**Tempi Train Crash**

**Nikos Chatzivasileiou**

I arrived at the accident site in Tempi and it was like hell. The train on fire, people in distress, firefighters everywhere.

**“MS Express Samina” wreck**

**Konstantinos Apostolakis**

I witnessed infants being placed in life vests, but there were no specialized ones for babies. The mothers, in their efforts to save them, managed to fit them in these vests somehow. But, the babies would slip and fall from the deck into the sea. And the mothers would dive after them, screaming and shouting, "Niko, the child!"

**The Mati Fire Tragedy**

**Konstantinos Chatzistamatiou**

There was no fire brigade in sight, not a single siren reached out ears, no loudspeakers blaring "Go away" to warn us, nothing at all.

**The Parnitha Earthquake**

**Giannis Papadopoulos**

Bitterness. Because you lose your people, you know? Your life is never the same again, no matter how much you want it to be.

**Voice over**

24 years, 7 major disasters and numerous accidents. From the Express Samina shipwreck, the Parnitha earthquake and the forest fires in Ilia to the Mati fire tragedy, the Mandra flood, the fire in northern Evia, and the Tempi train crash.

I am Kostas Koukoumakas, joined by Nikolas Aroni, Phoebe Fronista, Katerina Voutsina, and Giorgos Schinas. Together, we have had the opportunity to meet survivors and relatives of victims from seven national tragedies. The testimonies we have gathered reveal a disturbing pattern: a lack of trust in the state and a feeling of impunity. The phrase “Let’s go, come what may,” spoken moments before the crash encapsulates the essence of it all.

Disasters not only cause trauma to those directly affected but also leave a lasting impact on our collective psyche, especially when they occur repeatedly. How long does the shock endure? Have we truly come to terms with these devastating events? These questions are at the heart of iMEdD's audio documentary about the collective trauma experienced by an entire nation.

**The experience**

**TEMPI**

**Tempi train crash**

**Audio extract from a news report**

"Intercity train collides with commercial train, resulting in three wagons derailing."

**Voice over**

28 February 2023, a few minutes before 11.30 pm. Two trains running opposite each other on the same line, without anyone noticing.

The crash in Tempi shocks the nation.

26-year-old soprano Elisavet Chatzivasileiou travels by train, holding her blind cat in her arms, as she returns from Athens to her parents' home in Thessaloniki. Her father, Nikos Chatzivasileiou, arrives in Tempi after midnight.

**Tempi train crash**

**Nikos Chatzivasileiou**

It was pure hell down there, pure hell... You saw it on TV - the train burning, people in distress, fire everywhere, firemen... You felt you couldn't help. They told me that the injured had already been taken to Larissa. So we made our way to the general hospital in Larissa, where the influx of wounded seemed never-ending. And thus began a two-day period of searching for our child's whereabouts. What remains most vivid in my mind, what stays with me...? I dubbed that day “a game of poker with death”: In the hospital, whenever an ambulance arrived, everyone would rush towards it, hoping to find their loved ones injured or anxiously checking if the body bag was sealed, all racing to discover if their dear ones were dead.”

**Voice over**

Onboard that same train is 23-year-old George Papazoglou, a student at the Physics Department of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He is traveling with his girlfriend, and 5 minutes before the collision, he ventures towards the bar in the front carriages. His father, Lysimachos Papazoglou, a professor at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, reads the news on his mobile phone while driving to Larissa amidst the darkness of the night.

**Tempi train crash**

**Lysimachos Papazoglou**

We quickly got dressed. My wife called her relatives in Larissa to see if they had any information. We jumped in the car, and on the way, I checked the news on my phone. I saw that a train had derailed, and initially, they said there were two people dead. We started to worry a lot. Then the death toll went up to ten, and we started thinking the worst.

At the hospital in Larissa, I'm not sure what it's called, they put us in an auditorium and started announcing the names of the injured, but they didn't mention our son. They told us there were no other injured people; everyone else had been killed.

I just hope that the collision was quick and that my son didn't suffer, that it happened instantly.

**Individual/Collective Trauma**

**Voice over**

57 people, mostly young, tragically lost their lives in the Tempi train crash.

Stelios Stylianidis, a Professor of Social Psychiatry, sits in his office in Maroussi, at a spacious work table, and shares his insights. He explains that trauma is an overwhelming experience that the human psyche struggles to cope with. And it's not just individual trauma that impacts us.

**Stelios Stylianidis**

**Psychiatrist, Professor of Social Psychiatry at Panteion University**

With the traumatic event at Tempi, there seems to be a collapse, I would say, of a collective illusion.

We thought we had closed the chapter on the bailout packages, we believed we were emerging from the pandemic - not unscathed, not untouched, with lingering traumas - but we started to embrace the idea of entering a phase of normalcy.

However, the Tempi train crash abruptly shattered that illusion with a deafening impact. So what caused this collapse?

Each one of us, individually and collectively, experienced a sense of helplessness, a profound lack of trust. It's what we commonly refer to as the fundamental social contract of trust between the state and its citizens.

**MATI**

**The Mati Fire Tragedy**

**Audio extract from a news report**

"In a word, the situation is dramatic. Right now we are on Marathonos Avenue..."

**Voice over**

23 July 2018. It's a warm day in East Attica, where thousands of people are enjoying their holidays.

The fire, which began in the garden of a private home, would go on to become the second deadliest fire globally in the past 25 years.

104 lives were tragically lost in Mati.

**The Mati fire tragedy**

**Aris Herouvim**

Around 18:00, my mother gave me a call and informed me about a fire...

There was no mention of it on TV; they had been reporting on the Kinetta fire all day. I told her, “Mother, there's nothing happening. There's nothing.” So, I continued with whatever work I was engaged in at the time. Then, around 6:30, she called me again and said, “I see flames.”

**Voice over**

It was the last time Aris Herouvim would speak with his family.

**The Mati fire tragedy**

**Aris Herouvim**

They stepped out of the house, walked about 50 meters, and there they were, all four of them, locked in each other's arms. My mother, my sister, and my 5-year-old twin nieces.

If only my family had been alerted just 5 minutes earlier, they could have jumped into the car and taken the route through Marathon Avenue, just like many others who managed to survive.

We're talking about a mere distance of 500 meters, and the authorities had a clear view of the scene. They witnessed people burning, yet made no attempt to rescue them.

**Voice over**

A few blocks up the road in Mati, Konstantinos Chatzistamatiou catches sight of the fire in his own yard.

**The Mati fire tragedy**

**Konstantinos Chatzistamatiou**

There was no fire brigade in sight, not a single siren reached out ears, no loudspeakers blaring "Evacuate" to warn us, nothing at all.

From the intense heat and lack of oxygen, we were beginning to lose our strength, my entire family. I was with my wife, daughter-in-law, and grandson.

We had no direct contact with the flames. All the burns suffered by me, my daughter-in-law, and my grandson were from the intense radiant heat. I don't even know the exact temperature, but it was so high that it melted the car rims and aluminum around us. It must have been over 800 degrees, I can't say for certain.

By sheer chance, we spotted a car coming out of a nearby yard - the driver was likely trying to save themselves too. They saw us, picked us up, and took us down to the harbor, sparing us from the tragedy. Otherwise, we would have been among the 104 who perished.

**EXPRESS SAMINA**

**Voice over**

Almost two decades ago. September 2000. The passenger ship Express Samina runs aground on the rocky islets of Portes off Paros.

Among the passengers on that ill-fated journey was Konstantinos Apostolakis, a retired Navy Rear Admiral. Seated in his home in Pallini, surrounded by files of court documents on the shipwreck, he welcomes us with Japanese tea, ready to recount every minute of that unforgettable night.

**“Ms Express Samina” wreck**

**Konstantinos Apostolakis**

So I rushed up, only to find the ship already tilting. I called for life jackets, but there were none to be found. I then stumbled upon a bench, broke it open, and discovered a stash of life jackets, so I started distributing them to the passengers.

Suddenly, my eyes caught sight of three lifeboats, the only ones available. Later, I would learn that the entire bridge crew and the first and second engineers had taken refuge in those lifeboats, neglecting their duty to put us in those boats.

Then I saw the rising water and the panic around me**.** I witnessed infants being placed in life vests, but there were no specialized ones for babies. The mothers, in their efforts to save them, managed to fit them in these vests somehow. But, the babies would slip and fall from the deck into the sea. And the mothers would dive after them, screaming and shouting, "Niko, the child!" We were all doomed. I saw self-sacrificing mothers, fathers, grandfathers, grandmothers... diving in after their children, hoping against hope to save them. But there was nothing to save...

**Voice over**

A few meters away, Alexandros Kopsidis and Natasa Michailidou, young students at the time, also jump overboard into the water.

**“Ms Express Samina” wreck**

**Alexandros Kopsidis, Natasa Michailidou**

So I jumped overboard first, and Alexis followed suit. The weather was terrible, with strong waves, wind, and darkness. We got separated in the sea, carried away by the waves to different places.

…then, at some point, I turned my head and couldn't see the boat anymore. It happened within a matter of 15 to 20 minutes. The sinking was incredibly fast.

There's no time to think. You're just focused on saving yourself by any means necessary. I believe the adrenaline takes over, leaving little room for thinking. You just jump, you have to jump. But I’ll say it again, if we weren't near an island, if I hadn't seen lights indicating a chance of being rescued, I don't think I would have made the decision to jump.

**Voice over**

Kopsidis and Michailidou would later be rescued by two separate boats belonging to local fishermen from Paros.

**“Ms Express Samina” wreck**

**Alexandros Kopsidis, Natasa Michailidou**

I spent a long time in the water until I was found. The most difficult part of it all was in the lifeboat because we were already exhausted and injured. Our bodies had stopped fighting for survival. It was one of the few times, or rather the only time in my life, that I prayed for my life.

**Voice over**

Meanwhile, Admiral Apostolakis remained at sea.

**“Ms Express Samina” wreck**

**Konstantinos Apostolakis**

I looked to my right and saw a man emerging from the waves and coming alongside me. I hugged him, and he hugged me back. Then he said, “I'm so glad I found you. I was all alone and terrified. My legs are shaking.” I reassured him, saying, “Don't worry, we're both here, and we'll be fine.” Suddenly, he started moving away from me, trying to grasp onto something. “Come over here,” he urged. I followed him and tried to hold on as well, but then it capsized, and that's when I realized. I told him, “It's a dead body, man!” We had been holding onto a lifeless body. He had mistaken it for some kind of object.

**Voice over**

Battered and wounded in the arm and ribs, Apostolakis managed to climb into a lifeboat. He saved at least a dozen people on that fateful night. The Express Samina shipwreck claimed the lives of 81 individuals.

**The forest fires in Ilia**

**Audio extract from a news report**

Tragically, as time elapses, the death toll keeps mounting. We were scorched... From the mountains to the houses, everything was engulfed, leaving nothing spared.

**ILIA**

**Voice over**

Psychiatrist Stelios Stylianides says that in major disasters, societies often seek an external enemy as a means to maintain their unity. The forest fires in Ilia.

In the case of the fire in Ilia in August 2007, that enemy became known as "General Wind," as the strong winds on that day were dubbed.

As you approach the village of Artemida in Ilia, you cannot overlook the small churches that stand on a bend in the road, serving as memorials for those who were trapped there during the fire. Among them was Giannis Drakopoulos, a seasonal firefighter, who found himself trapped along with two other colleagues in their fire truck. Today, Giannis’ sister, Christina, stands at her parents' house in Alfeiousa, facing a wall adorned with numerous pictures and photographs, as she recounts the events of that fateful day.

**The forest fires in Ilia**

**Christina Drakopoulou**

I was the first to find out that they were burned, not the fire department. Let me explain what happened. I received a call around quarter to three saying they were heading to a house fire in Paleochori.

Then, at 3:20, I got another call, and he was screaming that he was on fire. I immediately drove to Krestena and asked the fire brigade to radio him. They didn't like it because they weren't supposed to use the radio during a fire. They all stared at me. I said, "call H42 on the radio," which was his fire truck code. They made the call, but there was no response. They tried again, but still no answer. That's when they started looking for the burned fire truck. So, I was the one who told them.

That day will never be forgotten because when someone tells you, "I'm on fire," it stays with you. The same goes for everything that happened that night, when ambulances arrived at the hospital with body bags. Those memories never fade away.

**Voice over**

At that very bend outside Artemida, the fire brought about a drastic change in the life of Giorgos Paraskevopoulos. It was there that he lost everything: his mother, his wife, and his four young children.

**The forest fires in Ilia**

**Giorgos Paraskevopoulos**

As we made our way back up, we saw a group of people gathered at the scene. We shouted to them, letting them know that the police had arrived a little while ago. On our way there we stumbled upon my car and realized something had happened, though we weren't sure if someone else had taken them. We began our search and eventually found my mother first, followed by the rest of them.

My friend Panagiotis discovered them and told me “Stay where you are. I’ll be right with you.” It was a good thing he advised me against going to the spot. You see, the mind can be fragile.

On our way down, he informed me about the situation, saying that it was game over. What we had feared was unfolding on the other side.

**The next day/individual trauma**

**First responders**

**Voice over**

Medical examiner Eleni Zagelidou was a member of the expert team responsible for identifying the bodies in the Tempi accident. I visited her office in Thessaloniki a month later, and it was the first time in our 20-year acquaintance that her words seemed to come out with some difficulty.

**Eleni Zagelidou**

**Medical Examiner, Forensic Service of Thessaloniki**

I think the most intense moment was when we saw the arrival of the last bag, which had to be examined. It meant that there was no more material left at the site, and we also stopped keeping count of the bodies.

At that moment, a sense of peace and relief set in. You feel that it has come to an end. There won't be anything more to deal with.

But what happens the next day is a different story. This mental burden needs to find an outlet at some point. In other countries, there are dedicated psychological sessions for the staff working on such major tragedies, in addition to the support provided to the family members, which is a given.

However, in Greece, this hasn't happened yet. We hope that it will happen without the need for another major tragedy. So, at some point, you start really feeling the burden. For me, it happened a few days later, when I would start getting an excessive amount of sleep, as a way for my mind to try and forget the whole thing.

**Voice over**

In major disasters, it is not only the survivors and their relatives who are affected. Firefighter and psychologist Ioannis Androutsakos, who is a member of the Fire Brigade’s Psychosocial Care Department, has agreed to share his insights into the trauma experienced by emergency responders.

**Ioannis Androutsakos**

**Firefighter - Psychologist, Department of Psychosocial Care of the Fire Brigade**

What we are emphasizing is the existence of secondary trauma among individuals who serve in roles where they are tasked with aiding victims of accidents or major disasters.

Personally, what I have experienced is that in situations like this, particularly in the aftermath of the Tempi train crash, the impact stays with you, even if you don't have specific memories of it. This holds true for all my colleagues as well. Now let me think of specific examples…

Well, I distinctly remember that after returning from the incident, I had a strong aversion to social contact for several days.

Trauma does not simply heal or fade away; it remains with us, much like grief. Over time, we learn to adapt and live with these experiences.

**PARNITHA**

**Voice over**

Underneath a Russian supermarket in Menidi, lies the blacksmith shop of Giannis Papadopoulos. During the Parnitha earthquake in 1999, he tirelessly dug through the debris with his bare hands for hours, determined to find his brother alive amidst the ruins of a factory.

**The Parnitha Earthquake**

**Giannis Papadopoulos**

The factory was called VIOKYT, it was a cardboard box manufacturing facility. My brother was 38 years old and he used to work there. The company was exerting a lot of pressure on workers, often demanding overtime. So my brother was working overtime on that day. I mean, his shift was over but he had to work extra.

It took us a while to get in, because everything was dangling inside. I mean, the building appeared solid on the outside, but the interior had completely collapsed.

It was pure horror – impossible to get in. Surrounding the area, there were bodies trapped beneath fallen beams, torn apart. It was tragic.

My brother was actually lying just outside the door - he was crushed while trying to make his way out.

Bitterness... because you lose your loved ones. Your life is never the same again, no matter how much you wish it to be. You try to move on, you go back to work, but the pain returns and haunts you.

**Voice over**

We asked Papadopoulos in Menidi if he had sought help from a mental health professional.

**The Parnitha Earthquake**

**Giannis Papadopoulos**

No, we didn't. We didn't have the time, you know? And we were always fighters, you know what I mean? So we didn't have the luxury of time or the awareness. Do you know what I'm saying?

**Voice over**

The 5.9 magnitude of the Parnitha earthquake resulted in a devastating disaster: 143 lives lost, hundreds injured, and extensive damage to buildings and infrastructure. Eleni Aggelidi, a child psychologist, was studying in England at the time but had returned to her parents' home in Athens for the holidays.

**The Parnitha Earthquake**

**Eleni Aggelidou**

As I stood there, I suddenly heard a loud thumping sound coming from behind me. It was a rhythmic thump, thump, thump, that grew faster and more intense, as the ground shook beneath me.

In that moment, my thoughts transported me to a scene from Jurassic Park, where the kids are in a jeep, chased by a gigantic tyrannosaurus. With each heavy step, the ground trembles beneath their feet. I instinctively turned around, half-expecting to come face-to-face with a tyrannosaurus, although, of course, there was nothing of the sort.

What I did see was a crack forming in the wall, almost splitting it into two.

So I swiftly ran and took cover under the dining room table, which happened to be right behind me.

I remember crouching under the table and suddenly seeing countless tiny glass fragments moving towards me in slow motion. Without thinking, I instinctively raised my hands to cover my eyes.

It was a difficult period for me, especially when I returned to England and tried to explain to my friends what had happened. They couldn't fully comprehend or relate to it since earthquakes simply don't occur in England.

As for me, it was an entirely new experience, and I struggled to find the right words to convey it. I started experiencing symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD); I had palpitations, insomnia, and even the smallest tremor, like the washing machine running, would greatly upset me.

I have to admit that even now, when a truck passes by and the windows squeak or when the washing machine suddenly starts shaking vigorously, I instinctively react to it.

**Metal health professionals in the field**

After the 2007 fire, the government dispatched psychologists to the villages of Ilia. However, Christina Drakopoulou declined to meet with them.

**The forest fires in Ilia**

**Christina Drakopoulou**

During those moments - in those hours - what you're seeking are the answers to why it happened. And the truth is, a psychologist cannot provide those answers. This responsibility lies with the state. We need someone to come forward and say, "This is what led to this tragedy." Only then can we find some semblance of closure. Someone needs to be held accountable.

**Voice over**

In the case of Aris Herouvim in Mati, the situation was quite the opposite.

**The Mati Fire Tragedy**

**Aris Herouvim**

We had the assistance of the fire department psychologists. However, when I shared with them my traumatic experience, including the fact that I had also witnessed the loss of my father in the same location 50 years ago when I was just 6 years old, the psychologists from the fire department abruptly left.

It was incredibly difficult to endure such a situation. Most of us struggled through five years without any medication. But there are so many others that rely on very strong medications to cope.

**Voice over**

While we were engaged in conversation with the survivors of Mati, a ten-year-old boy, Konstantinos Chatzistamatiou’s grandson, entered the house. He had just returned from karate practice and greeted us politely before heading up to his room.

**The Mati Fire Tragedy**

**Konstantinos Chatzistamatiou**

What can I say… The boy is seeing a psychologist to cope with the trauma. Whenever he sees us about to light a match, he thinks there’ll be a fire and quickly jumps to put it out. It’s so sad. These scars will never heal - they don't simply fade away no matter how much we wish they would.

**Voice over**

The next day is always worse. According to experts, Lysimachos Papazoglou and Nikos Chatzivasileiou, the parents of the children who lost their lives in Tempi, have now reached this stage.

**Tempi Train Crash**

**Lysimachos Papazoglou**

The funeral was held the following week, and now we are in a state of mourning. This phase is even more challenging than the initial weeks because we are unwilling to accept the fact that our son is no longer with us. We keep thinking he's somewhere outside Thessaloniki and that he'll return to us.

Indeed, there are recognized stages of grief. We have been told that our reactions are considered normal at this stage, as everyone goes through similar experiences. But we slowly need to start moving forward and resume daily life in order to forget. But you can’t forget everything. It’s impossible.

**Tempi Train Crash**

**Nikos Chatzivasileiou**

I believe we are currently in the stage of loss. We are entering the loss stage now. Until this point, it has been incredibly violent, intense, and tragic. But it was a collective experience. It almost felt like going to war and returning with a missing limb. That's how I would describe it, given everything I have experienced.

You know, all of this amplifies the sense of insecurity that people face every day, whether it's related to their jobs, relationships, or other aspects of life. It heightens anxiety and, in my opinion, deepens the sense of individuality. I want to clarify that I'm an agronomist, not a psychologist, so these are just opinions.

**Today/Collective Trauma**

**Voice over**

The conversation in Professor Stelios Stylianidis' office in Marousi becomes increasingly revealing with each passing moment. It delves into the depths of our collective trauma.

**Stelios Stylianidis**

**Psychiatrist, Professor of Social Psychiatry at Panteion University**

Collective trauma is what occurs when a community or society is stripped of its essential functions, such as democracy, institutions, social solidarity, and, most importantly, the preservation of social bonds.

**Voice over**

The first component of collective trauma is the erosion of trust in the state.

**Tempi Train Crash**

**Aris Herouvim**

We have grown somewhat cynical. After the Tempi train crash, when we gather during court breaks, we quip, "What's next, a plane crash?" We even start placing bets. It may come across as cynical, but considering what we have experienced and what we are likely to experience again, that's just how it is.

**Tempi Train Crash**

**Nikos Chatzivasileiou**

In the collective unconsciousness we exist within, it was inevitable. Whether it be a boat, a ship, a plane, or a power station, it was destined to occur somewhere, and undoubtedly, it will happen again.

**The forest fires in Ilia**

**Christina Drakopoulou**

I mean, when a fire happens, it brings back all those memories. And what comes to mind are the people we lost here in Ilia. It's not about worrying if our olive grove or house will burn down like before. No, now our biggest fear is that someone might get burned alive in the fire.

**The forest fires in Ilia**

**Giorgos Paraskevopoulous**

Yeah, it's a mix of bitterness and sadness. Because, in the end, we didn't do anything. We lost our people, and we didn't even take any measures for the future.

**Voice over**

The second component of collective trauma is the absence of catharsis. However, when major disaster cases go to court, they are confronted with individuals and laws created by individuals.

**The Parnitha Earthquake**

**Giannis Papadopoulos**

There was a whole operation going on.There were these rundown buildings, and some guy would come in, take his share of the money, sign off that the place was perfectly fine, and then vanish. It was happening all the time.

During the trial, I remember the prosecutor asking him how much money he was making. And this guy, he starts talking about 600 million. So the prosecutor tells him, "I don't think you're someone who can be fooled easily. If you're raking in that kind of cash, you must be in the know."

**Voice over**

There is one common thread among all survivors and their families: anger and bitterness towards the investigation and court proceedings.

Christoforos Argyropoulos, a lawyer from Athens who served as the president of the Legal Preparation Committee for the final drafting of the Penal Code, was approached with a question: why is no one being sent to prison?

**Christoforos Argyropoulos**

**Lawyer, President of the Legal Preparation Committee for the final drafting of the Penal Code**

Justice must base its judgments on real events and facts. In order to do so, it must distance itself from emotions. Equality in the administration of justice is fundamental to our freedom. We feel free when we have confidence that the courts will judge in a fair and unbiased manner.

However, when faced with the loss of a loved one, especially in cases where there are numerous victims, the overwhelming currents of grief converge, seeking empathy from the court. But that is not the role of the court. If a court were to provide such sympathy, they would cease to fulfill their duty as impartial judges.

**Voice over**

Argyropoulos goes on to explain that legal rules are inherently strict and specific.

**Christoforos Argyropoulos**

**Lawyer, President of the Legal Preparation Committee for the final drafting of the Penal Code**

Whether an act is categorized as a felony or a misdemeanor is determined by the legislature. However, this determination is bound by a constitutional principle known as the principle of proportionality.

Negligence can never be equated with acts that are considered felonious. Felonies encompass acts where the outcome is a result of deliberate and conscious actions. It is not only the outcome that is condemned, but also the intentional and rational behavior of the perpetrator.

**Voice over**

And then, the conversation returns to the Tempi train crash.

**Christoforos Argyropoulos**

**Lawyer, President of the Legal Preparation Committee for the final drafting of the Penal Code**

When the stationmaster makes such a grave mistake, raises the question of accountability for his decision.

But the absence of an automatic system that would stop a train traveling at 150km when it senses another train approaching from a kilometer away is an even more significant factor. To me, it's much bigger, much, much bigger. I would say it's decisive because it would also prevent the consequences of others' negligence.

**Voice over**

In his office filled with stacks of files in the heart of Athens, we posed the question to lawyer Mr. Argyropoulos: Does the judicial investigation bring about catharsis and, in turn, heal our collective trauma?

**Christoforos Argyropoulos**

**Lawyer, President of the Legal Preparation Committee for the final drafting of the Penal Code**

We derived the concept of catharsis from ancient tragedy, where there was a resolution at the end to bring us solace. However, in this context, if we rely on a court decision to alleviate the pain caused by a loss, my extensive experience in similar cases tells me that we won't find solace. We are seeking something that justice simply cannot provide.

**Voice over**

Alexandros Kopsidis and Natasa Michailidou, the young students who were rescued from the wreck of the Samina, married and started a family in the following years. Life always goes on. They both found the strength to board another ship not long after the incident.

**“Ms Express Samina” wreck**

**Alexandros Kopsidis, Natasa Michailidou**

Now, when I look at what happened in Tempi, I can't help but feel angry because it feels like the same things keep happening and nothing changes.

It has had a profound impact on me, and I didn't want to simply let the sadness fade away, because I questioned whether that's how it should be. Are we just going to forget after a while and move on as if nothing happened?

That's what I wanted to talk about today because these tragedies often get forgotten, and it's a shame. It’s disrespectful to the lives that were lost, to the people who have lost their loved ones, and to the injustice that continues.

**Voice over**

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