

AFTER THE GREEK RIOTS

# Greece: Anarchy is struggle for life, not death

Friday 14 May 2010, by [Collective / Multiple signers](#) (Date first published: 8 May 2010).

**In the next few hours, we will be publishing translations of a few statements on Wednesday's horrific events that have been written by anarchist and anti-authoritarian groups; in the midst of the tragedy, there is some concrete hope that us, the anarchists, are taking the events seriously enough, thinking and discussing them openly, at last. A vital first step. [- A translator for Occupied London]**

---

In December 2008, during the events that followed the assassination of Alexandros Grigoropoulos, the anarchist/ anti-authoritarian movement responded to the fascist pleas of the Mass Media for a return to "quiet, order and security" with the disarming slogan: "you talk about shop fronts, we talk about human lives".

What dangerous hypocrisy makes some now talk about the non-existing fire extinguishers of the bank rather than the lives that were lost? What Orwellian twist of reality makes some talk about the tragic event as if it was some short-circuit?

Don't we really understand that this hypocrisy is on par with the NATO murderers who spoke of "collateral damage"?

Don't we really understand that the granted and obvious cynicism and thuggery of a mega-capitalist, who blackmailed his employees in being in the bank, does not redeem anyone for the dead?

Don't we really understand that if you use the tactics of the beast you are fighting against, you become one with it?

If anarchists struggle for something, if there is something worth for people to struggle for, this is Life, Freedom and Dignity. For a world where death will no longer hold any authority...

At the demonstration of May 6<sup>th</sup> in the centre of Thessaloniki, which came as response to the call-out by the union of hospital workers of Thessaloniki and grassroots unions, many people - mostly anarchists and anti-authoritarians from the demonstration's last block - shouted repeatedly: "these were murders, we hold no illusions, the State and Vgenopoulos murder workers". Surely for many such thoughts will be soothing. But do they definitely comprehend the content and the extension of what they are wishing for?

We do not know what exactly happened at Marfin bank on the afternoon of 5/5/2010. What we do know is that at the moment when we heard of the tragic news none of our surrounding was in a position to categorically reject that it was what the attorneys of the Corporate Media had declared it to be. And this is tragic too.

Because if through our practice we do not make it evidently impossible (to us, first and foremost) that such an act would come from people active in the same political space with us then we have already paved the way for tragedies to take place (from murderous irresponsibility, warped nastiness or malice).

In a generalised revolt there are uncontrollable dead; it happened in Los Angeles, it happened in Argentina. No-one ever thought of charging an organised political current with these deaths.

The fact that the three murdered workers of Marfin bank are charged to anarchy certainly reveals some huge responsibilities. Who can ignore the tolerance to avant-guardist logics and the contempt for human life? No matter if you say that the experienced anarchists, all these years, have set alight so many banks and no-one ever was endangered. No matter if you say that it is Vgenopoulos' fault because he forced the employees to stay in the bank, which had no fire protection etc.

You cannot shake off the responsibility.

If there are even some few people who define themselves as anarchists and get to the point of irresponsibility to torch buildings alight with people inside them, this irresponsibility has somehow been cultivated.

If, worse even, you have paved the way for the largest act of agent provocateurs in Greece post-WWII, then the long-term consequences exceed even the tragedy of the three murdered people.

And the answer is not that "the enemy of ruthless". We know of both Piazza Fontana in Milan and Scala in Barcelona.

The answer is the emergent, dense opposition which is growing roots across social spaces, across the country - with persistence and toilsome labour; with camaraderie, mutuality and solidarity. the answer is the struggle for life, not death.

***Panopticon publications/journal, The Foreigners' Publications, Stasei Ekipiptontes Publications, Exarcheia Publications, Black Pepper of the Evian Gulf, Nixtegersia Magazine***

---

**P.S.**

<http://www.occupiedlondon.org/blog/2010/05/08/284-anarchy-is-struggle-for-life-not-death/>