

Strategy of Tension Launched In Greece To Save Eurozone

by Dean and Andrea Andromidas

Oct. 7—The European financial oligarchy has launched a political coup in Greece to maintain its financial dictatorship. This is a replay of the “strategy of tension,”¹ which plagued in particular Italy and Germany in the 1970s, when paramilitary and terrorist operations controlled by a transnational shadow government were carried out. That strategy led to the assassination of political and economic leaders who opposed the introduction of radical free-trade economic policies at the time.

Just as in those dark days, we have seen in the last weeks in Greece: a murder, an assassination attempt, and blatantly illegal political manipulation, all aimed at suppressing the legal opposition, and maintaining, by unconstitutional means, the government of Prime Minister Antonis Samaras (of the New Democracy party) and Deputy Prime Minister Evangelos Venizelos (of Pasok, the junior coalition partner). Both have been loyal implementers of Eurozone austerity policies.

The authors of this article, representatives of the LaRouche movement, arrived in Greece within hours of the launching of this operation on the night of Sept. 17, when a leftist singer was murdered by an agent provocateur. The unwinding of this scenario served as the backdrop to our meetings with Greek political leaders, scientists, economists, and political activists, who showed tremendous interest in the Glass-Steagall reform. With the terrible conditions in Greece and the European establishment’s brutal determination to continue its policy of driving down Greek living standards in order to bail out the banks, the drive for Glass-Steagall in the United States was seen as crucial to force the necessary change in Europe.

1. *EIR* has covered this extensively for many years. See, for example: http://www.larouche.com/other/2004/3117tension_italy.html and http://actualidad.rt.com/programas/desde_la_sombra/view/107248-sombra-logias-masonicas-fantasmagoria-viva-e46

‘Strategy of Tension’ Revisited

On Sept. 17, the hip-hop singer **Pavlos Fyssas** was murdered by **Giorgos Roupakias**, who claims to be a member of the neo-Nazi Golden Dawn party, and who Greek sources believe is an agent provocateur. The murder created outrage and demonstrations by anti-fascist groups throughout the country, according to the right-vs.-left “strategy of tension” script.

On Sept. 18, an assassination attempt was made on **Panos Kammenos**, the leader of the Independent Greeks Party and an outspoken opponent of the Troika of overseers from the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank and the European Commission, while he was attending one of the anti-fascist demonstrations. Although the rally was under heavy police protection, a goon squad attacked him, wounding him and several police officers. Kammenos was sent to the hospital with a broken nose and other injuries. The attack was widely viewed as an assassination attempt, or at least a clear warning to Kammenos and the opposition.

The Golden Dawn, which now has 18 seats in parliament, is an artificial creation of the transnational shadow government, which turned an insignificant neo-Nazi group into an electoral party, to draw protest votes away from the legitimate opposition, including the Independent Greeks and Syriza. It has been accused of involvement with organized crime, extortion, and money-laundering. Greek intelligence sources informed *EIR* that Golden Dawn founder **Nikos Michaloliakos** has been an agent of the shadow government since at least the 1970s, when he was arrested for planting bombs in theaters frequented by leftists. He was released after serving only a fraction of his sentence. After serving in the Greek Army’s special forces, Michaloliakos joined a variety of fascist organizations, before founding the Golden Dawn in 1987.

Following a massive media campaign exposing Golden Dawn's alleged connections to police and security services, the government arrested six members of the party's parliamentary caucus, including Michaloliakos, on Sept. 28, on charges of involvement in the formation of a "criminal gang."

In an interview with Euronews on Oct. 3, Alexis Tsipras, leader of the Syriza opposition party, denounced the ruling New Democracy's specious "theory of two extremes," which claims Syriza is "left extremist" and Golden Dawn is "right extremist," thus trying to tar Syriza with the same brush as Golden Dawn. The obvious implication is that Syriza "is next" for judicial targeting.

Prime Minister Samaras, speaking in Washington, D.C. at the Peterson Institute for International Economics on Oct. 2, said that after dismantling Golden Dawn, his government will deal with "the other extreme," which opposes Greek membership in the EU and NATO. His attack drew a sharp response from Syriza's parliamentary spokesman, who warned on Oct. 4 that "equating leftist ideas with the ideas of Golden Dawn, as Samaras did in the U.S., is a huge blow to democracy."

New Elections?

Golden Dawn leader Michaloliakos threatened in late September that all 18 parliamentarians from the party might resign, which could force new elections in areas where the party holds seats, the *New York Times* reported on Sept. 28.

Prime Minister Samaras, using the familiar rhetoric of coup plotters, told journalists, just before flying to the U.S. to meet President Barack Obama on Sept. 27, that he ruled out elections, saying his government's goal was "justice, stability, not elections," according to the daily *Kathimerini*. Deputy Prime Minister Venizelos said outright that Greece's Eurozone "partner-creditors" do not want Greece to go for new elections.

On Oct. 6, Tsipras, leader of the opposition Syriza party, said that new elections under these conditions should not be seen as a curse but a blessing. "We are not the ones who are in a hurry to govern, it's Greece that cannot put up any longer with those who are leading it to disaster," said Tsipras. He accused Prime Minister Samaras of being afraid of facing the Greek people and of using Golden Dawn's threats regarding a mass resignation of MPs as an excuse to avoid elections. "They want us to leave them alone so that they can sign the third bailout that they agreed with Greece's lenders," said Tsipras, according to *Kathimerini* on Oct. 7.

The Real Fascists Are in the Government and Brussels

While the Greek government is shouting that is acting against law breakers and a criminal organization, the Golden Dawn, the real fascists are in the government itself. The nine-page report of the prosecutor in charge of the case was leaked to the press, detailing the criminal activities that were the basis for the arrest of the party's MPs.

Makis Vouridis, a parliamentarian with the ruling New Democracy party, told the BBC that the crackdown on the Golden Dawn was not because of its ideology, but because it is a criminal organization. Of course Vouridis would not attack the Golden Dawn's "ideology," since he had been a card-carrying fascist in the 1980s, when he belonged to the fascist National Political Union, where his comrade in arms was Nikos Michaloliakos, the leader of the Golden Dawn. The National Political Union was founded by former military junta leader Gen. Georgios Papadopoulos from his prison cell in the 1980s. The media published a photo of Vouridis from the 1980s in which he is seen carrying an axe on his way to attack a leftist demonstration.

It is well known that factions in the New Democracy party include old monarchist reactionaries and supporters of the military junta that ruled Greece in the 1960s and '70s, a fact mentioned by *Kathimerini*.

Vouridis is not the most important fascist in the government. The government's fascism is defined by its economic policy of genocide against the Greek people, the architects of which are sitting in European Union headquarters in Brussels, and who will continue to let Greece bleed to save Europe's bankrupt banking system and the euro.

While the government was launching this "low-intensity operation," the Troika overseers themselves were in Athens, dictating new policies to the government, including more mass firings of public sector workers, cuts in pensions and benefits, in order to receive the next EU1 billion tranche of the bailout which will go to pay Greece's creditors. Moreover, everyone fears that a bail-in of Greece's bankrupt banking sector, on the Cyprus model, could be ordered at any moment, thus wiping out the last bit of personal wealth in the country, after which they could be expected to start collecting gold teeth.

To see the impact of the EU policy, one only has to walk the streets of Athens, where one is constantly confronted with a panhandler or someone selling roses or

playing an instrument to try to scrape together enough to live on. These are youth (youth unemployment is 64%!), or retirees whose pensions are not enough to pay for both medicine and food, or unemployed who can no longer feed and house their families. An extensive picture of the crisis will be the topic of the next article in this series.

No Elections at Any Cost

This political coup in Greece has been taken with the knowledge that the next phase of the Eurofascist economic policy will create a social explosion. The Greek newspaper *Parapolitika* in July published an article, “The Egg of the Serpent Has Hatched,” which reported a secret poll taken on orders of Prime Minister Samara, which revealed that if elections were held, the Syriza Party, which opposes the EU austerity policy,

and the Independent Greeks party, would defeat the ruling coalition parties by more than a 6-8% majority. The Golden Dawn would have just under 18%, only 2-3% below New Democracy, and the Pasok might fail to meet the threshold required to enter parliament. The article was picked up on a blog called the Slog, as cited in HellasFrappe.blogspot.com.

Both Syriza and the Independent Greeks are committed to repudiating the EU austerity policy, declaring the debt “odious” and unpayable, and have mooted possibly leaving the Eurozone. Such an outcome could create political “contagion,” with Portugal, Spain, Ireland, and even Italy jumping the euro-Titanic.

What the European financial oligarchy fears most is the passing of Glass-Steagall in the United States. *EIR* found that this is understood by growing numbers of Greek political activists.

Correction

EIR has been informed of mistaken information published in the interview with Dr. Katherine Alexander-Theodotou, president of the Anglo-Hellenic and Cypriot Law Association, conducted by Helga Zepp-LaRouche and published in *EIR*, Sept. 20, 2013.

The passage in question stated “Another lawyer by the name of Paschalides applied on behalf of 3,000 people at the Supreme Court of Nicosia for an action against the ‘haircut.’ The Supreme Court of Nicosia advised them to take the case to the District Court instead. . . .”

Mr Chris Paschalides, senior partner of Paschalides & Co London solicitors, has informed the editors that this information is incorrect, and that his firm has not presented any cases before the Cyprus Supreme Court on behalf of any one client.

The correct information is that Paschalides & Co solicitors already issued proceedings as far back as May 24, 2013 before the European Court of Justice on behalf of six clients.

The grounds asserted against the European Central Bank and the European Commission in part also challenge the Memorandum signed by Europe and Cyprus Government. The case is brought by Paschalides & Co in the European Court of Justice in

Luxembourg, the venue of which was correctly chosen by Mr. Paschalides, and not as stated by Ms. Theodotou in the interview with *EIR*.

Under European Union law, any challenges to the legality by way of references made in the Memorandum signed by Europe and the Cyprus Government must be filed within two months of its signing. Other challenges regarding damages and consequential loss as a result of the Memorandum can be filed within five years.

On behalf of six clients, Mr. Paschalides of the London office has, in conjunction with Antonis Paschalides & Co Advocates of Nicosia, Cyprus, filed claims under the former within the two months required. These cases are now proceeding through the European Court and are awaiting the Defense arguments of the European Central Bank and the European Commission.

Mr. Paschalides’ cases challenge the “Appropriation” under the Memorandum of 47.5% of deposits above the insured amount of EU100,000. This “Appropriation” was applied to depositors of the two Cypriot banks—Laiki Bank, which was sent into Administration; and the Bank of Cyprus, which absorbed the deposits and assets and certain liabilities of Laiki Bank.

According to Mr. Paschalides, if the challenges in his present cases are successful, it would open the gateway for challenges by all the other depositors.