



Greeks drag migrant workers through street

TWO Greek sheep herders have been arrested for attaching two Bangladeshi migrant workers to their motorcycles and dragging them through the street for allegedly stealing their animals.

The herders, who did not tell police about their stolen sheep, went to a migrant workers' camp at Manolada in southern Greece about 50km from Patras on Saturday and beat up one Bangladeshi until he denounced two of his fellow countrymen.

They found the Bangladeshi men, aged 27 and 40, whom they assaulted, attached to their motorcycles and dragged about 400 metres.

Local residents called police who arrested the two Greeks for their violent attack, but also detained the Bangladeshis as suspects in the sheep theft.

Last year, Manolada on the Peloponnese peninsula was the site of strikes by migrants who come to the region as seasonal labourers, mainly picking strawberries, in protest against their harsh work conditions.

The migrant workers also go elsewhere in Greece to harvest potatoes, olives and watermelons.

Most of the migrants live in squalor in makeshift huts made from the same plastic as the greenhouses - and are forced to pay a monthly rent of up to €100 (\$174) to their employers.

Kogarah: from municipality to thriving city

PREVIOUS and current mayors and general managers of Kogarah Council gathered to celebrate the municipality officially gaining city status earlier this month. Mayor Nickolas Varvaris said the proclamation of Kogarah as a city made history in more ways than one.

"We were the first NSW local government area ever to have our residents democratically endorse the change as part of the local government elections," he said.

"What makes this corner of the world that we now call the City of Kogarah so great?

"Residents have been blessed with a fantastic parcel of land, with beautiful foreshores, delightful vistas and parks and open spaces.

"Back in 1885 when our council was first formed, Kogarah only had 1500 residents, not many parks, no hospitals, a handful of shops and not terribly much else.

"What started out as nine older Anglo-Saxon men has now become 12 men and women of varying ages, nationalities, life experiences and political persuasions.

"And while we might look different from our forefa-



Past and present: Previous and current mayors and general managers gathered to celebrate Kogarah's new city status (left to right) Ross Green (former mayor) Gary Sawyer and Brian Bell (former general managers), Paul Woods (general manager), Graeme Staas and Michael Kitmiridis (former mayors), Nickolas Varvaris (mayor), Arthur Hardiman and Tom Lind (former mayors).

thers, the reality is that we're very much the same." He said councillors, staff and residents were continuing the tradition of working for and living a better lifestyle.

Article from The Leader

You must understand what the Parthenon Marbles mean to us!

Dear Sir/Madam,

"You must understand what the Parthenon Marbles mean to us. They are our pride. They are our sacrifices. They are our noblest symbol of excel-

lence. They are a tribute to the democratic philosophy. They are our aspirations and our name. They are the essence of Greekness". Melina Mercouri, speech in Oxford Union, 1986.

The ancient sculptures of



Parthenon, which today are exposed in London's British Museum, consist an important part of the Athens Parthenon; a major and symbolic landmark of the Western civilization. Moreover, some of the sculptures themselves are essential not only for the external appearance, but also for the static sufficiency of the ancient building, according to recent restoration works on the Acropolis.

Since the decade of 1980s, when the then Greek Minister of Culture Melina Mercouri had demonstrated the demand for the repatriation of the marbles, the various administrations of the British Museum continue to deny any proposal for dialogue on this matter. Nevertheless, there are specific arguments which empower the support for the restoration of the Parthenon Marbles back in Greece:

first, because in Greece the sculptures will be exposed near the Parthenon facing the Acropolis and therefore giving to the visitor the opportunity to have a more concrete idea of the whole ancient monument,

second, because the Parthenon Marbles consist an integral part of the monument-landmark of the Greek classical civilization. The repatriation of the

marbles would support the idea of Parthenon's complete design and its architecture will be restored,

third, because the New Acropolis Museum is now complete - and therefore the Parthenon Marbles could be exposed and presented there, with equal and even bigger safety than in the British Museum.

During the ages of Lord Elgin, Britain was a world imperial power and Greece just a part of the then Ottoman Empire. Today, 200 years later, the two countries are two developed democratic European Union members, having cooperation in most fields. There has been a big change since then. In the name of Justice and Morality, in the name of appreciation for the world cultural heritage, we call the British government and the administration of the British Museum to work towards the restoration of the Parthenon Marbles. Such an action would, indeed, honour the name and history of the United Kingdom

Sincerely,

George Krogias - krogias.blogspot.com

Everyone who supports the effort for the repatriation of the Parthenon Marbles could post the above text in his/her own blog.

Thank you, for your support.

Baby joy for Greek holiday tragedy mum

THE ex-wife of balcony plunge dad John Hogan has revealed she has fallen pregnant again.

Natasha Visser was left devastated after 36-year-old Hogan leapt from the balcony of their hotel room in Crete clutching their son Liam and daughter Mia in August 2006.

While six-year-old Liam died, the couple's daughter Mia survived the 50ft fall.

But the nurse, who used to work at Newport's Royal Gwent Hospital, has revealed how she is now 24 weeks pregnant.

She says she is still coming to terms with what happened on the Greek island that summer.

In an interview, the 35-year-old, who now lives in Australia, said: "People are always asking me when they see my pregnancy bump and I'm out with Mia: 'Is this

your second?'

"I say yes, because it's too painful to explain.

"Mia is looking forward to having a sibling, but she misses Liam and so do I.

"I would give anything to have him back.

"I'd swap this new life in Australia for a two-up, two-down back in Bristol tomorrow if I could just have him home with me. "Having lost one child, I'm terrified of losing another.

"I've become very superstitious.

"I don't know if I'm having a girl or a boy and I don't mind, as long as it's healthy."

In January 2008, a court in Crete cleared Hogan of murder but recommended he be detained until his mental state was such that he could be released.

He returned to Britain on Monday after being held in Greece for less than three years.

