

order to render us fearful obedient tools of the economy, unaware of our power and possibilities.

However, there are people that continue to fight. Like the prisoners of La Mesa, Tijuana (Mexico), that burnt down a prison after prison guards killed a 17 year old inmate. Like those prisoners in Texas that sabotaged the prison's CCTV cameras, like the prisoners in detention centres in France and Turkey, like the life prisoners in Italy that are organizing a collective hunger strike for December 2008.

Like life itself, the history of prison is the history of rebellion, the struggle to stay alive, to keep one's dignity in the face of a project of slow death. Many men and women who have fought for a society without exploitation and repression have known the inside of a prison cell. Prison mutinies have left their sign in wrecked prison walls as hearts beat faster with joy, strangers becoming comrades in a night where the impossible became tangible.

Countless prisoners have given their lives, creating a living memory incarnated in the struggles of today.

The hunger strikers are not alone!

THE PASSION FOR FREEDOM IS STRONGER THAN THE PRISON!

 ct for freedom!



Mass mobilisation in Greek prisons!

In Greece, more than 13.000 individuals, 1/3 of them awaiting trial, are imprisoned in awful conditions leading to more than 50 inmates losing their lives only last year.

On November 3, 2008, 8.000 prisoners of the Greek state started mobilizing by refusing prison food. On Friday 7 November, 1.400 prisoners escalated the struggle by starting a hunger strike, with the number up to 2.800 by Saturday 8 November. By November 11 more than 5.000 prisoners were on hunger strike, and over 6.500 others were refusing prison meals.

By the end of the hunger strike 7.000 prisoners in Greece were on hunger strike. It is the first time that prisoners have organized to such an extent, up until now there have always been spontaneous prison rebellions and mutinies.



Prison means being silenced and forgotten. Prison is concrete, iron bars, CCTV, barbed wire and automatic guns pointing at you. Prison is punishment and isolation. Prison is the everyday violence inflicted upon your body and your mind by screws, cops, prison boards, judges and rigid regulations controlling your every move. Prison is social control. Prison is the clank of the enforced steel door behind you and the noise of the warden's keys forever imprinted in your memory. Prison is the mind-numbing disciplinary routine enforced upon you. Prison is never-ending greyness. Prison is not to be able to see and hold your loved ones for years on end. Prison is sensual deprivation. Prison is a gravestone for the living. As anarchists we choose to stand in solidarity not only with our imprisoned comrades but with the prisoners' struggle in general as we choose to stand in solidarity with every self-organized, unmediated, confrontational struggle of the oppressed and exploited against their oppressors and exploiters. We do not need to identify with particular demands, they are not ours to identify with. But we can recognize the necessity and the dynamic of the struggle and the spirit of rebellion, as we also recognize that prisons are not just the disgusting buildings erected by those in power to use as a store room for those that are unwanted, poor or rebellious, as

*there are also school-prisons, work-prisons, mind-prisons, society-prisons...
So we will not rest until every prison is destroyed.*

*Because prison is also to think that you can be
free in an enslaved world.*

Anarchists in solidarity with the prisoners' struggle

The prisoners spoke through a letter:

We, the prisoners of the hellholes which are known as prisons of the Greek state, tired of the false promises made over the last 10 years by all the Ministers of Justice in regards to the improvement of prison conditions, the Penal Code and the Code of Penal Justice, have decided to act in order to demand what is just.

WE DEMAND

1. Abolition of disciplinary sentences. Amendment of articles 68,69,70,71 of the Penitentiary Code. In every case disciplinary sentences should be erased after they have been served, not be calculated additionally and not be taken into consideration in regards to prison leave, work, education and conditional release after they have expired.
2. The limit for time served should be reduced from 3/5 to 3/7. Immediate abolition of the unconstitutional provision which increased the limit to 4/5 for violations of the law on drugs.
3. A 3 year reduction for all sentences, to facilitate conditional releases and prison decongestion. No to the new panoptical prisons, which are being built in isolated locations cut off from the city.
4. Abolition of juvenile prisons. Establishment of open structures for the care and protection of adolescents and young people.
5. Reduction of the "top" of 25 years of continuous imprisonment. Reduction of the minimum limit of served time for conditional release in the case of life sentences to 12 years from 16 which is in effect at the present, in correspondence with European legislation.
6. The provision of prison leave, parole and other benefits should be applied automatically, without distinctions and exceptions, with the only criteria being the prerequisites defined by the law and with reduction of the minimum limit of served time for their activation. Increase of the number of prison leave to 60 days for those who are entitled to 5-day leaves and to 96 days for those who are entitled to 8-day leaves.
7. The abuse of the measure of pretrial detention must stop and the limit should be reduced to 12 months.
8. The hysteria of the para-judicial circuits are well known in the last 8 years, which has led to vengeful exterminating sentences. We ask for analogous sentences and wide application of the parole and conditional release measures.
9. Full, permanent and 24 hour medical cover and respect for the patients. Creation and



ABOUT A HUNGERSTRIKE!

Prison is a plague that society does everything to conceal with remarkable zeal, yet prisons still stand. It's common to be moved to tears by some movie about prisoners at the cinema yet we manage to keep our eyes shut in the face of a prison imposing its shadow just a step ahead of us. No one talks about it, but we all respond to the iron hand of the law in some way as the safe circulation of commodities and profit for the bosses demands stricter and stricter rules and punishment. Things are getting harder, pushing many to some kind of delinquency. At the same time, not only does all deviant behaviour get criminalised but the whole of everyday life is being transformed into an open prison with its own regulations, guards and outrageous penalties, sterile and poor, where more boredom is the only thing to be expected. The modern State is a police State. Not only can we all end up in prison, in a way we are already there.

With the prison population growing steadily along with the profits for those involved in this prolific enterprise, more and more people will be subjected to even shorter chains. Tortured with every modern method, ensuring they and their own will suffer much more than the harm they might have caused. Just like most of us outside, they survive. Some go crazy. Some fight back. Sometimes they rebel.

In Greece, last year's mutinies following the beating of the anarchist prisoner G. Dimitrakis lead to many days of riots, prisons set on fire, and the riot cops beating their way in through a suffocating fog of tear gas. The prisoners survived. They even got stronger. Learned to fight together. Outside the prisons anarchists and revolutionaries spread information, organized gatherings, prison demonstrations, direct action, sometimes even set police stations on fire. Prisons aren't unknown to whoever engages in a fight against this rotten establishment.

After mass transfers, beatings, torture, the prisoners in Greece haven't ceased to fight. On November 3, after they warned the authorities to take some measures to improve prison conditions, decrease detention years and put an end to prison guard violence, disciplinary charges, pre-trial imprisonment (1/3 of all prisoners are still awaiting trial) and juvenile prisons, the largest collective hunger strike was launched. By now, more than 2.000 out of 13.000 prisoners are on hunger strike, while several thousand more are boycotting prison meals, around all of the 21 prisons of the country. The Greek government and mass-media choose not to bother themselves with the prisoners, expecting them to get exhausted soon.

Not unlike prisons, this society of commodities is designed to isolate us, in

Greetings from London - to the prisoners in struggle in Greece

On Saturday 15 November a counterinfo gathering took place in Brixton, South London, for the prisoners' struggle in Greece. It should be said that a few days before, Greek minister for the economy Alogoskoufis was pelted with eggs while making a speech at the London School of Economics (13/11, video and text: http://athens.indymedia.org/front.php3?lang=en&article_id=924379), and that on his return to Athens, he also had a face to face meeting with some yoghurt at the airport, as the London episode had become known all over Greece thanks to enraged conservative students at LSE contacting the Greek media. Furthermore, the Greek embassy in London seems to have attracted repeated acts of vandalism over the past few days, and prisoner solidarity slogans have made their appearance in the surrounding area. Meanwhile, the pathetic advertisements all over London urging people to live a real life experience (=get wasted) in Greece, keep on being detainee in honour of the prison fighters (an example: <http://bezmotivnik.blogspot.com/2008/11/test.html>). Moreover, throughout the past week, some anarchist comrades printed thousands of related flyers and leaflets.

From three o'clock a stall with info was set up, where translations of the prisoners' demands and info on the situation with the Greek prisons could be found, a solidarity communique as well as translations of prison letters from anarchists P. Georgiadis, G. Voutsis-Vogiatzis and G. Dimitrakis, and a chronicle of mobilizations inside and outside prison that can be found at <http://anarcores.blogspot.com/>.

The gathering took place not quite randomly in Brixton, a rather proletarian neighbourhood populated mainly by people of Afro-Caribbean origin, probably known to the reader for the exquisite bahala/riots of the 80s, though suffering heavy repression over recent years with police controls on an everyday basis; and more specifically on the heavily trafficked central square outside the Ritzy cinema, while the new Steve McQueen film "Hunger" about the IRA prisoners' hungerstrike during which Bobby Sands and ten other IRA members lost their lives: it was being projected at the same time.

For their part, the cops were rather discreet, with the exception of the 2 vans driving a few circles around every 5 minutes and the police car parked 10 metres from the stall for half an hour (photo maybe later). After 6:30, and few hundred texts were distributed to passers by (there was some relative interest) and a few slogans spray-painted nearby, while the people at the stall fluctuated around 15-25 persons, those that remained decided to take a walk to Brixton prison, that manage to be inside the tissue of the city and at the same time not have one single point where one can have a visual or acoustic contact with the inmates. The prison is an 1819 building (while the recent ones, e.g the planned Titan prisons are of course away from residential areas, so that prisoners would feel even more isolated and left to the mercy of the guards). Around 800 men are jailed in Brixton prison, usually sentenced by local magistrates courts, while also personas such as Bertrand Russell, imprisoned here during WWI because of his anti-war activity, have passed through here.

improvement of adequate hygiene areas (showers and toilets). Immediate enlistment of the Hospital and Psychiatric wardens of Korydallos prisons into the National Health Service, with provision for wings for women and juveniles, which are nonexistent at the present. Immediate transport of patients to public hospitals with ambulances and not in police vans with their hands tied behind their back.

10. The right to beneficiary wages, to study, to second chance schools, to professional workshops and to participation in different programs to be granted to all prisoners correspondingly and without any distinctions. Educational leave should be granted to all prisoners who fulfill the necessary criteria and prerequisites for study outside of prison and for all levels of education and professional technical training. Substantial expansion of therapeutic programs to all prisons.

11. Abolition of prison as an impenetrable space to outsiders. Free access to social and political representatives, Lawyers' Associations, the Panhellenic Medical Association, human rights organizations, NGO's and international organizations. Free circulation of political and educational printed material without any exception.

12. Institution of alternative forms of incarceration, expansion of rural prisons and application of the statute of semi-free living and of the statute of community work.

13. Expansion of the statute of free visits in humane conditions with respect to the personality and the dignity of the prisoners and the visitors. Designated private spaces for meeting with our partners.

14. Work and access to creative activities for all. Beneficial calculation of employment days towards the sentence.

15. For foreign prisoners, the right to choose to carry out their sentence in their country of origin if and only if they wish to do so.

16. Humane conditions for intra-prison transfers with the improvement of the areas in the unacceptable means of transport of the Greek Police. More stops during the transfers, improvement of the detention areas in the vile "Metagon" (Transfer prisons) and our faster advancement to prison.

Committee of prisoners of the Greek prisons

Anarchist prisoners Yiannis Dimitrakis and Yiorgos Voutsis-Vogiatzis are taking part in the hunger strike, while anarchist prisoner Poly Georgiadis and the 17th November prisoners are also taking part in the mobilization by refusing prison food.

LETTER FROM ANARCHIST PRISONERS

Even if prisons were transformed from human storerooms into luxury hotels, even if the prisoners of all prisons are satisfied with "reduced sentences", even if the everyday beatings of prisoners are replaced by sly agreements and assimilated by correctional policies in accordance with the "human rights" model, even if the "white cells" turn "pink", and heroin gives way to methadone we will remain forever enemies of every structure that denies us our freedom.

We will be the rebels inside your luxury hotels and the arsonists of legal justice. We will be eternal fighters in love with freedom. Better prison conditions mean nothing

more than improved conditions of captivity. For us the issue remains in its essence. That is, the condition of captivity in itself. Freedom and revolution are the only concepts that include us as a whole. We are participating in the mass mobilizations that are taking place in most prisons at this time. We choose to act together with those who keep struggling for that one step more. Because revolution is continuous movement. In this continuous movement we are organic components. The harvest from our struggle is the relationships and the spark of destruction ignited inside and outside the galleys. Our every action is one more step for the destruction of prisons.

FREEDOM FOR ALL

*Neither social nor political
prisoners
Dynamite and fire to
every prison*

*Yiannis Dimitrakis
Yiorgos Voutsis-Vogiatzis
Polykarpos Georgiadis*

DEMANDS OF THE WOMEN PRISONERS AT ELEONAS, THIVA PRISON:

On the occasion of the third-world living conditions inside this establishment but also our treatment by the totality of the ministry of justice, and more precisely:
Inexistent medical-pharmaceutical supplies. Few, to even inexistent hygiene supplies (without any right to private purchase). Inexistent basic hygiene (no warm water). Inexistent social services and care. Preposterous food, because of lack of supplies. Even basic needs stuff is an unknown word here. Racist treatment of prisoners when it comes to days-off and suspensions. Unjust treatment of sentence accounts for suspension proportionate to the offence (2/5, 3/5 etc.). Vast delays when it comes to bringing the case to court and especially the court of appeal. The particular rigidity of the persons judging us, despite the recommendations they have received. The inexistent second chance we are all waiting for and which most of us have a right to, but are never given. We decided to abstain from prison food consumption from 03/11/2008 until proportionate measures are taken in regards to all the above. We expect your understanding.

the totality of our demands. We the prisoners treat this amendment as a first step, a result of our struggle and of the solidarity shown by society. Yet it fails to covers us, it fails to solve our problems. With our struggle, we have first of all fought for our dignity. And this dignity we cannot offer as a present to no minister, to no screw. We shall tolerate no arbitrary acts, no vengeful relocation, no terrorizing disciplinary act. We are standing and we shall stay standing. We demand form the Parliament to move towards a complete abolition of the limit of 4/5 of served sentence, the abolition of accumulated time for disciplinary penalties, and the expansion of beneficial arrangements regarding days-off, and conditional releases for all categories of prisoners. Moreover, we demand the immediate legislation on the presently vague promises of the minister of justice regarding the improvement of prison conditions (abolition of juvenile prisons, foundation of therapeutic centers for drug dependents, implementation of social labour in exchange for prison sentence, upgrading of hospital care of prisoners, incorporation of european legislation favorable to the prisoners in the greek law etc.). Finally, we offer our thanks to the solidarity movement, to every component, party, medium, and militant who stood by us with all and any means of his or her choice, and we declare that our struggle against these human refuse dumps and for the victory of all our demands continues".
Prisoners' Committee 20/11/08.



excepted.

- 5) The maximum limit of pre-trial imprisonment is reduced from 18 to 12 months, with the exception of crimes punished by life or 20-year sentence.
- 6) The annual time of days-off prison is increased by one day. Tougher conditions for days-off are limited for those convicted for drug-related crimes.
- 7) Disciplinary penalties are to be integrated.
- 8) Integration after 4 years into national law of the European Council decision of drug trafficking (2004/757).
- 9) Expansion of implementation of conditional release of convicts suffering from AIDS, kidney failure, persistent TB, and tetraplegics.

What the Ministry failed to answer with regard to the prisoners' demands include:

- 1) Monetary exchange of prison sentences longer than 5 years, especially for 6,700 prisoners presently convicted for non-criminal offenses.
- 2) Abolition of juvenile prisons
- 3) Abolition of accumulative disciplinary penalties
- 4) Abolition of 18 months pre-trial imprisonment for a large number of offenses.
- 5) Satisfactory expansion of days off, despite the fact that the application of present liberties has been tested as successful during the last 18 years.
- 6) Immediate improvement of relocation conditions of convicts
- 7) Holding a meeting between the minister of justice and the prisoners' committee

Thus in a press release, the Prisoners' Committee announced that:

"The amendment submitted to the Parliament by the Ministry of Justice tackles but a few of our demands. The minister ought to materialize his promises for the immediate release of the suggested number of prisoners announced, and at the same time implement concrete measures regarding

The struggle

October: Diverse actions such as boycotting of prison meals around Greek prisons, especially in Crete, informal prisoners committees form a network of communication and coordination. They spread a letter with prisoners demands and give a deadline of three weeks for the authorities to start working on them. After these three weeks mobilizations reach a peak with a boycotting of prison food, starting on 3/11 and a collective hunger strike from 7/11.

On **30/10** the leftist "Initiative for prisoners rights" did a demo with motorbikes to Diavata prison in Thessaloniki. Also on **30/10**, the anarchist prisoner Georgiadis Polikarpos (accused of participation in the kidnapping of northern Greece's industrialists' president) publishes an open letter on the prisoners' mobilizations, making clear his disagreement with the hunger strike as having a deleterious effect on prisoners' strength, creating fighters of many levels, some going on in a self-sacrificial spirit, others eating regularly etc., though stating his commitment to the prisoners' struggle, "the same as when he was outside" (letter can be found at http://halastor.blogspot.com/2008/10/blog-post_30.html).

- 1/11:** Lawyers' association express their sympathy for the prisoners' mobilizations.
- 2/11:** Around 30 anarchists march to Volos prisons chanting and spray-painting walls with slogans in solidarity to prisoners struggle.
- 3/11:** Prison guards invade cells, harass prisoners and try to intimidate them in the face of the collective hunger strike. Riot police brigades deployed around many prisons.
- 3/11:** Unannounced motorbike demo of dozens of anarchists to Korydallos (Athens) prison where they chant slogans in solidarity to prisoners' struggle.
- 3/11:** More than 8,000 prisoners boycotting prison meals.
- 4/11:** Committee of the (left) parliament party SYN/SYRIZA meets with "minister of justice", to discuss an institutional committee from all parliament parties on prisons.
- 4/11:** Anarchists/Antiauthoritarians in solidarity to prisoners organize demonstration-microphonics at Kamara, Thessaloniki centre.
- 4/11:** At the juvenile prison of Volos, prisoners threw their stuff out of the cells and refused to leave their cells to go to the prison yard.
- 4/11:** "Conspiracy of Cells of Fire" claims responsibility for a three-day rampage against military/police targets and sends "signal of fire to the prisoners that started a prison food strike since Monday, November 3".
- 5/11:** The president of the republic K. Papoulias speaks of the "major problem of prisons" with the typical humanitarian banalities.
- 5/11:** Clubs of football fans such as PAOK-GATE4 and Panahaiki-NAVAJO express their support to the prisoners struggle.
- 5/11** Collective official form of complaints sent to the authorities undersigned by most of the prisoners at Diavata prison, outside Thessaloniki.

6/11: Committee of the (leftist) “Initiative for prisoners rights” meets with “minister of justice” S. Hatzidakis, to negotiate on the prisoners issue.

6/11: Around 400 anarchists and revolutionaries ride with motorbikes and cars to Diavata prisons where they chant slogans, tear down part of the barbed wire fencing and throw fireworks. The prisoners respond with slogans and howls.

6/11 Attack with fire on ruling party offices in Thessaloniki in solidarity to prisoners struggle, by the Cells of Aggressive Solidarity to Prisoners (more info at <http://directactiongr.blogspot.com/>)

7/11: Around 1000 prisoners on hunger strike. Less than 10 had to be transferred to hospital.

7/11: Solidarity microphonics gathering in the market area of Chania, Crete

7/11: 98fm self-managed radio station of Athens, transmits prisoners demands and solidarity speech (<http://www.radio98fm.org/home.html>)

7/11: Prison guards try to intimidate prisoners in Ioannina and Diavata prisons, some transfers and night invasions into cells continue.

7/11: Solidarity demonstration in Serres. Solidarity demonstration in Lamia

7/11: Prisoners demands and solidarity speech, and interview with ex-con on 1431AM, student self-managed radio station (<http://www.1431am.org/>)

7/11: 2 mainstream radio stations are occupied by anarchists transmitting prisoners demands and solidarity speech in Thessaloniki and Lamia

7/11: Attack with paint against the council of state in Athens in solidarity to prisoners (more info at <http://directactiongr.blogspot.com/>)

8/11: Solidarity demonstration in Volos (photos at http://athens.indymedia.org/front.php3?lang=en&article_id=923248)

8/11: A prisoner dies in Chios prisons. More than 50 prisoners died in the Greek prisons this year only.

8/11: A prisoner in hunger strike from Diavata prison, Thessaloniki, transferred to a public hospital because his health as in danger, but returned to the prison the next day.

8/11: Student unions and NGO express their sympathy to the prisoners’ mobilizations.

9/11: Three Kurdish prisoners in Trikala, mainland Greece, sew their mouths in hunger strike! Another 14 do the same over the following days!

9/11: Solidarity demonstration in Lamia, afterwards police stop and harass the demonstrators but leaves them free without charges a few hours later after lawyers and friends arrive at the police station.

9/11: Arsonists set on fire 4 expensive cars in Exarchia, Athens centre and attack the offices of PASOK socialist party. Unknown person phone “Eleftherotipia” newspaper claiming “The arson of luxurious cars Saturday night in Athens centre was in solidarity to the hundreds of prisoners on hunger strike, in the dungeons of the Greek republic. The owners of luxurious cars should limit their rides to the northern suburbs and keep out of the proletarian neighborhoods of the centre. Fire to the mansions and cars of the rich”.

9/11: 3.300 on hunger strike. In juvenile prisons the vast majority are on hunger strike.

10/11: 4.500 in hunger strike.

10/11: Delta Squat organizes a solidarity intervention, with a huge banner and leaflets at

After 18 days 7,000 prisoners in greece stop their hunger strike after the ministry of justice concedes to a series of their demands, promising to release half the country’s prison population by April 2009.

On Thursday the 20th of November more than 7,000 hunger strikers in greek prisons demanding a comprehensive 45-point program of prison reform have decided to stop their hunger strike, already on its 18th day, after the Ministry of Justice responded to their struggle and to the widening solidarity movement which in the last weeks has held several mass protest marches in the greek cities by declaring that by next April the number of prisoners in greek jails will be reduced to 6.815 from the present 12.315, thus effectively releasing half of the country’s prison population.

The Ministry’s declaration in detail states that:

- 1) All persons convicted to a sentence up to five years for any offense including drug related crimes can transform their sentence into a monetary penalty. This will not be allowed in the case the jury decides that the payment is not enough to deter the convict from committing punishable acts in the future.
- 2) The minimum sum for transforming one day of prison sentence to monetary penalty is reduced from 10 euros to 3, with the provision of being reduced to 1 euro by decision of the jury.
- 3) All people who have served 1/5 of their prison sentence for 2 year sentences and 1/3 for sentences longer than 2 years are to be released, with no exceptions.
- 4) The minimum limit of served sentence is reduced to 3/5 for conditional release and for convicts for drug related crimes. Those condemned under conditions of law ? 3459/2006 (articles 23 ??? 23?) are

conditions in a local newspaper earlier), because after they (the prison guards) beaten up a prisoner causing him head injuries, the prison doctor dared to ask the prisoner who beat him so brutally. According to the prison guards “she should mind her own business”.

21/11: Announced Trash h/c benefit gig at the self-managed infoshop of Kavala, hosted by Accion Mutante, in support of the prisoners struggle.

21/11: Announced solidarity night at Evaggelismos squat, Heraklion, Crete. Projection of the film “I hate sun that rises for everyone”. More at <http://katalipsievagelismou.blogspot.com/>

21/11: Following a rather typical tactic, the Communist Party through its newspaper and a “Democratic Coalition” it has formed on legal issues, ask for prison reforms by the time of the cease of the prisoners mobilizations, blaming the ruling party and the opposition for the current situation. It also asks for obligatory basic education for prisoners and free access for social and scientific institutions and political party representatives...

22/11: Solidarity motorbike-mobile concert (artists on a van playing music)-demo to the prisons of Diavata, Thessaloniki, after an initiative of the families of some prisoners.

22/11: Fundraiser DIY hip-hop “Until we break da chains” party at the polytechnic university, Athens.

22/11: Assembly on the prisoners struggle in Greece, and “classic punk” night at “To fanari tou Diogeni” squat in Cyprus (<http://www.squatofcyprus.blogspot.com/>).

22/11: Solidarity demo and microphonics in Mytilini, Lesvos island.

22/11: 250 walk to Ioannina prisons, in a march called by the (leftist) “Prisoner Solidarity Assembly” and a prisoner solidarity assembly of local anarchists and autonomists.

22/11: “A sign of solidarity to the thousands of hunger strikers in the dungeons of democracy” was according to an unknown person’s phone call to “Eleftherotipia” newspaper the incendiary attach a few minutes after 11:30 in the night of Tuesday, wrecking a Millenium bank branch, on 25 Pentelis Avenue, Halandri. “We encourage the justice minister and the prison guards not to mess around with fire. Victory to the prisoners struggle untill the destruction of every last prison.

24/11: Open speak on prisons, prison conditions and the prisoners struggle, by the “Alterative Lawyers Initiative” in Thessaloniki, where a member of the “national prisoners committee” V. Pallis will speak through phone.

25/11: Ioannis Kamberis, 38 year old prisoner in Corfu, is found dead in his cell during his 17 year sentence for some thefts. According to the guards, by heroine. Another one, 24 years old, was found in a comma, and transfered to the hospital. He is better now.

26/11: Demonstration of the “Common Action for prisoners solidarity”.

27/11: Demonstration at Neptunplatz, Köln, Germany, in solidarity to the prisoners struggle in Greece. This same initiative organizing the demo, also announces a demo to the local prisons on new year’s eve, a gathering at the city’s central station on December 1, in solidarity to the prisoner’s collective hungerstrike in Italy that begins then, and other events and radio shows during December.

Struggle continues!

Thessaloniki centre (photos at http://athens.indymedia.org/front.php3?lang=el&article_id=923026)

10/11: Prison guards leave warm cooked food near prisoners on hunger strike (to torture them), or in other prisons invade cells of prisoners that weren’t on hunger strike but boycott prison meals and take away some food cans, later photos of these are sent to the fascist media as a provocation against the prisoners struggle!

10/11: Al. Giotopoulos and V. Tzortzatos imprisoned in Korydallos special cells for allegedly involved with “November 17” organization political prisoners go on hunger strike in solidarity with common prisoners and denounce the role of “initiatives that speak in the name of the prisoners and get to speak with the minister of justice, covering him politically for his apathy, even if they are indeed in solidarity to them, the only one legitimised to speak for the prisoners are the prisoners themselves”. They state that “the only way is for the common prisoners to be the only ones taking part in these committees” and that “the reason there are no prison insurrections is the vast dispensing of drugs within the prisons”.

10/11: The leftist “Initiative for prisoners rights” organizes a solidarity concert in Athens centre. A bank is set on fire in Athens centre.

10/11: New democracy offices at Halandri, Athens, burnt with an improvised gas canister device.

10/11: Kyriakoula Lymnioudi, medical attendant at Chios prisons, publishes an article in a local newspaper describing the medieval conditions of the prison.

10/11: London. Some window panes of the Greek embassy are smashed and nearby car tires slashed.(source: UK indymedia).

11/11: Solidarity flyers appear around towns in north western Greece.

11/11: Solidarity demonstration in Thessaloniki centre, during the march of around 800 called by most anarchist/antiauthoritarian collectives of the city and the “Initiative for prisoners rights”, some surveillance cameras and bank ATMs are vandalised.

11/11: The State’s council on prisons, in a special meeting suggest the discharge of 1.500 prisoners and satisfaction of some of the prisoners demands (smaller sentences, 3/5 for drug users, 12 months of pretrial imprisonment instead of 18, 6 days off instead of 5 etc.). Prisoners turn down this mockery.

11/11: 18 ANO group for social rehabilitation of toxic addicts expresses solidarity with prisoners mobilizations.

11/11: Prisoners demands and solidarity speech, and interview with ex-con (replay) on 1431AM, student self-managed radio station (<http://www.1431am.org/>)

11/11: Around 40 anarchists attack the new offices of PASOK (opposition party) and G. Voulgarakis (ex-minister) offices in Athens centre with bottles filled with red and black paint. Two undercover policemen threaten them with their guns, but are repelled with bottles and stones. On their way back, the anarchists break down a National bank and a Eurobank branch, a bank’s van, undercover police motorbikes and a fascist bookshop of Adonis Georgiadis (LAOS right wing party member), throwing flyers in solidarity to prisoners struggle throughout their way.

11/11: Around 10 anarchists attack the building of the ministry of the press with stones

and molotovs in solidarity to prisoners struggle.

11/11: More than 5.000 prisoners are on hunger strike, another 6.500 are boycotting prison meals.

11/11: Geology students of Aristotle university (Thessaloniki) after an assembly, come with a vote in solidarity to prisoners.

11/11: Posters and communiques circulate in all major cities around the country.

11/11: Mobile microphonics moves for hours around Chania, Crete, stops at the city hall where immigrants were on hunger strike too, and at the city's prison, where it was greeted with slogans.

12/11: The "National Prisoners Committee" sends an open letter to the minister of justice: "We have started a struggle as citizens claiming our rights. Our fellow prisoners participation has overcome every hope and every previous mobilization. We want to manage our struggle ourselves. To speak in our name, with our name. We ask for our elected national prisoners committee, which are the real representatives of the prisoners, to meet with the minister. The meeting can take place in Korydallos, and we ask to help the persons of the committee be transferred there. The National Committee is: Radza Jabar (Trikala prisons), Aleksandar Kola (Trikala prisons), Abdel Halim Fatah (Trikala prisons), Vaggelis Palis (Chios prisons), Karabulea Danny (Kerkyra prisons).

12/11: Meanwhile, the (leftist) "Initiative for prisoners rights" meets again with the minister of justice who said he would come up with a new pack of measures in the following days. Justice minister also met with republic president K. Papoulias who in his turn said a new pack of nonsense. The "Initiative" announces they support the prisoners committee, and that determination, consistence and unity are needed".

12/11: More than 5.500 prisoners in hunger strike, and around 6.000 boycotting prison food. Dozens of prisoners, especially drug addicts, needed to be transferred to hospital after a week of hunger strike. Around 20 inmates sewed their mouths in Trikala and Amfissa prisons.

12/11: The "Arsonist committee for prisoner solidarity" claim responsibility for incendiary attacks against a New Democracy vehicle at Halandri (8/11), a security car at Gyzi (8/11), a police car (10/11), offices of a construction company involved in police barracks (10/11), an Emporiki bank (10/11), a Cyprus Bank (11/11), a vehicle of "Sklavenitis" supermarkets that supplies with food the prisons (11/11), the private car of the former public order minister S. Valyrakis responsible for the repression of prison mutinies of 1995, and a government vehicle at Ambelokipi (11/11) in solidarity to prisoners struggle.

12/11: Kostas Karatsolis, Dimitris Koufontinas, Iraklis Kostaris, Vassilis Ksiros, Savvas Ksiros and Christodoulos Ksiros, all prisoners in Korydallos special prisons for involvement in November 17, express their solidarity with the prisoners struggle, and call for unity in action.

12/11: Reports around most press and internet media on the prisoners struggle and the "problem with prisons", while in the same time they describe the last wave of direct actions as an anarchist warm-up for the annual 17/11 march, where the police is ex-

20/11: The Left Radical Doctors Group announces their support to the prisoners struggle and the creation of a mobile unit to provide health care to prisoners in hunger strike.

20/11: Bloggers undersign and forward to government and other institutions a text supporting prisoners mobilizations.

20/11: The brothers of Demokritos Vouvakis, found dead in Chios prisons on 8/11, raise a lawsuit against the prison authorities. The unfortunate man, was found dead of excessive drug pill consumption prescribed by the prison doctors, an incident possibly connected with threats he received against his life while in pre-trial imprisonment, something he had expressed to the prison authorities that didn't take any measures.

20/11: The "Common Action for prisoners rights" and the "National Prisoners Committee" announce the cease of the hunger strike on 21/11, after the last declarations of the minister of justice, expecting from the parliament to pass a law affirming them within 3 months. They thank "the solidarity movement, every institution, political party, and every fighter that stands by us by any means he or she selects and declare that our struggle against this human disposal centers continues". The "Common Action for prisoners" announces they stop a gathering outside the ministry because of the cease of the hungerstrike. Most NGOs consider the measures suggested as very limited. Meanwhile, many prisoners seem to continue the hunger strike despite the announcements.

21/11: Minister of justice, S. Hatzigakis speaks in the parliament of the measures taken, saying there will be no further reforms. Prisoners condemned for misdemeanours that have spent more than 1/5 of less than two years sentence or 1/3 for more than two years sentence, may be discharged, for this time and only. Most prisoners for drug use will be able to serve 3/5 of their sentence before being discharged under conditions. Pre-trial imprisonment is set to 12 months instead of 18 but only for some cases. One more day-off a year. Smaller disciplinary charges. Some AIDS and other diseases patients may be discharged under conditions. Nothing gets better for felony (capital crimes) offender, no possibility to buy off a long (over 5 years) sentence, even if for a misdemeanour (the case for the vast majority of prisoners). Nothing gets better for juvenile prisoners. Cumulative sentences remain. Nothing gets better for the prisoners transfers. The prisoners committee will not be allowed to see the justice minister. S. Hatzigakis mentioned it is the first time since 1982, where the first prisoner mobilizations started, that a protest ends in a peaceful manner, through succesful dialogue and a synthesis of opinions. He added that this peaceful protest is a heritage for future situations, and that every political party and institution helped in the solution of the prison problem (sic).

21/11: Three detainees escape from Thiva police prison, cettung their cell's bars with a hack saw.

21/11: Night event of economic support at Delta squat, Thessaloniki, with video-projections and live concert with "Intibah".

21/11: The "Assembly for prisoner solidarity" in Ioannina calls "all citizens, associations and institutions" in a march to Ioannina prisons.

21/11: Chios island, the local prisoner solidarity committee circulates a report of the prison guards asking for the tranfer of the prison doctor (the one that had denounced the

radio show, on the hunger strike, notes that prisoners aren't in well-maintained health, and with the hunger strike this is much worse, and asks for the minister to talk with the prisoners committee.

18/11: In Nikea, Piraeus, a prisoner gets a day-off to be present at his mother's funeral, but later the cops invade the church, handcuff them and take them inside a police van.

18/11: In Thessaloniki, the open assembly for prisoner solidarity holds an open assembly with the people at Kamara (a central piazza).

18/11: 50-60 demonstrators attack with paint-bombs the courthouse of Thessaloniki, after a microphonics demo.

19/11: Three prisoners, two men and one woman from Diavata prisons, transferred to a public hospital after their health was in danger because of the hunger strike. The men felt better and returned to prison, the same day.

19/11: After relatives and families of prisoners meet with the minister of Macedonia-Thrace in Thessaloniki, the "Common Action for prisoners rights" (formed by the "Marxist-Leninist Communist Party", "Left Refoundation", "left Anticapitalist Formation", "Workers Anti-imperialist Front", "Workers Revolutionary Party", "New Left Current", "Workers Party" and an organization self-titled "Antiauthoritarian Movement") organizes a mobile concert from Thessaloniki centre to Diavata prison, and announces the opening of a bank account for a "prisoner solidarity fund".

19/11: City hall of Thessaloniki attacked with paints and flyers against prison appeared around it.

19/11: S. Hatzigakis, minister of justice, in his speech inside the parliament speaks of "certain non-parliamentary circles that inflame this case" and mentions that "opening the prisons to let the prisoners go is not normal, once society has its defences".

19/11: March to Larissa prisons by the (left) Antiracist Initiative of Larissa. Prisoners welcomed demonstrators chanting slogans.

19/11: Minister of justice presents the new set of measures on prisons to be discussed in the parliament is made known through the mass-media. Release of all imprisoned for minor misdemeanours (1.500 prisoners) once and for all, without bail. All imprisoned for up to 5 years, enabled for dismissal on bail, apart from serious felonies and drug related cases. Disabled and AIDS patients dismissed under certain conditions. Disciplinary charges are not added to the penal charges. One more day-off. Access to the prisons by a committee of all parliament parties, and some more minor benefits, especially for drug users, as well as: The construction of 4 new prisons and the expansion of 3 existing prisons, to "better comfort the prisoners rehabilitation".

19/11: During day time, few dozens of persons attacked the city hall of Thessaloniki with paints and spread flyers against prisons. (photos http://athens.indymedia.org/front.php3?lang=el&article_id=927020)

19/11: Dozens of prisoners taken to hospitals, because of the hunger strikes. More than 30 from Larissa prisons, another 30 from Patras prison, and 4 women from Eleonas.

19/11: Around 50-60 anarchists gather outside Patras prisons, chanting slogans and holding banners, flags and fireworks. The prisoners (more than 900 in hunger strike) greeted them with slogans and setting clothes on fire. (Photos http://patras.indymedia.org/front.php3?lang=el&article_id=2467)

pected to "get square" deploying 8.500 cops, pre-arresting suspects etc. Media try to obscure any connection among the "prison problem" and solidarity actions outside prisons.

12/11: The lawyers associations coordinative committee supports the immediate satisfaction of the prisoners demands, and ask to meet with the prime minister K. Karamanlis.

12/11: Spray painting and vandalism in solidarity actions at the Greek Embassy in London, and Moabit prison memorial in Germany.

13/11: Anarchist collectives call at solidarity demonstration at 18:00 in Propylea, Athens centre, where more than 2.000 people march. Riot-police brigades are repelled by the demonstrators with wooden sticks with flags, and spray painting slogans and leaflet distribution takes place. A car of the national television is set on fire after the march.

Photos http://athens.indymedia.org/front.php3?lang=el&article_id=924567 and http://athens.indymedia.org/front.php3?lang=el&article_id=924304 and http://athens.indymedia.org/front.php3?lang=el&article_id=925702)

13/11: Microphonics solidarity demo in central Heraklion, Crete by anarchists/antiauthoritarians.

13/11: Parts of three prisoners letters published at "Ta Nea" newspaper, revealing aspects of the conditions inside prisons, such as the lack of doctors, miserable food (everyday potatoes for Eleonas women prisons, after a treaty among prison authorities and potato company), toilets not functioning, only cold water available at the showers and days-off only for the management's "favorites".

13/11: A prisoner is found dead in Grevena prison. Nikolas Bardakis was on hunger strike, though the ministry of justice claims his death was not related to the hunger strike.

13/11: Solidarity demonstration in Veria, called by "Schinovatis" local antiauthoritarian group.

13/11: Chemistry students association of Crete votes for solidarity to the prisoners struggle.

13/11: Arsonists hit 5 banks and supermarkets during the night in Thessaloniki.

13/11: Minister for the Greek economy, Alagoskoufi, is about to give a lecture at the London School of Economics at 7pm when about ten people wearing black and their faces partially covered storm into the lecture theatre. He is showered with leaflets and pelted with egg, accompanied with loud shouting of anarchist anti-prison slogans. News of the interruption was immediately communicated to Greek media by conservative students present who also read out one of the leaflets, thus widening its circulation.

14/11: Upon his return to Greece minister for the economy Alagoskoufi is greeted at the airport by about 20 anarchists who throw rancid yoghurt at him.

14/11: A group claims responsibility for the arson against an ATE bank in solidarity to the prisoners and to three anarchist fugitives.

14/11: A bloggers initiative "Not in our names" calls for solidarity to the prisoners mobilizations and starts a signature petition.

14/11: Ministry of justice proposes via the mass-media a new set of measures. Prisoners aren't satisfied.

14/11: The “Alternative Lawyers Intervention of Athens” expresses its solidarity to the prisoners mobilizations and demands.

14/11: In Giannena, local students associations have voted for solidarity to prisoners, while the local prisoner solidarity assembly demonstrate outside Giannena prison during visit time, chanting slogans in solidarity to prisoners. An info-stall runs everyday in the city center.

14/11: The association of hospital doctors votes for solidarity to the prisoners mobilizations.

14/11: In Arta, municipal employees tear down a banner hung by the local Open Assembly, in solidarity to prisoners, after an open gig organized in the town centre.

14/11: Athens media students association vote for solidarity to prisoners.

14/11: Legal management students association votes for solidarity to prisoners mobilizations.

14/11: Athens: "Incendiary Solidarity" claims responsibility for attacking companies cooperating with the ministry of justice and supplying prisons and several banks around Athens.

14/11: Lisbon, Portugal: Anarchist distribute solidarity flyers around the greek embassy. More info at <http://anarcores.blogspot.com/>

15/11: 98fm chaos radio station (self-managed) transmits solidarity speech and prisoners struggle info.

15/11: Around 20-30 people in Chios island, from a local solidarity committee and a collective from Lesvos island, climbed in a roof near the prisons with a red-black flag and got contact with prisoners. On their sight, the prisoners greeted them loudly and started breaking glass windows of the prison. The two sides chanted slogans together. Later on, a solidarity concert takes place in Chios town.
http://athens.indymedia.org/front.php3?lang=el&article_id=925051

15/11: Solidarity and info gathering at Naxos island by the Autonomous Initiative of Naxos with microphonics. Photos at http://athens.indymedia.org/front.php3?lang=el&article_id=925019

15/11: Common letter from the anarchist prisoners P. Georgiadis, G. Dimitrakis, G. Voutsis-Vogiatis, on the prisoners struggle.

15/11: Anarchist prisoner P. Georgiadis gets transferred from Ioannina to Komotini juridical prison.

15/11: A few prisoners send letters with complaints to a newspaper “Eleftheros Tipos”.

16/11: Anarchists/antiauthoritarians solidarity marches to Alikarnassos and Lasithi prisons in Crete.

16/11: Info and solidarity demo at Brixton oval, London UK and walk to Brixton prison. Some photos at <http://bezmotivnik.blogspot.com/2008/11/brixton.html>

16/11: Minister of justice, K. Gletsos unannouncedly visits the prison of Larissa, and has a talk with prisoners on the new set of measures he will announce on the following days

16/11: Christos Tsibanis, 30 years old, hangs himself inside a toilet of Domokos prison. Fellow prisoners find his body and try to do CPR on him, while prison guards came only half an hour later, and no doctors were present. Christos is in a coma. Domokos prison was the issue of a popular TV show, bringing into light the major illegalities of the prison authorities, such as giving days-off to inmates in exchange with some “favors”

connected with prison officials’ illegal business outside. All this came to light after a prisoner talked to the reporters, and prison manager and guard chief were suspended.

16/11: Lisbon, Portugal - “Sunday night anarchists attacked the greek embassy in Lisbon (Portugal) with black paint-bombs. Greetings to the comrades. Solidarity to the prisoners in struggle!” (<http://www.325collective.com/direct-action.html>)

16/11: 5.800 prisoners in hunger strike.

17/11: More than 6.500 prisoners in hunger strike. 3 dead in Grevena, Chios and Domokos prisons. Dozens stopped consuming even water!

17/11: A prisoner named Constandinos Polidorou, communicates with a TV station denouncing the existence of “Blue Cells” of torture inside Korydallos prison, where guards were leaving inmates naked, and lowering temperature, while until 1997, inmates were tied on a marble cross, treated with drugs and water under pressure.

17/11: In some cities anarchists connect the annual November 17, 1973 anti-junta insurrection remembrance day to the prisoners struggle, calling to demonstrations.

17/11: In Nicosia, Cyprus the local group “Antiauthoritarian Autonomous Action” organizes a demonstration to the greek embassy in solidarity to the prisoners in struggle (more at <http://adakiprus.blogspot.com/>).

17/11: In Corfu, anarchists march to the local prison chanting slogans, while the prisoners welcome them with slogans and setting fire to mattresses and clothes.

17/11: Gathering with banners and flyers in Kozani.

17/11: Open assembly of a Citizens Initiative in Chios, on prisoner support.

17/11: 1431 AM holds a radio show on prisoners with members of the (leftist) Initiative for prisoners rights, and the “Common Action for prisoners rights” (which is formed by the “Marxist-Leninist Communist Party”, “Left Refoundation”, “left Anticapitalist Formation”, “Workers Anti-imperialist Front”, “Workers Revolutionary Party”, “New Left Current”, “Workers Party” and an organization self-titled “Antiauthoritarian Movement”).

17/11: The (left) “Initiative for prisoners rights” publishes a petition signed by 3.000 citizens and many left politicians and celebrities “joining their voice to the prisoners”.

18/11: 7.000 prisoners in hunger strike, according to the mainstream mass-media.

18/11: Solidarity march outside Korydallos prison in Athens, called by the leftist “Initiative for prisoners rights”, attended by some 600 persons, mostly anarchists, that burnt a greek flag hanged outside the prison entrance, and threw fireworks. There were riot-police brigades, but demonstrators had eye-contact with prisoners inside. Prisoners made light signals, chanted slogans, set on fire clothes at their cells’ windows, and demonstrators replied by setting garbage bins on fire and chanting slogans together. There were also some live phone-calls with prisoners from people outside.

18/11: Members of the left parliament party SYN/SYRIZA visit Trikala prisons.

18/11: Greek lawyers associations denounce the justice minister on issues concerning prisons and justice in general, and ask for his replacement.

18/11: A local assembly in solidarity to prisoners, by anarchists and autonomists, occupies two radio stations in Ioannina to make known the prisoners struggle, and organizes interventions in the city centre.

18/11: A prisoner speaks live on a well known left-wing performer’s (Jimmis Panousis)