

**You can't evict a
movement -**

you can't evict
solidarity


**Borderless solidarity with migrants' squats and
housing struggles in Greece and everywhere!**

Our passion for freedom is stronger than their prisons!

**A new wave of repressions started in Greece, targeted at the self-organized
solidarity movement of refugees, Greek and international activists.**

**Information about the squats, the evictions, court cases
and about the anti-repression campaign**

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In the early hours of 27th of July 2016, the three squats Orfanotrofeio, Nikis, and Hurriya were evicted. Migrants, Greek and international activists were living in these houses together.

The “Social Centre For All”/ NoBorderKitchen on Lesvos and the camp at Piräus port also were evicted the same day. At the same time, the mayor of Athens pressed charges against refugee squats in city-owned buildings. These squats were and are places in which we could meet and network, live and fight together beyond categories of nationalism, racism, and sexism.

During the evictions more than 100 people were detained. Charges have been pressed against 70 of them. Some of the trials already took place in the following days and weeks and the activists were sentenced to suspended prison sentences and to pay fines. Other trials have been postponed.

These repressions are the governmental strategy to intimidate activists and to weaken the movement of solidarity. Just a few of us are directly affected but we're all targeted by this move. Because of this, it is so important to be strong as a one movement and to not leave anyone behind.

We responded with resistance and direct actions immediately.

There were demonstrations in Thessaloniki, Athens and other cities in Greece and other European countries, actions in front of the Greek embassies and consulates, a symbolic occupation of the offices of Syriza's and other parties and the occupation of a theatre building...

A group of activists protested against the eviction of Orfanotrofeio by spreading flyers during the mass in a church. All of the 25 activists were arrested and convicted in a summary judgment.

Besides, 3 persons from Softex Relocation-Camp were charged of criminal assault on a cop during a protest caused by the death of 17 year-old Asas Ragda, who was pregnant. She died on the 28th of July 2016 because emergency medics on side denied treatment to her. Their sentences are still unclear.

A political decision

The assumed left-wing government Syriza showed once again their true colour. The evictions and following repressions seem to be a desperate attempt to destroy a powerful transnational movement of solidarity. The Greek government is indeed pressured by the migration policies and austerity measures of the European Union but this example shows once again that we cannot place hope in any government. It shows very clearly that we need to establish other structures.



They can take our buildings but they can't take our solidarity!

We have to expect more state repression and we will have to play the long game to help people in different countries under different circumstances to cope with this. It could possibly be necessary to pay legal costs for about 100 people.

Expecting these costs to be between 200€ and 400€ per person this would amount to a total of 20.000€ to 40.000€, excluding possible fines. Additionally, there are until now two persons convicted to pay a fine (one 1200€ and the other 4000€). There may also be more costs for lawyers and appeal trials.

This is obviously a huge amount of money so we urgently need every penny, now and in the future. Important dates influencing this will be the double revision trial for the action at the church, taking place January 13, 2017, and the trial for the Hurriya squat, which is scheduled for January 26, 2017.

However, raising money for the financial support can and should only be part of our work. To know that we have vivid anti-repression structures to rely on is essential for sustainable activism, and we need to point these out to the activists affected by repressions and create new possibilities to seek support where needed.

The fight goes on – we won't stay calm!

The occupation of empty buildings is one of many practical steps to the self-organised creation of a better life. It's a way to create free spaces for us to organise politically, network, meet, learn from each other and live together autonomously and in solidarity – an alternative to precarious circumstances and state control. We need more and new squats and we will occupy them! Not only in Greece but anywhere, because we're all affected by neoliberal politics. Together, we can face the repression easily and stick together as one movement even stronger after this summer.

****Background information on the squat "Orfanotrofeio" in Thessaloniki:***

The empty church building Orfanotrofeio was squatted in December 2015 in the course of the upcoming eviction of the camp Idomeni at the Greek-Macedonian border. Thousands of people had been stranded in Idomeni since the closure of the so called "Balkan route". Until the latest eviction in July 2016, more than 100 people lived in Orfanotrofeio. Families and single persons on the move found a home here. It was a self-organised space which was an important contact point for supporters and people on the move all over northern Greece and Macedonia. On the 27th of July 2016, it was not just evicted but directly demolished. A lot of personal belongings as well as donations were still in the building during the demolition. The eviction of a building must be commanded by the owner which in case of the Orfanotrofeio was the church. Therefore, the church is directly responsible for the eviction and demolition.

Let's collectively start a powerful international anti-repression campaign! Let's grow together as a movement in Greece and anywhere else, get organised and create alternatives to national and European policies of exclusion and exploitation!

How can we make this work and what can you do?

- ★ Share this text and support this campaign call !
More information on this on the blog.
- ★ Raise money for the support of our convicted friends!
- ★ Organise solidarity-parties, put up a donation box, launch a call for donations, be creative! In this way you can support the existing anti-repression structures to lay focus on legal work and other support.
- ★ Try to find out about existing support structures in your political environment and set up a connection with this campaign so we can all collaborate effectively.
- ★ Are there persons concerned in your surroundings? Try to be there for them – especially emotional support is important!
- ★ AND ABOVE ALL: Occupy buildings, fight for the survival of your existing free spaces, inform yourself and go get organised!

You Can't Evict A Movement – You Can't Evict Solidarity!

Our Passion For Freedom Is Stronger Than Their Prisons!

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