

Never again slaves, never again with downcast eyes, never again alone; forever on the opposite riverbank, forever insurrectionists and profane, forever on the path of free humans; forever, do you hear me?

These are the words of anarchist Nikos Romanos, imprisoned in Athens, Greece for rebelling against the same system that suffocates and humiliates us all in this open prison called democracy. We could have begun this leaflet instead by saying that as we write Nikos is in hospital slipping into a coma, on hunger strike since November 10. That the prison authorities decided to completely ignore his 'eligibility by law' for educational day release in order to attend classes at an Athens university. That he is a conscious rebel, an anarchist, who learned the true meaning of power in 2008 at the age of fifteen when his friend Alexis Grigoropoulos died in his arms, shot in the heart by marauding police in a small street of Athens, leading to a month of mass insurrections all over Greece. That one of his comrades, Yannis Michailidis, has now joined him in hunger strike in solidarity and is also reaching a serious condition.

Yes, it is easier to sympathise with suffering than with ideas, as one who knew something about both once said. However, like the words on the historic banner of French workers during a wildcat strike, **we are not asking for anything**. The alternative? **To take back everything, take back our lives, now!** To put an end to all the misery of survival held together by prison and the law in this disneyland full of trashy commodities and smart gadgets produced by slaves on the other side of the planet to dupe and control us, 'the masses', while lining the pockets of the billionaires. And to put an end to the law we need to stop thinking and talking the same language, that which is used to denounce the "abuses" of power. It is not up to us to right the wrongs that surround us, that suffocate us and our desire for freedom. Remedies do not cure the disease, they merely prolong it, are intrinsic to the disease itself.

In the words of Nikos: As expected, my requests [for day release] have ended up in the unwanted pile, a fact that leads me to claim these prison furloughs using my body as a barricade. Laws, besides being tools of control and oppression are simultaneously a maintenance of equilibrium or what we summarily call social contracts, they reflect political and social associations and partially form certain positions for the conduct of social war. This is why I want the choice I am making to be as clear as possible: I am not defending their legitimacy, on the contrary I am addressing political blackmail in order to win some breaths of freedom from the crushing condition of incarceration.

In times when the system wants us on our knees begging for crumbs, accepting or giving charity – partial restitution, always accompanied by tyrannical moral judgement and control - we are unthankful, malcontented, undisciplined and rebellious. Anything less and we would be no more than mindless fools, pawns in the planetary battleground where the massacre of children, women and men and the rape of nature continue to feed the insatiable greed of the powerful thanks to the intervention of their eager servants with an arsenal that goes from 'smart bombs', to keys turning in locks, down to the ever faithful jackboot and truncheon (read taser).

But above all, thanks to the resignation and consensus of millions of people. In the absence of consensus, power would cease to exist.

Prison is a crime that serves to protect the (plundered) wealth of the rich (always fewer and richer) from the dispossessed (always more and poorer, excluded not only from material needs but being stripped also of their dignity, rapidly losing the language to articulate what they don't have).

Yet there are also countless proud creative individuals in every part of this world, each one acting for themselves, with simple means available to all, attacking what would destroy them. They act, they don't react, they live joy not fear, they fight for life not death, even if they die doing so. They refuse to become custodians of the wealth plundered by the unscrupulous, or to denounce or seek to integrate the excluded, the different, the other, but desire the latter's complicity in a horizontally spreading uprising. Self-organised, without leaders or led. That is what power is afraid of. That is why they are building more and more 'special' prisons, acquiring water canons, cutting edge equipment, poisonous gases and electric shock. That is why they are building extermination centres to isolate anarchists and conscious rebels. Because uncontrollable small actions combined with ideas of freedom are the 'butterfly's wing' that could upset the delicate balance of power in all its forms.

That night we kept our eyes fixed on the horizon and saw many falling stars drawing their own chaotic paths. And we counted them over and over, we made wishes, calculated the odds. We knew that our desire for a free life had to step over all that oppresses us, murders us, destroys us, so we dived into the void just like the shooting stars we were observing. Since then innumerable stars have fallen, perhaps it's time for our star to fall, who knows? If we had the answers ready, we wouldn't have become what we are, but selfish bastards who would teach people how to become rodents that eat each other as they do today. At least we still remain implacable and stubborn like the people of our kind. And those of us who closed their eyes to pain and travelled far continue to keep their eyes stuck on that night sky we also observed. And they watch us fall, beautiful and shining stars. Now it's our turn. Now, without hesitation, we fall. As of Monday, November 10th, 2014 I begin a hunger strike without taking a step back, with anarchy forever in my heart. Nikos Romanos

Responsible for each day of hunger strike, and whatever happens from this point forward, is the prison board, namely the prosecutor Nikolaos Pimenidis, the director Charalabia Koutsomichali as well as the social work assistant.
SOLIDARITY MEANS ATTACK

**some anarchists in solidarity
with freedom and rage in our hearts!
strength to Nikos and Yannis
FIRE TO THE PRISONS!**

