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Athens: Police Rampage in Anarchist Neighborhood; Salonica: Mass Protest March

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Date de mise en ligne : Tuesday 15 September 2009

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Athens, September 4, 2009

Early in the morning, policemen tried to stop and apprehend two people doing graffiti in the outskirts of Athens Exarcheia, the anarchist enclave in down-town Athens. When people ran to help the arrested graffiti boys, the police pulled guns against them, aggravating the crowd. The reaction to the police harassment then led to a full riot police attack on the liberated park of Navarinou, only meters above the site of A. Grigoropoulos assassination last December. Soon pitched battles broke out between anarchists and police forces. During the clashes 5 people were arrested and four are accused of molotov cocktail throwing even though not a single molotov fell that night. One of the arrested was seriously injured and has been hospitalised. In addition three policemen were reported as injured and two police cars were seriously damaged.

New clashes erupted the following night, when riot policemen stationed near the liberated park came under molotov cocktail fire. Soon the area was engulfed in flaming barricades that hampered the intrusion of motorised police in the area, with several cars torched. Riot police forces were reported to throw back stones to the crowds.

Salonica, September 5, 2009

On Saturday 5th, the inauguration of the 74th International Expo of the city, a site for government speeches and promises was met by thousands people taking to the streets in a protest march. According to the police, there were about ten thousand people.

The march was led by PEKOP, the Athens Cleaner's Union whose gen. secretary, K, Kouneva, was attacked with sulphoric acid last December by company thugs. Three separate meetings were organized: the GSEE (General Confederation of Greek Workers), the ADEYI (Civil Servants Federation) and the PAME [1] and various anarchist and leftist groups.

(Sources: [Libcom](#) and AFP.)

[1] Coordination center within the Greek trade union movement, close to the Communist Party