

## ΤΑ ΕΓΚΛΗΜΑΤΑ ΣΤΟ ΔΙΣΤΟΜΟ

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**ΔΕΝ ΠΑΡΑΓΡΑΦΗΚΑΝ - ΔΕΝ ΑΠΟΖΗΜΙΩΘΗΚΑΝ - ΔΕΝ ΤΑ ΞΕΧΝΑΜΕ  
Η ΓΕΡΜΑΝΙΑ ΠΡΕΠΕΙ ΝΑ ΠΛΗΡΩΣΕΙ !**

**DISTOMO 10. JUNI 1944**

**NICHT VERJÄHRT - NICHT ENTSCHÄDIGT - NICHT VERGESSEN**

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**DEUTSCHLAND MUSS ZAHLEN !**

**Distomo - June 10th, 1944**

**Not barred, not compensated, not forgotten**

Germany is an awkward place. It is the economically and politically strongest nation in Europe. But the wealth is also based on the fact that after World War II, the payment obligations established at the Paris Reparations Conference of 1946 were never fulfilled. Although defeated, Germany retained the loot and the benefits of forced labor. Virtually nothing was paid for the thousandfold murders and the destruction of the invaded countries.

In early 1960s a very small part of the Greek victims of the German occupying forces received little financial benefits from Germany, based on an agreement between Greece and Germany from 1960. We cannot name it compensation in view of the total amount of 59 million Euro which was paid to Greece. The agreement had nothing to do with reparations payments. Yet the German government repeatedly declares that reparations and individual compensations are settled.

Today, after 75 years, there is still no compensation for the crimes committed in Distomo where 218 children, women and men were killed. In 1997 the district court Livadia

actually sentenced Germany to pay 28 millions Euro plus interests to the victims of the massacre in Distomo in 1944. By all means Berlin refuses the settlement of debts. The name Distomo is now exemplary for the criminal rage of the Germans against the civilian population during the occupation from 1941 to 1945 and it exemplifies the unwillingness of today's Germany to confess its responsibility by paying compensation. During their visits, German politicians summon German-Greek friendship, put down wreaths and talk about grief - but they do not want to pay!

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**Germany has to pay!**

As early as 2001, the plaintiffs attorney, lawyer Ioannis Stamoulis, tried to collect Germany's debts through foreclosure, through the auction of the Goethe-Institute in Athens which is owned by the German state. However, after threats by the German foreign minister, foreclosure by the Greek government was prohibited for "diplomatic reasons".

The 296 plaintiffs have therefore appointed the lawyer Dr. Joachim Lau to execute the Greek judgment in Italy. The lawyer has successfully seized an account of the German Railway Company, which is owned by the

German state – to finally give it to Distomo. Although in 2008 the Italian Supreme Court (Corte di Cassazione) and in 2014 the Italian Constitutional Court confirmed Germany's obligation to pay, Berlin tries to get rid of this "annoying legacy" of German fascism by collecting numerous legal remedies. On June 25, a complaint of Germany will be heard at the Italian Supreme Court (Corte di Cassazione) in Rome. The German Railway Company - so the German lawyers - was the wrong defendant. The lawyers stated the plaintiffs should turn directly to the German state - the procedure is shameful.

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### **NS crimes are not forgiven - antifascist resistance is not forgotten!**

We note with concern the strengthening of right-wing to fascist movements and parties. Nationalism, racism, antisemitism and homophobia are spreading in Europe. In Italy, Austria, Hungary and Poland right-wing parties are already in power. In Germany, the AFD has established a far-right party whose proximity to NS is becoming more obvious. In

Greece too, the Golden Dawn has established an openly fascist party in the parliaments and is pursuing terror on the street against migrants, refugees and the left.

One reason for the resurgence of fascism is that a criminal investigation of the crimes of NS- Germany has barely taken place. While prosecutors against fascists - such as the prosecutor of the Auschwitz trials Fritz Bauer - were seen as Nestbeschmutzer, old Nazis again took over in leading functions of the young Federal Republic of Germany: in judiciary, police, universities and schools. Former Nazis also retained important positions in Germany's leading industries. These staffs built the foundation of the new West Germany.

The enforcement of reparations payments and claims for compensation is not only a natural act of justice. It is part of the anti-fascist fight. It serves as a warning to today's warmongers that international law crimes and crimes against humanity cannot be dealt with complaisant words. Criminals - no matter how powerful they are today - are responsible for their deeds even after 75 years.

### **Immediate compensation of all victims of NS-Germany! Fight against the resurgent fascism in Europe!**

AK-Distomo June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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About us: For many years the AK-Distomo is committed to the compensation of the victims of the Nazi crimes in Greece. But we also support the demand for reparations and repayment of the compulsory loan that Nazi Germany had squeezed from the Greek state during the German occupation.

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