

GREECE SOLIDARITY PICKET



Friday January 9, 12pm • Greek Consulate (365 Bloor St. E)

ENDORSED BY: APUS, Common Cause, CUPE 3903, CUPE 3907, No One Is Illegal - Toronto, OCAP

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SPARK IN ATHENS, FIRE IN TORONTO!

THE STRUGGLE IS CONNECTED!

Racist and Classist Police Brutality

Police murdered unarmed 15-year-old Alexandros Grigoropoulos on Dec 6 in Athens, the latest outrage in a long string of brutality. His death sparked an uprising by thousands of Greeks fed up with police controlling their communities. In Toronto we also see police brutality and impunity. Racial profiling is common practice and police actions disproportionately target youth, racialized and poor people. Toronto police regularly cover up and bury cases of brutality and corruption while obstructing the complaints process. The police will not yield their power or behave responsibly unless we fight back.

Unequal Access to Education

For many years in Greece, students have successfully fought off attempts to end universal access to higher education by organizing themselves, protesting and occupying their schools. In Canada, undergrad tuition fees have almost doubled over the last decade. This makes higher education impossible for many working class people without taking on crippling debts. Schools like U of T and Queens are moving towards self-regulation, allowing them to charge whatever they want.

Unemployment

Anger in Greece is fuelled by lay-offs and increasing rates of unemployment among young graduates accelerated by the global financial crisis. In Canada, we're feeling these effects as we slide deeper into recession. The unemployed and those at risk of eviction will find gutted social assistance programs while banks and corporations, whose greed caused this crisis, get bailouts. The government, banks and corporations must be held accountable.

Attacks on Non-Status People and Union Organizers

In Greece, migrants and immigrants experience daily humiliation at the border and even murder by police and vigilantes. In December they took to the streets demanding justice and dignity. Organizers of predominantly immigrant and migrant unions face threats, assaults and death from company thugs. The rail company office has been occupied in response to the violent acid attack on Bulgarian union organizer Konstantina. Non-status people and migrant workers in Canada often face deportation if they stand up for their rights. Immigrants and migrant labourers face overwork, substandard accommodations, unsafe conditions, unliveable pay and overt racism.

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