



WAKE UP!! WAKE UP!! IT'S YER ALL GREEK...

# SchNEWS

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## FOOL'S GOLD

### SCHNEWS HOPES FOR FALSE DAWN AS FACISM ON THE RISE IN GREECE

*"For 25 years Golden Dawn were a marginal group that for the most attacked small left-wing and anarchist groups and sometimes would also go for immigrants. Until a few years ago they never measured more than 200 members. The Greek Government had paved the way for xenophobic sentiment by tolerating smaller, subtler acts of racism against individuals that went unchallenged. It was not until a few years ago that Golden Dawn started emerging as something bigger. Up until recently they had one office. Now? They have forty-eight". - Greek Anti-fascists*

The rapid expansion of Greece's homegrown neo-nazi movement, the Golden Dawn, should set alarm bells ringing for anti-fascists across Europe. On Saturday 19th January, Athens will see a massive anti-fa demonstration as over 24 organisations spanning the political spectrum assemble. Greek anti-fascists have called for international solidarity and on the same day demonstrations will be held outside Greek embassies across the world. In London supporters can gather outside the Greek embassy, 1A Holland Park, Notting Hill from 12 noon.

Until the last couple of years the Golden Dawn, with their Swastika-lite logo, were a fringe far-right group. One policy (admittedly abandoned in the nineties) was to re-establish the worship of the Hellenic Gods - Zeus, Apollo the whole bit. However our Greek anti-fascist said, referring to Operation Xenos Zeus in August this year during a Greek hospitality crisis, when over 50,000 migrants were detained (see SchNEWS 823): "Events such as these have slowly empowered Golden Dawn. Even in 2010 people would have laughed at the thought of having Golden Dawn in power. Golden Dawn was one of many far-right factions in Greece that would never get near parliament".

In the last elections (June 2012) Golden Dawn received 7% of the popular vote and gained eighteen seats in parliament. Their strength on the streets hasn't gone anywhere either and they can draw thousands to rallies.

The Greek political right for the past decade has been a three-headed monster that consisted of Nea Demokratia, Greece's major centre right political party, LAOS, an extreme right party and Golden Dawn.

The roots of the organisation go back to 1980 when Nikolaos Michalokiakos together with some cronies launched Chrysi Avgi (Golden Dawn) magazine. Michalokiakos had been active in far right politics for many years, serving time in July 1974 and again in December 1976 for assaults on left wingers during demonstrations. While in prison during 1976 Michalokiakos met the leaders of the Greek military junta of 1967-1974 and drafted the foundations of the Golden Dawn party. After his release from prison he joined the army and became a Special Forces commando, but was later

dishonourably discharged for his Nazi views.

In the last decade Golden Dawn had become more active against the left but were still a relatively small presence. In 2005 Golden Dawn were still laughable and easily dismissed, holding marches, static demonstrations and distributing homophobic and racist literature.

#### ANCIENT HISTORY?

Then, of course, came the economic crisis and the collapse of the Greek standard of living. The Greek economy is sinking like a stone in a neo-liberal whirlpool. Growth rates, negative at -0.2% in 2008, hit -7.1% in 2011. Unemployment hit a record of 26% in September last year overtaking Spain to become the highest in the eurozone. The country's got no money: In 2011, the country's public debt stood at €355.658 billion (170.6% of nominal GDP). All in all, the future's looking bleak for the Greeks.

The average wage is 800 euros a month, nowhere near enough to meet the cost of living, in fact even a good salary of 2000 euros a month, way above the national average, still results in spending more than you earn. The average salary in Greece shrank 23% in the last year. For years Greeks have been labelled as lazy by international press at a time when there are no jobs in

Greece to be lazy at and those employed work for pittance. Mixed with the decline in living standards, Greek national pride has been seriously dented. All the factors together have resulted in a perfect Stormfront.

#### LET'S PARTY LIKE IT'S 1939

Until recently opposition to the IMF-imposed austerity measures came from the left but Golden Dawn has vowed to defend the Greek populace "from the dark centres of power" who sought to enslave them. "Resist the selling off of our country" reads their website - the austerity measures are then blamed on immigrants.

Their current home page auto-flicks through five images, each touching on various hot topics. One image is full of AK-47's, bullets and wads of cash with the headline "Unmeasurable threat for Greece, the Albanian Mafia". Another image shows a caricature sketch of an emancipated Greek citizen being squeezed through an app le press as coins fall out his pocket and a fat aristocratic figure stands by representing the Troika with the words "With a new, secret agenda the Troika is fixing its own state".

GD politicians have demonstrated their willingness to crackdown on lefty unionism, true to the spirit of fascism. Independent journalist Yiannis Baboulias writing in Occupied Times relates an incident occurring in the town of Loutraki. Strikers had blocked the road leading up to the local casino as a result of their union dispute with the management. Accompanied by ten bouncers, the new Golden Dawn MP Efstathios Boukouras threatened the strikers, saying: ...*Continued Over...*

## FOWL PLAY AT KFC

Our Pluckiest Protester Award was snatched late in the year by a teenage animal rights campaigner - attacked by KFC eaters whilst dressed as a giant chicken.

Wanting to raise awareness about poultry welfare, Olly Tyler - a 16-year-old from Westwood, Wiltshire - arrived outside his local KFC branch on December 22, bearing a placard and dressed in a 7ft tall chicken suit. The £600 handmade chicken suit of Parisian origin (Paris obviously being renowned for the quality and style of its poulet couture) was so striking that some diners, when confronted with finding a chicken lovable and funny-looking whilst chowing down on a two-piece and chips, responded in the only way their fast-food crazed minds could think of - violence.

The young campaigner was punched, knocked over and hit by projectile poultry. One KFCunt ran up and punched him in the face. "It didn't hurt but I was really shocked", said Olly. Later two guys jumped out of a car and rugby tackled him to the floor. A mob of customers had first thrown chicken nuggets (unsold ones do actually get sold by KFC as rubber bullets...*allegedly*), chicken wings and sauce. "I have no idea why they did it. I think they just got caught up in the hype."

"I've protested outside this KFC before and I was pelted with three chicken wings but this

time it was much worse". Feathers understandably ruffled, Olly cut short the protest fearing for his safety, having planned to spend seven hours outside the world's largest fried chicken chain.

Olly's inspiration had come from reading an article that described the abominable conditions in which the factory hens are kept (as well as, we imagine, watching reruns of Dom Jolly's Trigger Happy TV). KFC are responsible for over 1 billion chickens killed each year. Their suppliers stuff the birds into large factories that are filled with excrement and other waste, and within these walls they breed and feed them to grow so large the birds cannot walk or move. Their legs often break from sheer body weight, while their wings get broken from rough handling.

Slaughterhouse workers have been recorded tearing the heads off live birds, spitting tobacco into their eyes, spray-painting their faces, and violently stomping on them. During the slaughter sessions they slit the birds throats and drop them into boiling water whilst they are still conscious. There are online videos documenting sadistic torture scenes in factories. KFC have refused to alter these conditions even when urged to do so by their own animal welfare advisors. PETA run a campaign kentuckyfriedcruelty against KFC.

(C)luckily Olly fared better than a real KFC bird and didn't sustain any injuries or lasting damage to his suit, and got plenty of media coverage to boot.

# FOOL'S GOLD

"We won't allow the communists to do as they please".

The party has also spread its sticky tentacles into the business sphere - thanks to its links with the Greek elites, the party is able to act as a financial supporter and provider during the time of crisis. Golden Dawn funds have been pulling ailing football clubs out of debt, and actively supported the Bank of Piraeus to acquire Agrotiki (a state-run bank) - it's suspected of using dubiously acquired state funds to do so. The connection between Golden Dawn and the Bank of Piraeus? Only that Takis Michaloliakos, the bank's lawyer, happens to be the brother of Golden Dawn supremo Nikos Michaloliakos.

During a session in the Greek Parliament on 7th of November Golden Dawn vetoed a proposed tax increase on earnings from shipping related activities. Shipping in Greece, a maritime nation, is huge business - in fact 20% of global shipping is run by Greek companies. The owners of shipping concerns are in the upper echelons of Greek business circles and are unbelievably lucky when it comes to tax, in fact most of themselves had probably never heard of the word until the 7th.

But despite this pandering to the elite Golden Dawn have actively been presenting themselves as the allies of the common man, well the common Greek at least. In a simple and effective move they have set up food kitchens. Their first time was outside the Greek Parliament where the message to the citizens would have been clear about who was looking after them in their time of need. The only prerequisite for a meal? A Greek passport.

This is the trick of fascism of course - in a moment of crisis big business turns to the far-right to pacify the workers one way or the other. Desperation and a feeling of helplessness in the large percentage of the Greek population that are not generally active in politics is leading to increased support for Golden Dawn. Its pseudo anti-capitalist stance might not trick a seasoned anarchist but it speaks to the heart of many working class people that have been suffering in the hands of neo-liberalism.

## MOBS AND COPPERS

Golden Dawn are also heavily favoured by the Greek police. Polling data revealed that nearly half of the police voted for Golden Dawn in recent elections. Allegations of collaboration between elements of the state and the fascist group stretch back years. On the 9th July 2009 the second mass protest march in a week took to the streets of Athens against State sponsored racism and police collaboration with fascist groups in the area of Agios Panteleimonas. The march was organised by the left and saw over 5,000 protesters demonstrate outside Parliament. On the same day, after meeting with the Minister of Public Order, fascist vigilante groups in Agios Panteleimonas attacked one of the oldest anarchist squats, Villa Amalias.

That day, the Minister of Public Order, Markoyannakis (also known for his involvement in a huge Siemens scandal in Greece and his pro-Nazi views) met with Golden Dawn members. Twenty minutes after the meeting a group from Golden Dawn left the area of Agios Panteleimonas and attacked the squat Villa Amalias with molotov cocktails and other projectiles. The attack was successfully knocked back by the anarchists, leaving the fash running behind their copper mates (who just happened to be there) for protection. This incident clearly indicated how close the links between the state, the police

*Continued*

and the fascist group were. This was the first time since the junta that a Minister met with a fascist combat group. Greek media did not report the event.

Villa Amalias was evicted by the Greek police on 20th December 2012. They used the classic pretext of suspected drug dealing to enter and search the premises with a district attorney in tow. A few spliff butts later and the current minister of public order, Dendias, announced that their findings "prove[d] that Villa was an epicentre for lawlessness for 22 years and that the law has finally been restored, thanks to the will of Samaras (PM)". The raid also uncovered some empty beer bottles that were obviously "materials for the construction of molotovs" and nothing to do with the gig and café space in the squat. Eight people were arrested during the raid and taken to court the next day where they were charged with felonies for the possession of empties, or "material for the construction of explosives" as they are legally known.

## ANTI-FASCIST ACTION

Faced with this onslaught Greek anti-fascists have had to pick up the pace. Demonstrations, gigs and ad-hoc attacks are no longer enough.

Anti-fascists have set up and maintained motorbike patrols to guard the streets and people from Nazi thugs. The patrols became necessary due to the level of racist and anti-leftist attacks in the neighbourhoods and provinces of Athens at the hands of fascists and police (not mutually exclusive) that always went unpunished.

Attacks on Golden Dawn offices have become commonplace. Anti-fascists have used fire, stones, molotov cocktails and even dynamite against the fascists' HQ, although bombings were accompanied by warning phone calls.

Violent confrontations between anti-fascists and fascists happen often on the streets but one thing is for sure: Whenever the police are present, Golden Dawn can rely on back up. Arrested anti-fascists have been subjected to the kind of abuses suffered by dissidents under the military junta.

On the 24th August 2012 anti-fascists and immigrants united to stand up against the tyranny that was unfolding under operation "Xenios Zeus". Greek and non-Greek citizens stood together to show the minister of public order that were not afraid of the militant sweep and violent mob attacks that they were faced with. Again on the 28th October, teachers, students and anti-fascists stood together on the streets and confronted the Golden Dawn during a national demo. "Neither in the parliament nor anywhere, Nazis out of our neighborhoods" shouted thousands around the country.

We leave the last word to Athens Anti-fa: "We cannot tolerate the rich and the government that sows poverty and deprivation, leads to suicides, sends homeless to queue at soup kitchens putting the blame for the crisis on immigrants, turning them to scapegoats, just like Hitler blamed the Jews for everything. This policy led to Dachau and Auschwitz camps, to gas chambers and the crematories with millions of dead Jews, Roma, Communists and gays. It led to the massacre of WWII and the Nazi brutalities in the occupied countries like Greece."

Greek embassy, 1A Holland Park Notting Hill from 12 noon.

## PARTY & PROTEST

For events listings updated weekly see [www.schnews.org.uk/pap](http://www.schnews.org.uk/pap)

# COOMBE AN'AVE A GO...

"Following Monday's digger-diving and tree-sitting in the Combe Haven Valley, the subsequent days have been just as action-packed. Again the contractors' focus has been on Upper Wiltington Farm and the 'Three Oaks'. Early on Tuesday morning, dozing activists were rudely awakened from their tree house beds by climbing bailiffs, who were able to remove the protesters from their homes and hand them over to the police just in time for a morning coffee at the police station ("One sugar, soya please!").

Tree occupations continued throughout the day and one activist scaled a telegraph pole to occupy its summit. Being the highest point meant no bailiffs could rig ropes for an eviction and surrounding trees could not be safely felled. The police this time waited well past dark for the activist to eventually make their descent and, inevitably, get nicked.

On Wednesday activity rumbled on at Upper Wiltington Farm with activists continuing to occupy the 'Three Oaks', fortifying their defences and preventing their felling. A quieter day, although an early arrest was made. With this slight lull work on tree houses, fortifications and structures continued throughout Thursday with contractors taking a step back to butcher the trees already felled.

Activists have been building constantly for weeks with tunnels, tree houses, walkways and structures preventing the felling of trees and the roads construction. Despite this the council persists with its decision, bulldozing through with its plans to construct the road - activists and locals are digging in (one tunnel at a time) for a long struggle. More people are needed everyday for a variety of roles including building, actions and camp help. Get down there and blockade the government's renewed road building programme before it really begins."

<http://combehavendefenders.wordpress.com/>

## PUNK PICNIC PRESENTS...

**FAINTEST IDEA** (punk/ska) **BUFFO'S WAKE** (gypsy horror punk) **BRAIN JELLY** (thrash punk) + DJs / Friday 18th January. About £5 donation at the Cowley Club, London Road, Brighton. \* Raising cash for **Stop G8** and to put on 2013's Punk Picnic on 19th-21st April 2013, so go out to play...!

## ...and finally...

Ever heard of Supreme Master Hai? If you've ever gorged yourself senseless on vegan fake meat at the Loving Hut cafe then chances are you have - she's their spiritual and temporal leader with a permanent slot on "Supreme Master TV" - so unswitch-overable that it's the only station you'll ever see a Loving Hut telly tuned in to.

Unsurprisingly for a religious cult her messages of peace and harmony are mixed up with a particularly bizarre set of beliefs - life on the planet Venus, the Pyramids are UFO lighthouses, and the usual cosmic silly-bollocks you come to expect from weirdo cults such as the Hari-Krishnas, Scientologists, Mormons, Catholics, and Pentecostals.

Amongst Supreme Master Hai's teachings is the promotion of breatharianism- the new age belief that the truly enlightened can survive on nothing but pure air and the spiritual energy of the universe. This is a pretty counterproductive philosophy for the owner of over 200 fast food outlets; you'd have thought that she'd have kept schtum. Hear her in her own words, it'll leave you breathless... ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvLlfuOrd8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvLlfuOrd8)) \* More tasty vegan cultish dishes on the menu at: [www.skepticalvegan.com](http://www.skepticalvegan.com)

## Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all hands, the left should always know what the right is up to. Honest!

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