

In the first two weeks of September this year the Athens police, searching for members of Democratic Defence, arrested some forty people. They are thought to have been responsible for much of the resistance work that has become increasingly active during the last six months.

One of the main objects of the security police's activity has been to ascertain the extent of the judiciary's involvement in the resistance movement. The judiciary fell out with the junta in June this year when Michael Stassinopoulos, President of the Conseil d'Etat - the supreme administrative court in Greece - was dismissed for refusing to accept the Prime Minister's rejection of appeals from dismissed judges, and directed, instead, that the matter should be left open to the courts. Spyros Plascovites, a member of the Conseil d'Etat, is already serving a five year sentence for organising Democratic Defense activities.

This present series of arrests started on July 20th, when Professor Dionisios Karagiorgias, a member of Democratic Defense, was taken in by the police after accidentally blowing himself up whilst manufacturing explosives in his Athens home. There have been about one hundred arrests since then, but about forty of these have subsequently been released. There is no official channel through which one can find out exactly what has happened to these people, and their names are difficult to obtain. However, the following are known to us to have been amongst those arrested, or to have belonged to the same group, but managed to escape abroad. They include some of the most eminent and most respected men in Athens.

Lena ALEXIOU, 24, Journalist
George COSMAS, 39, Judge and member of the Conseil d'Etat
Manos DELOUCAS, 43, Lawyer and former member of the Papanastissiou club that acted as a kind of brains trust to the Centre Union government
Dimitris FILDISAKOS, 50, Journalist, Ex advisor to the Minister to the Prime Minister under George Papandrea
Thanasis GERASIS, 27, Economist
Nikos IKONOMIDIS, 44, Economist, Escaped to Canada
Dimostenis KONARIS, 29, Lawyer, former President of the Brussels Union of Greek Students
Nikos KONSTANTOPOULOS, 24, Before the coup: Member of Council of Students Law Faculty; Member and twice President of University of Athens Association (DESPA); Executive of Council of National Union of Greek Students (EFEE); Secretary General of Centre Union Youth Organisation
Constantinos KOTSAKIS, 37, Lawyer, still being hunted
Dimitris KOTSAKIS, 40, General Secretary of Drivers and Conductors Union (2,500 members) until the coup
George KOUVELAKIS, 33, Judge and member of the Conseil d'Etat, escaped
Antoine MICHALAKIS, 35, Judge (MICHALAKEAS)
Thanasis MICHALAKIS, 29, Judge (MICHALAKEAS)
Iannis PAPADOPOULOS, 45, Doctor and Surgeon
Victor PAPAZASIS, 33, Book publisher
Alexandros PROTOPAPAS, 31, Lawyer
Christor ROCOPHOLOS, 42, Lawyer (RICOPHILOS)
Iannis STARAKIS, 29, French. Greek father killed in action during the war. Journalist with France Soire until returning to Greece in August this year
Panayotis TSANGARAKIS, 43, Electrical Engineer and General Director of the Siemens Co.
Konstinas TSIMITIS, 33, Escaped to Germany, but his wife held for two months by the Security Police
Nikos VERNIKOS, 32, Economist, ~~economist~~ escaped

In addition there have been 52 arrests at Athens University and 24 at technical schools in Athens.

In SALONIKA there have been other arrests, mostly of students. These include: Vassilis MICHAS, Eleftheros MONTOPOULOS, Joha HOHOTZEAS, and Rosa EIKONOMOU. These took place on September 23/24th.

Issued by: Democratic Defence, European Section. TEL: 01-229 3839