

SLIPPERY SLOPE

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Ever since the return to parliamentary rule in 1974, Greece has been struggling against an ineradicable “low intensity” crisis of domestic terrorism and anarchist violence. The crisis ebbs and flows as governments come and go delivering empty rhetoric on how “violence won’t be tolerated irrespective of its source.” But, in reality, anarcho-terrorist violence is not only tolerated but, according to the politics of the day, is *given room* to wiggle, maneuver, and grow. More recently, however, lawlessness, street violence, and open defiance of law and order have grown into an epidemic that exceeds even the pliable Greek standards of what “public order” means. With the radical far-left SYRIZA government in the role of a yawning disinterested spectator, if not-so-camouflaged encourager, street anarchists, urban terrorists, common criminals borrowing the mantle of “people’s fighters,” and other opportunistic outlaws have escalated their attacks beyond any already established shameful standard. Indeed, the situation has deteriorated to a point where even the normally “understanding” “average” Greeks have become deeply fearful of falling victim to the daily acts of violence perpetrated by both “common” criminals and the various politically motivated thugs.

SYRIZA’s accession to power in 2015 triggered a geometrical increase of anarcho-terrorist violence. This is no surprise; SYRIZA’s core membership originates in street anarchism and communist radicalization. Indeed, the recent spectacular upswing of anarcho-terrorist attacks is directly attributed to SYRIZA’s reluctance to do what it takes in order to contain the threat. Greece’s deteriorating domestic security has not gone unnoticed: the 2018 Terrorism Situation And Trend Report (TESAT), issued by Europol, puts [Greece at the very top](#) of TESAT’s list of countries plagued by terrorist and anarchist strongholds.

The current burgeoning wave of violence can be parsed into four categories: (a)

Terrorism by criminal underground “people’s fighters” deploying “traditional means” like explosive devices and incendiaries; (b) Opportunistic anarchist street violence attacking property and aiming at generalized mayhem and chaos without specific objectives (e.g. stopping metro transit buses to torch them after chasing the passengers away); (c) Attacks against police stations and targeting of patrol officers; (d) Increasing violence caused by Greece becoming a holding pen for tens of thousands of overwhelmingly Moslem illegal immigrants, who cannot escape to the north because Greece’s border is shut tight with the concurrence and encouragement of the EU.

One glaring example of how outlaws are adjusting their tactics as an incapable, if not complicit, government plays deaf and dumb, is the Rouvikonas (Rubicon) anarchist “collectivity” (‘collectivity’ is a term recently inserted in the Greek vernacular to innocuously describe ‘gang’ or ‘terrorist cell’ according to politically correct guidelines). Rouvikonas is a novelty in the tapestry of Greek anarcho-terrorism as it eschews lethal methods (for the time being) and instead seeks to instill fear, embarrass, and deliver the indirect message that if the “establishment” does not change its ways worse violence is in store. Its hooded members roam with complete impunity. With the SYRIZA government sitting idly, Rouvikonas has become particularly bold: for instance, its storm squads have recently invaded the National University in Athens to establish a permanent “office” inside the university premises to promote anarchist activities among students. Official response to this blatant action was yet another lukewarm instruction to prosecutors to “investigate” – with the view of *doing nothing*. When “Rouvikonites” arrived uninvited at the steps of Parliament House, the parliament speaker ordered the police to leave the “protesters” unmolested so that they could return home. Rouvikonas leading members maintain Facebook profiles to regularly taunt the authorities and call upon the people to join the “collectivity.”

Anarcho-terrorist bands now control a sizable section of downtown Athens that includes the National Archaeological Museum, a point of attraction for thousands of foreign tourists, and the old buildings of the National Technical University. This de facto lawless fiefdom has become a no-go area for the police leading many editorialists to lament over Greek “democracy” being unable to enforce the law in its own capital city. The anarcho-terrorist “command posts” operate in the nearby Exarcheia

neighborhood where drugs, guns, fire bombs and other paraphernalia necessary to keep up the “struggle” are freely traded, exchanged, and circulated. In fact, Rouvikonas is a prominent presence in this ghetto having established itself in a local bar where members gather freely to discuss the next attack – and where the anarchist “collectivity” operates a “clinic” offering basic health services to the needy as part of its political outreach.

The Greek Police (ELAS), long a target of opportunity for leftist politicians, have been effectively neutered by SYRIZA tactics plus a long tradition of neglect undermining police training, morale, pay, and equipment. Fearful of punishment if they react as they should to anarcho-terrorist violence, ELAS have been reduced to a state of sullen inaction and even failure to defend themselves. Recent incidents include an attack on a patrol unit whose radio was broken thus preventing its crew to call for backup; a raid by an estimated 50 anarchist storm troops targeting a police precinct in the center of Athens resulting in the torching of several police vehicles and four lightly wounded officers; Rouvikonites confronting and detaining officers and demanding to see their IDs as a “preventative measure against state violence;” and “antiestablishment fighters” attacking and wounding three officers *inside a courtroom* – with a commanding officer ordering no arrests in order to appease the attackers, who left the scene unharmed. Citizens calling the Greek equivalent of 911 routinely confront the more than obvious reluctance of the police to respond, especially in neighborhoods plagued by drug addicts, violent homeless, and criminal illegal immigrants. Even a personal appearance at a police station to report a crime or lodge a complaint is now met with the undisguised inattention and boredom borne out of the widespread collapse of morale and police work.

But anarcho-terrorism is not the only brewing law-and-order crisis. What Greek authorities identify as “common crime,” i.e. criminal activity without political motive, is also surging. All indicators, from petty theft and opportunistic breaking-and-entering to armed robbery, assault and battery, underworld settling of accounts, etc. are all on the uptick—some more steeply than others. Indeed, between 2014 and 2017, “common crime” has increased between [10 and 79 percent](#) (source in Greek): for example, rape went up 79 pc; smuggling 44 pc; grand theft auto 36 pc; and robberies 12 pc.

The causes for this surge vary, from a SYRIZA-enacted law to achieve “prison

decompression” by allowing the early release of dangerous felons to the complete abandonment of police foot neighborhood patrols and the obvious police leadership reluctance to pursue their job—namely, law enforcement.

To add insult to injury, Greek laws effectively deny the right of self-defense to individual citizens. This is a key issue in battling crime and anarchist lawlessness which, however, remains out of bounds of the public debate, with both politicians and “concerned” citizens and “experts” *completely ignoring it*.

Greece effectively *penalizes self-defense and invariably rewards perpetrators with the full protections of the law denied to their victims*. Rarely, if ever, Greek courts find in favor of a home owner who confronts, and defends against, a home invader with force. And in case the robber or potential killer is neutralized by the victim, the latter is *guaranteed* a most severe sentence as reward to his *natural right to defend life and property*.

The rampant anti-self-defense fervor of the SYRIZA government was recently and glaringly demonstrated by an unprecedented [rant](#) (source in Greek) against an 88-year old home owner, who was confronted by two robbers and responded with his shotgun. “We are not Far West,” the right honorable minister of “Citizen’s Protection” wisely stated, “and there can be no citizen who owns a weapon and uses it simply because he has difficulties. This is where the rules apply and the responsible authorities are the ones who possess the right of legal violence.” To reinforce his message, the minister also grotesquely drew a parallel between the elderly victim and mass shooter Nicholas Cruz of [Parkland massacre fame](#). In the meantime, prosecutors had already allowed one of the two perpetrators to go free until trial (thus guaranteeing his disappearance).

Even more ludicrously, the ELAS official website offers advice to potential victims as follows: “The aim of burglars is never homicide... homicide occurs because of the victims’ reactions... and therefore pretend you are asleep if you detect an intrusion... if shooting occurs drop to the floor and take cover... an armed burglar is rarely alone, there is at least one more armed person as backup; thus attacking the first [burglar] will trigger the backup’s reaction..” [emphasis added]. This advice further emphasizes the need to surrender any valuables immediately “so that they may take what they want

and leave without violence” and emphasizes that “once they are gone do not pursue because they may shoot you.”

Any successor to the SYRIZA radical anarcho-leftists will face an upward struggle to combat the burgeoning crisis of domestic security. Crippling damage has already been inflicted upon the police and the state’s own duty to ensure society enjoys reasonable peace in its daily life. Politicians on all sides are either afraid to declare themselves in favor of law and order past the usual trivialities or, simply, disinterested in *anything* that requires knocking heads together and imposing **working** order on a corrupt, morose, and hydrocephalous public sector.

The perennial hypocritical excuse for the politicians’ attitude toward political violence specifically was, and is, that Greece has suffered too much through wars and fratricidal conflict to adopt determined anti-terrorist policies. The argument that a *responsible democracy should be decisive exactly because it wishes to stay responsible* does not hold much water with Greek politicians—always fearing the “political cost.” Public attitudes toward terrorism in particular does not help either. Although polls avoid the subject because of its political unpopularity, there is enough empirical evidence to argue Greek public opinion is either disinterested in the subject or, worse, quietly “understanding” of terrorist “political” motives.

Greece, ever since the collapse of the junta in 1974 and the meteoric rise of left radicalism, walks an treacherous road with no return. Political corruption, disintegration of domestic security, political party cockfights, courts clogged to the point of immobility, refusal of supposed “leaders” to step up to the plate and impose something other than complacency and eternal fear of the “political cost,” and the distinct refusal of Greek “opinion makers,” and others claiming the status of “intellectual,” to clearly signal the legal consequences of violence have already desiccated even mere thoughts of change. The radical anarchist SYRIZA interlude has fatally added to this witch’s brew by effectively disarming an already tottering penal system and broadcasting, as loudly as possible, the “natural right” of all to bomb, break, damage, steal, blackmail, hound, embezzle, and reject the basic social demand for peace and security with **complete impunity**. The slippery slope has no end and disaster is waiting patiently at the bottom.

