

# Greek authorities detain over 100 illegal migrants

**ATHENS, Greece:** Greek authorities say they have arrested two truckers for allegedly trying to smuggle dozens of illegal immigrants on to Italy-bound ships.

The Merchant Marine Ministry says harbor police in the northwestern port of Igoumenitsa caught 54 migrants hiding in a

truck.

And in the western port of Patras, another 10 migrants were found in a truck about to board a ferry for Italy. Both incidents occurred over the weekend, and were made public. The truckers were arrested and their vehicles confiscated, while the migrants were

detained.

Meanwhile, on the eastern island of Samos, authorities arrested 67 illegal migrants who had crossed over from Turkey in three inflatable dinghies.

Thousands of illegal migrants enter Greece every year.

# YouTube, Facebook fan fallout over slain Greek teen

*A powerful mix of internet social networking sites and teenage fury over the police shooting of a 15-year-old Greek boy has sparked brush-fire protests in nations as far away as Italy, Turkey and Denmark.*

As Greece endured its sixth day of violent civil unrest, unleashed by the death of Alexandros Grigopoulos in central Athens on Saturday night, websites including YouTube and Facebook acted as a focal point for the outpouring of rage.

For the first time, Greek youth fury transcended national boundaries and, fuelled by passionate video tributes and internet discussion, young people in several major European cities turned on several Greek embassies.

There was action in Spain, Denmark, Italy and Turkey, as well as against a Russian TV crew in Athens.

The evocative tributes to the slain boy posted on YouTube include skerricks of video shot in the district - and on the night - he was killed. Two gunshots can be clearly heard.

The Alex RIP tributes have been viewed by thousands of people while a Facebook tribute group set up in Greece, which urges further demonstrations, has gathered more than 17,400 members in just a few days.

In Athens on Thursday, mobs hammered scores of police stations with rocks and bottles, with police forced to respond again with tear gas. Four people are reported to have been arrested with one man hospitalised with injuries related to the attacks.

And while the Greek parliament and the beleaguered centre-right government attempted to quell high passions by holding a minute's silence for the dead boy, a Russian TV crew filming in the student suburb where he was killed was attacked by a mob of 50 youths. One of the journalists was injured in the melee.

But according to seasoned observers of Greek politics, what originally began as young, impassioned teenagers protesting the police shooting has now widened,



with some police and local authorities arguing that the demonstrations have been taken over by young anarchists in search of nothing more than trouble.

So far, hundreds of banks, shops and businesses have been damaged as gangs of masked youths smashed windows with metal bars, stealing from stores and setting up flame-guarded barricades in the streets.

Outside Greece yesterday, in Denmark, 32 people were arrested in Copenhagen after protests turned violent while in Madrid and Barcelona, several police officers were injured and another 11 people were arrested following clashes.

In Turkey, 12 protesters were reported to have painted the Greek consulate in the same colour red used on the Turkish flag, while in Moscow and Rome, there were reports that Greek embassies have been sprayed with petrol bombs.

In Madrid, 11 people were arrested by Spanish riot police after violent clashes and around 800 more took to the streets in demonstrations in Barcelona's Plaza de la Universidad in the centre of the city.

Reports said that two people were arrested as demonstrators set fire to bins and smashed nearby buildings. Like their Greek counterparts, they wore scarves to cover their faces, with some carrying banners reading 'In solidarity with the Greeks'

In Rome too, demonstrators carried pictures of Alexandros and chanted anti-

police slogans, while a Bulgarian protest occurred peacefully and without incident.

In Berlin, an anarchist flag was raised above the embassy.

Greece's conservative government has come under intense criticism for its handling of the crisis, despite official argument that heavy-handed police tactics had been avoided in a bid to prevent further bloodshed.

Costas Karamanlis, the Greek Prime Minister whose government has a one-seat majority in parliament, has ignored growing calls for an early election but a new opinion poll published in Greece has revealed that 68 per cent of Greeks disapprove of its handling of the crisis. Public anger about the economy, rising unemployment and a string of financial and political scandal has added to discontent.

Greece's influential Orthodox Church has joined authorities in appealing for calm, as more student protests are believed to be planned for tomorrow.

"This tragedy cannot be resolved by burning and destroying the property of people who themselves have problems," said Church leader Archbishop Ieronymos.

In London, the protest began at 10am and had finished by 3pm and the five arrested remain in custody.

*Article from The Sydney Morning Herald*

## Bail eased for accused in 'curse' sex assault case

*A man charged with more than 70 sex offences has had his bail conditions eased at Burwood Local Court.*

38-year-old Arthur Psychogios is now allowed to report in to police at certain times, without having to be accompanied by another person. Mr Psychogios and his 37-year-old wife Frances, and 61-year-old Tony Golossian are together facing more than 200 sexual assault charges. They are accused of preying on women in Sydney's Greek Orthodox and Coptic communities by extorting money in return for removing curses. Both men were arrested in September this year.

## Greek president hospitalized with heart condition

*Athens - Greek President Karolos Papoulias was hospitalized on Monday following emergency surgery, doctors said.*

The Greek president, 79, was fitted with a pacemaker in emergency surgery performed at a state hospital in Athens. Doctors decided to conduct surgery after the president came in for a scheduled check-up, where they discovered an asymptomatic heart irregularity and decided to implant a pacemaker.

Hospital officials said the president was in excellent condition following the operation.