

What you Can Do

All sorts of support is needed. Here are a few ideas:

- If you have a blog or a website, put up a banner.
- Help write articles about this case. Print out and distribute this leaflet.
- If you speak a language other than English, help translate texts and spread the information locally.
- Write a letter of support or statement. Get organizational support.
- Send protest letters.
- If you can organize a picket or demonstration, do it!

The Six also need financial help to pay for lawyers. You can send a donation or help organize a benefit to collect funds.

ASI is collecting money, as are several other organizations. Below are addresses for sending money:

To Serbia:

Bank Information: **SWIFT: RZBSRSBG**

RAIFFEISEN BANKA Bulevar Zorana Djindjica 64 BEOGRAD, RS

Beneficiary customer: IBAN RS3526505000016043150

MILAN (MILUTIN) STOJANOVIĆ ADDRESS: SENJE

Through France:

Checks can be made out to the CNT AIT, with the words "Solidarité Belgrade" on the back. contact@cnt-ait.info

CNT AIT 108 rue Damrémont 75018 PARIS

Through Germany:

FAU Konto 961 522 01 Postbank Hamburg

BLZ: 200 100 20 Stichwort (Codeword): Belgrade 6

To send an online protest, visit www.asi.zsp.net.pl

More information about the case can be found on the Belgrade Solidarity website. Contact: support@belgradesolidarity.org



FREE THE BELGRADE 6!
belgradesolidarity.org

FREE THE BELGRADE SIX



Six people in Belgrade face ridiculous charges in what is essentially a political show trial.

The six, Sanja Dojkic, Ratibor Trivunac, Tadej Kurepa, Ivan Vulovic, Nikolaw Mitrovic and Ivan Savic, were taken into custody at the beginning of September and are facing outrageous charges. The case is the climax of an attack on confrontational social movements, which the state fears and represses in different manners.

In the past couple of years, tens of thousands of workers have taken to the streets or engaged in direct action, as a result of their dire situation. The state has banned workers' demonstration in the center of Belgrade and is actively looking for ways to calm the situation down. In the same way that the state looks for ways to crush the potential of the protests, it decided to deal a harsh blow to the Serbian section of the International Workers' Association, the Anarchosyndicalist Initiative (ASI). Four of the six were members of ASI and this included the then secretary of the IWA. It is a typical method of repression to hit a small but radical and dynamic part of the movement and get it out of the picture for years to come.

The Charges - A Grotesque Farce

The state claims that the six are "international terrorists", a charge with absolutely no legitimacy.

What are these "terrorists" actually accused of doing?

On the night of August 24-25, a symbolic "action" was made at the Greek Embassy in Belgrade. Graffiti was drawn on the building and two bottles were thrown at the building. One of the bottles cracked a window and the other was burning and caused some minor smoke damage / burn marks on the facade of the embassy.

The action did not injure or endanger anybody. Nobody was even in the building. the next day, the embassy was open for business as usual.

The action was claimed by an unknown and most probably non-existent group of anarchists. The next day, some newspapers published an interview with one of the arrested, Ratibor Trivunac of ASI. Trivunac stated that he does not know such a group. He, as well as other members of ASI have stated that, the group does not believe that these are the best methods for the anarchosyndicalist struggle but they neither support nor condemn the action.

Who is Todoris Iliopoulos?

The action at the Greek Embassy was meant as a protest against the Greek state and a show of solidarity with Todoris Iliopoulos. Iliopoulos was arrested on December 22nd 2008 during the unrest in Athens, which started after a 15 year Alexandros Grigoropoulos was shot and killed by a police officer in Excharhia. In a way, Iliopoulos is being made a scapegoat after the riots. Iliopoulos claims that the charges against him are based on the false statements of police officers. On July 10, 2009 he went on hunger strike. At the time of the action, his life was in serious danger.

An international call was made to start actions in solidarity with Iliopoulos on August 24.

Embassies are often the target of such acts, but usually graffiti is painted over and rarely are any people arrested. In this case, this small symbolic action would have also gone unnoticed if it weren't for the complete overreaction of the state.

Arrests and Legal Consequences

The four members of ASI were the first detained for questioning on September 3. This was in connected with suspicion of committing a criminal act which "caused danger". The next day, another person was arrested. The last person arrested was on vacation at the time and was only found a few days later. The state released photos of the arrested, announcing their guilt in advance, even before conducting an investigation.

The state used the fact that it was still gathering evidence and investigating the crime in order to keep the six in custody for a couple of months. Despite the fact that it was still conducting the investigation, despite the fact that there were no charges pressed and despite a public statement denying the act given by one person in the press, the six were already portrayed as being guilty.

In December, they were formally charged with "international terrorism". This crime is among the most serious possible in Serbia, along with genocide and war crimes. If convicted, the six face up to 15 years in prison.

Double Standards

Some famous Serbian intellectuals have written two public statements in support of the six. In these statements, they condemn the double standards of the state. They point out that there is a real problem with nationalist violence, yet the state turns a blind eye to this while cracking down on leftists. One example which is often cited by critics of this case was the fact that in 2008, a group of nationalists attacked the American Embassy in Belgrade and, as a result, one person even died. Yet there were no criminal charges brought against anybody.

International Reaction

Protests have been held around the world in support of the Belgrade Six. In the first two months after the arrest, more than 40 solidarity actions were organized, mostly pickets in front of the Serbian Embassy.

Thousands of protest letters have been sent in this case.

