

# Anarchist killed by Police

In our last issue we reprinted a story on the riots in Greece which followed the police-murder of the young anarchist Michalis Kaltezas (photo below). Shortly after the paper was printed, we received the following indepth report on the event from our Greek comrades. In our earlier Blast story, we erroneously stated that Michalis was shot as he threw a molotov-cocktail at a police bus. This we now find out was not the case, and we apologize for this mistake.

ON THE 17th OF NOVEMBER, THE ANNUAL march commemorating the November 1973 insurrection took place in Athens, despite the size of the police opposition, the anarchists who participated in the demo managed to break the windows of the South African Airways office and the restaurant of the luxury Hilton Hotel. After the march special anti-riot police troops chased groups of anarchists to Exarchia Square, which is the traditional anarchist stronghold of Athens. Four police vans that passed through the square were attacked by the people gathered there. Late that night some cops that appeared in the square were chased back to a police van in a nearby street. A petrol bomb was thrown against the van. Just as the group of anarchists was retreating back to the square, a cop, Athanasios Melistas, took out his gun, shot and murdered in cold blood the fifteen year old anarchist, Michalis Kaltezas. It was a quarter to twelve on the 17th of November, on the same day that the military junta, 12 years before, had begun the final suppression of the 1973 insurrection. Michalis Kaltezas was, since May '85, a member of Anarchist Attack Groups which have repeatedly organised Molotov Cocktail attacks against police and burned many police cars. Some 60 enraged anarchists and libertarians, when informed of the murder, squatted the University of Chemistry\*. They organised their defense against the heavy police forces that encircled the building and attempted an unsuccessful attack. Sporadic clashes with molotov cocktails and stones were taking place all night long. At 10:20 in the morning of the 18th of November special military troops (parachutists) using fire escapes, with guns in their hands, and bombarding the squatters with tear and suffocating gasses managed to invade the building from the roof, while the MAT (anti-riot police) and the MEA (plain clothes police gangs) attacked from all sides. The 37 comrades that were arrested were brutally beaten during the invasion as well as during their transportation and detention in the police headquarters. Another group of 20 squatters managed to escape through the sewers of the building.

As the news of the murder became widely known, hundreds of people started gathering in the area between Exarchia Square and the Polytechnic School (which was the center of the 1973 insurrection). Groups of comrades were stopping buses and painting them with slogans such as: "Michalis Kaltezas, 15 years old - Murdered", "Cops, Pigs, Assassins", "Revenge", "This night belongs to Michalis", "The social war has started", "The blood is flowing, demanding revenge" etc. The sprayed buses were ordered by the police to withdraw to the depots because of fear that they would upset the Athenian population. Nevertheless, this plan did not work out, because of the traffic jam caused by the demonstrations in the center of Athens.

Outside the Polytechnic School more and more people were gathering and discussing

the murder and the invasion of the Chemistry School. Many of them as well as passers by were visiting the spot on the pavement where Michalis had been shot. A black flag was hanging from the tree beside.

Meanwhile a demo had been called for 5 o'clock, by the Committee Against State Repression, which was composed by leftist organisations. At 5 o'clock thousands of enraged people stood outside the Polytechnic School. The leftist "committee" announced that they would squat the buildings and called for a discussion. The anarchists protested and shouted that a demo should be made at once. A group of them walked on shouting slogans and after a while a very large and dynamic demonstration had started. The main slogans were: "Cops, Pigs, Assassins", "This night belongs to Michalis", "One bullet for every cop", "Violence against State violence", "Homage to Christos Tsoutsouvis"†, "Neither fascism, nor democracy, down with statism, long live anarchy", "Freedom for the squatters of the Chemical School" etc. The demo broke the windows of almost all the banks that were on it's way and set them on fire with molotov cocktails, while the slogan "That's how we pay homage to Michalis" was shouted. Just before the demonstrators reached the police headquarters they were attacked and dispersed by special anti-riot forces. Most of the demonstrators managed to return to the Polytechnic School. At about 7 o'clock barricades were set up while MAT, MEA, members of fascist parties, and members of the governmental socialist party started their

Note:

† Christos Tsoutsouvis was a member of "Anti-Statist Struggle"; he was murdered in May during an armed confrontation of his group with the police. Three cops were killed. The "Anti-Statist Struggle" had murdered the procecurator of the anarchists, district attorney Theophanopoulos.

attack against the demonstrators. Not only the anarchists and a few leftists participated in these clashes but also hundreds of oppressed youngsters, working people, students and unemployed.

Molotov cocktails, paving stones, wooden stakes and metal poles were used during the clashes while many banks and big stores were destroyed. The Polytechnic School was the base of the rioters, who needed medical care as the wounded were already numerous. When the police and civil forces of repression understood that their repeated attacks could not bring any result since the rioters defended themselves very effectively, they used the fire engines. However, this weapon was no use to them. Many times they managed, under the protection of the fire engines, to reach the outside of the Polytechnic School but the rioters obliged them to retreat. At about 3 o'clock in the morning a general attack was launched with tear and other suffocating gasses (some of which are pro-

attempting unsuccessfully to close the doors. While the general assembly, on Tuesday, was discussing whether or not the squat should go on, the self appointed 'committee' had already agreed with the government to end it. At the same time they managed to panic all the people that had not already been depressed by the caricature that the leftists had already made out of the squat. The anarchists insisted that the squat should go on but it was very hard for them to do it by themselves (many wounded anarchists, few people eager to stay in the squat etc.). We cannot but admit that the anarchists made serious mistakes during the events; unfortunately, we reserved for ourselves only the barricades at the time that our active presence was also needed inside the squat, in order to prevent the leftists from acting as they did. Although we should learn from from our mistakes we should not get depressed since what will live on from these events will not be the treacherous game of the ultra-

**"What will live on from these events will not be the treacherous game of the ultra-left, but the triumph of the barricades."**

hibited by international laws against chemical warfare). At 4 o'clock a group of MEA, fascists and socialists managed to break into the university but were thrown out by the squatters. Until 10 o'clock in the morning the buildings were being stoned by the fascists and the MEA. The squatters resisted despite their heavy losses (about 170 people wounded).

The squat of the Polytechnic was ended because of treacherous manipulations by the leftists. While the clashes with the police forces were taking place in the streets the politicians of the marxist-leninist parties had reserved for themselves a cosy shelter inside the buildings, where they had formed a non-elected "committee of the squat"; this 'committee' was in constant negotiation with the government and tried to end the riots either by calling the rioters into the squat, or by

left but the triumph of the barricades; the thousands of youngsters who replied convincingly to the murder of Michalis, erecting barricades, burning banks and the big stores. Through their acts those rebels paid homage to the memory of Michalis (in the way he would have wanted) and expressed their opinion about the use-value of this prison-like society (to be destroyed in flames).

In many cities of Greece squats, riots and demos took place as well. On following days the 37 comrades that had been arrested from the Chemical School squat, were brought before the examining magistrate. They were charged with heavy accusations. 21 of them were set free after paying 50 000 drachmas each, with the obligation of going to the police station twice a month. 16 squatters are

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Note:

\*The Chemistry School was squatted before (9th-14th of May) after the prohibition of an anarchist demo against state repression. The squat was accompanied by riots and violent clashes with the numerous police forces. Despite the huge state terrorism the squat ent on and it's demands were accepted by the government. The squat was dissolved victoriously when a huge demonstration (5000 people) passed the Chemical School thus providing a safe refuge for the squatters.