



SAVE GREEK PUBLIC BROADCASTING

**Saturday, June 15, 2013 • Noon
Zuccotti Park**

WE STAND

**in solidarity with
the staff of Greek
broadcasting service and
the people of Greece**

WE SUPPORT

**the general strike in
solidarity with ERT
workers**

WE SAY NO

**to muzzling the
Greek people**

WE SAY NO

**to the Troika
and austerity**

WE CALL

**for immediate elections
and a government that
will respect and defend
the democratic rights of
people in Greece**

Last Tuesday, June 10, the Greek cabinet suddenly issued an executive order to shut down the country's public broadcast service (ERT) and to dismiss nearly 2700 television and radio employees by Wednesday at midnight. The measure was not subject to a vote of parliament and has the support of only one of the governing parties, New Democracy, as well as the neo-Nazi Golden Dawn.

The government has not announced plans for the relocation and compensation of ERT employees. There was no advance notice or public dialogue preceding Prime Minister Samaras' autocratic decree. Neither parliament nor trade unions were consulted. The move violates the Greek constitution and is authorized only by dubious provisions in the recent austerity "Memorandum" between the Greek government and the "Troika" of European Union, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund.

The response of the Greek people has been immediate. Employees of ERT occupied offices, studios and radio stations. Journalists and performers have continued broadcasting by livestream. Many thousands of supporters have gathered outside these sites. Politically the opposition is highly diverse. The energy and spontaneity of "OCCUPY ERT" is being compared to the Taksim Square uprising in Turkey. There is a danger the protests will be met with a similarly brutal attempt at state repression, something that Greece has seen often in the recent years of crisis. This is also why dozens of solidarity actions are being organized internationally, throughout Europe and the Greek diaspora, and today in both New York and London.

The same people who now are shutting down ERT are the ones who until now manipulated the network for their own political purposes. Their action is an attack on free speech and a free press. The policies of neoliberalism and austerity are inexorably leading the Troika and the Samaras government to dismantle the public sector and to undermine basic democratic rights. The same Memorandum provisions are also being used to justify the closure of 13 hospitals in Greece. What comes next? Public schools? The sale of public spaces to developers as with Gezi Park?

We, as the Greek Diaspora, friends, activists and all democratic-minded people stand by the people of Greece and the journalists and staff of ERT during these difficult times. We call for reopening of ERT. We call for end to austerity in Greece. We urge the people in Greece to fight these measures and to stand up to the government's violations of human rights and attempts to repress public assembly and protest, and demand immediate elections.