SEMINAR DIA

The struggle against the Greek Dictatorship in Scandinavia

06.06.2023 – 19.00 @The Danish Institute at Athens

In Arne Treholt's book "Marketakis og juntaen" (Marketakis and the Junta), which was translated into Greek by Sotiris Souliotis for Psifides Publications (Thessaloniki) with the title: "Ο Νορβηγός που πολέμησε τη Χούντα. Ο αντιδικτατορικός αγώνας στη Σκανδιναβία» («The Norwegian who fought the Junta. The struggle against the Greek Dictatorship in Scandinavia»), editors: Nicolas Manitakis and Kostis Kornetis, the Norwegian Arne Treholt recounts his political engagement against the dictatorship of the Colonels in Greece (1967-1974). Through his writing and political activity Treholt fought vigorously throughout the seven years of the dictatorship against the military regime, being one of the most active opponents of the Junta in the Nordic countries. In addition, he was a keen observer of the Greek political scene in the 1960s and 1970s. Through a vivid writing, which reminds a lot of a Scandinavian detective novel, Treholt recounts the almost novelistic case of Pantelis Marketakis, a former political prisoner who, from being a controlled witness for the regime, went on to testify against the regime at the European Commission of Human Rights in 1969, before seeking political asylum in Norway.

The book is enriched with a text of memories, where Treholt captures with the help of many elements the contribution he and his compatriots, but also other fellow Scandinavians made to the campaign of solidarity with the Greek democrats. Through this valuable testimony, the Greek reader is given the opportunity to understand the underground processes surrounding the so-called "Greek Case" in Strasbourg, which led to the withdrawal of junta Greece from the Council of Europe and was recorded as a pivotal moment in the history of the accusation against the regime for torture and the defense of human rights. In addition, it highlights the extent of the participation of the Nordic societies in the struggle for the restoration of Democracy in Greece.

Treholt's testimony thus comes to highlight the often forgotten European dimension of the anti-dictatorship struggle. It reminds us that young Western Europeans have been active, supporting by any means possible, legal or illegal, the efforts to defend democratic freedoms and human rights in junta-dominated Greece, working closely with Greek resistance and dissidents. Treholt's case is a typical example of the political engagement of one of the most politicized and solidary generations that the European continent has known in the 20th century.

Participants:

Moderator: Sotiris Souliotis, translator (DK/GR).

Mogens Pelt, Director of the Danish Institute at Athens: *The formation of the Danish stance on Junta*.

Birgitte Rahbek, journalist and writer: *Arne Treholt's lifelong fight for freedom*.

Nikis Theofilakis, actor, son of Ilias Theofilakis, a central figure of the resistance against the Greek dictatorship in Scandinavia: *Arne Treholt and Ilias Theophilakis. Two men and two small countries in the shadow of the USA*.

Axel Sotiris Walldén, senior advisor ELIAMEP: *Grey zones: Solidarity towards democratic Greece and the Cold War in Scandinavia*.

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