

ANTI-FASCIST INITIATIVE

Press Release 21/12/09

Stop Fascism! – Stop Racism! Join the Anti-Fascist March on Sunday December 27

We have witnessed recently an increase in racist and fascist attacks against migrants and young people, mainly in the Faneromeni district of the old city of Nicosia. These attacks are directly linked with the appearance in Cyprus of neo-Nazi groups over the past few years. The present negotiations for the reunification of island and the concurrent world economic crisis form the background that local neo-Nazis are trying to exploit in order to fuel xenophobia and thwart a possible solution to the Cyprus Problem.

The neo-Nazi group ELAM (*Ethniko Laiko Metopo*) plans to hold a march on December 27 with the explicit intent to rouse racial hatred. Its slogan “One foreign worker = One unemployed” is directly derived from Hitler’s slogan “4 million Jews = 4 million unemployed”, which paved the way to the Nazi Holocaust.

The objectives of ELAM are not hard to gauge. ELAM is linked to other neo-fascist groups, such as Chrysi Avgi in Greece, Forza Nuova in Italy and the NPD in Germany. Furthermore, through its web site it exalts the totalitarian “traditions” of EOKA B’ and the Greek dictator Ioannis Metaxas. Definitive testimony of ELAM’s reactionary character are the military style marches it has dared to organize on the main streets of Nicosia for its thugs to assault defenceless migrants.

The Greek Cypriot neo-fascists are today bent on creating anew an atmosphere of instability reminiscent of those dark days of the past, whose tragic impact remains vivid in collective memory.

We call upon all democrats – citizens, groups, youth organizations, political parties and trade unions – to sound the alarm and actively engage in halting the rising menace of fascism. There are all too many experiences, both local and international, of how dangerous fascists can become if initially underestimated. This time round they must find us early on in their path.

No democratic rights should be accredited to those who strive to abolish all democratic rights.

No tolerance for the enemies of freedom! No tolerance for fascists!

Join the anti-fascist march on Sunday December 27th. Assembly point: Eleftheria Sq., 3.30 pm

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For further details contact: 99583947, 99418575, 99372147