

Supreme Court rejects Tony Mokbel's bid

ACCUSED murderer Tony Mokbel has lost an application to halt drug and murder charges against him on the basis his extradition to Australia denied him justice.

The Supreme Court rejected a call by Mokbel's lawyers to brand his handing over in May as an abuse of process.

Justice Stephen Kaye said there was no judicial process against Mokbel that could give rise to his application and that, in any event, the extradition was lawful.

"The plaintiff has been lawfully brought into this jurisdiction to face

charges of considerable gravity," he said.

"The seriousness of the offences for which the accused was extradited only serves to reinforce the conclusion . . . it could not be rationally maintained that the prosecution of the accused for the offences for which he was extradited constitutes an abuse of the process."

Mokbel's lawyers argued Australian authorities disregarded a hearing Mokbel was awaiting before the European Court of Human Rights and encouraged Greek authorities to hand him over.

Phillip Priest, QC, said Mokbel was denied the opportunity to pursue his case before the European court in any meaningful way.

He pointed to a letter from Australian authorities telling their Greek counterparts that the possibility Mokbel would make an application to the European court should not delay his surrender.

Mark Dean, SC, for the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions and Gavan Griffith, QC, representing the Victorian DPP, denied pressure was put on Greek authorities to extradite Mokbel, and said there was no allegation either Australian or Greek authorities had acted unlawfully.

Justice Kaye said the April 23 communication was nothing more than Australia notifying Greece of its legal stance. He said it would be very rare to



uphold an abuse of process claim where there was no unlawful conduct by authorities.

He said the fact any victory by Mokbel may have been made worthless by his surrender to Australia was far outweighed by the magnitude of the case being brought against him.

Mokbel fled Australia in 2006, but was extradited from Greece in May this year.

Article from the Herald Sun

Bomb threat delays Cyprus Airways flights

Cyprus Airways says a bomb threat has delayed the takeoff of two of its flights for several hours.

Airline spokesman Kyriakos Kyriakou says an unidentified caller warned of a bomb aboard an unspecified Cyprus Airways flight at 4:42 p.m. (1332 GMT) Sunday.

That prompted the airline to delay two flights that were about to depart from Larnaca airport from Nicosia: one to Dubai and Bahrain, and the other to London.

The spokesman says police checked both aircraft and their luggage for anything suspicious after a total of 400 passengers disembarked. Kyriakou says nothing suspicious was found and the takeoffs were rescheduled.

Stone Age Farmhouse Unearthed in Greece



The outlines of a rectangular farmhouse, with visible postholes, dating back 6,000 years in northern Greece.

ATHENS, Greece — A 6,000-year-old set of household gear, including crockery and two wood-fired ovens, has been found in the buried ruins of a prehistoric farmhouse in northern Greece, officials said Thursday.

A Culture Ministry statement said the discovery "provides invaluable, unique information" on late Neolithic domestic architecture and household organization.

"This is a very rare case where the remains have stayed undisturbed by farming or other external intervention for about 6,000 years," the ministry statement said. "The household goods are in excellent condition."

The rectangular building, which covers some 624 square feet, was discovered during work to lay water pipes earlier this year at the village of Sosandra near Aridaia, some 360 miles north of Athens.

Archaeologists who excavated the site between March and July found a large number of clay vessels for cooking and eating, stone tools, mills for grinding cereals and two ovens.

The house was separated into three rooms. It had walls made of branches and reeds covered with clay, supported by strong wooden posts. The building was destroyed by fire, which baked the clay, preserving impressions of the wooden building elements, as well as the post holes.

"They left behind the large stone tools which would have been difficult to move away," the ministry statement said.

Celebrating the 28th of October - OXI DAY

Every year Greece, Cyprus and Greek communities around the world commemorate the ultimatum that was given to the Prime Minister at the time (Ioannis Metaxas) to surrender Greece to the Italian Axis Forces. He responded with saying no (OXI) which was the catalyst for entering Greece into World War II.

The day is observed as a national holiday with parades and local remembrances held all over the country.

Here are some other facts about OXI Day and the Italian Greco War that followed.

4:00 AM October 28, 1940 - Mussolini sends ultimatum to Greece to surrender

5:40 AM October 28, 1940 - Italy invades northern Greece from its bases in Albania

300,000 - Number of Greek soldiers used to defend northern Greece

13,325 - Number of casualties due to the fighting in Epirus.

November 14, 1940 - Greece launches counter offensive towards the city of Koritsa in Albania

December 24, 1940 - Greek forces capture Greek minority towns of Agoi Saranda, Ximara, Argirkastroa and Pogradec.

March 9, 1941 - Italy tries to rid Greek forces out of southern Albania but fails.

April 6 - 12, 1941 - Italy, with the aid of Germany, causes Greek forces to retreat from Albania and defend Greece and Athens.

April 27, 1941 - Athens falls to the hands of the Axis powers. A large German Italian military parade is held in the city center.

June 1, 1941 - After the courageous and hard fought Battle of Crete, all of Greece falls into the hands of the Axis Powers.

1944 - Axis forces leave Greece. 300,000 Greeks had died due to the war. Civil war soon breaks out.

