



Aboard Mediterraneo  
June 4th 2014  
Lat 38°38'N Long 20°45'E

Press release no.9

## Occupy Meganissi

Today, June 4th 2014, at 12.00 Athens time zone, the sailing boat Mediterraneo with a fleet of 20 boats of different nationalities are on mooring in a bay of the Greek island of Meganissi (Lat. 38°38'N – Long. 20°45'E) for a peaceful and symbolic demonstration against any property speculation to which this beautiful Ionian island would be subject according to international media.

This piece of news appeared for the first time on the pages of the authoritative British newspaper The Guardian in 2010, and since then several newspapers and websites wrote about it: islands are on sale in the Mediterranean. Some of them are well-known, but God knows how many others are in the same situation. As an example, allegedly the emir of Qatar, owner of Paris Saint-Germain football club, bought six Echinades **islands** between **Ithaca** and the mainland, including Oxeia. Apparently **Skorpios** was sold to the Russian tycoon Dmitrij Rybolovlev, former fertilizer king and owner of Monaco football club. Furthermore, according to some sources, **Chinese** investors are buying Ionian islands in search of **oil**, in particular in the area between Ithaca and **Lefkada**, and a well-known British banker acquired the southern part of the island of **Meganissi** for property speculation.

**Mediterranea Project** is a scientific, cultural and sailing expedition inspired by a deep love for the sea, and one of its tasks is promoting communication, reporting and, when necessary, denouncing misuse and injustice to the damage of the sea and the people living on its shores.

**Accomplishing its peaceful mission with scientific and cultural objectives, today at 12.00 Athens time zone, the sailing boat Mediterraneo with a fleet of Mediterranean boats and citizens symbolically occupied the Greek island of Meganissi at ship's position 038°37.594N – 020°45.249E and exhibited a banner saying: "This Island Is Ours".**

**According to the crews, the southern shore of the island is already disfigured by a road dug in rock by bulldozers and dynamite at a cost of 4 million euro. That road, leading from nowhere to nowhere, is a serious environmental injury paving the way for building dozens villas in one of the few virgin areas of the Mediterranean sea. According to the media, British banker Rotschild bought the southern part of the island for property speculation in order to build villas for millionaire customers.**

The symbolic occupation of that island will last until tomorrow June 5<sup>th</sup> as the fleet will be sailing away after leaving the large banner of protest on the island. This temporary, symbolic and peaceful action is aimed at raising awareness at international level about the growing trend to overbuild on the Mediterranean shores and the indiscriminate sale of part of our common heritage to the benefit of individual investors.

The sea is not on sale. The Mediterranean islands are not on sale. They belong to everyone. They shall remain untouched.

The commander and crew of Mediterraneo  
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