

German student strike supporter arrested in Greece

On 20th February 2007 a big concert, organised by students, took place in the „University of Thessaloniki“ which has been squatted for several months. After the end of the concert, there was a quarrel with the police because they wanted to clear the place. A person from Berlin that had helped with the concert, was brutally arrested by the police in the late evening. Allegedly he had taken part in the protest against the police interference. There is no evidence for this accusation and merely police witnesses claim to have seen him. Even at the date of the habeas corpus - in front of an enormous, supporting audience - no further evidence could be brought forward. Since 24th February the non-previously convicted person from Berlin is held in a remand prison near the Turkish border and can be kept arrested for up to 18 months by the Greek justice without a lawsuit. He can only be visited by his family.



The student protests in Greece continue since summer 2006 undamped. The background is the intention of the government (supported by the socialistic opposition party „PASOK“) to annul Article 16 of the Greek constitution. This Article guarantees the right of free, public education for all Greek citizens - it also guarantees that education lies in the hands of the government. Therewith Article 16 hinders economical interests which strive for the privatisation of education. The privatisation of education was decided by the EU in the

agreement from Essen, Bologna and Lisbon. On 8th March the ballot in the Greek parliament decided the abolishment of Article 16.



Almost half of the universities in the country are still squatted, others are strikebound. Professors, unions, as well as students take part in the weekly demonstrations with several ten thousands of demonstrators for months. Regularly people get arrested and injured by the police.

The person from Berlin, also arrested in this context, will now be punished individually for the wide student protests, like many others before him. The German embassy in Athens answered on the day after his arrest: „The terrorism has also arrived in Greece and now the Greeks have to defend themselves. The background remains unseen while therewith not only the arrested gets prejudged, but also the whole movement against the abolishment of Article 16 is being criminalized.

The detained person from Berlin is a self-employed motor mechanic and with his knowledge self-organised, collegiate initiatives. For the „Common Committee“ of the „Free University Berlin“ he has been helping if he can.

supports with Students



The Europe-wide introduction of tuition fees and elite universities demands a corporate answer by European students. Hence we stand up for a larger international communication between political initiatives from universities. The solid participation and support of the student protests in whole Europe has to become a topic in German universities again.

In this continuity we want to campaign for the release of the person from Berlin in Greece. Please make this case public and inform your friends about the protests in Greece!

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