

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 204/93 "Disappearance"

22 June 1993

**GREECE: Tom NATSIS, aged 23**  
**Roberto NATSIS, aged 25**

Amnesty International is gravely concerned about the welfare of cousins Tom Natsis and Roberto Natsis who have not been heard of or seen since they were detained by Greek police on 4 March 1993. Tom and Roberto Natsis are ethnic Greeks with Albanian citizenship. Prior to their "disappearance" they were working on tourist visas in Zagora, central eastern Greece.

At about 1 am on 4 March, an armed police officer named Vasilis came to the house they were sharing with two others in Zagora. He told the cousins to pack their passports and possessions because he was taking them to Volos (the nearest city) on "police business". This exchange was reportedly heard by the two other people in the house.

The following morning when a friend went to the police station in Zagora to make inquiries, the police reportedly confirmed that they had detained the cousins and added that they were still holding them. Ten days later when further inquiries were made, the police stated that after detaining them they had put Tom and Roberto Natsis on a bus to Volos. Tom Natsis' brother, Nico Natsis, then travelled to Zagora from Albania to try to find out what had happened to them. When inquiries were made on behalf of Nico Natsis on 15 April, the Zagora police said that the two men had been arrested at 1 am on 4 March and at 2 am were taken away by Athens police. The Zagora police said that they did not know where the two men were.

However, the following day, 16 April, when Nico Natsis made his own inquiries at the police station and also showed police officers pictures of Tom and Roberto, the police gave conflicting information. First of all they said that the two men had been at the police station "some four months previously", but then said that they had not been picked up because their papers were in order. Since then the police in Zagora have maintained that they never picked up the two men. Two locals in Zagora have told Nico Natsis that the police put Tom and Roberto on a bus but that was the last they heard of them. Repeated inquiries with the head of the Security Police in Volos, the Aliens' Office in Athens and with the Albanian Embassy have all been unsuccessful.

Amnesty International has only just learned of the "disappearance" of Tom and Roberto Natsis. As far as Amnesty International is aware, despite repeated inquiries with the various police authorities and despite strong evidence of police involvement, no inquiry has been launched into the "disappearance". Amnesty International believes that a full inquiry into the alleged involvement of the Zagora, Volos and Athens police should take place as a matter of urgency in order to find out what has become of the two men.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send faxes/telegrams, express and airmail letters either in Greek, English, French, German or your own language:

- expressing concern about the "disappearance" of Tom and Roberto Natsis in March 1993 and the alleged involvement of Greek police in their "disappearance";

- urging that all necessary steps to ensure that a full inquiry into their disappearance take place as a matter of urgency in order to find out what has become of them.

**APPEALS TO:**

Mr Nikolaos Gelestathis

**[Salutation: Dear Minister]**

Minister of Public Order

1 Katehaki Street

101 77 Athens

Greece

**Telegrams: Minister Gelestathis, Ministry of Public Order, Athen, Greece**

**Faxes: +30 1 69 23 821**

**PLEASE SEND COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:** His Excellency Monsieur George D Papoulias, Embassy of Greece, 1A Holland Park, London W11 3TP. **Fax: 071 229 7221**

**AND, IF POSSIBLE, TO THE FOLLOWING:**

The Chief Prosecutor in Volos, responsible for Zagora

The Chief Prosecutor

Public Prosecutor's Office

Megara Dikastirion

Volos

Greece

The Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr Michalis Papakonstandinou

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1 Akadimias

106 71 Athens

Greece

**Faxes: +30 1 36 09 716, +30 1 36 24 195**

The World Conference on Human Rights is being held in Austria this month and you can enhance the power of your appeals by also sending copies to the diplomatic representative of Greece in Austria during June at the following address:

**GREEK EMBASSY:**

The Ambassador

Botschaft von Griechenland

Argentinierstrasse 14, 1040 Wien

Austria

**Faxes: + 43 1 505 62 17**

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**