

Good evening,

I am Vaggelis Stathopoulos, currently detained in the ST unit (special units of the Greek prison system designed for political prisoners, with single cells and solitary confinement) of Korydallos prison.

First of all, as a comrade I would like to greet the initiatives that are being organized in Italy in solidarity with the Revolutionary Struggle case by the comrades of the Red Aid, the circle Iqbal, the circle Pedro and the comrades from Trento.

I would also like to greet all those who will participate, who along with the organizers will contribute to the realization of these initiatives. And I also greet those who demonstrate that practical solidarity is deeply connected to the overthrow of

the system and goes beyond the states, laws, laws and borders, beyond prison bars and behind bars. In this way the Struggle always finds a way to strengthen.

Since I was young I have always taken part in the struggle against the state and capital. And because I participated in the wide movement aiming at the overthrow of the system, and decided to create revolutionary trajectories within this movement they jailed me.

Here in prison I continue to struggle against the silence they want to impose on us. So I am close to you and your initiative, as I'm trying to contribute to the construction of communication based on struggle and solidarity.

Having a clear class and social position I defended myself before the judges in the court. As I know very well that the state and capital are particularly mad towards those who struggle against a system that creates poverty and devastation, I decided to struggle in the courtroom and to place the trial in a context of struggle, so as to clearly demonstrate the reason of the subversive struggle and my participation in the trajectories undertaken to realize it.

With this I intended to demonstrate on the one hand the dimension of subversive initiatives and the solidarity with those who realize them, which generate richness and the base of social revolution. On the other hand, my goal was and is that of demonstrating the ridiculousness of the prosecution's framework, which led us to a trial based on very little or inexistent evidence proving our guilt. Therefore I wanted to demonstrate how trials are built up on the basis of ridiculous police frame-ups.

As expected, during the trial of the Revolutionary Struggle case what happened had been foreseen by the movement and the defendants: it was a political trial and any comrade who was on the dock was considered a political enemy of the system. Regardless of the evidence, some of us were taken to prison so that the frame-ups of the antiterrorism squad would not prove useless. So the ridiculousness of the prosecution's framework used against us, and which aimed at applying a good half of the penal code, emerged.

During almost 18 months of trial I also struggled both against the construction of frame-ups and for the necessity of continuing the struggle itself. I defended my relations of friendship and my being a comrade, which have developed during the resistance against the system of exploitation. I think that this trial wanted to strike the multi-functionality of the struggle and its revolutionary perspective. I openly reiterated, as I've been doing for years, the importance of the continuity of the struggle in a revolutionary perspective and of the solidarity with all kinds of action that develop in order to realize it.

Since I was arrested I have been refusing the charge of belonging to the organization Revolutionary Struggle. Of course this doesn't mean that I disown my political identity or my personal relations as a comrade.

As I said, the persecution the state unleashes against me has a vindictive and intimidating character: as I struggled for everything I said and demonstrated during the whole length of the trial, a sentence to condemn me in the worst possible way was pronounced. Furthermore, regardless of the results

against me during the trial I was to be promptly jailed amidst a great deal of spectacularization in the face of public opinion. This was due to the fact that the frame-ups of the antiterrorism squad had to be maintained and the severity of the system in the face of this kind of cases and positions of struggle had to be proved. This is why I had to be jailed before the logic of the prosecution was built. But according to the public prosecutor the only real reason of my imprisonment was my participation in the many demos and initiatives where activities considered criminal were carried out. In the face of this not only did not I disown my political identity but I also defended it through the continuity of the struggle, and I demonstrated that relations between comrades represent its propulsive force.

Why 7 and a half years? I am going to answer this question as the court failed to do it and I don't expect any reasonable answer to this paranoia as I know that no truth will ever come out of any judge.

The goal of a court is to repress the struggle itself and to treat as many militants as possible as hostages. This is no secret. And if this is a truth that cannot be said, I'm going to say it. If the repression of the struggle has to be silenced, then we have all the reason to struggle and demand it be said.

As there was no evidence whatsoever of my belonging to the organization Revolutionary Struggle, which I have been denying since my arrest, I was arbitrarily sentenced to 7 and a half year precisely for creating and belonging to this organization, and I was denied bail. Even if no evidence exists of my belonging to the organization I was sentenced as a founder member of Revolutionary Struggle, which started

acting in 2003, and since my arrest the court considered me a non-active member of the organization. This is the reason which sustains the fascist principle of collective responsibility.

The charges against me are based on the fact that during all these years, since I was a boy, as I said, I have been participating in social struggles and I've been an active part of the living history of the subversive anarchist movement: from students' struggles to strikes, from occupations of public buildings to the occupation of houses, and I was in the Polytechnic in 1995 and 1996, I participated in the struggles against education reforms and war. I have defended and will continue to defend anarchist militant comrades who are locked up with charges based on police frame-ups pressed by the regime, only because they took political responsibility for their subversive action. And I will continue to do so.

Moreover I believe that in the context of the multi-functionality of the struggle, armed struggle and the comrades who choose it are parts of the movement. Regardless of the fact whether or not we agree with one another, action represents – in Greece at least – a historical reality and we all have to understand this, whether we like it or not. This is what I maintained before the court: by acting anyone realizes a subversive enterprise and anyone is important for the present and the future of social revolution.

During the 18 months of trial I didn't stay at home waiting for the judges' charity but I continued to participate in the struggle against society and the regime of exploitation and oppression imposed by dominion. I did take an active part in the mobilizations of the indignados in Piazza Syntagma, all

antifascist marches in the centre of Athens and the mobilizations against the repression of occupations. I defended my relations as a comrade and it would be shameful from me to do otherwise or to maintain that I was on trial for someone else's fault in order to come out of it clean.

I know very well that the only responsible are those who want to control and run our lives, those who want to impose heavy silence on society.

I would like to say something to public prosecutor A. Lioga: certainly I was in many organized marches (a fact which is considered criminal offence) and I don't care if this is piece of evidence. I would like to say that the state and capital continue to be a perennial crime against humanity. And on the road to social liberation, when people do the revolution, the public prosecutor won't have any concessions for giving the comrades so many years in prison as if these were crumbs.

We are neither naive nor guilty. We are anarchists against all forms of power that exist in this society. The guilty ones are certainly those who hold this power.

In a society where the regime wages war in all directions, the anarchist movement is being heavily attacked by the repressive apparatus. Heavy sentences and imprisonment are a way of intimidating and threatening all those who resist. Dozens of comrades were sentenced and jailed for years on end without evidence, only because they are part of the anarchist movement.

My sentence was a natural consequence in this context. But this is not enough: the regime is by now making recourse to

practices of civil war using new technological and miserable means, as it needs to strengthen the repressive apparatus in times of crisis. An outstanding example of this can be seen in the way the regime is repressing the struggle of the inhabitants of Skouries (Haldikiki) against a factory that causes cancer and which the regime wants to build. The state is once again pulling off the mask of democracy and showing its fascist face, this is it.

They should know that by imprisoning me and the other comrades they won't stop us. The struggle will also continue in prison and I'm sure that things won't get long to take another direction. They have all the reasons not to sleep peacefully. Big and small prisons will fall like dry leaves under the eyes of the militants who will realize the revolution.

Until then nothing finishes. Everything continues...

**SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRUGGLE OF THE INHABITANTS OF SKOURIES
(HALDIKIKI)**

**SOLIDARITY WITH ALL THE COMRADES IMPRISONED AND INVESTIGATED ALL
OVER THE WORLD BECAUSE OF THEIR SUBVERSIVE ACTIONS**

IMMEDIATE FREEDOM FOR GEORGES ABDALLAH

SOLIDARITY WITH THE MEMBERS OF REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE

HONOUR TO LAMBROS FOUNDAS FOREVER

April 2013

Vaggelis Stathopoulos, imprisoned in the ST unit of Korydallos prison

P.S.: I hope we will meet in the piazzas soon

Note: The english translation was based on the italian translation that was distributed during the events/discussions that took place in different cities in Italy. There is a slight diferrentation from the original greek text in order to serve its purpose which is both a salute and a public/open letter of anarchist comrade Vaggelis Stathopoulos.

