

THE TRAGEDY OF FIVE HOSTAGES OF A SUI GENERIS "DEMOCRATIC" FASCISM

by **Dr. Kleanthis Grivas**
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*“The worst nightmares
we have not seen them yet happening”.*

Giannis Manoledakis
Professor of criminal law at Thessalonici’s

Greece is proved to be an important field of experimental application of the international model for "*Guantanamo type*" penal repression, as enforced by the American Empire in their new type of colonies and protectorates (so to cope with the social resistance against the Americanisation of the international economy).

On 20th June 2003, 29 young persons were arrested at the massive demonstrations that took place during the days of the EU Summit. After being brutally harassed by the police forces, the 29 were charged with 29 identical charges, the only difference being the defendants’ identity.

Without any logical reason and legal justification, 22 of them were granted bail and 7 were kept in prison although:

- a) The charges were exactly the same for all the prisoners.
- b) Videos from the national Greek television of Northern Greece “ET3” proved beyond reasonable doubt that some of the defendants were innocent and that the police were responsible for the fabrication of the accusations.

Since then, the 7 have been kept in prison as hostages and have not been brought into the court for the simple reason that it is impossible for the state to prove the unsound and unjustifiable charges against them.

About two months ago, five of the accused that were kept in Thessalonica (two Spanish, an Englishman, a Syrian who lives permanently in Greece and a Greek) decided to protest against this gross injustice and begin a hunger strike with the sole request of either being tried at once or left free with restrictions until their trial. The “Five of Thessalonica” are:

- 1) **Simon Chapman**, English, born in 1973, theologian;
- 2) **Carlos Martin-Martinez**, Spanish, born in 1978;
- 3) **Fernando Perrez-Gorraiz**, Spanish, born in 1981;
- 4) **Solaiman Dakdouk**, Syrian, born in 1969, artist, Greek resident;
- 5) **Spyros Tsitsas**, Greek, born in 1980.

During their hunger strike, the five political prisoners have been under the supervision of doctors of their choice: **Dr. Alexandra Efthimiadou**, pathologist, the under-

signed **Dr. Kleantis Grivas**, neurologist-psychiatrist and **Dr. Maria-Myrto Grivas**.

Note that the Prison of Diavata in which the political prisoner's hunger striking were kept until recently (now they have been transferred):

1) Had no doctor at all, since the doctor who was working there was on a maternity leave and the health needs of the prisoners were covered from one external contracted doctor, **Michalis Simeonidis**, who visits the prison twice per week and does what is humanly possible to cover the increasing health needs of the hundreds kept in the prison, under very difficult conditions. But,

2) Had only a "**social worker**" who acted as "*a state within a state*" and arbitrarily enforced, within other things, a restrained limit of family visits to the accused political prisoners, even though they and their families are non-Greeks and staying more time in Greece meant expenses that they couldn't afford. Thus, after experiencing a linguistic isolation, the non-Greek prisoners were further deprived of their families' support, since the families couldn't afford the luxury of a long stay in Thessalonica.

After many days of hunger strike, the first consequential symptoms appeared to the detained health.

Monday, 3rd November 2003

On Nov 3rd, Carlos Martin-Martinez was brought immediately from the prison to Thessalonica's Saint Paul hospital under severe security measures.

In the hospital, the special police forces enforced a state of siege, using more than thirty black dressed and masked policemen, who were holding automatic guns in a state of alert, in an attempt to terrorise the doctors and nurses of the hospital.

The very bad conditions imposed both before and after the hospitalisation (aggressive behaviours from the police towards the doctors and lawyers, police harassment of the patient Carlos in the hospital room), and during the examination of the patient (in the presence of masked gunmen), caused the anger of doctors, nurses and lawyers. The doctors publicised the police brutality in a press conference for the local media.

The following doctors contributed to uncover the police operations (modern barbarism), publishing their testimonies on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th November:

1) **Dr. Alexandra Efthimiadou**, who examined the 5 political prisoners during all the hunger strike period. And

2) **Dr. Stratis Plomaritis**, chairman of Thessalonica's hospitals doctors, who was on call at the Agios Pavlos hospital when Carlos Martin-Martinez due to the severe deterioration of his health.

Next day, on Tuesday 4 Nov, while Carlos was being transferred back to the prison with the justification that "he refused to be hospitalised" because "he refused food", in the live weekly broadcast of Mr. **Kostas Hardavella** ("Not seen World" on Alter

channel), psychiatrist **Kleanthis Grivas** made a public denunciation of the fake accusation against the 5 political prisoners, letting the Greek public know what was happening to the five.

Wednesday 5 November 2003

On Nov 5th, two more hunger strikers, the Spaniard **Fernando Perrez-Gorraiz**, born in 1981, the Greek **Spyros Tsitsas**, born in 1980, were transferred under very severe security measures from the prison to Thessalonica's Papanikolaou hospital (Third University pathological clinic, director Prof. Michalis Sion).

Dr. Kleanthis Grivas, Dr. Maria-Myrto Grivas, and the lawyer of the Spanish prisoners **Harris Ladis**, went to the hospital, where they were confronted to an astonishing situation: the same special police force, 30 black dressed and masked policemen holding automatic guns, occupied the clinic with violent means and vulgar behaviours, constructing a scene of Nazis' occupation and terrorising anybody approaching the prisoners.

The strikers were treated by two doctors on call (**Mr. Giorgadis** and his trainee doctor), who pointlessly demanded to the police to be let alone with the patients in order to examine them.

Followed a two-hour confrontation between the strikers' doctor **Kleanthis Grivas** and the head of the police squad, until the director of the clinic Prof. **Michalis Sion** and the managing director **Thrasivoulos Vantouris** arrived to the hospital and also requested to the police to leave the area of the patients' examination.

As a result, the fully armed masked policemen (who are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Public Order) moved five meters away from the examination room (3X3 square meters!), but the armed prisoners' guards (who are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice) remained inside the room.

Note that:

1) Apart from the obvious psychopathological elements of the policemen behaviour (which will be the object of a psychiatric evaluation in a separate research of the writer), note also that whatever happened was taking place inside the declaratory only, respected and sacred place of the hospital, from pitiful **masked men** who, due to their behaviour structure, educational level and culture, functioning under the "**syndrome of pistoleros**", could not anticipate that the only thing they were achieving was to provoke the anger and the fears of the eyewitnesses of their vulgar behaviour, and humiliate themselves by "*bringing four months forward the date of the carnival*" and "*transferring the Carnival of the Masks from Venice to Thessalonica*", as Dr. Grivas observed.

2) One police man was heard expressing loudly his social complexes, his educational level and the origins of him and his fellow men, by saying to a woman doctor: "***Those communists, you should stick them on the wall, shave them and start fucking them***".

3) The masked policemen did not only violate the "sanctity" of the hospital but also the university asylum, as the third pathological clinic (where Carlos and two other hunger strikers were transferred) belongs to the University and is protected under the regulation regarding university asylum.

4) The masked gunmen were acting and behaving as common criminals, keeping in mind that they were brutally infringing all the laws regarding the rights of prisoners as codified in the *Order of the Greek Police Chief*, Mr. Nasiakos, "To the attention of all the Greek police units" (July 4th, 2003), a rubric for all Greek policemen.

Friday 7 November 2003

On Nov 7th, the police transferred the five hunger strikers to Thessalonica's Ippokratia hospital (surgical clinic, director Dr. **Georgos Hatzitheoharis**) under draconian security measures and a spectacular operation involving special forces and prison guards.

Thus, to the three already mentioned hunger strikers requiring hospital care and supervision, were added the English **Simon Chapman**, born in 1973, theologian, and the Syrian **Solaiman Dakdouk**, born in 1969, painter and permanent resident of Hania.

The three doctors of the accused and their lawyers ran immediately to the hospital, and after a ridiculous repetition of the confrontation with the policemen in order to respect the well-respected rights of the prisoners, of their doctors and of their lawyers (rights protected under the national and international legislations which with the assent of the Greek parliament, became a law of the Greek state with increased force), the gunmen finally allowed the examination of the five men by their doctor **Kleanthis Grivas**, who had to examine them with the presence of six armed men inside the hospital room and ten more at the door, in conditions of incredible intellectual remarks and behaviours reminding reminiscent elements of Kafka and Ionesco.

In the same conditions, **Carlos' mother**, who came from Spain, was allowed to see her son for a few minutes.

Saturday 8 November 2003

On Nov 8th, the five hostages were suddenly transferred to Thessalonica's Papanikolaou hospital (Third University pathological clinic, director Prof. Michalis Sion) where, in the absence of the director of the clinic, the policemen evacuated (!) a hospital treatment corridor, placed there the five strikers on a tenacious armed guard and transferred all the usual patients to another corridor (!).

The police denied the strikers' right to go to the loo with closed door, and the medical examination took place in the same conditions than the previous ones.

In the hospital arrived the strikers' doctors **Alexandra Efthimiadou** and Kleanthis accompanied by **Mrs Panagiota Kravaritou**, Professor of the law school of the Aris-

total University of Thessalonica, former head of Department of Law at European University in Florence (Italy) and member of the Syndicalism Committee of the European Trade Unions.

Repetition of the same scenario of illogical theatre, with a dialogue of incredible sense with the heads of the prison guards, who were playing a double game: when the policemen arguments (under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Public Order) were failing, they were turning to the prisoners' guards (under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice), and each unit required us to submit special permissions or orders from its own supervising office in a recital of schizophrenic distortion of the unifying legislation which regulates the non-violating rights of the prisoners.

When the doctor Kleantis Grivas told them that he is not going to leave unless he sees and examines the prisoners, and submitted to them the relevant *Order of the Greek Police Chief* dated 04/07/2003 (compulsory to all the police units), the very intelligent interlocutor replied to him: "***We have other orders. This is an old one and is not enforced***" (!), asked for "***a written order from the relevant public prosecutor***" ***because the oral one was not enforceable for him*** (!).

Finally, after a torturing (in logical terms) conversation, the guards retreated and allowed the strikers' examination from the **Dr. Kleantis Grivas** under the close supervision of the "super guardman".

Natural characteristic of the circumstances in place was the warning to the doctor from a policeman that "**touching the prisoners is prohibited**". When the doctor asked "***if touching***" ***had sexual implications***", the confused policeman replied that the doctor had no right to touch the patients. Presenting to him the stethoscope, the doctor asked "***if they know any magical way to examine a patient without touching him***". Those who are using violence and excessive power are always ridiculously incapable of dealing with logic and arguments...

Then, **Dr. Alexandra Efthimiadou** and **Prof. Panagiota Kravaritou** were allowed to say goodbye to the patients and leave.

The following Saturday was relatively quiet, with nothing preparing us to the developments that the Minister of Justice **Phil. Petsalnikou**, in cooperation with the prosecution authorities, were planning.

Monday 10 November 2003

On Monday 10th Nov, at lunch time, with a personal order from the Minister of Justice Mr. Petsalnikou to the managing director **Thrasivoulos Vantouris**, the gangster type police operations of "kidnapping" the strikers from the hospital Papanikolaou and transporting them to the prison Korydallos's hospital (in Athens), were being organised.

The preparations were completed late in the night and at 2am in the night of Monday to Tuesday, the secret police kidnapping of the strikers from the hospital started, and was completed by their transfer to the hospital of the Korydallos.

In this way was achieved, in the opinion of the manager of State Power, in this period of nightmare and sui generis modernised “democratic” fascism, a successful operation performed in one night, dissolving the illusion of the existence of a legal so-called civilisation and the strength of a system of so-called values which rule our so-called civilised society.

And this reminded me the warning of my beloved friends and Professor of criminal law at Aristotele’s University of Thessalonica, **Giannis Manoledakis**: *“The worst nightmares we have not seen them yet happening”*.

Signed:

Dr. Kleanthis Grivas
Neurologist-psychiatrist