

# Minor clashes as thousands mark Greek uprising

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Police clashed with demonstrators outside the U.S. Embassy in Athens on Monday during an annual march through central Athens to mark the anniversary of a student uprising.

About 100 youths broke away from a peaceful rally of about 10,000 people marking the 35th anniversary of the student uprising against the military dictatorship that ruled Greece from 1967-74. Some hurled Molotov cocktails and rocks at riot police outside the embassy, where they had marched to protest America's support for the junta at the time.

Heavy rainfall quickly extinguished the fire from the crude bombs and the youths dispersed after police responded with tear gas and gave chase.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or arrests.

Police had deployed 8,000 officers in Athens and an additional 1,500 to 2,000 in Greece's second-largest city, Thessaloniki. Major roads in both cities were closed.

The annual marches on November 17 are often marred by violence.

In Athens, thousands of demonstrators braved downpours and chanted anti-American and anti-government slogans while marching from the Athens Polytechnic, where students staged a pro-democracy uprising in 1973 crushed by the junta.

In Thessaloniki, about 8,000 demonstrators marched toward the U.S. Consulate. The U.S. Embassy had warned American citizens to avoid the demonstration areas and instructed U.S. diplomats in some areas of Athens to remain at home. Both the embassy in Athens and the consulate in Thessaloniki closed early.

The exact death toll from the events



Police secure the area outside the U.S. Embassy, during a heavy rain storm, in Athens, Greece, on Monday, Nov. 17, 2008 during an annual march by some 10,000 people to mark the 35th anniversary of a student uprising against the military dictatorship that ruled Greece from 1967-74. About 100 youths broke away from a peaceful rally and clashed with police, but there were no reports of injuries

in November 1973 has never been definitively established, but some say

dozens of people were killed in the days around the student uprising.

## Tony Mokbel planned to fool police, court told

TONY Mokbel was to pose as a deaf mute if stopped by police during his escape from Australia.

Court documents allege the accused murderer was to play the deaf mute role if police stopped the motor home used to spirit him to Western Australia, where a yacht was waiting to whisk him to Greece in November 2006.



Two men yesterday pleaded guilty to helping Mokbel flee while he was on bail.

But they deny charges of perverting and conspiring to pervert the course of justice.

George Elias, 41, let the fugitive hide out at his Bonnie Doon shack for seven months after he failed to appear at a Supreme Court hearing on March 20, 2006.

Chafic Issa, 44, helped prepare the escape yacht Edwena for Mokbel's journey.

Both accompanied Mokbel on the four-day drive across the continent.

Documents tendered to Melbourne Magistrates' Court reveal Mokbel and

partner Danielle McGuire -- the mother of his toddler daughter Renate -- called themselves Yanni and Diane after settling into their new home abroad.

Police allege Mokbel's escape involved a road trip across the Nullarbor with a group of six, including two women and a baby.

The party travelled in a convoy using a rented motor home and a 4WD, making three stops at Murray Bridge, Ceduna and Norseman.

One of the women, Yvonne Warfe, told police Mokbel was introduced to

her as "Yanni" and he gave her hundreds of dollars to buy food and magazines during the drive.

She said Mokbel was to pretend to be her deaf-mute husband if they were stopped by police. He paid her \$10,000 at the end, she said.

The other woman, Angela Nissirios, also known as Angela Verykios, used her credit card to buy \$50,000 in boat supplies, hire cars, and pay for accommodation while in Western Australia.

Police allege Mokbel was ferried to the Edwena by dinghy somewhere along the

coast of Western Australia.

Mokbel fled to Mr Elias's bush property in March 2006 as plans for his escape were put in place.

He allegedly convinced a Greek associate to buy the Edwena, a 17m motor yacht, from its unwitting Sydney owner for \$330,000.

Three Greek sailors were enlisted to skipper the vessel to Greece.

The yacht was registered in the names of Angela Verykios (Nissirios) and Levander Shipping, whose director George Angelakis was with Mokbel when Greek police swooped on the runaway in an Athens cafe in June last year.

Maritime maps for the route to Greece were bought and the yacht was sailed to Newcastle, then towed across the country on the back of a truck at a cost of almost \$38,000.

On October 19, Mokbel and the convoy left for Fremantle, and arrived four days later.

Customs were told the vessel was headed for the Seychelles.

Magistrate Amanda Chambers yesterday remanded Mr Elias and Mr Issa in custody to face the Supreme Court next month.

## U.S. almost ready to extend visa waiver status to Greece

Athens- With the U.S. election over and the Republican administration almost out of the White House, to keep Greece out of the visa waiver program doesn't serve any purpose for the Bush Administration. A wire service story on Friday quoting a top US official in Brussels as saying Washington wants to include more countries in the US visa waiver program before the upcoming Jan. 20 administration changeover generated increased scrutiny in Athens, given that Greece was prominently left out of the recent batch of inductees.

Speaking in the Greek capital, a US embassy spokesperson pointed to comments made this week by US envoy Daniel Speckhard, namely, that bilateral negotiations are continuing and that the process is proceeding.

The spokesperson said US diplomats again met with Greek foreign ministries officials this week on the specific matter -- EU member-state Greece's inclusion in the programme for visa-free travel to the United States.

According to the US side, three documents are still under discussion: a memorandum of understanding; an agreement on information-sharing regarding terrorists, and a similar text on information-sharing on convicted criminals.