

REMONSTRATIVE LETTER

We demand the immediate release of the imprisoned who participated in the student protest in Greece. Education cannot be allowed to become a merchandise –the protest against the educational reform is legitimate!

Since the middle of 2006 students, teachers, unionists and other political activist are protesting vehemently against a planned educational reform. Even after the passage of the ,reform‘ in March 2007 the protests are still going on. The greek society is divided at the question if higher education is supposed to be open for all or only for the well-to-do.

Over and over again at demonstrations, manifestations and squattings of college buildings it came to conflicts with the security forces. The imprisoned were detained for unusual long times and harassed with the weirdest accusations. Many are threatend with long imprisonments. It seems like the greek government vents its wrath about the big manifestations and squattings in the educational sector exclusively on the imprisoned of the protest movement. This politically motivated prosecution has to stop!

The individual case of the 31 year old Timo from Berlin, Germany, who supported the strikes at the Aristoteles University in Thessaloniki and is remanded in custody since February 2007:

At the 20th of February 2007 a large concert organized by students took place at the for months squatted university of Thessaloniki. After the end of the concert the police wanted to clear the place, which lead to some conflict. Later that evening the Berliner Timo, who was helping to disassemble the concert-technique, was brutally arrested because he allegedly was involved in the protests against the police operation.

The accusation is comparable with ,heavy breach of the public peace‘ in german law. There is no evidence, only some police officers saying that they have seen him. Even as Timo had to appear on remand before the committing magistrate (in front of a lot of supporting public) there was no evidence brought forward. Since the 24th of February he is on remand in a jail in Komotini near the turkish border. He can be hold in detention up to 18 month without the greek law opening a trial.

The german consulate in Thessaloniki is busy soothing the relatives of Timo and playing down the detention instead of working for his release.

Timo is a self-employed motor-mechanic and now supports for years self-organized students projects around the student union of the Free University Berlin with his knowledge. He is now to be victimized, as so many others, for the massive protests against the educational reform.

The implementation of tuition fees and elite universities throughout Europe calls for a united answer of european students. A privatisation of education and transformation to competitive usability is diametrically opposed to the idea of equality of opportunity. Individuals who actively support protests against eduactional reforms in this direction in other countries fight for the rights of all students throughout the European Union.

Sincerely yours,
(name, organisation, address)

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