



Judge wants to merge probes into Kostas Karamanlis 'assassination plot' and wiretaps

A magistrate who since last year has been investigating allegations that there was a plot to assassinate former Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis on Tuesday asked for his probe to be merged with one into an extensive network of wiretaps that was uncovered in 2005.

At the time, Karamanlis and a number of top government officials were revealed to have had their phones tapped by

unidentified eavesdroppers.

Magistrate Dimitris Foukas believes he has found evidence, including information gathered during questioning, indicating that the wiretaps continued after 2005 and were linked to an alleged plot in 2008 to kill Karamanlis.

The request for the two probes to be merged will be examined by the Council of Appeals Court Judges in Athens.

Corruption soared in police, civil service in 2012

Cases of corruption, embezzlement and theft spiked in 2012 in the police and the Greek civil service, a report published on Tuesday by the Greek Police's special task force against corruption has found.

The report sees a remarkable rise in cases pertaining to police officers and civil servants, especially in local and regional authorities, as well as in healthcare services.

Specifically, the data collected by the anti-corruption force show that in 2012 it investigated a total of 1,060 cases, or 263 more than it did in 2011, marking a 33 percent increase. Of these, 710 (or 66.9 percent) concerned police officers, 260 concerned employees of the broader public sector and 67 were cases brought against individuals.

As far as the public sector is concerned, complaints of corruption by citizens spiked a shocking 94.6 percent in 2012 compared to the previous year, with the majority of the 535 complaints processed concerning employees at local authorities (152) and regional authorities (63).

The report also notes that 20 police officers were arrested in 2012 on charges ranging from physical abuse of a prisoner to theft and embezzlement.

Meanwhile, of the country's total of 53,980 police officers and border guards in 2012, 876 failed to submit a declaration of provenance of wealth («pothen esches»), with criminal charges brought against 116 officers who failed to adequately explain the source of their assets.



Dimitris Tsolakkis and his koumbaroi, living it up @ Stanmore's Cyprus Club

Notorious criminal Seremetis found dead in Athens

Notorious criminal Paraskevas Seremetis was buried in Athens Tuesday a few hours after being found dead in an apartment on Patisision Street. Seremetis, 49, had consumed a large amount of alcohol and sleeping pills, authorities said.

He first became known to police in the 1990s and played a key role in a revolt by prisoners at Korydallos Prison in 1995.

Seremetis was also known to have worked with robbers Vassilis Palaioconstas and Costas Polydorou.

Student beaten up by waiter for not paying in protest at not receiving receipt

A 20-year-old student in Komotini in northern Greece was transferred to an Athens hospital on Tuesday to undergo surgery for a broken jaw after being assaulted by a nightclub waiter on the weekend because he and his friends decided to leave the establishment without paying for their drinks because they had not been issued a receipt.

According to a recent law meant to clamp down on VAT dodgers, customers can refuse to pay for goods and services if they are not issued a proper receipt for the full value of their purchases.

The 20-year-old student told local media that they had repeatedly asked their waiter at a popular nightclub for a receipt after ordering two rounds of drinks and that they waited for a reasonable amount of time before deciding to walk out of the establishment.

Yiannis Gerekos, a third-year sport science student from Corfu, told local media that he was attacked from behind by the waiter as he and his friends walked across the main square of Komotini several minutes after leaving the nightclub. He said that he heard someone yell at him and was punched in the face as he turned around.

Witnesses of the assault said that the waiter also kicked him several times after he collapsed on the ground.

Gerekos's mother said that her family will be suing the waiter and the nightclub's management over the alleged assault.



Police confiscate large stash of hash

Police in the northwestern port of Igoumenitsa on Tuesday confiscated more than half a ton of cannabis from the back of a truck that had been due to board a ferry to the Italian port of Bari. The drugs had been packaged in plastic bags and concealed under piles of chopped-up olive trees that had been declared as the vehicle's official cargo.