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ΕΥΤΥΧΡΟΝΗΣ
ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΗΣ
ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑΣ

ΜΑΚΡΟΝΙΣΣΟΣ

THE SYMBOL OF GREEK FASCISM



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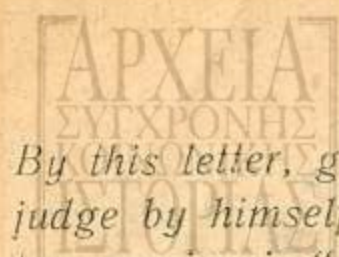
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Α.Σ.Κ.Ι. Αρχ. Εισερχ. 12957

The callous criminals of Athens wish to transform all of Greece into a Makronissos. Through their new law providing for the establishment of many „reformatory seminaries“ on the Makronissos model, they wish to turn Greece, from one end to the other, into a frightful hell where its seven million population will be tortured brutally.

Every day there comes to light new and frightful testimony from bloodstained and martyred Makronissos. At the end of May, 1949, the prisoners of Makronissos sent a letter to the newspaper NEOS DIMOKRATIS of Cyprus containing hair raising details of unheard of tortures to which were submitted the hero of the Greek people Vassilis Markezinis together with seven of his co-fighters.

This letter gives an authentic picture of what really goes on at Makronissos where 25,000 conscripted officers and men of the monarcho-fascist army have been imprisoned because they are suspected of having democratic ideas.



By this letter, given in full in this booklet, everyone can judge by himself what will be the „Makronissos reformatory seminaries“ consecrated now by law by the monarchofascist regime all over Greece.

We publish this letter as a reply to the contentions of the Athens delegation at the 4th General Assembly of the UNO that „democracy is established in Greece“.

Dedicated to the government
of the United States of America,
the inspirator and protector of
actual Athens regime.

On May 9th there arrived at Makronissos eight co-defendants of Mitsos Papparigas (NOTE: General Secretary of the legally elected executive committee of the General Confederation of Labor of Greece) who had been murdered by the Security Police. The eight were 1) Vassilis Markezinis, 2) Pantelis Simos (Karagitsis), 3) Tassos Hainoglou, 4) Manolis Lygeros, 5) Nicos Moutesidis, 6) Leonidas Tiakas, 7) Stelios Plakantonakis and 8) G. Varvaressos.

They were sent to Makronissos for the same reason that all the other thousands of democrats are sent there — to be forced, under inhuman torture, to sign a „declaration of repudiation“ disavowing their political beliefs, their principles, their past and their ideals.

When the eight arrived, they were led to the Administrative Offices of the camp. There, before the Commander and the other officers, they were cursed vulgarly by the guards, slapped in the face and

kicked. The Commander, Thomas Soulis, a particular degenerate sadist, gave ostentatious orders to the executioner Vaitsas concerning the tortures to be inflicted on those who would not sign statements repudiating their political beliefs.

From there they led them to the offices of the Unit's Police, that den of hangmen and sadistic torturers. They shaved them, insulted them, beat them and led them to the mountain near the military guardhouses. They placed them 150 meters apart from each other and forced them to stand erect while carrying all their clothes and belongings (the pack of each weighed 30-40 lbs.). During this terrible standing ordeal, the guards forced Varvaressos, Moutesidis and Simos to stand on one foot. The load of Moutesidis was especially heavy — about 50 lbs — and he would lower it now and then. The guard would then come and beat him with a thick rod.

Moutesidis who had asthma suffered an attack in three hours and fainted. The guard beat him as he lay there unconscious. When he half-regained consciousness he yielded and agreed to sign. Tiakas and Plakantonakis — the latter an anti-communist — had signed earlier. They kept the others standing continuously for three whole days and nights.

The first day they gave them no water at all and the thirst increased the martyrdom of the standing and the sleeplessness. After the third night they led

them to the guardhouse of Fifas. There they forced them to dig all night, carrying sand and rocks. After they had begun to sweat heavily, at about midnight, they took them to the sea and threw each of them in about ten times, still loaded with their belongings. Then they beat them savagely and led them back to their place of work, dripping and still carrying their burdens, where they continued the heavy labor.

At dawn they led them to the mountain again still carrying their wet belongings where they forced them to stand erect until the next evening (Thursday, May 12.).

The night of the twelfth they led them back to the guardhouse of Fifas. There they put them to heavy labor again. Again they began to sweat heavily, again they submitted them to the torture of the sea, then the brutal beating, then back to heavy labor. In the morning — the heroes moving like corpses now — they were brought back to the mountain where they continued the satanic torture of standing loaded with all their belongings.

This torture continued until the night of Sunday, May 15th. But the ordeal of standing, heavily loaded, was not enough to satisfy the sadists. On Saturday, May 14th, the sadist Filas beat Varvaressos with an iron rod. Varvaressos screamed in agony and his screams could be heard by all the island's prisoners whose thoughts were turned to the ordeal of their heroes. When Varvaressos was no longer

able to stand, Fifas went over to Simos. With the help of the other sadists, he removed the martyr's shoes and stockings and beat him on the toes. The feet swelled and the nails loosened from the flesh. Fifas became tired and the iron rod was taken by the other executioners who continued the beating. Simos screamed wildly, piercing the ears of the island's agonized prisoners. Rested now, Fifas took the iron rod again and began to beat Simos on the back, counting the iron lashes and shouting, „So you have been a Communist since 1921?“

He counted every year with a blow and when he reached 1949, he would begin from 1921 again. Simos received 150 blows in all. His body became black and sticky. Dead blood oozed from the cracked skin. Finally, even the other sadists suggested that he stop. But Fifas continued beating. Finally, he left the crumbled Simos and proceeded towards Lygeros. The other cannibals began to dance on the pulpy feet of Simos.

The iron rod began to descend on the feet of old Lygeros who shouted loudly. Fifas tried to drag him to a more isolated spot where his cries would not be heard but Lygeros would not budge and Fifas finally abandoned him.

By Sunday, May 15th, Markezinis and Hainoglou were hunched with lumbago. It darkened and the people's fighters were transferred crawling to the guardhouse of Fifas. There, for the first time in six days of torture, Markezinis and Hainoglou were

permitted to lie down while the rest were put to night work again breaking and carrying earth the guards beating them savagely the while with clubs and ropes... There they met three other heroes who were being tortured since May 14th — Mitsos Mouratidis, Leftheris Hasapis and G. Eliopoulos. They began to sweat heavily again and they took them all together to the sea including Markezinis and Hainoglou. They received another savage beating when they reached the sea and they were tossed in twenty times each, the first time wearing all their clothing and carrying their belongings and the other times naked. Again and again they plunged their blankets in the sea. Nearby was a ditch filled with human waste. They filled a large can and poured it over the body of Markezinis, then took the clothes of Simos and plunged them into the same ditch. In this condition they brought them all back in the guardhouse of Fifas. By now they were all walking corpses, especially Markezinis and Hainoglou. It was 3:00 A. M. They permitted them to lie on the ground until dawn. This was the first rest from work and torture for all but Markezinis and Hainoglou in six days.

On May 16th, Monday, they woke them at 5:00 A. M. They were all dripping with sea water. The sadist soldier Sabanis who thirsted to torture Simos passed by. He tied Simos with a rope and threw him in the sea fifteen times. Simos barely

made it to the rocks the last time and began to spit blood. Looking at Sabanis, he said :

„And what did you gain, my brave young man, by doing me this irreparable damage?“ The sadist began to laugh and slap Simos in the face.

At 6:00 A. M. they gathered them all above the guardhouse and made them stand again in their wet clothes. Markezinis and Hainoglou could stand no longer. They fell and their executioners were forced to let them lie on the ground. The legs of Simos were blackened and swollen dangerously up to the knees. Black blood oozed from his back. He spit blood and urinated pus for he suffered from an old kidney illness.

They took Hasapis, Mouratidis and Eliopoulos and put them back to heavy labor. Thus, others working and others standing they reached the night of May 17th.

That night, loaded with their belongings and hunched in pain, they brought them to a meeting where a „reformed“ tankman spoke, vomiting a lot of disgusting things against the democratic movement. This constituted another terrible ordeal for the prisoners of Makronissos because it was a daily occurrence highlighted with ridiculing speeches by soldiers who had repudiated their political opinions and who were thus purchasing a certificate of good conduct to win acquittal at their trial.

At 9:00 P. M. they were all lined up before the sea. Markezinis and Hainoglou dragged their feet

with difficulty. The heart of the former was in a dangerous condition by now. Simos and Eliopoulos were dragged to the edge. Twenty sadists began to beat them with clubs, ropes, cords, leather belts. The two heroes crumbled to the ground. Then they threw both into the sea thirty times beating them each time they dragged them out. All the prisoners heard their cries and, waiting in agony, did not close their eyes that night.

After these terrible tortures the two were led crippling to the highest peak of the island where the guardhouse of the harbor stood. They stripped Eliopoulos and made him stand on a huge barrel until 6:00 A. M. They stripped Simos also and made him mount a pile of wire and sit there until morning, loaded with his wet clothes. Markezinis, Hainoglou, Hasapis, Varvaressos and Mouratidis were thrown many times into the sea. Then they were stripped and water from the faucet was thrown on them every hour.

On Thursday, May 18th, they were all led to an isolated hill and left in the terrific heat of the sun 150 meters from each other with the right to rest. In the evening they were led to the guardhouse of the brutal sadist Sergiou where they were put to hard labor all night without a moment's respite.

It dawned at last. They rested for an hour and then again began their backbreaking labor which lasted all day. The other prisoners watched in agony the tortures of the people's heroes. They passed by



and whispered, „Courage, boys“. Others made gestures of sympathy and others clenched their fists.

Evening fell. The heavy labor continued. On Sunday, May 22, they took them to the sea again. This time they excluded Hasapis, Mouratidis and Varvaessos. Now began frightful scenes surpassing all these previous ordeals. Thirty cannibals danced on the bodies of the five. The frenzied fascists beat them with sticks, iron rods, leather belts, the butts of guns, with kicks and slaps. Then they threw each of them in the water thirty times.

They led them to the height again. Stripping them, they forced them to stand with their hands raised high until morning. They threw cold water on them every quarter hour and beat their wet and blackened bodies. For the island's prisoners too, this was the most tortureous, the most nightmarish night, Hainoglou lost his false teeth in the sea and Simos lost one shoe. With them suffered terribly that night four Greek heroes who had been brought, together with fifty others, from the prison of Youra.

Before the terrible night of the 22nd, Markezinis, Hainoglou and Varvaessos had managed to be brought before a doctor. The doctor found that Simos' life was in immediate danger with symptoms of tuberculosis in both lungs and swelling of the legs up to the knees with immediate danger of ulcers and elephantiasis. Markezinis was found to have a serious heart and kidney condition, Varvaessos was found to have a lung condition and stones in

his kidneys. And yet, after this diagnosis, the cannibals submitted them to the tortures of the 22nd of May.

On Monday, May 23rd, the eight were led to the height and forced to stand erect loaded with all their belongings. Every now and then one of them would crumble and the guards would howl. The martyrs rose, fell again. In the evening they were put back to heavy labor. At midnight, on the pretext that someone spoke, the sadist Tassos from the airforce threw cold water on their spine and chest. That night another martyr was added to the eight. He was a hero who had been undergoing torture for two years without signing a repudiation of his political beliefs. We have not learned his name.

Wednesday, May 25th, arrived. The standing torture in the sun was repeated during the day and also there was the night-long hard labor. All of them were suffering from severe sunburn. Thursday, May 26th, the same tortures continued. On the night of the 26th they were not tortured.

On Friday, May 27th, each was given a tent which had been erected there on the height. They were forced to remain within the tents all day where they were practically burned alive by the heat.

That evening they led Markezinis, Simos and Lygeros to the island courthouse where they informed them that on the next day they would be transferred to Athens since their trial had been set for June 15th. From there they brought them to the

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doctor. We forgot to say that one evening they stripped Lygeros, threw water on him continuously, whipped him on his bare body and burned him with lighted cigarettes. Another evening they covered the faces of Markezinis and Hainoglou with petroleum and caldron soot. One day Eliopoulos had continuous haemorrhages (he suffered from haemorrhoids) and they would not permit him to sit.

On Saturday, May 28th, as they were boarding the caique for transfer to Athens, the sadist Vaitzas beat brutally Simos, Markezinis, Lygeros and Hainoglou before the doctor and the other officers.