



Greek caught up in Gatto bashing allegations

Greek Australian building industry figure Jim Moschoyiannis (foto) is alleged to have been one of two people bashed by Mick Gatto over a building industry turf war, according to a front page report in The Sunday Age on January 10.

The report has been denied by all parties alleged to have been involved in the incident. However the Sunday Age insists on veracity of the information citing unnamed sources.

The Sunday Age writes that Mr Moschoyiannis who is the director of building companu LU Simon along with his close friend and fellow industry heavy weight, Frank Cicerale had a meeting with Mr Gatto and his business partner Matt Tomas at a Lygon St restaurant on December 14 to discuss the use of cranes on building sites.

During that meeting the two developers are alleged to have been assaulted by Mr Gatto and given an ultimatum by Mr Gatto to come up with \$1 million each as compensation for not using his cranes.

The incident is said to have been motivated by a battle for control of crane contracts on Melbourne building sites.

However, all four who were contacted by the newspaper refuted the information.

Mr Moschoyiannis and a Gatto associate who was said to be present, Mr Tomas, denied that a meeting ever took place altogether.

However Mr Cicerale confirmed the pre-Christmas meeting but dismissed the information that he was beaten.

The newspaper claimed that both men did not resist their attacker with Mr Cicerale beaten so severely that he had to be taken to hospita

(source: neos kosmos)

Greek trial over killed Australian begins

Four Greek nightclub staff accused of fatally beating a young Australian tourist a year ago went on trial Wednesday on the Aegean island of Lesbos, a judicial source said.

A 25-year-old club bouncer has been charged with voluntary homicide and three other staff have been charged as accessories in the death of 20-year-old Doujon Zammit, who was badly beaten outside the Tropicana club on the popular holiday island of Mykonos last July.

"We are putting our faith and trust in the Greek justice system, and its lovely people who have supported us so far, to send out the right message that this is not Greek behaviour that these men have shown," Zammit's father Oliver told reporters on Lesbos.

"And this behaviour is not going to



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be tolerated and accepted and they will be punished for what they did," he said.

The family will be seeking a conviction for all four defendants, their lawyer Alexis Kougias told reporters.

A fifth suspect, who was underage at the time, will be tried by a minors' court. Zammit was one of six Aus-

traliens caught up in the incident.

They were suspected by bouncers of having stolen bags and wallets in the nightclub, an accusation later dismissed by police.

After the attack, Zammit was taken to hospital in critical condition but later died after his life support was turned off with his father's approval.

The case shocked Greece, both over the brutality of the attack and over the subsequent stance of Oliver Zammit who praised Greeks as "good people".

Hundreds of Mykonos residents later gathered at the island's harbour to denounce the killing.

Oliver Zammit donated his son's heart, kidneys, liver and lungs to four people, including a 30-year-old Greek Australian.

The Red Cross hospital where Zammit died later decided to give his name to one of its intensive care units.

Article from NineMSN

Tim Matiakis: Greek ballet soloist in Royal Danish Ballet



At just 26, soloist Tim Matiakis has already danced in three major European companies – the Royal Swedish Ballet, the Royal Danish Ballet and now the Royal Danish Ballet. Since arriving in Copenhagen in the summer of 2004, he has danced a wide variety of ballets and is currently having roles created on him in two new productions. Recently, I had the chance to talk with

Matiakis about his experiences in Stockholm, London and Copenhagen. Matiakis appears in a repeat performance on January 15th in a new production of a unique ballet gala at the "Megaron" Athens Concert Hall cooperation with the Greek National Opera.

The principal roles will be danced by guest dancers from some of the major theatres in Europe: Eleonora Abbagnato, principal dancer with the Paris Opera Ballet; Shoko Nakamura and Wieslaw Dudek, principal dancers with the Berlin Ballet; Anastasia and Denis Matvienko, principal dancers with the St. Petersburg Mariinski Theatre Ballet; Tim Matiakis, soloist

with the Royal Danish Ballet; and Benjamin Peck, principal dancer from the Paris Opera Ballet. Also taking part in this star-studded performance will be the principal dancers, soloists and dancers from the corps de ballet of the Greek National Opera. Music will be played by the National Opera Orchestra under the direction of Ilias Voudouris.

Born in 1979, to a Swedish mother and a Greek father, soloist Tim Matiakis has already danced in major European companies (the Royal Swedish Ballet, the UK Royal Ballet, and now the Royal Danish Ballet).

In an interview with a Greek daily, Matiakis talks about his 'first steps' in classical ballet and shares his thoughts about the art's future. "I have always sought to bring a balance between classical and modern ballet," he confesses. Matiakis believes that classical dance must open its eyes to what is happening outside its system and even use mass media to revitalize its image, without forsaking its core essence.

(source: voice of greece)



Taliban refuse to free Greek social worker



CHITRAL: A delegation of elders from Chitral has returned home after visiting the Nuristan province of Afghanistan once again in a bid to persuade the Taliban to free the kidnapped Greek social worker, Athanasios Lerounis.

"Though we returned empty-handed for the fourth time, we are happy that Athanasios Lerounis, now sporting a beard, is alive and in good health," Wazirzada, a member of the delegation and a friend of the Greek social worker, told The News. He said the delegation, led by former Nazim of Ayun Union Council, Abdul Majeed Qureshi, returned after spending eight days, including three days with the Greek social worker. The elder said they held a Jirga with Dost Muhammad, the Taliban governor of Nuristan, and commander Haji Usman.

Another round of talks was held in Kamdesh, the Taliban headquarters in Nuristan, with Afghan Taliban leaders in Nuristan, including Musa, Noor Ahmad, Abdur Rahman, Qari Shahabuddin, Ghafoor Ahmad and Maulvi Samiullah, he said. "Though the Taliban are looking after Athanasios well, they renewed their demand for releasing the Greek citizen," he said. He said the militants wanted the release of Ustad Yasir and Rahmatuddin Nuristani.

Article from The International News