

του Άγγελου Καλοδούκα

# Historic court verdict on the neonazi criminal organisation "Golden Dawn"

# NEWSLETTER

October 2020



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# 11 URGENTLY NEEDED MEASURES



Visiting Thessaloniki, as provided every year for the political leaders in relation to the international Thessaloniki Helexpo Forum, SYRIZA-Progressive Alliance president Alexis Tsipras announced 11 urgently needed measures to deal with the second wave of the pandemic. In particular, he characterized realistic the proposed measures which would be applied immediately in case the SYRIZA-Progressive Alliance party was reelected to government.

## **Alexis Tsipras:**

**W**e developed Plan 11 and are today submitting its Urgent Needs Measures. It is a plan that we will carry out immediately, the day after we assume the government of our country. It is a plan that must be carried out the following morning.

**First measure:** Strengthening our National Health System immediately with 15,000 permanently employed staff, to fortify our country's front-line defense against the pandemic.

**Second measure:** Strengthening public schools immediately with 15,000 permanently

employed teachers. This will reinforce the education system so that during the pandemic, our children will not be piled up in classes of 26 and 27 pupils at school.

**Third measure:** Labor subsidy by the state, for as long as the crisis lasts. Our proposal includes state coverage of total insurance contributions and 40% of the working people's salary, with the employers' obligation to pay the remaining 60% for the enterprises affected by the crisis. What is needed is for labor to be supported as long as the crisis lasts and for jobs not to be lost.

**Fourth measure:** Extremely important, especially owing to the fact that the government did not listen to our advanced measures to support labor and businesses, and now we will find ourselves this

autumn facing an image of social catastrophe. Thus, the fourth measure, i.e. emergency income to those who have been hit financially by the pandemic, for as long as the crisis lasts: €400 for the first adult member of the household, €200 for every additional adult member and €100 for every child. This income will cover those citizens whose income has been rapidly reduced owing to the pandemic, thus supporting in practice not only the unemployed, but also the seasonally employed and those working in the field of culture, but also those free professionals and self-employed who have been hit. Because nobody should be alone in this crisis.

**Fifth measure:** Non-returnable support for businesses. All those who have been directly or indirectly hit, the self-employed and businesses, will have direct access to non-returnable support up to a maximum of €2000 per working person, with the maximum support for each business of €100.000, the sole criterion being to preserve jobs and labor relations.

**Sixth measure:** Reduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) in restaurants to 6%, to the lowest amount for as long as the crisis lasts.

**Seventh measure:** Subsidy of 40% of the rent paid by businesses that have been hit, for as long as the crisis lasts. Because for the majority of small businesses hit, the reduction of rent is a matter of survival. And with our proposal, these businesses are helped, but at the same time the owners of the real estate do not see a catastrophic reduction of income, as was the case during the last months.

**Eighth measure:** Return to farmers of the special consumer tax on oil. A measure that will reduce the cost of production and will give some breathing space to thousands of producers in the primary sector, who are facing today major tragic dead ends.

**Ninth measure:** Permanent, not temporary, abolition of the solidarity contribution for all incomes up to €40,000 and a reduction of related factors on amounts from €40,000 to €65,000.

Obviously in our plan, this reduction also applies to pensioners and public sector employees. We are not proceeding to inconceivable exclusions that arouse social reactions from other eras. And we believe that this can and must be a permanent measure.

**Tenth measure:** Abolition of the “business” tax, which will significantly lighten businesses, freelance workers and especially workers with a receipt book. It is a tax that in any event has no logical explanation, other than the explanation that in Greece we are incapable as a public sector, state, and society, of controlling tax evasion. We must overcome this and have the self-confidence to consider ourselves capable.

Finally, the **Eleventh measure:** Permanent reduction of the prepaid tax to 50%, a measure that will offer significant lightening to all businesses and freelance workers.

*Alexis Tsipras concluded his statement as follows:*

We strongly believe that Greece must not lose yet another decade, as it happened from 2010 with the crisis of deficits and public debt. It cannot and must not lose another decade at the hands of those who led the country to bankruptcy before 2015. And the Greeks cannot live constantly in insecurity and injustice. Young men and women cannot live in a country that is constantly underestimating and restricting them. We are all aware of the great difficulties. But, we believe profoundly in the abilities and creativity of our people. With our proposals and our plan, the new social contract, and the direct measures that we propose, we believe that we are beginning to lay the foundations, starting today, of a great collective struggle. We have a plan, we know how we want to overthrow this tough reality. And we are beginning a collective struggle to put an end to this downhill. And to bring Greece to a place worthy of the generations of today and above all, the generations of tomorrow. Every democratic person, every progressive citizen has a place in this great effort. I know that the days we are going through are difficult, but let’s not forget: darkest hour is just before dawn, just before daybreak.



## **Alexis Tsipras letter on EU-Turkey relations that was sent to the German Presidency, the President of the European Parliament and progressive EU Leaders (October 1, 2020)**

Dear Mr President,

**O**n December 7, 2017, I greeted President Erdogan in Athens, as the first Head of State of Turkey to visit Greece in 65 years. My message was clear: Greece was exiting the crisis, leaving behind austerity programs and opening up new prospects for its economic development and role in the world. Greece was about to resolve the long-standing name dispute with what is now North Macedonia, becoming once again a European pillar of peace and stability in the Balkans and the broader region. It was high time to open a new chapter in Greek-Turkish relations, based on mutual respect and international law, to the benefit of the peoples of both countries. It was also necessary to return to talks on finding a just and viable solution for the Cyprus issue on the basis of UN Resolutions, to the benefit of the people of Cyprus as a whole - Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots – a solution we had after all come close to, only a few months earlier in Crans Montana.

Unfortunately, Turkey chose to follow a very different path in the years that followed, investing in nationalist rhetoric and aggressive unilateral actions in the Mediterranean and the broader region, as well as by converting world cultural heritage monuments, such as Hagia Sophia, into mosques. Turkey greatly increased its airspace violations in the Aegean, signed an illegal maritime agreement with the Government of Libya disregarding the continental shelf of Crete, sent warships to support the exploration of gas deposits near the island of Kastellorizo –blatantly violating the sovereign rights of Greece on its continental shelf–, actively supported the attempts of migrants to cross the land border into Greece and carried out drilling activities within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Cyprus. Despite repeated Greek proposals, Turkey continued to refuse the resumption of exploratory talks, that had stopped in March 2016 and only accepted the resumption of talks on military Confidence Building Measures, after my last visit to Ankara in February 2019.

It is clear that the return of the Turkish exploration vessel and warships to port and the announcement of the restart of exploratory talks, following intensive efforts by the German Presidency, is a positive step and an important opportunity for promoting dialogue, that should not be missed. And it is particularly important that both the Greek Government and SYRIZA-PA—as the Main opposition party in Greece—are committed to supporting exploratory talks on the delimitation of the EEZ/continental shelf, with a view to reaching an agreement with

Turkey on referring to the International Court of Justice, if no solution is found bilaterally.

But it would constitute a grave mistake for the EU to consider that the resumption of a fragile Greek-Turkish dialogue alone, particularly under the constant threat of the return of Turkish warships, is a sustainable basis for exiting this crisis and promoting peace, stability and security in the region. This is so, especially as Turkey is intensifying its drilling operations in the EEZ of the Republic of Cyprus.

The only way Greek-Turkish dialogue can be sustainable, is if it is firmly based on the revitalization of the EU-Turkey dialogue under new terms. These terms –which must not lead to the cancellation of the “frozen” Turkish accession process– must include the adoption of a robust mechanism for the imposition of an array of sanctions if Turkey continues to violate the sovereign rights of member states. These terms must also include a concrete positive agenda involving customs union modernization, economic cooperation, implementation and updating of the 2016 EU-Turkey Statement, as well as a strategic dialogue on regional issues, if Turkey decides to leave behind unilateral illegal actions and provocations. There is no doubt about the cost, not only for Turkey, but also for the EU, if Ankara chooses the first path. But there is also no doubt about the mutual benefits of the second choice, as we saw during the refugee crisis of 2015-2016. Let us not forget that it was the positive EU-Turkey agenda during that period, that gave momentum to the Cyprus talks, while it was the collapse of this agenda after the 2016 coup attempt in Turkey, that contributed greatly to the failure of these talks.

Clearly, the easiest path is neither to invest in an ambitious EU positive agenda with Turkey, nor to adopt a robust European sanctions mechanism. The easiest path is to maintain the often sensitive and valuable national bilateral balances with Turkey intact, to point to the resumption of Greek-Turkish exploratory talks as “good enough” and to preserve a low-intensity EU-Turkey dialogue with a low level of ambition. Another easy path is to support either a positive agenda, or a sanctions mechanism, according to national interests, with no regard to the delicate balance necessary to engage Turkey effectively. These choices will not only lead to the ultimate failure of the Greece-Turkey talks themselves, a return to crisis and a new costly arms race in the Aegean, they will also endanger any possibility for a viable resumption of the Cyprus talks in the coming period. It is more important than ever to show the world that the EU is assertive and decisive in protecting its member states and values, as well as forward-looking enough to engage actively with an important partner in resolving the global and regional challenges of our times.

Now at a crossroads, the EU must leave behind a decade of crisis, indecisiveness, national entrenchment and fragmentation, for the benefit of the peoples of Europe and of the region. In facing the dire consequences of a global pandemic by deciding on the Recovery Fund, the EU took important steps forward in this direction. It is just as essential that the EU carries out bold steps in reforming the Common European Asylum System on the basis of real and effective solidarity, putting an end to the unacceptable conditions we see at the EU borders, including in the Aegean. Unfortunately, the Pact proposed by the European Commission does not move in this direction.

In the same way, it is, today, more important than ever that the EU assumes its great responsibilities in revitalizing the EU-Turkey dialogue under new terms. I hope for your support and engagement in this regard, as a leader who believes in the role Europe should have in promoting global and regional peace, stability and development.

***See also the European Parliament resolution in preparation of the recent special European Council summit focusing on the dangerous escalation and the role of Turkey in the Eastern Mediterranean (2020/2774(RSP)), including proposals of MEPs Stelios Kouloglou and Giorgos Georgiou, on behalf of the GUE/NGL, here [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/B-9-2020-0260\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/B-9-2020-0260_EN.html)***



## Announcement of the SYRIZA-Progressive Alliance Press Office on the situation in Moria

**T**he responsibility of Mitsotakis Government for the situation in Moria is clear. The persistence in deterrence, detention and non-decongestion played a decisive role in the destruction suffered by the already persecuted refugees in Lesvos. For a year now, the Government has chosen not to use the institutional and public interventions and proposals by SYRIZA regarding the management of the refugee crisis in general, to deal with the health crisis in the hospitality structures, including the local communities.

The substantial decongestion of the camps of the islands with organized movements of the population inland, in places of accommodation with adequate and humane conditions and not in the squares of Athens and in detention centers, as is done until today, must proceed steadily and with a plan.

It must also, with immediate priority in the open camps of the islands, ensure a reduction in decongestants, an improvement of living conditions and an acceleration of procedures -without discounts on asylum - away from the ideology of closed camps that create explosive situations for refugees and local communities, violate European and

international obligations of the country and waste public money by burdening citizens, and in fact without any result.

Finally, the Government must realize that it must relinquish the role of the shield of Europe that makes the country a storehouse of souls. To vigorously assert and demand, with all the means at its disposal as an EU Member State, that Europe assume its responsibilities. Not at the level of wishes and declarations, but with conflicts and alliances for policies of substantial solidarity. Mandatory Population Relocation Mechanism in all countries, Common European Asylum System and of course combating the causes of asylum and migration by strengthening countries affected by war, poverty and authoritarianism.



### MITOTAKIS GOVERNMENT LIABLE FOR LESVOS TRAGEDY

**F**ollowing the Moria tragedy, the SYRIZA-Progressive Alliance Party delegation visited Lesvos on September 11, 2020, consisting of Central Committee Secretary

Dimitris Tzanakopoulos, the Shadow Minister of Migration and Asylum George Psychogios, the Shadow Minister of Citizen Protection, Christos Spirtzis the Shadow Minister of Internal Affairs, Costas Zahariadis, the Shadow Minister of European Affairs, Yiannis Bournous, the ex Minister of Migration Policy, Giannis Mouzalas and MEP Costas Arvanitis .

During the visit to the island facing an unprecedented humanitarian and political crisis, SYRIZA officials met with the mayor of Mytilene, Strati Kytelis, the local leadership of the fire department and port authorities, the regional authority, the president of the Chamber of Commerce. An autopsy followed in areas where refugees have been abandoned. In the press conference given by the secretary of SYRIZA, he underlined that the responsibility for what is happening belongs exclusively to the government. Among other things, noted the following:

“The SYRIZA-Progressive Alliance has been in Mytilene since yesterday in a situation of absolute crisis and humanitarian catastrophe that concerns both the refugees and immigrants who lived in the now burned-out camp, as well as the permanent residents of Mytilene. This is an image of shame for Greece and Europe. Mr. Mitsotakis has the responsibility, and it is the inevitable consequence of specific political choices. Mr. Mitsotakis, following the dominant line of Europe, decided to turn the country and the islands into a shield of Europe. SYRIZA-Progressive Alliance has been shouting for 14 months that the choice of trapping refugees and immigrants on the islands would sooner or later lead to an explosion.

In July 2019, Moria hosted 5,500 people. We reached the point although a few months ago in the same area 25,000 people stacked. Mr. Mitsotakis himself, by his own choice, stopped the decongestion of the islands and the policy that SYRIZA served as a government and as an opposition - the policy of relocation in Europe.

At the moment, about 5,000 people are being held in Mytilene, while there was a legal possibility that they have already left or continue to leave. The government keeps them here. This means abandoning the decongestion policy. Mrs. Johansson, the European Commissioner, explained what an abandonment of the relocation policy is - she discovered that ND, Mr. Mitsotakis and Mr. Mitarakis have not submitted any official relocation request to the European Commission during the last year! The solution to the problem can only be the reversal of the policy that created it. First, there is a need to decongest the island, but also the other islands based on existing protocols. Secondly, to submit the request for the relocation of refugees. And the countries of Europe to accept the proportional distribution of refugees throughout the European territory.

If the policy of the Mitsotakis government is not reversed, the events in Moria will not be the last case, but the beginning of a chain of explosions that will create a chaotic situation in the country.



## Images that refer to a Middle Eastern country at war, witnessed by 9 GUE/ NGL MEPs

Lack of sanitary facilities, lack of drinking water, overcrowding during the covid tests, problematic conditions for the workers in the area, compose a picture of government’s failure to effectively respond. The delegation of GUE/NGL visited the island with an intensive program of contacts with local bodies, workers and humanitarian organizations and organized a press conference in the local media. The nine GUE/NGL MEPs, saw images that do not correspond to a modern country in Europe and in fact to the EU, but to a country in the Middle East in the midst of war. After visiting the fire-damaged structure in Moria, MEPs from the Left went to the site of the new makeshift camp in Kara Tepe, where the government, with a delay of several days and inadequate health conditions, is trying to organize the housing of more than 10,000 homeless people in the island from the day of the fire in Moria. The MEPs, among them Costas Arvanitis and Petros Kokkalis of SYRIZA-Progressive Alliance visited the premises of the new structure, spoke with employees of humanitarian organizations and the guests themselves, in contrast to the Vice President. of the Commission who was satisfied with the “high” inspection of Moria. The GUE / NGL, in addition to the firm position of solidarity with the Greek people, claims the overthrow of the dominant policy of Europe, which is responsible for the deadlocks and the unprecedented crisis that Lesbos is experiencing today.



## Election of Dimitris Tzanakopoulos as Secretary of The Central Committee of SYRIZA-Progressive Alliance

The Central Committee of SYRIZA-Progressive Alliance elected Dimitris Tzanakopoulos as Secretary. The Central Committee also decided to postpone the party's 3rd Congress for 2021, due to the pandemic of Covid-19.

You can read the new Secretary's CV here:  
<https://www.syriza.gr/page/the-secretary.html>

## ON THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN NORTH MACEDONIA

*On July 15, 2020, parliamentary elections were held in North Macedonia, for the 120 seats of the Assembly of the Republic (Sobranie). They were the first elections after the historic Prespa Agreement. The electorate has renewed its confidence in Zoran Zaev.*

### Alexis Tsipras message

Congratulations @Zoran\_Zaev. Thanks to your efforts, the message of brave progressive forces that fight against nationalism, for social justice and peace in our region, became stronger today. A message not just for the Balkans, but for all of Europe. #NorthMacedonia #elections



**Alexis Tsipras**  @tsipras\_eu · Jul 16

Congratulations @Zoran\_Zaev.

Thanks to your efforts, the message of brave progressive forces that fight against nationalism, for social justice and peace in our region, became stronger today. A message not just for the Balkans, but for all of Europe.

#NorthMacedonia #elections 

### Announcement of the Sector of International and European Affairs of SYRIZA:

The victory of the Social Democratic Party and Zoran Zaev in yesterday's parliamentary elections in North Macedonia is another optimistic message for the future of the wider region, after that of the historic Prespa Agreement. It is a victory of progress, peace, cooperation and reconciliation, not only for North Macedonia, but also for the Balkans as a whole.

## SOLIDARITY WITH HDP

Regarding the recent arrests of 82 HDP members, the SYRIZA Sector of International and European Affairs issued the following statement:

The SYRIZA-Progressive Alliance Party unites its voice with the democratic and progressive citizens of Turkey against the recent authoritarian actions of the Erdogan government, which led to 82 arrests of HDP members, including the mayor of Kars, seven former Members of Parliament and its main officials – accused for the mass protests that took place in November 2014. These arrests constitute another episode in the long list of violations of political and social rights in Turkey. We express our unreserved solidarity with HDP, as well as with all progressive citizens who are struggling for democracy in Turkey with courage and self-denial, under such difficult conditions.

### Statement of Heinz Bierbaum, President of the EL:

“Erdogan maintains his policy on repression of any political opposition. This is intended to crush and silence any kind of resistance, which is opposing Erdogan’s authoritarian government. Not even under the coronavirus the repression that Erdogan’s administration is carrying out against the Kurdish political and social movement stops. We strongly condemn the arrests and the ongoing suspension of the rule of law principles. The European Union must react immediately and demand the release of all political prisoners in Turkey” says Heinz Bierbaum, President of the European Left. The European Left forcefully condemns all the anti-democratic intimidations and arrests of the protesters and expresses the solidarity with HDP and other progressive activists in Turkey.

## About the 4TH European Forum of Progressive, Ecological and Leftist forces (November 8-27)

The European Forum of Left, Green and Progressive forces has been held annually since the first meeting in Marseille in 2017. This was followed by two successful events in Bilbao in 2018 and Brussels in 2019. This year’s forum will be different: for the first time it will consist of a three-week programme, held completely online. Several debates, seminars and workshops will take place, on topics such as public health, the model of production and work, ecological transition, security and peace, international and free trade, racism, migration, the budget... etc, as well as 4 Assemblies (Women, Trade Unionists, Culture and Youth). And given the present economic, environmental and health crisis, alternatives to the failed policies of neoliberalism could not be more urgent.

Register on the European Forum website (<https://europeanforum.eu/>)

where you will find the list of speakers and events <https://europeanforum.eu/online-2020/programme-2020/>

By registering to the Forum, you can attend all the events you want.

The forum will be launched on 8th November with several European and international guests.

## SYRIZA Youth Actions

### September 2020: Moria Refugee Camp Fire, Schools Reopening Amidst Coronavirus and Paulos Fyssas Murder Anniversary

On **September**

**11**, the Youth of SYRIZA joined forces with a number of refugee solidarity groups to protest the disgraceful conditions immigrants are being forced to live in at the island of Lesbos, as an aftermath of the recent fire that destroyed the Moria Refugee Camp Facility. During the past five years, the SYRIZA government -during times of unprecedented refugee flows- managed to proceed with a refugee decongestion plan, respecting not only the people of Lesbos, but also our fellow refugees.

On the other hand, the newly elected right-wing New Democracy government, in order to satisfy its extreme right-wing pool of voters and members, has been overcrowding with tens of thousands of human lives the Moria facility. We demand that the government takes emergency measures towards covering the health needs of the refugees, setting up a plan for the decongestion of the island and making housing arrangements for the immigrants.

**September 14:** While the coronavirus cases in Greece are rising, the New Democracy government chooses not to support



the public health and education systems, by diverting government funds towards the purchase of military equipment. Instead of decreasing the number of students in classrooms and hiring medical staff and teachers, the government allocates more than 10 billion euros to acquire war machines. The SYRIZA Youth asks young people to choose the path of resistance to government choices that are destroying our lives. We demand:

- Reduction of the number of students per class
- Remodeling of school hours by including morning and afternoon classes
- Permanent recruitment of teachers and cleaning staff
- Mass and repetitive tests on students and teachers on a weekly basis
- Compulsory thermometry of the whole school community and its visitors
- Supply free of charge the necessary number of masks to schools
- Implementation of information programs on issues of proper compliance with protection measures.

## The day of **September 18**, 2020

marks seven years since the night that Giorgos Roupakias cold-bloodedly murdered the anti-fascist rapper Pavlos Fyssas, following the orders of the neo-Nazi criminal organization Golden Dawn. Pavlos became the symbol of our generation not only because of his murder but also because



of his militant attitude against fascism and neo-Nazism, which he expressed through his music. For the SYRIZA Youth, fascism has always been an enemy and we have no hope that it can be fought only through institutional means. After all, it is the anti-fascist movement that imposed the persecutions against the deputies, executives and members of parliament of Golden

Dawn. This year too, we kept the memory of Pavlos alive during the march commemorating the seven years since his murder. Pavlos' memory is alive reminding us of the need for a broad and massive anti-fascist movement. Pavlos' memory is alive reminding us to show zero tolerance towards fascism. We stand united against fascism!

## SOLIDARITY ACTIVITIES



**SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN**  
**MORIA - EUROPE'S DISGRACE**  
**WE STAND TOGETHER WITH REFUGEES**

From Monday 14/09/20, we are launching a solidarity campaign for the homeless, the hungry and the thirsty of Moria. We turn to Greece and Europe for support. We resist the fascism, xenophobia and the climate of repression that the Greek government wants to impose.

**GATHERING POINTS**

- Municipality of Chalandri Youth Center
- Solidarity Network "Praxis" Ag. Dimitrios
- "Solidarity for All" Pireaus:
- Solidarity of N. Kosmos:
- Solidarity for All in Nikaia:
- Social Clinic of Peristeri:
- "Stasis" in Kalamaki
- Social Solidarity Network of Artemis Spata
- Albatros Thessaloniki
- Labor Center of Corinth
- Solidarity Initiative of Magnesia
- Solidarity for All

**WE ARE GATHERING**

- ▶ Baby wipes
- ▶ Children's shoes (No. 16-34)
- ▶ Baby diapers
- ▶ Baby milk (powder)
- ▶ Shampoo and baby body creams
- ▶ Sleeping bags in good condition

The specific list is based on the needs and in consultation with the support groups and solidarity grassroots in Levos.

Anyone who would like to make a donation, the account number of «Solidarity for All» is:

IBAN: GR35 0110 0400 0000 0400 1832 882  
NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE,  
BIC: ETHNGR AA

Name of Beneficiary: TAMEIO STIRIKSIS PROTOVOULION & DOMON KOINONIKIS ALLILEGYIS (SUPPORT FUND FOR SOLIDARITY INITIATIVES AND GRASSROOTS)

"Solidarity for All" along with the solidarity grassroots, the men and women of solidarity, are once again, present.

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**The Athens Social Solidarity Clinic, together with Solidarity for All,** maintains a Food Bank. From March 2020 until today, it has participated in food distributions in areas of Greece where there is an urgent need, which now has the characteristics of a humanitarian crisis, due to the Pandemic, on the one hand, and, on the other, to ineffective measures and manipulations of the present government. As part of our actions, 1,200 k of rice and beans were distributed to Kilkis in Northern Greece, to the island of Evia, to the area of Corinth, to the Athens public Rest House for elderly people. In July and September, the Clinic collected and purchased medicines to be sent to Cuba by Solidarity for All and the European Left. The initiatives and actions of the Athens Solidarity Social Clinic are supported and implemented thanks to the volunteers and supporters of the structure in Greece and abroad, as well as local SYRIZA Organizations (the above actions were achieved with the contribution of comrades from the party organization in Hania Creta). We invite all comrades who wish to participate actively in the Solidarity Actions, to contact the following address:

[kifa.athina@gmail.com](mailto:kifa.athina@gmail.com) tel.0030 210 3802037  
<http://www.kifa-athina.gr/>





## Announcement of the SYRIZA- Progressive Alliance Press Office about the decision of the court on the Golden Dawn

**T**his day goes down in the history of the country as a day of victory for the Rule of Law, as a day of victory for Justice and, finally, as a day of victory for the Democracy itself.

We welcome the historic conviction of the Court for the members of the Nazi criminal organization Golden Dawn.

We also welcome the thousands of citizens who gathered outside the Court of Appeals to shout in favor of the victory of Democracy. The broad democratic wave that was formed today on Alexandras Avenue, together with the thousands of other citizens who could not be there, is the real protective barrier of Democracy against fascism.

It is now everyone's responsibility not to allow the snake of Nazism to infect society and the political system again.

## Statement of Heinz Bierbaum, President of the EL **FASCISM IS NOT AN OPINION, IT IS A CRIME!**

**G**olden Dawn is a 'criminal organization'. The greek neo-fascist party has finally been condemned for what it really is. A senior operative of Golden Dawn, Giorgos Roupakias, has been found guilty of all charges for the murder of the left-wing and anti-fascist rapper Pavlos Fyssas, killed in the Athenian port of Piraeus in 2013. The court tied the party leadership to a string of attacks, including the attack on trade unionists of the All Workers Militant Front (Pame).

The ruling came more than five years after the trial first began and our solidarity and love go to the friends and families of the victims of fascism, and especially in Greece. The extreme right seems to stay, but we must not stop fighting it. Golden Dawn became Greece's third-largest political party in 2012, when Greece fell in a deep economic and financial crisis fueled by austerity. We must oppose neo-fascist systematic violence against migrants and LGBT people, and fight their functional attempt to bring fear to the streets. Neo-fascism will be defeated both in courts and in consciences. We must not hesitate to carry on protests, marches and campaigns, keeping the fight against the fascism active not only in Greece but also in many European cities.