



Greek court postpones trial on teen killing

AMFISSA, Greece — Ringed by riot police and an anarchist demonstration, a court in central Greece on Wednesday postponed the trial of a policeman accused of shooting a teenager a year ago, sparking major violence.

The court in the small town of Amfissa, where the trial was relocated for security purposes, moved the trial to Friday as the main lawyer of accused officer Epaminondas Korkoneas was occupied with another trial.

Korkoneas, 38, is accused of fatally shooting 15-year-old Alexis Grigoropoulos during a December 2008 night patrol in the bohemian Athens district of Exarchia. The incident sparked several days of riots.

Around 200 anarchists marched through the centre of Amfissa on Wednesday, chanting anti-police slogans and demanding that the process be moved to Athens.

Korkoneas is on trial for voluntary homicide, while his partner Vassilis Saraliotis, 32, is accused of complicity.

One far-left extremist group has threatened to kill Korkoneas, prompting authorities to send more than 400 police to Amfissa, which is 200 kilometres (125 miles) northwest of Athens.

Greece's Supreme Court has rejected bids by the teenager's family to move it back to the capital. The court was told Wednesday that Grigoropoulos' mother Gina Tsalikian was also unable to attend the trial opening as her own mother is in grave condition in an Athens hospital.

Tsalikian, who has also appealed to Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou, argues that holding the trial far from Athens hampers the presence of key witnesses.

"We do not understand why this trial has to be held in Amfissa," one of the Grigoropoulos family lawyers, Alexandros Katsantonis, told reporters outside the courthouse.

Several banks and shops in the town of 12,000 inhabitants boarded their storefronts for fear of violence.

Korkoneas has said that in the December incident he fired in the air to disperse youths, including Grigoropoulos, who threw stones at his squad car.

An autopsy report indicated that the boy was hit by a bullet that ricocheted onto him but lawyers for the boy's family point to the testimony of witnesses who say the policeman took aim and fired.

Zammit murder trial jury still undecided

A GREEK jury has retired for the night without reaching a verdict in the case of a local bouncer accused of murdering an Australian tourist in a street attack on the holiday island of Mykonos.

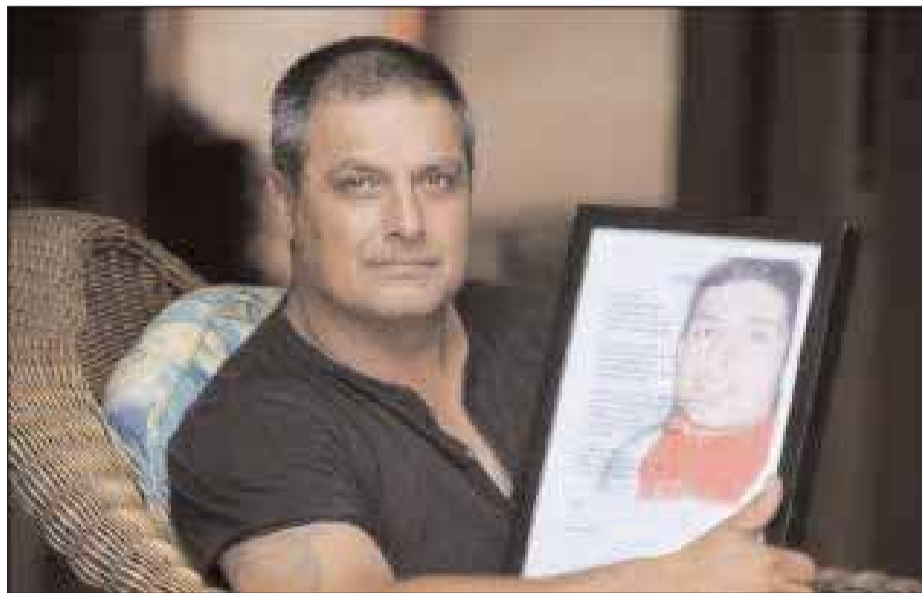
Marios Antonopoulos, 25, is charged with voluntary homicide over the July 2008 death of Doujon Zammit following an argument outside a nightclub.

Zammit died of head injuries received in the attack after being transferred from Mykonos to a hospital in Athens.

Lawyers for Mr Antonopoulos spent several hours overnight summing up their case before a panel of jurors and judges, who retired to consider their verdict in the middle of the afternoon, but were unable to reach a decision by 9.30pm local time (6.30am AEDT Thursday).

The lead judge in the case adjourned the hearing until midday on Thursday (9pm AEDT).

Zammit's grieving mother Rosemarie, his father Oliver and two brothers were in court for the verdict after flying to Greece from their home in



Oliver Zammit with a picture of his son Doujon, who was fatally beaten in Greece in 2008.

Sydney.

During the trial, which began last week in the town of Mytilene on the nearby island of Lesbos, the panel of jurors and judges heard how Doujon Zammit died from a head injury caused by a blow from a blunt metal object.

The court heard how Zammit and two other Australian men had left the Tropicana nightclub about 11pm on July 28, 2008, on a quad bike.

They were chased by Mr

Antonopolous and three other men amid a dispute over a missing handbag. The Australians were confronted by the men about 1.5km from the club, pushed up against a wall and searched before Zammit was repeatedly beaten and hit with the batons two of the men had been armed with.

He was rushed to a hospital in Athens but later died after his life support machine was turned off.

Article from News.com.au

BOGUS TAX REFUND EMAILS PROMPT CONSUMER WARNINGS

Fair Trading Minister, Virginia Judge, warned New South Wales consumers to be wary of a scam email offering bonus tax refunds. Ms Judge said the bogus email, which uses the Australian Tax Office logo, promises consumers they will receive 19 per cent off their 2009 taxes.

"If you have received this email, delete it immediately," she said.

"This is a phishing scam that is designed to con-

sumers into divulging their personal details so they can rip you off.

"If you have received this email and provided your tax file number you should contact the Australian Tax Office by emailing reportemailfraud@ato.gov.au .

"If you have submitted credit card or account details you should contact your bank immediately to prevent scammers from accessing your money."

Ms Judge said the best protection against this type of fraud is vigilance.

"Legitimate banks and financial institutions will not email you asking for personal information, so if you receive one you can bet you're the target of scammers," she said.

"If you receive a suspicious phone call, tell them you will call back on a number listed in the phonebook.

"If you believe you have been targeted by scammers

you should contact the bank or financial institution and check your bank statements."

Ms Judge said consumers should also do their homework.

"If you are contacted by a financial organisation that you are associated with, always seek independent advice," she said. "You should contact the organisation directly by telephone to confirm the email's authenticity or go directly to the official website and look for information there. "Don't click on web links in emails because they can take you to elaborate hoax sites that might look legitimate."

Ms Judge encouraged consumers to use the Australian Competition and Consumers Commission's 'SCAMwatch' website (www.scamwatch.gov.au) for the latest information on scams, or contact NSW Fair Trading by telephone on 13 32 20.

Consumers should also check the Australian Tax Office website — www.ato.gov.au.

VEHICLE TRACKING AN AUSTRALIAN FIRST AT NSW JUVENILE JUSTICE

The NSW Government has launched a national first vehicle tracking system, capable of providing real-time information on the location and status of juvenile justice transports. Minister for Juvenile Justice, Graham West, said the new state-of-the-art system allows staff at the NSW Juvenile Justice Court Logistics Operations Centre, to pinpoint the exact locations of the vehicles which transport juvenile offenders, and coordinate responses to any incidents that may occur. "This new system will improve the ability of Juvenile Justice to respond to incidents and liaise with police and emergency services, providing greater security for detainees, staff and the community," Mr West said. "Inside the vehicle, staff will be equipped with a touch screen that allows two way communications, a duress button for use in an emergency, and GPS navigation.

"If vehicles are intercepted by another party or are involved in an accident, the Court Logistics Operations Centre can communicate directly with staff in the vehicles and provide exact locations to police and ambulance services." Minister West said the new tracking system has been installed in more than 30 Juvenile Justice vehicles across NSW.