

TO VIMA

## Double murder

Yannis Marinou | Athens - Sunday 11 July 2010

As I was writing last Sunday about the murder of the police officer Giorgos Vasilakis, the adjutant of the Minister Mr. Chrisochoidis, who was the target, I thought about the three previous victims that were burnt alive in Marfin Bank by some parading protesters-murderers. I asked myself immediately: what are their names? I felt ashamed to realize I had forgotten them, as, I am afraid, the vast majority of Greek people also has. They are just “the three innocent victims” of the fire in Marfin, while their names have sunk into oblivion. At the same time, the search for those who should be held accountable for the incident was carried out with a suspicious devotion and pointed at numerous directions: Vgenopoulos who had made them work, the Bank branch that lacked adequate fire safety measures. Or even the victims themselves, who deserved their lot, because they had gone to work, as they had the right to do. So, in a very systematic way, we were finally made to see as responsible for the death of the “three innocent young employees” the ones who were actually murdered, in order to forget the fact that some twisted urban rebels, who claim to be fighting for people’s rights by burning, destroying, killing, had set them on fire. So, please let’s record in our memory, along with that of Giorgos Vasilakis, the names of Angeliki Papathanasopoulou, Paraskevi Zoulia and Epaminondas Tsakalis. Our three dead fellow human beings and the unnamed foetus were murdered in cold blood, not only by the arsonists, hooded or not, who always remain unknown, but also by many of the protesters outside the burning bank branch, who did not try to save them, some of them even grinning, thinking that the victims deserved it for not being on strike. These people exactly are the major problem: their indifference to the daily crimes committed by the extreme left and the anarchists. A more serious problem though is the fact that a great part of the Greek society has been relinquishing moral values, basic humanism, the respect and protection of democracy that presuppose, according to the Constitution, the activation of patriotism among Greek citizens. Patriotism? “What is that?” some people may ask ironically.

Inevitably, by failing to have them constantly reminded, the names of the victims of this terrorist attack were eliminated from collective memory; thus, they were murdered for a second time. First their life is taken and then we murder them once again by deleting their names from our memory. I actually wonder whether the state provides for or ensures the financial and psychological support of their family members even in retrospect. I hope that Mr. Vgenopoulos at least did mean that he would support their relatives, as this is his duty.

On the other hand, the misled Greek society has committed to memory, sometimes even with a sneaking admiration, the names of the murderers in [the terrorist group] "17 November", whose opinion on current affairs and television stars is actually asked for from time to time. The murderers are asked for advice and guidance. And what is more - and this is something you may not know - most of them are already out of prison!

The name of unfortunate Alexis Grigoropoulos, who was killed or murdered (the Court has not ruled yet), has been heard so much, I am afraid, because he was the gunshot victim of a police officer and not because he was a student or a minor. Otherwise, we should also remember the name of the little Afghan boy, Hamidullah Najafi, who was murdered in a terrorist' bomb incident and for the unjust loss of whom I didn't see any spontaneous protest from our selectively sensitive youth. Or for the three people who were burnt alive.

But this discussion is to be continued in Tuesday's issue.

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"The ones we will always remember."