

## For the right and the commitment to fight

Thanasis Agapitos\*

*To my students, to their parents and to my colleagues, to my comrades at work and in fight.*



As a teacher, a thinking man, as much as a politically active citizen for more than 30 years I would like to address you those few words.

On Friday 16/11/2012, at 11:45 pm while my school's celebration on Polytechnio (107<sup>th</sup> Primary School – Department of Inclusion of children with special needs) was ending; my abduction-arrest and transport to the General Police Headquarters of Thessaloniki, by 4 men of the State Security Department took place, in a cinematic mode, in front of the eyes of the children.

All those happened on the anniversary of the Polytechnio insurrection's eve against the junta, leading us in parallelisms about a new junta against the people, today. A restriction on freedom that comes to fill in the economic and social slaughter.

I overcome the accusation against me, as totally groundless till ridiculous. The unprecedented attempt that the trial would be figurative, is included in a general context of terrorization of every fighting person, every resisting voice for life and decency. All those, are part of the abolition of fundamental democratic rights that the global civilization has conquest with blood.

I am not prosecuted for any illegal action. Neither with the measure nor with the law of the regime of permanent "state of emergency"; which they are willing to impose. They cannot even claim it. I am prosecuted, targeted and pre-constructed, for my stand, my ideas and my public social and political activity, which stands in favor of the social majority's interests. On the day of the 28<sup>th</sup> October this year, I have been once again arrested. I was on the street, far from any demonstration place. After calling me by name, afterwards they told me to follow them for identification! At least, they should make an effort no to cause ironic laughs...

Today, the right to protest, against the policies of European Union, IMF and government, so that the atrocious measures of the memorandum won't pass, is being penalized. The measures that make families, schools and hospitals to fall apart; which give birth to millions of unemployed, new emigrants and make the people poorer.

I cannot but to underline it: On the morning of the same day of my arrest the Chancellor of Germany Merkel had appeared to report the "violence in Greece". So much was the willingness and the servility so that our partners-perpetrators would be pleased?

Beside our rights and needs, ours and our children's, for a worthy to live life and a full of promise future, they want to make illegal as well the right to resistance.

They are weak-minded! Especially on these days.

The experience of occupation legalized deeply in the historical memory the RESISTANCE of the people.

The Polytechnio of '73, legalized the INSURRECTION against of any tyranny and oppression.

They shouldn't provoke with the hypocrisy on "violence". Violence is the unemployment, the layoffs, the cuts on salaries and so many others, that they impose to a defendless people. Should we also applause?

But I do not address to you those words simply in order to invoke on my inalienable right, as well as all of you, to participate in commons and to fight for a better education and a better tomorrow.

I am a teacher and a public servant. In these difficult moments, I consider my duty to teach with my stand, my dignity and not fatality. Especially, my students (children with special needs) were always in need to pass by indifference and difficulties. Especially today, that the cannibalistic education of cuts considers their care an excessive luxury.

The mentality of "looking my business and my comfort" under the so called warmth of the certainty of a public service, I never embraced it.

How should it be? There are public servants actors for the common good through collective fight. We have chosen it, from being servants of the troika, as the governors, kneeled in front of her.

Especially today, I believe that defend of public goods (health, education), is a duty and a debt to our children.

The appeal to individual accommodation, to the protocol of a handicap democracy, the indifference on whatever happens around us shortens people.

Especially for us the people of education, out of such a life stand, there is no instruction. Because knowledge needs freedom and critical thinking cannot breathe in fear. History has to traverse proud on the visions for a better tomorrow and not to be cancelled by bowed heads and bent torsos.

Only in this way I can stare to the parents and my pupils in the eyes. To hope that as a teacher I will leave a trace so to find a better world. A world; where they will unfold their dreams.

And the last I want to tell you: With force all of us in front! The people and its right will emerge a winner. The future belongs to those who fight with decency. The oppressors are swallowed by the scorn of history.

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