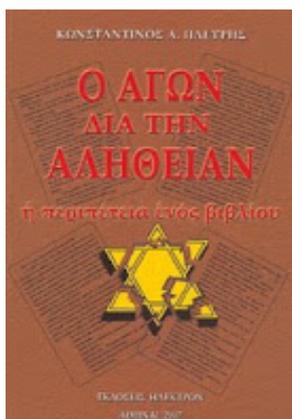




Moisis Konstantinis, the former president of the Greek Jewish community, and three other prominent Greek Jews, Benjamin Albalas, Leon Gavrilidis, and Avraam Reitan, and two human rights officials (GHM) Andrea Gilbert and Panayote Dimitras, were [scheduled](#) to go on trial starting Feb. 21, 2012 before the Sixth Three-Member Misdemeanors Court of Athens for false accusations, perjury, and aggravated defamation expressed in their testimonies during the trial against Plevris, which resulted in his conviction by the First Instance.

They face a possible prison sentence of three months to five years, a fine, and the stripping of their civil rights for one to five years for aggravated defamation; one to five years for false accusations, and one to five years for perjury. ADL National Director Abraham Foxman on February 18, 2012 reported that the courts of Greece are turning a perpetrator of anti-Semitism into the victim, and the victims into perpetrators.



In December 2007, they testified against Konstantinos Plevris, a right-wing extremist Greek writer and author of “Jews, the Whole Truth,” who was brought to court following complaints from the Greek Jewish community (KIS), the Greek Helsinki Monitor (GHM, a human rights organization) and the Anti-Nazi Initiative (Antinazistiki Protovoulia).

The 1,400-page book, which defames the Jews and denies the Holocaust, is one of the most comprehensive anti-Semitic treatises to have appeared in Greece since World War II.

Plevris was charged with violating Article 1 Paragraph 1, and Article 2, of the Anti-Racism Law 927/79, namely: publicly, through the medium of the press, with intent and acting in concert, incited deeds and actions that could provoke discrimination, hatred and violence against persons and groups of persons, solely because of their racial and ethnic origins, and expressed offensive ideas against a group of persons because of their racial and ethnic origin and specifically against Jews in general.

Plevris had written, "I am a Nazi and a fascist, a racist, anti-democratic and an anti-Semite" (p. 600) and that his book "is simple proof that we don't count on the Jews. We despise them for their morality, for their religion, for their deeds, which all prove they are sub-humans...."

Mr. Konstantinis and others argued that these statements represent insults to the Jewish community. The trial court agreed despite an apparent anti-Semitic atmosphere in the courtroom.

On December 13, 2007, Plevris was convicted by a three-person panel of judges and was sentenced to a 14 month jail-term, as well as a three year probation period. There was a dissent by one judge, who had reportedly written on her personal blog: "(expletive) Jews, I wish Hitler had exterminated you completely."

The minority judge who voted for Plevris' acquittal [wrote](#) a 32-page statement listing the reasons for her dissenting opinion. Inter alia, she said that Plevris cites documental evidence given in detail in his book in his attempt to cast doubt on the extent of the Holocaust, which he contends concerned only 66,000 to 350,000 Jews as shown in official data held by the International Red Cross, and not 6,000,000 as claimed by the Zionist movement to further its own interests ...

The judge continued: He worked with all the diligence and study expected of a professional historian, bearing in mind that a professional historian has the freedom to evaluate historical

sources positively or negatively and promote or relegate those he deems most convincing or trustworthy accordingly. [sic]

The judge's claim that Plevris had not reviled all Jews collectively ignores what he wrote in his book, in which he defames Jews as a whole, for example: My book, which you are now reading, is simple proof that we don't count on the Jews. We despise them for their morality, for their religion, for their deeds, which all prove that they are sub-humans ... Jew (in religion) and human are contradictory terms, that is, the one excludes the other.

On the day of his conviction Plevris lodged an appeal. In judgment 913/2009, delivered on March 27, 2009, the Five-Member Appeals Court of Athens acquitted Plevris, quashing his conviction by a lower court.

In its reasoning the Athens Appeals Court wrote: The defendant does not revile the Jews solely because of their racial and ethnic origin, but mainly because of their aspirations to world power, the methods they use to achieve these aims, and their conspiratorial activities... The actual incidents and quotes from historical persons that the author uses to support his views are based on historical sources, which he cites, and which merely underscore some of his harsher phrases.

Taken as a whole, the content of the book does not demonstrate that the defendant had the intention of using it to incite the reader to actions that could cause discrimination, hatred or violence against Jews, nor does he express offensive ideas against [the Jews] solely because of their racial or ethnic origin... This is because he does not revile all Jews collectively, but only those Zionist-Jews who implemented the specific acts he cites in the book.

Plevris was [acquitted](#) on the basis that his book commented on Jewish-Zionists only and not the Jews as a nation or a race. This being the case, how then did he explain the following excerpts from his book, "Jews – the Whole Truth"?

"Free yourselves from Jewish propaganda that deceives you with falsehoods about concentration camps, gas chambers, 'ovens' and other fairy tales about the pseudo-holocaust."

And shocking anti-Semitic proclamations:

“Wake up, the scheming Jews are digging the grave of Nations. Wake up, and throw them in because they deserve it.”

“It is the fault of the civilized world that tolerates the international parasites that are called Jews... the time for retaliation has come.” “We despise them for their morality, for their religion, for their deeds, which together prove that they are sub-human.”

It beggars belief that any court of justice of a democratic country would not condemn this book as a piece of odious and dangerous literature designed to incite hatred and violence against the Jewish people.

Only one thing was more outrageous than the Appellate Court’s use of an anti-Semitic conspiracy theory about world domination to reverse the conviction – the Greek Supreme Court concurred.

A request was [made](#) in July 2009 for what is known as a “cassation in favour of the law”, which, had it been successful, would have prevented the verdict being used as precedence for future, similar cases; though it should be noted that this would not have had the power to reverse the appeal verdict. However, on 15th October 2009 this demand was dismissed.

With judgment 3/2010, the Greek Supreme Court Criminal Section, sitting in plenary, dismissed the appeal for cassation in the interests of the law. The judgment was rendered by a majority of 24 judges with two dissenting opinions.

In its [ruling](#) the Court of Cassation held, The provisions of law 927/1979 must be interpreted limitedly and not strictly, in view of the provisions of articles 14 par. 1 and 16 par. 1 of the Greek Constitution and article 10, par. 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), with which freedom of expression is established as regards the thoughts of a person (orally, in writing and via the press) as well as freedom of the art, science, research.

The majority found the reasoning of the Appeal Court judgment to be full and clear, the Anti-Racism Law to be properly applied, and hence the reasons for the motion for cassation to be groundless.

Whether or not there exists a network of anti-Semites within the Greek judicial system, there is clearly something amiss here. These are not the types of reports one would expect to hear coming from a court of justice within the European Union.

Further Reading:

[Passover in Greece: Synagogue Burned](#)

[Greek Bishop's Clarification: Jews are Satanists who want to take over the World](#)

[Greek Bishop says Hitler was Zionist](#)

[Non-Jews Protest Repeated Acts of Anti-Semitism in Greece](#)

[Greece: Anti-Semitism and the Arab-Israeli Conflict](#)

[Crete's only synagogue set on fire](#)