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Athens ablaze with civil riots

Anger erupts over tax hikes and wage cuts

By NELI MAGDALINI
Epoch Times Staff

ATHENS, Greece—The dark clouds over Athens on May 5 were a symbol of the situation in Greece. Tear gas and the smell of fires filled the air, accompanied by yelling and shouts of disapproval. Angry faces were everywhere among the crowds of citizens who took to the streets, and among youth eager to destroy banks and buildings.

Some held bombs, mace, and clubs—tools that were used to lay waste to the city without control. Few exceptions were made in what they would burn or destroy next.

Despite the chaos, there was a degree of organization in the riots. Many came with gas masks, in preparation for run-ins with riot police.

By the afternoon, 27 police had been injured and three people killed. Among them was a pregnant woman who died from fumes inside a bank after it was set ablaze by a Molotov cocktail.

Some of the attacks were more targeted. The Ministry of Economy building was burned to the ground—just as will happen to the Greek economy if the riots continue. One of the main sources of income in Greece comes from tourism, and the country has been seeing fewer and fewer tourists due to the continuous strikes and all-around disorder.

The Greek government announced higher taxes and lower salaries on May 2 in an attempt to pull the country out of recession. Organized demonstrations followed soon after. Strikes and protests against new government tax laws have been common over the last two months.



Riot police are engulfed in flames as they are hit with a Molotov cocktail near the Greek Parliament in Athens during a nationwide strike in Greece on May 5, 2010. Greece braced for a day of demonstrations during a nationwide strike by civil servants protesting the announcement of draconian austerity measures. REUTERS/PASCAL ROSSIGNOL (GREECE)

A victory for press freedom in Montreal

Court upholds Epoch Times probe into Montreal publisher

By MATTHEW LITTLE
Epoch Times Staff

Epoch Times journalists acted in the public interest and made no fault in probing whether a Montreal newspaperman was acting as an agent of Beijing when he took the unusual step of publishing special editions devoted entirely to demonizing groups persecuted by the communist regime in China, and then distributing them across Canada.

On April 29, Justice Catherine Mandeville sided with The Epoch Times' Montreal publisher, dismissing a defamation claim by Crescent Chau, publisher of La Presse Chinoise.

It was fair to suggest that Chau was acting as an agent of Beijing, Justice Mandeville said.

The articles expressed "legitimate concerns and constitute an opinion which is drawn from a factual premise and not made for the purpose of abusively attacking the reputation of Mr. Chau," the court found.

The issue began in late 2001 when Chau published the first of four special editions of his newspaper, which usually numbers at most 4,000 copies per week in Montreal and Ottawa and sells for 60 cents.

Now, however, Chau found the resources to print more than 100,000 copies and distribute them free of charge in Chinese communities coast to coast.

PLEASE SEE VICTORY ON P3

Somali pirates hijack Russian oil tanker

By MARCO 'T HOEN
Epoch Times Staff

Russian warship Marshal Shaposhnikov is on its way to rescue a Russian oil tanker that was hijacked in a "safe zone" near Yemen in the Gulf of Aden on Wednesday morning. The tanker was hijacked by Somali pirates who have been expanding their range of operation.

The warship had earlier guided the tanker, Moscow University, to the safe zone. However, 350 nautical miles from Yemen, the tanker, which is operated by Russian shipping line Novoship, was hijacked.

According to Russian media, Novoship said communications with the tanker, carrying 86,000 tons of crude oil from Sudan to China, ceased at 8 a.m. local time.

PLEASE SEE PIRATES ON P5



The word "Help" is written in the sand on the beach at Gulf Shores, Alabama, on May 4, 2010. A flotilla of nearly 200 boats tackled a massive oil slick in the Gulf of Mexico on Tuesday, taking advantage of calm weather to intensify the fight to reduce the spill and limit its impact on the U.S. shoreline. REUTERS/BRIAN SNYDER

BP oil spill fuels drilling debate in Parliament

By MATTHEW LITTLE
Epoch Times Staff

PARLIAMENT HILL, Ottawa—While allegations of illegal lobbying by Rahim Jaffer and accusations over the Afghan detainee controversy were still top priorities

during Question Period in the House of Commons this week, opposition parties also challenged the government over what it is doing to ensure an oil spill like the one threatening the coast of Louisiana can never happen in Canada.

PLEASE SEE OIL ON P2

One in five Canadians has pondered, attempted suicide, says survey

By ANDREA HAYLEY
Epoch Times Staff

To coincide with Children's Mental Health Week (May 2 - 8), an Ontario mental health organization has released the results of a nationwide survey showing that one in five Canadians has contemplated or attempted suicide.

This means that more than 7 million Canadians—22 percent—have considered suicide, says Peter Moore, executive director with Kinark Child and Family Services, the non-profit specializing in children's mental health that conducted the survey.

Moore likens the number of people affected to the population of Toronto and Vancouver combined. "When you have that visual picture, it's quite staggering," he says.

"Under the surface there are significant mental health issues in this country and we know that they often start in childhood, so we want to get this information out about adults and let people know that this can be prevented."

Coincidentally, the same number of children and youth—one in five—across the country struggles with mental health issues.

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