Social Forum