

## Resuming the trial on May 7th and the atmosphere outside the courtroom

With four different demonstrations converging outside of Korydallos prisons and under draconian security measures, the trial of Golden Dawn began at 9.20 in the morning, only to be cut short two hours later. The trial will resume on May 7<sup>th</sup>, such that the defendant Nikos Papavasiliou, who declared himself legally unrepresented, might be assigned counsel. The development came as no great surprise.

The primary MPs of Golden Dawn under accusation, the leading nucleus of the organization, elected to not make an appearance at court in the Women's Prisons of Korydallos. The ministers under detention in the prisons themselves followed suit.

Yesterday, the first day of the proceedings, saw the identification of the list of defendants, their counsel, and of the relevant witnesses.

The five witnesses under protection announced their presence telephonically from the General Police Headquarters in Athens.

The mayor of Korydallos, Stavros Kasimatis and the regional vice governor of Piraeus, Giorgos Gavrillides, appeared in order to submit their request on behalf of the public for a transfer of the trial from Korydallos to a courtroom outside it.

In response to the request of venue change put forth by Civil Action attorney, Kostas Papadakis, the Court Prosecutor emphasized that the proposed alternative venue is currently occupied. She added, tellingly, that, "a solution will be found for a more appropriate venue. In the meantime, however, the proceedings must go on."

While on their way to the courtroom, two witnesses for the prosecution and another three individuals were attacked by "persons unknown" by the police's account, by followers of Golden Dawn by that of the witnesses. The casualties were taken to the police station in the area and transferred from there to Nikaia General Hospital for first aid treatment. In response to the updates reaching the courtroom, the Civil Action lawyer, Andreas Tzelis, counsel to the Fyssas family, requested a suspension of proceedings until he could determine what exactly had happened. In addition to all this, during the demonstration, a small episode erupted around MP Nikos Orfanos. One of the most emotionally laden moments of the first hearing was the entrance of Pavlos Fyssas' family into the courtroom escorted by friends of the thirty-five year-old victim.