

Newsletter Autumn 2013

Dear friends and comrades,

In the last four years, Greece has served as guinea pigs in the most vile neoliberal macroeconomic experiment in modern history. The austerity measurements implied by Troika (EU, ECB, IMF) include cut offs in wages and pensions, thousands of lay offs in the public sector, closure of hospitals, leading to a total deconstruction of the social state. Unemployment stands at nearly 28 percent, and youth unemployment is a staggering 64.9 percent. A quarter of the population has trouble putting food on the table, public health is deteriorating, suicide is up 26 percent. The greek government has reached the extremes of oppression in order to impose the new politics of poverty that ensues from the memoranda. Each and every movement of resistance is confronted by violations of worker's rights, intense police violence, tear-gas and unlawful arrests.

In this austerity frame, the greek government did not hesitate in June 2013 to show clearly its totalitarian face by closing the national public broadcaster ERT and laying off thousands of employees. The shut down of ERT was a political and social coup and was a clear message for the total abolishment of conquests and rights of decades. The massive mobilization of thousands of people in the case of ERT can and should be transformed into a victorious movement for all working people in order to overturn this policy and the internal and external Troika. Along with the black screen on our televisions, the murder of



in promoting culture and connecting
Greek emigrants with their home country.

Protest: Save ERT (20/6/2013)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mr4mw1WGhQc>

an activist of the antifascist movement, came as a great shock to the greek society. The brutal assassination of Pavlos Fyssas by the Golden Dawn Nazis was the tip of the iceberg considering the thousand attacks in the last two years against immigrants, communists and antifascists. After huge demonstrations and under the pressure of the massive antifascist movement, the neo nazi organization is finally accused of being exactly what it is: a criminal organization. However, the decision by the Greek government and the Greek judiciary to finally bring charges against Golden Dawn should not make us forget the responsibility of successive Greek governments and pro-austerity parties for the rise of Golden Dawn. Both New Democracy and PASOK not only tolerated for a long period the activity of Golden Dawn, but also took advantage of its rise in order to shift the political debate to the right. Golden Dawn is being penalized but the agenda of the far-right has become part of the political mainstream. Racist anti-immigrant policies, authoritarian attacks on protesters in the name of 'law and order', anticommunism are the trademark of the Greek government. In the name of the theory of the "two extremes", both the radical Left and anarchist groups have been attacked.

We are standing in solidarity with the people in Greece and we are doing our best in raising awareness in Austria, on the humanitarian and democratic crisis that the country is facing.



Protest against the murder of antifascist activist Pavlos Fyssas (21/9/2013)

What's new and what's next:

1. Precarity Office

Precarity Office Vienna was organised by three groups in September 2013. The Prekaer café, a collective emerging out of the euromayday (www.cafe.prekaer.at) organising around precarious work since over 5 years, the vienna node of Juventud sin Futuro, spanish people who moved to vienna recently organising around the crisis and giving mutual support (www.jsfviena.net), and solidarity4all.vienna. It's about a monthly space for giving mutual advice about labour- and migration related issues and for discussing and developing self-organisation practices.

As migrants and/or precarious workers we perceive the need for a space to get and give informal advice, meet and discuss, hear about our respective struggles and develop them further.

The precarity office is open every first tuesday of the month, from 6pm, at W23 social centre (Wipplingerstrasse 23, 1010 Wien).

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Precarity-Office-Vienna/441185905996710?fref=ts>

<http://precarityoffice.wordpress.com/>

The next Precarity Office will take place on Tuesday 5th of November:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/646860942012495/>

2. Monthly Open Assembly

- We are holding an open Assembly on Thursday the 7 of November at Ronahi, Schottenfeldgasse 18, at 19:00.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/422572787844374/>

Monthly assemblies will take place every first Thursday of the month and will be communicated per mail and facebook.

- Here also our new Facebook page to like and share :

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Solidarity4all-Vienna/156268437867944>

- We are currently also working on a blog and will let you know as soon as it's on.

3. Info-Event on the Goldmine in Skourgies, Halkidi

The region of Chalkidiki in northern Greece has become the center of a growing protest movement against the government's economic policies and foreign investment. Local people have taken to the streets to demonstrate their opposition to investments that threaten to transform the region into one dominated by heavy industry. One cause for concern is the significant environmental damage that will be caused by gold mining, which will also harm rural livelihoods. Another major source of criticism is the process of decision-making behind the new effort to exploit Chalkidiki's gold.

In March 2011, 3,000 people descended upon the village of Ierissos, just outside of the Skouries forest, initiating the first major protest. Further protests occurred during the next two years, marked by increasingly hostile interactions between security forces and protestors.

The fight of people in Chalkidiki should be the fight of every one of us. It highlights in the most dramatic way, the massive clash taking place in Greece at the moment. It's the voracious capital that does not hesitate to step on human lives, the freedom of speech and basic human democratic rights, against the great majority of the society resisting towards the working, social and environmental exploitation. In that frame, the fight towards the defense of our democratic rights and people's freedom gains a special meaning. It's a fight towards the free, collective organising, for the recognition of a society's right to fight for it's life and it's future. All across Greece and abroad there have been created many support groups for the fighting people of Chalkidiki. It is of great importance to show our practical solidarity to such a core of resistance now, that all of our working and social rights not only in Greece but everywhere have been abolished in such a violent way.

- There is an international call for solidarity actions for the 9th of November.

<http://saveskouries.org/en/>

We highly encourage everyone to participate in everyway possible.

Furthermore, we would like to invite you all to **an info-event on the Goldmine in Skourgies, Halkidi**, on Thursday the 14th of November at 19:00, Hörsaal III , NIG, Universitätsstrasse 7, 1010.

Screening of the documentary "GOLDEN TIMES - CASSANDRA'S TREASURE".
An open discussion will follow.

Here again the facebook event :
<https://www.facebook.com/events/624089684304049/>

We are looking forward to see you all there!

4. Other events

On the 7th of November Labournet-Austria and the „Komitee Solidarität mit dem Widerstand in Griechenland“ are organizing a screening of the film "155 sold“. Yiorgos Pantelakis will be present. The screening takes place at Amerlinghaus, Galerie, at 19:00. <http://www.labournetaustria.at>

Solidarity greetings,

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