

## The Story of a Bank Robbery

Athens, 16 January 2005: A bank robbery is disturbed by a zealous security guard, which leads to the capture of anarchist Giannis Dimitrakis.

For the Police, Giannis is a member of the gang of the “Robbers in Black”, suspected to have been involved in a dozen bank robberies to fund anarchist projects. Giannis was shot and arrested during the robbery and convicted to a 35-and-a-half year sentence.

At the start of November 2009, In Greece, the Ministry for Citizen Protection set a price of 600,000 euros on the heads of the rest of the gang, at the same time arguing that they are not only robbers but also members of terrorist groups. Two of them, Marios Seisidis and Grigoris Tsironis, remain at large. The third, Simos Seisidis, was arrested on May 3, 2010.

Giannis’ final appeal opportunity was recently postponed for the second time, from April 28, 2010 to December 6, 2010.

“Wanting to resist, on a personal level, my future chains and to determine the conditions and the quality of my life in my own terms.”

“Wanting to put into practice my refusal of “work” and not wanting to play the role of yet another productive unit.”

“Choosing to mark a course of dignity in my life, I decided to rob a bank...”

Giannis Dimitrakis  
5 June 2006 - Prison of Alikarnassos



# The Story of a Bank Robbery

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*Giannis Dimitrakis, the “Robbers in Black”  
and another spectacle of anarchist terror*



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In these four years we have seen and suffered the serial criminal activity of authority against the impoverished, the workers and all those who struggle, with persecutions, imprisonment, beatings, layoffs, pogroms and murders. We have seen repression grow immensely and adopt the dogma of zero tolerance and guilty until proven innocent. We see a terrified authority, targeting and criminalizing the entire anarchist anti-authoritarian milieu, trying to deter the linking to and diffusion of its ideas and techniques in a society on the verge of... on what verge? Because we are romantic, we want and continue to believe on the verge of a new, even grander December. Perhaps March, perhaps June...

In these four years we have shown our solidarity for the wanted comrades and of course for Giannis. We have stood beside him, with the absolute respect which his steadfast fighting spirit and entire ethos have inspired in us. However since besides romantic, we are also stubborn, we demand his immediate release.

#### NOT ONE MORE HOUR FOR GIANNIS IN PRISON

Court of Appeals, April 28th- We wil all be there  
Panhellenic Day of Solidarity, April 27th  
Athens, March, 18:00 Propylaia

Assembly for Solidarity

Giannis Dimitrakis  
Filakes Domokou  
Post Cod 35010  
Fhthiotis  
Greece



On the afternoon of Monday 16th January 2006 Giannis Dimitrakis took part in an armed robbery at the National Bank of Greece in the centre of Athens. After an exchange of fire with 2 cops from a special unit, one of the participants Giannis Dimitrakis, was seriously injured when shot by the cops 3 times in different parts of his body. The other 4 participants managed to get away from the scene with about 50,000 euro, with one of them also slightly injured.

Giannis, who openly admitted that he is an anarchist, stayed in different hospitals for a few months till he recovered, then he was sent to Korydallos prison of Athens. In another parody of the Greek justice system Giannis was charged with 7 robberies! Also he was charged with numerous counts of attempted murder, topped with the anti-terror law! Its not the first time that a fixed charge is given towards anarchists in Greece.

This zine is a collection of writings from Giannis and other anarchist comrades in Greece that explains his personal position on the robbery and deals with the events that have transpired since his arrest, the massive Greek prisoner uprising in 2008 that was sparked by the beating of Giannis in the prison of Malandrino and the details surrounding his current legal situation.

Giannis himself explains in one of his letters the reason for his choice of target: “the level of awareness that my thinking and my theories give me allow me to see clearly that modern society is based on violence, oppression and exploitation. It’s a system that sacrifices human lives in the name of profit. Obviously, banks are one of the major accomplices of this situation. Banks are legalised users and are mainly responsible for the exploitation of people.”



## Letter from Anarchist Giannis Dimitrakis

Comrades,

This letter is my first attempt to communicate and comment on the events that took place and I experienced due to my participation in the bank robbery of the National Bank of Greece that took place in the centre of Athens on January 16th. Before I go on to enlarge upon the actual events, I'd like to say a few things in regards to my motives that lay behind my choice in taking such action and what it means to me.

For me, present-day society is a wagon following a pre-defined course that leads straight towards its complete dehumanization. The role of its passengers, its wheels and its horses- in other words of its driving force- is played out by ourselves, the people. The wagon's driver has the cruel face of capitalism and its co-driver is a faceless and vague state. The path the wagon follows is of course not strewn with rose petals and flowers but with blood and human bodies. With individuals or groups of people that wanted to either resist and change its frantic course or to stand as an obstacle in front of it. The list of those is long: insubordinates, rebels, leftists, anti-authoritarians and anarchists fill many bloody pages in this journey's story-book. Somewhere in between the last two groups is where I place myself.

So, to the degree of consciousness that my world-view and perception offers me, what I can easily discern is that present-day society relies only on violence, oppression and exploitation. A society which aims at the loss of human dignity in every way, by all means. This is something that is experienced and received by each and every one of us in their everyday life, either by being forced to deal with state institutions either at our work-place and from those who manage and profit from our work.

Employment, work: words whose true meaning is wage slavery, enslavement. Work and its surplus-value are the pillars of today's economic system while the individuals that carry it through and the circumstances under which this takes place confirms that people are treated as expendable

anarchist milieu. Comrades are abducted from the streets, surrounded by cops with weapons drawn, and lead to police headquarters. Giannis receives the by no means friendly visits of the interrogator arch terrorist I. Dioti in the hospital emergency room. The mass media slander and try to devour him, his friends and family. Three of his friends and comrades are carefully selected based on their profile (long-standing presence in the anti-authoritarian space, continuous action against the enemies of freedom) so as to fill in the puzzle. The comrades Simos and Marios Seisidis and Grigoris Tsironis are propelled underground. The series "robbers in black - terrorists in red" has just begun.

A year and half later, Giannis is tried as member of a criminal organization for that and another six robberies. Although that scenario collapses in court and Giannis is found innocent for all the other robberies, the judges, wanting to raze the crystal-clear spirit of him who stood before them defending his actions, and set an example for any future Dimitrakis, convicted him with an exhaustive sentence of 35 years.

Four years have passed since the robbery of the bank on Solonos St. In these four years, Giannis has been transferred from prison to prison, has struggled against them, has survived under the worst conditions, has seen his name featured repeatedly in the papers. On April 28th, he will be tried in the court of appeals.

In these four years, he and we have seen the wanted comrades considered suspect and being blamed for anything that happens, from bank robberies to bomb placements and attacks on police stations, consistently targeted by the media and finally declared as wanted with reward money by the notorious villain M. Xrisixoidi in a new, wild and not so far west... We however want and continue to believe that society will refuse to cooperate and become an informant.

In these four years we have seen the arch-thieving capitalists in power shamelessly and legally rob our freedom, the air we breath, our incomes and of course the public funds, without EVER, not even ONE of them, the same who sentenced Giannis to 35 years in prison, being held accountable.

parity with all means possible.

Freedom for Giannis Dimitrakis  
Freedom for all prisoners in struggle

Assembly for Solidarity  
(Athens, Greece)



## Regarding the Case of Giannis Dimitrakis

### The Story of a Robbery

On January 16th 2006, a group of four people rob a branch of the National Bank, on Solonos St. in the center of Athens. A completely calm robbery, as all eye witnesses there that day confirm, was in the end turned into a record breaking, terror-crazed thriller of epic proportions, a breach in time that dramatically overturned the lives of tens of people, a critical point in the history of an entire political milieu. And that, thanks to the unique “heroics” of that bank’s security guard, who thought that he must run and stop the doers at all costs, because in his code of values the insured money of a bank is more important than anything. Even human life... or otherwise, as Einstein had said, two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I’m not sure about the first.

The result of the overzealousness of that guard and a few other pigs who rushed to help in his “pious” cause was the midday transformation of Panepistimiou St. into a shooting range for cops on live targets, in contrast with those being pursued who didn’t use their weaponry... A nearly dead street vendor and a blood soaked, dying bank robber on the ground receiving kick after kick, close the curtains on act one.

Act two opens with the name and nature of the fallen wounded: Giannis Dimitrakis, anarchist. The authority unleashes a frontal attack on the

goods, as modern slaves. We see workers that are rotting away from illnesses that are due to their long-term exposure to hazardous substances, that die either by fall or by explosion in the capitalist temples they are building, losing their urge, their liveliness, their spontaneity all that characterizes a would-be free person. Working exhausting hours and employed in two or three jobs simultaneously just for a few crumbs. When to cover their most basic needs a person is obliged to mortgage to those cold-hearted oppressors that are otherwise known as banks and under the burden of this financial responsibility start showing signs of subservience and submission whereas in the case that they cannot in the end cope and are led to bankruptcy and in the end commit suicide or are publicly ridiculed by the mass media as one more human wreckage, leads us to one conclusion.

The state and capital in order to continue existing manufacture modern-day helots who can easily be compared to the Spartan ones. A system which at the alter of profit sacrifices human lives inconsiderably and with audacity. As I’ve already mentioned one of the main partners in this crime are banks which are nothing less than legitimate loan-sharks and are partly to blame for the plundering that’s taking place at the expense of peoples’ work.

Taking all the above into consideration we can understand Maki in Brecht’s ... When he asks ‘what is a bank robbery compared to the establishment of a bank?’ But also taking me into consideration who wanting to resist on a personal level- as on a mass level all that know me personally know that I have participated as much as I could- to my future yoke, to determine myself the conditions and quality of my life, to put in to practice my refusal to ‘work’ and also to play the role of yet another productive unit, of yet another wheel in the wagon, wanting to attack the monstrosity that is called a bank (however at the same time having no illusions that I’ll inflict any major blows to this economic institution), choosing to mark a course of dignity in my life I decided to rob a bank. An act which I consider, amongst many others, as revolutionary and which claims deservingly its own place as such.

In all honesty I must admit that the money I was going to acquire through the robbery was going to have me as the end-recipient. At the same time, however, as an anarchist and as a person who wishes to show their solidarity

through deeds I'd be one of the first to actively and with joy help in contributing to monetary needs, which might come up in this scene which I belong. Finally, what I'd like to point out here is that all which I have mentioned up to now does not in any way mean that I support a notion that whoever is an anarchist should be a bank robber or that whoever works is enslaved.

Going on now to recount the chain of events that took place, I take as a starting point the scene where I'm lying on the ground seriously injured by the cops' fire and I have to let myself be taken into the states' 'warm' embrace. The welcoming is to, say the least, impressive as an image, as most people saw, but also exemplary towards anyone who is considering acting in a similar way: A pack of hunters in blue uniforms and me in the role of the injured game being surrounded and receiving 'friendly' kicks- which later I found out where part of the framework to disarm me- and comments like 'we fucked you' or 'you're not such a big shot now, you fucker?!' amongst other brave words. Finally, being handcuffed from behind despite the fact that I couldn't move or breathe having received bullets in my lungs, liver and elbow completes the picture.

I refer to these events without the slightest trace of bitterness, complaining or disappointment, as I didn't expect any better treatment from my enemies in the case that I did fall into their hands. In any case, a similar attitude has been displayed to less 'dangerous' villains and as a mere example I'd like to remind you of images such as the arrest of protesters and immigrants or the pogroms at gypsy camps just to name a few. I do refer to these events, however, as, in a tragic and insane way, these are the people who at my trial will come forward as the ones who defend and honor human life and dignity, while I'll have the role of the immoral, hardened, violent and heartless criminal.

For the time that I was kept at Athens General Hospital I literally experienced the violation of every human right as an arrestee and later as a prisoner. There were early signs regarding how I was going to be treated when at my parents first visit to see me at the ICU (Intensive Care Unit). While there are very strict rules about the number of visitors- even in the case of relatives- an armed to the teeth police officer barges in and places himself in a corner which as a consequence destroyed any con-

vindictive transfers and disciplinary sentences, the exhausting sentence of the first trial (an unheard of sentence of 35 years) and the provocative deprivation of basic rights for the preparation of his defense at the court of appeals supplement the oppressive aggressiveness against him.

In these extreme conditions, the comrade defended from the beginning his choice to expropriate a bank, without statements of remorse and with clarity as towards his motives and intentions. He gave meaning to his act as a moment in his critique and action against the system of wage slavery and exploitation, against the antisocial role of the banks and as a part of the polymorphic social struggle.

Furthermore, in the wretched reality of the prisons, he stood dynamically and with dignity from the beginning. He participated in all of the prisoner's struggles happening the past years in Greece. Advancing to hunger strikes and abstinence from the prison meals - despite the permanent health problems given him by the cop's bullets - showing his solidarity for his fellow prisoners and fighting for the terms of his survival and existence in the difficult position of imprisonment. Along with other imprisoned anti-authoritarians he was an interactive channel of communication with the grandiose prisoner's movements in the fall of 2008.

All these reasons - and because Giannis Dimitrakis and the other three wanted anarchists are some of us, comrades and co fighters in the diversity of the struggles for freedom - fired off a mass of actions of solidarity and political defense for them in many cities in Greece and around the world.

His appeal trial will begin on April 28th, where the decision against our comrade will be finalized. Four years after his arrest, four years after the start of this particularly repressive undertaking, one year and some months after the December revolt, the state's constant and manic attempt to oppress, marginalize and criminalize the people of the struggle is becoming all the more clear. Giannis Dimitrakis' trial is very important, as much for the legal outcome of his case, as for if we will allow the state's manipulations and experiments against us to flourish.

Our key weapon against repression and the prison system is active soli-

## Texts from the “Assembly for Solidarity” Athens, Greece

### Freedom for Giannis Dimitrakis

It’s been more than four years since the morning of January 16th 2006, when the anarchist Giannis Dimitrakis was arrested, heavily wounded by police fire, after a robbery at a branch of the National Bank in the center of Athens.

From the very first moment a storm of constructed information broke out, systematically supplied by the police and readily carried out by the mass media. The police constructed “the gang of robbers in black,” so that other comrades could be named as members, to which was attributed a string of robberies but also a close association to armed revolutionary groups, and then it was proclaimed that the whole of the anarchist-anti-authoritarian movement is closely connected to organized crime !! Gianni’s arrest, the slander and the manhunt unleashed against his three supposed accomplices (which were later on declared wanted for astronomic rewards) – four comrades known for their many years of political activity – on the one hand aims for their legal annihilation and on the other, promotes a holistic plan of stripping of meaning and criminalization of anarchists, anti-authoritarians and class struggle.

Because of his political identity, the state moved with rage against him from the first moment. Parallel to the crescendo of misinformation and impression creating by the media, the district attorney tried to interrogate him in the emergency room while he was bedridden and under pharmaceutical influence. The categories against him were based on the “anti-terror” law and enriched with six unsolved robberies and money laundering (false charges which dropped in court,) and attempted manslaughter (false witness of the cops who shot and arrested him, that he had fired at them – despite no such bullets or shells ever having been found – which allowed the judges to have their way.) He was probably the first man in custody to be held at Malandrino maximum security prison, which is intended to hold convicts only, while attacks by prison guards,

cept of at least sharing a private moment with my family, as from the drug-treatment I was receiving I couldn’t even open my mouth, much less hold a conversation. Following this incident and at an unsuspected time, while in a hazy condition from the heavy drug treatment I was undertaking due to the pains I had from my wounds and swimming in a sea of tubes that were coming out of my body, I realized that a guard was now permanently positioned inside the room and right next to me. This situation really irritated me and didn’t allow me to rest and I made it known to him. Strangely enough he then left the room and instead stood right in front of it. Of course when the doctors and the head of the ICU came to examine me I reported this incident and truly astounded and irritated by the event they got rid of the cop, wondering who had let him in.

Here, a big thank you needs to be given from my behalf to all those people, from the doctors to the nurses, who paid me attention and who irrelevant of their own political beliefs took care of me as best as they could. Some of these people also resisted as much as they could to the different pressures put on them by the prosecuting authorities, either in regards to my guarding or my transport and exit from the ICU.

On the third or fourth day of my hospital treatment I was informed that prosecutor Diotis was coming to see me later that afternoon. I must confess that to start with I wasn’t sure whether in my condition I would be up to facing him. The head of the ICU, however, assured me that he would be by my side for the duration of the interrogation and made it known to me that due to my condition I had a right to stop the process at whatever moment, something that I was unaware of. So when Diotis arrived escorted by a security police chief and another person whose official role I can’t remember, but was probably the interrogator, and as soon as each of them had spoken to me for a couple of minutes I signaled to my doctor that I wanted them to leave. On his way out Diotis told me that in any case they were going to find who else was with me and that to talk now would just make it easier for me. Of course his words fell on deaf ears.

The second time he came I was given a chance to understand who Diotis really is when in a lively exchange of words with the head of the ICU a very strange phrase slipped his mouth. Having finished his monologue

and having delivered me the arrest warrant and the list of accusations I was facing he asks me to sign. My doctor immediately intervenes and explains to him that I am incapable of doing such a thing at the moment and asks him to leave as my strength was deserting me. Then Diotis, to both our surprise, answers: ‘Of course I respect the boy’s condition and I don’t intend to give him a hard time, because if I did I could just pull on his tubes a little and put his pressure up to 50’. I realized at that moment what would have happened in that room if the doctors weren’t people with willpower and values but simply pawns. I would have, no doubt, discovered the ‘famous’ interrogation methods that prosecutor Diotis has used in the past.

After this incident the conditions of my detention really worsened. Two armed guards were permanently placed inside the ICU and pressures were put on the head of the department for me to be admitted out earlier, which was achieved. I was then transferred to an especially laid out room in the Eye Clinic with the excuse that they would be able to guard me more efficiently. In this new space in which I was placed I was sleeping with two undercover cops by my side. Another two cops were permanently stationed in front of the open door of the room while one character kept trooping in and out every half hour to check up on things, another 5-6 cops were in the waiting room and an unknown number of individuals in the corridor outside.

The result of all this was for me not to be able to sleep for 3-4 days and to feel like a monkey in the zoo as every jumped-up cop came in looking at me up and down and discussing me on his mobile phone or with his colleagues. I was at the end of my tether and so made a complaint to the head of security about it all who replied that I was a prisoner now and that they’ll be the ones to judge how I should be guarded and that they’re protecting me from myself meaning, if you can believe, that they were watching over me so I didn’t commit suicide. Other amazing scenes that took place included me, still bed-ridden, relieving myself in front of them while they watched undisturbed, or me being handcuffed to the bed inside the ICU, again with the excuse of preventing me from committing suicide and other such incidents. Like the attempt to kidnap me from the Eye Clinic and to transport me to the hospital at Korydallos prisons while I still had stitches in from the surgical incisions, falsely claiming that the doctors had given their permission and which in the end

The building was being attacked with Molotov cocktails, paint, streamers, and sticks when gun-toting civil police guarding the embassy—already warned of possible attacks—began a clash with our comrades.

The confrontation left two police officers injured, while five comrades were arrested, among them a woman with serious injuries to her head.

The charges against our comrades are still unknown, but we stand firmly in solidarity with those who have decided to show that the fight against power knows no borders, nations, or languages; those who have realized that the best possible translation into language, from one end of the world to the other, is: Attack the exploiters.

Our comrades are now in the enemy’s clutches because they showed solidarity with a brother in Greece. The blood drawn by the routine brutality of the security forces can only be understood as an urgent call to strengthen internationalist links with the compas spreading insurrection, and to replicate their acts.

On Wednesday, April 29, our comrades will appear in Comodoro Federal Court, and a call has gone out to attend and demand their prompt release. We will be paying attention to what happens on the other side of the mountains during this time of repression for the revolt there. With boundless affection for those who decide to advance from words to deeds.

Let’s leave no room for indifference!  
Solidarity with comrades abducted by the Argentine state



Through those 4 years, and even before, the persecutor tactics on such cases is always the same according, of course, to the characteristics of the “guilty” ones. Fact is confirmed that when happens to be an anarchist automatically your close environment is criminalized and, thus, the search for participators begins.

Declassification of phone conversations, collection of finger-prints on immobile and mobile objects in houses, arrest warrants, informers willing to give any information they know are some of the basic tools used.

These same ones we find in front of us these last weeks with the case of the 6 detained already comrades that are accused as members of Revolutionary Struggle. All this atmosphere helps the achievement of total and indiscriminatal control from the state’s side. Constraint and daily brain-wash through the media has double aiming. On one side to “cover” its mechanisms actions and on the other to separate the resisting parts of society in violent and non-violent -therefore excepted-, clearly because of fear. For us, seeing these actions of the sovereignty enrag-es us even more and pushes us even more quickly to search for actions that will bring us even closer to the end of this rotten world.

We stand opposed to all authoritarian mechanisms and to all snitches that assist their task and we directly take the counter-offensive for now and forever. On the night of 25th of April in Thessaloniki we attacked with fire a news agency delivery truck of “Evropi (Europe)” company in the area of Evosmos and a branch of OTE (National Telecommunications Organization) in Stavroupoli. We continued the next night again with an arson attack on a Eurobank branch in Kalamaria.

Solidarity with Yiannis Dimitrakis that passes the doors of the high court tomorrow 28/4 in Athens. Freedom to all prisoners

**27/04/10, Buenos Aires, Argentina** - During the afternoon of Tuesday, April 27, 2010, comrades decided to attack the Greek embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina as a show of solidarity with anarchist comrade Giannis Dimitrakis, who is facing the final appeal of his 35-year prison sentence for a 2006 bank robbery.

was, for the time being, avoided due to my parents notifying the doctors.

I believe the sole purpose of all this was to humiliate me, to make me lose all sense of self-respect and to generally make me realize the fact that I was a captive in their hands and I no longer had any rights. These situations drove me to think of the hospital and prisons at Korydallos as a haven of mental tranquility.

In the mean time, while I was waiting to be transferred to Korydallos prisons, we all saw an orchestrated attempt by the prosecuting authorities to manufacture culprits with their only indication being that they belonged to my friendly environment or to the anarchist scene. I am now sure that the taking in of people to be interrogated, the making public of names and the issuing of arrest warrants were triggered by the police finding some of my personal photos, calls to and from my mobile or whatever document proved I had a friendly relationship with these individuals. I want to express my solidarity to all of them.

According to the police and journalist scenarios we form an, unknown at least to me, ‘gang in black’ which consists of 10-15 individuals, anti-authoritarians and anarchists (which leaves open an option of the authorities involving other individuals) and this gang has committed another 6 bank robberies, goes on holidays in expensive resorts, has close ties to Passaris and so on. As far as the money that had been gathered by various comrades to cover needs of the anarchist scene and which I kept in a bank deposit box, it was labeled as the product of robberies.

As an outcome of all the above, I ended up defending myself in front of the interrogator for 7 bank robberies, for attempted homicide and for money laundering plus being put under the anti-terrorist law.

That the state and its underdogs have as a standard tactic for years now to tarnish peoples’ reputation, to inflate briefs, to manufacture culprits, to organize trials that are judicial parodies and generally in all kinds of ways to demonstrate their hate and vengefulness towards whoever resists is well known. One question however forms when taking into serious consideration all the above. What kind of treatment

and what kind of methods will the state use in the case of the arrest or voluntary coming forward of the three comrades in order to get a confession out of them and to send them to trial but also how will a 'fair trial' be secured for whoever goes through with this procedure?

Finally I have one thing to say to all those who are planning our physical, ethical and political annihilation, once and for all: no matter what dirty and unethical means they use, no matter how much they hunt us down and imprison us they will never crush us and tame us. Because those who are just are those who revolt not those who snitch and bow their heads down.

I also want to say a big thank you to all those who have chosen, chose or will chose to give me their support and solidarity, by whatever means, even though the nature of my case is, I believe, very difficult.

In struggle,  
Giannis Dimitrakis

Korydallos Prisons, 5 June 2006



### Interview with Giannis Dimitrakis

*Giannis Dimitrakis talks briefly with the Athens daily newspaper 'Elefthero-tipia'. We re-post this here to spread information about the recent uprisings in the Greek prison system, caused in part by the beating of this recently imprisoned anarchist. The interview happened whilst the revolts were ongoing. For more info check out Athens Indymedia, and also the letter Giannis Dimitrakis sent about his case in our 'Prison Struggle' section. Solidairty with Giannis Dimitrakis! Solidarity with all prisoners in struggle! (325.nostate.net)*

Malandrino prison is the biggest gumboil of the prison system, and it needs to burst.

*28-year old anarchist Giannis Dimitrakis describes the contemporary inferno-like con-*

role of RBS in the financial crisis and the April G20 where Ian Tomlinson was killed by police, nor do we forgive. We dedicate this action to Yiannis Dimitrakis, Amadeu Casellas, Thomas Meyer-Falk, Alfredo M. Bonanno and Christos Stratigopulos, anarchist comrades in prison for expropriations who chose to directly attack this system, as well as all other rebels who are in struggle inside and outside the prison walls. We will not stop. Anarchists”

**27/04/10, London, UK** - Occupation of the Hellenic Centre in London. The Building of the Hellenic Centre in the heart of London was occupied earlier this afternoon. 2 banners were flying on the roof and the balcony of the building. The banners said: 'Freedom to Dimitrakis and to all Anarchists'; the 2nd writes 'Honour to Lambros Fountas' 'Freedom to the 6', and the 3rd banner 'Fire to the prisons! Freedom to Alfredo Bonanno and Christos Stratigopoulos!'

The 6 refers to the 6 anarchists arrested a few days ago accused by the cops of participating in the 'Revolutionary Stuggle'; Lambros Fountas is the anarchist who was killed by the police in March and Giannis Dimitrakis is the anarchist who is in jail doing 35 years for a bank robbery. Today there was a call for international solidarity to Dimitrakis as his appeal trial starts tomorrow.

The passion for freedom is stronger than the prisons!

**26-27/04/10, Saloniki, Greece** - Gas canister explosions occurred in different parts of the northern Greek city. The two incidents occurred on the early hours of Monday 26/4 against the National Telecommunications Organization and a news agency truck in the west part of Thessaloniki. The following night a Eurobank branch was attacked in Kalamaria, a suburb on the east part of the city.

A communique was sent on Tuesday 27/4 to Athens.Indymedia:

“We all remember, with excessive hatred, from the days of the arrest of Y. Dimitrakis in 2006 the slander of him through the de-ideologation of the act he made. The overextension of the charges from authority, and the TV-snitches slandering anything about him and other comrades from his close friends.

service) is a target and needs to be destroyed. As for the insurance companies, the legalized pimp they are together with the state, in order to cover the supposed “possible needs” of the citizens, is considered as nearly self-evident matter, growing them unperturbed rich.

It’s about time they start covering some real damages, these ones of their own. There isn’t any special occasion for these actions, at least not in the way those that have learnt to think according to what the state and media present as “news”, may think. Every moment is a wonderful opportunity to attack and destroy what destroys you. Provincial towns are not a “cease-fire zone” of a war raging in the metropolis. The choice to attack finds its way to spread everywhere and always, as long as there are people determined to carry it out.

We tried to bring out some of our targets. But the enemy is everywhere inside the city, in every structure and every expression of the authoritarian world. But firstly and mainly, it lies in the generalized apathy and inertia of the social majority, accustomed to “mind their work”, thus consenting to the dominant structures and plannings.

Faithfull to the lines of the revolutionary war, we pass into counter-attack and rocking the boat of a town sinking in security and loyalism... We illegally return a piece of the legal and institutionalised violence we receive every day.

We dedicate these strikes to our imprisoned anarchist comrades Giannis Dimitrakis, Giorgos Voutsis-Vogiatzis, Vaggelis Botzatzis and Polykarpos Georgiadis. If freedom, resistance and dignity is a crime, then we are accomplices in that crime. Each day of their being captive passes, will find us stronger and more determined. We ‘ll see you again.” Night Compensation.

**03/11/09, Brighton, UK** - Royal Bank of Scotland HQ attacked in Brighton. “We take responsibility for attacking the Brighton HQ of the Royal Bank of Scotland in the evening of 2nd November 2009. All banks are part of the same system which is destroying everything and has to go. Banks are the most visible manifestation of the exploitation and annihilation of our lives, carried out by state and capital. We haven’t forgotten the

*ditions at the Malandrino prison. The reports of his beating by a prison guard ignited revolts in 11 prisons across the country. In our phone conversation he described the condition of his detention at Malandrino as being the worst he had to face until now. He was originally under pre-trial detention in Korydallos (Athens), then Neapolis Lassithiou (Crete) and on the 22nd of December 2006 he was transferred to Malandrino.*

*What are things like at the Malandrino prison?*

Things have gone too far. All wings are now under our control, though not the administration buildings. A five-member committee met with the secretary general of the Ministry of Justice, Mr. Panouris. The riot police are staging psychological warfare against us.

*Many people thought that the new-style prisons would somehow improve detention conditions...*

New prisons like Malandrino create new tensions. There is complete isolation in the wings, 480 prisoners facing panopticism. Corridors are so narrow that you feel you are losing the sense of distance; outside yards are extremely small. There is a lack of direct communication with our families, caused by the separating glass. The prison is divided into ten wings; in reality what we are faced with is ten small isolating units. Arbitrariness rules here: the prison has turned into a private enterprise. Some entertainment units included in the original plan were quickly converted into extra cells. The building has no clean water or sewage plan. The prison was built on top of a mountain in the middle of nowhere and up to this day there are serious problems in both its water and sewage systems.

*What is communication with the outside like?*

Geographical isolation amplifies the fact that nothing reaches those outside. This morning TV crews arrived, only to leave in the evening. If someone’s family wants to visit they will have to travel for four hours, for a 30 minute visit. Some can only visit once every two months. Geographical distance makes the communication of prisoners with their lawyers impossible. They hold us here like soulless bodies, they just feed us until one day they simply announce that our sentence has been served.

## Giannis Dimitrakis writes about the revolts

The days and nights on the roof of Malandrino prison have found us united, free from any addiction. Each of us ignored our personal interests, but not the common aims and actions which have brought us all to our common destiny in prison. United as a fist, against hunger, thirst and weather, fixed, still and resolute in our objective - the meeting of our demands.

We didn't ask, we demanded the removal of all contested laws, so we could raise our face up again. We all said NO to the drugs and addictive substances which every type of power distributes generously for the functioning of jails. You've seen, and you'll see it again, the detainees feel the bitter pain of the batons, the smoke of tear gas and other chemicals. You've seen, and you'll see it again, detainees pushed back with plastic bullets.

The result of those revolts, the experiences we've had and the problems we encountered need to be analysed and reflected on. Some might say the struggle was useless and a failure, but in the detainees' souls there's no space for defeatism and resignation. On the contrary, amongst us there have been fundamental stirrings, exchanges of opinions and thoughts. We have calculated our possibilities and we've learnt enough to be more lucid in our requests next time. We owe it to the fighters of the Resistance, and also to the ones that came before and after them. We owe it to all those Greeks, Albanians, Russians, Kurds, Iranians, Iraqis and in general to all those who took part in the collective protest of 23rd April in the torture jails. We owe it to all those who fought with passion for liberty and dignity. We will always be in debt...



Street, had their glasses broken and other damages. An ATM was also damaged. There were leaflets thrown around the banks stating:

2 years later...

We don't forget, we don't forgive.

Solidarity to G. Dimitrakis, who is imprisoned for the bank robbery at Ethniki Bank on Solonos Street at 16.01.2006 Solidarity to the 3 fugitive comrades as well as "FIRE TO THE BANKS"

**25/03/08, Athens, Greece** - Molotov attack against bank. 3 o' clock in the morning a group attacked a subsidiary of Emporiki Bank at Varnalis street, Peristeri (Athens). They broke the glass window and threw around 10 molotov cocktails inside the bank, destroying it totally. Also a near by kiosk had some damages.

Claim at "Eleftherotipia" newspaper:

"In solidarity to the imprisoned anarchist Giannis Dimitrakis, who, with his decent attitude against the barbaric prison system gave the occasion for the wave of insurrections at many prisons around the country. Freedom for the imprisoned fighters. The struggle continues."

**19/8-5/9/08, Chania, Greece** - Series of attacks and communiqué. "We claim responsibility for the two government vehicles (one of them was a jeep with ministry of culture signs) on Daskalogianni street on 19/8, the attack with stones and paints against an ELTA (post office) on Anapafseos street on 25/8 (even though we didn't come up to the damages we were planning, but these things also happen), breaking the glass windows of a subsidiary of "Ethniki Asfalistiki" private insurance company on Kydonias street on 4/9, attacking with stones against the offices of "Diethnis Enosis" insurance company on Margouniou street and breaking up 2 OTE (telecommunications) vehicles outside their offices on Loutrou street on 5/9, in Chania. Most of these attacks were hidden by the police and the local media.

We think the selection of the targets reflects our willfulness. For us, anything of the state, from the vehicles to the shiny glass windows of every government building (from the murderous and repressive institutions as the army and the police to the most apparently neutral

## Solidarity with Giannis Dimitrakis

Here is an incomplete list of solidarity actions that have taken place with Giannis Dimitrakis since his arrest in January, 2006.

**17/07/07, Athens, Greece** - A group of about 20 people threw petrol bombs and rocks at a building that belongs to the Economy and Finance Ministry, near Syntagma Square in central Athens, late on Sunday. Nobody was injured in the attack but the building, which houses the General Secretariat for Investment and Development, suffered extensive damage. No arrests were made but police are linking the incident to a recent spate of arson attacks by self-styled anarchists carried out in support of alleged bank robber Yiannis Dimitrakis.

**22/09/07, Buenos Aires, Argentina** - "On the morning of September 22, a branch of the Arkis real estate chain (of Greek ownership), located in the Buenos Aires neighborhood of San Telmo, was painted with symbols in solidarity with Giannis Dimitrakis, an anarchist companion imprisoned by the Greek state. Giannis Dimitrakis to the street!!! Down with the walls of all the prisons!! (A)"

**15/10/07, Thessaloniki, Greece** - A double arson attack was realised around 3:10 in the morning, when a subsidiary of Ethniki Bank on Leontos Sofou Str. in the city center and the local offices of Nea Dimokratia (the greek ruling party) were made targets of gas-canister bombings. A communique was sent claiming the action for Anti-state Militia (Antikratiki Politofilaki) as an action of solidarity to anarchist prisoners Giorgos Voutsis-Vogiatzis, Giannis Dimitrakis, Chrissostomos Kontorevithakis, Marios Tsourapas, Christina Tonidou, Giorgos Tsolkas and Giannis Lazaridis.

**17/01/08, Athens, Greece** - Attacks on three banks. "2 years after the arrest of Giannis Dimitrakis after a bank robbery, on 12 o'clock, were realised three simultaneous attacks on three banks and an ATM in central Athens. Piraeus Bank on 12, George Street, Attiki Bank on 23 Omirou Street and Ethniki bank on 30 Omirou

## Letter from Anarchist Prisoners

*Anarchist prisoners Giannis Dimitrakis and Yïorgos Voutsis-Vogiatzis are taking part in the hunger strike, while anarchist prisoner Poly Georgiadis and the 17th November prisoners are also taking part in the mobilization by refusing prison food.*

Even if prisons were transformed from human storerooms into luxury hotels, even if the prisoners of all prisons are satisfied with "reduced sentences", even if the everyday beatings of prisoners are replaced by sly agreements and assimilated by correctional policies in accordance with the "human rights" model, even if "white cells" turn "pink", and heroin gives way to methadone we will remain forever enemies of every structure that denies us our freedom.

We will be the rebels inside your luxury hotels and the arsonists of legal justice. We will be eternal fighters in love with freedom. Better prison conditions mean nothing more than improved conditions of captivity. Or us the issue remains in its essence. That is, the condition of captivity in itself. Freedom and revolution are the only concepts that include us as a whole. We are participating in the mass mobilizations that are taking place in most prisons at this time. We choose to act together with those who keep struggling for that one step more. Because revolution is continuous movement. In this continuous movement we are organic components. The harvest from our struggle is the relationships and the spark of destruction ignited inside and outside the galleries. Our every action is one more step for the destruction of prisons.

Freedom for all  
Neither social nor political prisoners  
Dynamite and fire to every prison



## An interview with imprisoned anarchist Giannis Dimitrakis

From Athens Indymedia  
Translated by Occupied London

Translators' note: The interview below was published in an Athens paper today (November 1st). It contains some very powerful words by a comrade who has managed to deal with the barbarity of incarceration with endless dignity, sobriety and the will to keep fighting. Our warmest greetings to Giannis Dimitrakis and all other victims of the incarceration machine: until all are free, none of us truly is.

The journalist's introduction:

*For the police, he is a member of the gang of the "robbers in black". He was arrested during a bank robbery and convicted to a 25-year sentence. A few days ago, the Ministry for Citizen Protection set a price of 600,000 euros on the heads of the rest of the gang, at the same time arguing that they are not only robbers but also members of terrorist groups.*

*Yiannis Dimitrakis, an anarchist, speaks for the first time from the prison of Domokos where he is incarcerated. He talks about his comrades on the run, the recent attack on the police station of Ayia Paraskeui in Athens, the group "Conspiracy of the Cells of Fire", while he also responds to the minister for Citizen Protection, Michalis Chrysohoidis, who recently declared: "we are at war".*

*During the bank robbery of January 17th, 2006, where you were arrested, another three people (Simos and Marios Seisidis and Grigoris Tsironis) got away – and a few days ago, these three had a prize of 600,000 put on their heads by the minister of Citizen Protection, Mr. Chrysohoidis. Do you believe that anyone will step forward to supply information?*

Indeed, the police force, some squalid hack writers and some permanent guests of TV shows together with the minister of Public Order (and not of "Citizen Protection", the government's new name of preference

To all those who have stood by me through all my years of imprisonment and who continue in whatever way they can to give me the strength and courage to stand proud against all kinds of state mechanisms, I feel that I owe a part of myself.

So I salute and would like to thank all those comrades who within the context of the local and international web of solidarity that is developing and strengthening continuously in the last years and that breaks through borders and boundaries, considered and deemed it is worth for them to risk even their own freedom in order to build an effective mound and a counterweight to the attacks and decisions taken against me by those in power.

Before the final rise of the sun that melts the darkness that embraces us all, the scattered fires emerging and shining more and more frequently from the most distant and unlikely places, illuminate the points and imperceptible routes drawn out by the universal rebellious conscience. My heart and soul cannot but be wholly with it.

No fighter a hostage in the hands of power and economic elites!  
Freedom to all in prison!

With comradely greetings

Y. Dimitrakis  
Domokos Prison  
3/5/10



## Letter of Solidarity from Giannis Dimitrakis

In a society of deceit and hypocrisy, of backstabbing and betrayal; there where human relationships are molded on personal profit and exploitation, within the narrow limits of involuntary/obligatory choices, the scope of creating honest and sincere ties of social or political solidarity becomes constricted, suffocated. And if in many cases personal interest and vanity create a concrete mass in a common course between those in power, economic elites, political groups and other subgroups thus creating the illusion of a solid front, then in as many other cases it has been proven that when these same are confronted with pressuring and extremely negative conditions with the possibility of a total collapse approaching, the seeming powerful gluing element which created these cohesive bonds retreats in an instant, leaving behind a crowd of subhumans, each one looking to save themselves and not hesitating of handing over into the hands of the until lately common enemy their until recently political-social-economic partner.

For me now at my 32 years of age, with whatever experiences I have and whatever political consciousness and understanding I have developed, it is indisputable that since always one of the most precious and powerful weapons in the hands of people fighting against the world of the overlords, in expectance of a fair and free near future, was and will be solidarity. A solidarity which does not shrink in the face of repression but on the contrary unfolds decisively; which does not weep but attacks; which does not forget but honors with its memory.

And it is this solidarity I have tasted in the nearly 5 years I remain a captive of the state and that has to a great degree steeled me in all the difficult situations I have had to face and as an anarchist and as a prisoner. From the different events and demonstrations, the occupations of radio stations and the multitude of printed propaganda material to the arsonist and bombing actions against state and economic targets. From Greece to Spain, Germany, the UK to Argentina and Mexico the common ideas, values and visions have erected a web of solidarity under which I also have the joy of being.

for it) have set up an ideal scene for would-be scalp hunters. It is also a fact that the administrators of political authority would always try to form within society a mentality for informants and people snitching upon one another – sometimes with threats, other times with all sorts of rewards.

Luckily, the consciousness-bearing Greek society (that is, the one that recognises the cause for all her troubles in the face of the government terrorists or the financial elites and not in the face of three wanted anarchists), has historically resisted such practices and this, I believe, will happen this time around as well. However, because there are and will also be aspiring Inspector Clouseau's and ingenious Agatha Christie's, I would like to tell them that many have fell in love with informing but no-one has ever loved the informant.

*Do you believe that their arrest is near?*

That I do not know and I wish that it never happens. What I do know is that if they do get arrested the unemployed are not going to find a job; salaries will not increase nor, finally, will anyone who struggles from dawn to dusk (running around like a slave between one, two and even three jobs) see anything change in their lives.

*Do you believe they will surrender without a fight?*

I believe that a “fight” in its narrow definition, that is, an exchange of bullet rounds, will not take place. Because they will never get arrested. I know and I am sure that they fight everyday to remain free. Why, you see, humans love freedom.

*What would you do if you were in their position?*

I would do exactly the same. I would also avoid my arrest, which given our situation would translate into my most certain conviction for the offence committed on January 16, 2006 – that is, when the robbery of the National Bank in Athens took place.

*What kind of message would you send them from prison?*

They already know they have my friendship and my love. So, I would tell them something that Nikos Kazantzakis once said: “I feel as if we are banging our heads against iron bars. Many heads are going to be smashed, but one day the iron bars will be smashed, too”.

*In your opinion what purpose is served by putting a price on their head?*

I believe that the move to put a price on their head is part of the public relations planning of the ministry of Public Order, to contribute to the image put forward by the government: that it delivers. Unfortunately, this plan directly involves militarisation, with many units of police in Exarcheia and also with the raking up of past cases of armed struggle, as the minister himself said – which then leads to putting a price on the three comrades’ heads.

Do not forget that the evidence they provide for their involvement in urban guerilla groups is no more than media items that have themselves been circulating via “leaks” from the police headquarters to certain newspapers during the past six months. For me all this is a communication trick and maybe the setting up of an excuse for the operational inability of the police to find people involved in dynamic actions. Remember this: in the future we might even hear excuses such as “if we cannot even find the fugitives, who are definitely terrorists, how are we supposed to clear up the imbroglio of armed struggle?”

*So you want to say that the government creates terrorists...*

That is the only thing that is certain. They have been doing it for years now. That is the standard tactic of the government, with its only aim being to prove it can deliver.

*Do you consider the recent terrorist attack against the Police Station of Ayia Paraskevi as a response to putting a price on the heads of the three wanted anarchists?*

Those who did this are the most fit to answer your question with a communique. My own opinion is invalid. You are better off asking some of your co-journalists, who not only seem to know everything, they also seem to know very well how to judge and convict.

statement concerns exclusively people that take part in armed attacks against state or other targets. However, a closer reading of the actions of previous governments would reveal that the war in question is launched at all times against the most vulnerable social classes. We have been at war for many years now. They just won’t admit it. I am not sure what purpose is served by these war cries behind the security of ministerial offices and scores of security guards.

*Who shouldn’t sleep peacefully in Greece from now on?*

Exactly the same people who should not have slept peacefully before either.

*Your court of appeals case is on December 9th. How do you see things forming up for you within such a tense climate?*

Seeing the result of the initial trial and the stance of justice against all prisoners, I cannot really say I hold too much hope. That said, I will try to fight my struggle with my lawyers’ assistance.

*Is there anything you regret?*

Every decision and choice I make I do so after much thought and throughout the principles and values I hold. These I am prepared to defend with my own life. Until the end.

*How do you see your life after?*

Through the philosophical stance “Carpe diem”. Or else, seize the day...



*A little while ago some youths were arrested in Chalandri, Athens, under the accusation of participating in the group “Coalition of the Cells of Fire”. What about them, are they terrorists?*

The terrorists are those who daily condemn us to a slow death. To a life without living. Those who framed-up 19-year old kids with no evidence, in order to alter the dynamics of their coming electoral defeat (he refers to the Conservative government that stepped down on October 4 – trans.)

*What is your life in prison like?*

As difficult as it is for the rest of the prisoners. The problems of the Greek purgatory-prisons are known to all of us and journalists in particular. You should know however that all of us in here will not allow neither for our dignity nor our right to freedom to rot away in the prison cells.

*You exist around penal prisoners (as opposed to political prisoners – trans). How do they treat you?*

First, I disagree with the term “penal”. I do not agree with distinctions between prisoners. The way people treat us depends on how we treat them too. Everything is an impression. At second sight, nothing is as we imagine it to be.

*If you could escape, would you do it?*

I will reply to you with a slogan: “The passion for freedom is stronger than any prison”.

*Mr Chrysohoidis (the minister of “citizen protection”) has announced he will be withdrawing personal body guards from politicians and businessmen. Would you advise him to withdraw them or retain them?*

The ones you mentioned will most definitely advise him much wiser on what he should do!

*What would you respond to his recent statement, “we are at war”?*

At first reading, someone could come to think that Mr Chrysohoidis’

They have become judges, prosecutors and attorney generals at once.

*There is information leaked out from the police that yourself and your alleged accomplices are not simple robbers, but you also participate in terrorist groups. What do you have to say to that?*

Look: The only things we have not been accused of through these infamous “leaks” is drug dealing, trafficking, rape of minor girls and worshipping the devil. I know that many creative minds in the police headquarters are aroused with the combination of all these and I would honestly like to apologise to disappoint them by telling them these kind of things only happen in the Hollywood films they watch and the books they read.

*According to the police you belong to the gang of the “robbers in black”. What is your response?*

The “robbers in black” is an unfortunate and imaginative journalistic or police description that has no real base and that keeps being used by the media despite the fact that in the trial that took place it collapsed entirely. This, in the same way that even today they attribute to me seven robberies even though they know I have been acquitted for six and talk of unbelievable sums I am supposed to have in my possession, even though the court acknowledged the money belonged to the anarchist scene.

All this, finally, at the time when they know that they spectacular scuffle they describe never took place and especially concerning the three friends and comrades for which they have issued arrest warrants with evidence that in my eyes seems ridiculous.

And in any case, we should say something else that derives from common sense: CCTV in banks is usually of older technology and only records two colours, black and white. Robbers, you might know, tend to go to banks dressed in dark clothing, especially during the winter – they tend to avoid the appearance of a folk singer in a live club, for example.

*You justified your participation in the robbery where you were arrested by talking of an act of “expropriation”: What is the difference between an expropriation and a*

*common robbery?*

The difference is made by the subject of the action, even if for me the two terms are as detached as politicians are from real life. For a person to name their action “expropriation” they need nothing more than to pass over from their natural reaction against the conditions they are faced with, to the conscious revolutionary position: which is no other than the struggle against the powerful of this world. The difference is signified by the subject of the action.

*The bank that you robbed was later targeted with consecutive arson attacks and was eventually forced to close. Was this a revenge that some took in your name?*

First of all, I do not know if that particular bank closed. In any case the attacks that were taking place at the time of my arrest were, obviously, acts of solidarity. For the majority of society the bank comprises a ruthless financial mechanism that will day after day squeeze thousands of families. And everybody knows that the banking giants are responsible for today’s financial crisis that the people come to pay for.

*You define yourself as an anarchist. Do you believe in armed violence?*

Throughout the process of social change, a number of different forms of struggle have taken shape. Each person chooses the form of action they believe to fit the political necessities of the times in which they live. I personally believe that there is no historical or objective condition now that should make us leave any particular form of struggle in the cupboard of history. To the contrary, we live in some very violent times, where states on the international level exercise terrorism against all.

*A few days ago we had the armed attack against the Police Station of Ayia Paraskevi in Athens. Do you agree with attacks like this?*

What matters is how these attacks are portrayed in the eyes of society, without the Goebbels-like distorting lens of the media. I am neither a critic nor an estimator of actions of armed struggle. I have never claimed – nor could I – such a title.

*Some anti-authoritarians claim that in the face of the police that were shot, police violence is punished. Do you agree with this opinion?*

Whether we like it or not the armed representatives of order and security, as they are called, have connected their operational existence with violence and repression: with “random” discharging of guns, with the raping of women and the assassinations of migrants in police stations, with beatings, torturing, arbitrariness, humiliation and so much that takes place either behind station walls or out in the streets. Every one of us should, taking all this into account, reach their own conclusions.

*But isn’t the logic of “collective punishment” the most fascist one?*

Such a logic should be sought between the winners of socio-political clashes, who are the ones who turned it into a regular tactic. The fact that some people chose to return what they have been receiving for years might strike many as odd, but what can we do? You’re going to reap just what you sow.

*Do you believe that we are entering a phase of violence without rules? For example, up to this day, never before had a woman been attacked. What have you got to say about “blind” attacks like this?*

I do not know if these are, indeed, “blind attacks”. The ones that have taken place in the last few years comprise attacks against targets that historically belong to the authoritarian system of repression and exploitation of human society. I have never seen a citizen being targeted.

*What kind of feelings does the attempted assassination of a 23-year old girl evoke to you?*

You would be better off to ask those who have fallen dead by police bullets.

*Should 19-year old children comprise the terrorists’ targets?*

The police who were shot were not shot because they were young kids. They were shot for other reasons that obviously have nothing to do with their age. These will be explained to us by those who took that action.