

00:01:02.10	<p>NARRATION</p> <p>It was called "Dachaou", "Bastille", "Death Island", "Devil's Island".</p> <p>Yaros or Yura. A 17 square kilometer rock island, thrown in the middle of the ocean, among Syra, Tinos and Zia. A dry, arid land. No trees or shade anywhere. Only rocks, spines and a dry wind. The sun burns and flushes all day long. A harsh light, a tough land. A place for ghosts, not for people.</p>
00:03:15.22	<p>NARRATION</p> <p>The first known report on Yaros is written by Theophrastus, in the 3rd century b.C. The philosopher from Lesbos mentions that the island was desolated, when rats drove the people away.</p>
00:03:29.09	<p>NARRATION</p> <p>In Roman and Byzantine years it was a place of prison and exile, and a pirates' stronghold.</p>
00:03:38.21	<p>TITLE ON SCREEN:</p> <p>[CIVIL WAR]</p>
00:03:52.00	<p>NARRATION</p> <p>Since July 11th, 1947 and throughout the Civil war, between the conservatives and the leftists, Yaros was used as a place of exile for political detainees, mostly communists. During the next 3 years, 18.000 people were transported here, 18.000 tortured men, sick, tired, living-dead.</p>
00:04:18.04	<p>Kostas Margoudakis, exiled</p> <p>The first shipment arrived at Yaros in July, 1947. The beating welcome here was more than certain. Under the pretence of body searching, they would beat you. And not only that. They would also robbed all you stuff, saying that it was illegal to have your own stuff there. So, they took everything, even the pictures of your loved ones, or any books you happened to have taken with you. They usually kept as their own whatever they liked and the rest was stored in the storehouses.</p> <p>We lived in very hard conditions. The means of transportation were quite primitive but, most important was that men were brought here for</p>

	<p>being exterminated. The biggest adventure of all was the construction of the prison.</p>
00:05:26.16	<p>Alexis Katsoulidis, exiled They used all 6-10.000 of us for work. They led us up to the mountain of Yura to extract stones and they forced us to carry them for the construction of the prison.</p>
00:05:41.01	<p>Kostas Margoudakis, exiled We had to unload iron, bricks, wood and cement from the ships. Only the detainees should do that. Of course, no one was paid for the job.</p>
00:06:00.06	<p>Alexis Katsoulidis, exiled There were needed bricks for the construction, apart from stones. So, we had to carry even the bricks. Since I had a poor back, I said to a compatriot of mine "I'll take only four bricks at a time." The guardian overheard me. "Why only 4 or 5?" he asked me. "I can't take more, they're too heavy for me", I replied. He beat me badly, after that. What should I have done?</p>
00:06:26.13	<p>Kostas Margoudakis, exiled The column of the detainees was setting off, but all of them disliked the idea of the construction of the prison. They considered it a disgrace for on our nation. So, they were walking very slowly. In the front line, the strongest men were going so they would delay the pace of the column without caring about their being beaten. After they were beaten badly enough other detainees were taking their places and so on. So, a distance that should have been walked in an hour, it took them 2,5 hours. But they were beaten hard in order to walk faster and start to work.</p>
00:07:21.14	<p>NARRATION In 1962, Yaros was evacuated. But 5 years later, in 1967, junta of the colonels re-opens the hell hole. And the devil gets back to work...</p>

<p>00:08:28.10</p>	<p>In the spring of 1967, Greece sinks in a political dead end. The inability of the postwar Constitutional Monarchy to provide a stable government and a series of negative political events create an abnormal situation in the country.</p> <p>The dawn of April 21st 1967, one month before the elections scheduled by Mr. Kanellopoulos, a group of 15 perjurers colonels -with Georgios Papadopoulos, Nikolaos Makarezos and the brigadier Stylianos Pattakos in charge- disrupt the Constitution and impose a military Dictatorship.</p> <p><i>Stylianos Patakos</i></p> <p>Our country was in danger. Otherwise, we were no crazy nor vainglorious to risk our lives attempting a revolution like that. However, we were made sure both by the prime ministers and the king that the upcoming elections of May 28th could not be held. The election campaign should have started on April 23d. So, in order to prevent the beginning of the campaign, the top executives of the enterprise decided to act. Thus, Papadopoulos, Makarezos, and myself. I was supposed to provide them the arms, since they had organized the plan of the enterprise the so called "Prometheus". That plan was not a plan of a revolution, but of the State. The General Military Staff, as the one functioning nowadays in ours and in every nation, it gets prepared for war, during peace time so peace could be secured.</p>
<p>00:09:58.18</p>	<p><i>NARRATION</i></p> <p>Having approximately 100 tanks at their service, the putschists move on to capture the Pentagon and certain key points of the capital. In the morning, Athens awakes in a new, deserted country. Fear, numbness, silence, closed doors.</p>

00:10:19.01	<p>Yannis Charalampopoulos former Minister of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>I was a deputy of the "Enosis Kentrou" party, elected in 1963 and '64 in the prefecture of Messinia. The 21st of April found me in my house in Vassileos Konstantinou Str. The previous evening I stayed home with some friends until late. The next morning I intended to go to Messinia for my campaign. When my friends left, I started preparing some documents I wanted to take with me. It was then that I heard tanks passing through Vassileos Konstantinou Str. I went to the balcony of my flat and I saw the tanks passing. I tried to call, but the telephone line was cut. So I took my wife and certain documents of mine, that they shouldn't fall in the dictators' hands, and left. Thus, I had realized that a coup d'etat had occurred. So, with my wife, we went to a house in Nea Smyrni. When they went to my flat to arrest me, they found nobody there.</p>
00:11:32.04	<p>NARRATION</p> <p>On the same day, the first arrests. The government, the leaders of the political parties, outstanding politicians, and thousands democratic citizens are arrested and imprisoned. Greece is injured..</p>
00:11:49.28	<p>Dr. Christos Trikalinos, Phd</p> <p>It was about 6:30 am, when the bell rang. I woke up. My father was getting ready to go to work. He answered the door. A policeman and a man in civil clothes came in. I heard them telling to my father "Mr. Trikalinos, the commanding officer asked for you." "What for?" my father asked. "Have you any documents?" "What are you talking about?" they replied. "A martial law was declared!" He gave me hug... he kissed me. After a while they took him and left the house and we saw him with the two men, who were escorting him, disappearing in the darkness.</p>
	<p>NARRATION</p>

00:13:00.04	<p>Since the first day of the coup d' etat, the country is declared in a state of siege and a martial law is imposed. The basic articles of the constitution are put off. Disbanding, discharges, beatings, torturing, massive arrests.</p>
00:13:15.07	<p>Alexis Katsoulidis - 33 years ago</p> <p>In the evening, after they had gathered us all, they ordered us to take our stuff and get into the vehicle. We got into the vehicle. We were about 30 people from our village. The women started bewailing. It was a Holy Saturday, of course. So, I stood up and said: "Farewell! Let's have a good Resurrection!"</p>
00:13:37.20	<p>NARRATION</p> <p>On April 21st, in the racecourse of Faliro, where 8.000 political prisoners were guarded, Panagiotis Elis is murdered in cold blood by a policeman. Two more had been previously murdered, two more "corporate losses": Maria Kalavrou and a 15-year-old boy, Vasilis Pesis. All of them, plain citizens.</p> <p>On the 26th, the transfer of the prisoners in exile begins. Thousands of "dangerous" citizens are uprooted, leaving homes, families and children behind, and on board ships are headed to desert islands.</p>
00:14:25.03	<p>Stylianos Pattakos</p> <p>That plan called for the arrest of all the dangerous leftists who where registered in the lists of the state police. Communists of the 3rd class were transferred to the islands Yaros and Leros. Neither torturing nor ill-treatment of anyone of them was allowed. No one of those who were liberated ever complained for bad treatment or beating. However, it's true that they lived in hard conditions.</p>
00:15:16.20	<p>NARRATION</p> <p>Before the Easter of '67, 6.138 prisoners were transferred to Yaros. A double Passion Week</p>

00:15:42.02	<p>begins for the Greek people. Alexis Katsoulidis Many of those who saw the island for the first time rested speechless.</p>
	<p>A lot of detainees were already there, watching the ship arriving with the newcomers.</p>
00:16:04.28	<p>NARRATION Yaros is not a prison, nor a place of exile. Yaros is a nightmare. It is a grey and cold place like a cemetery lobby.</p>
	<p>7.500 people cluttered in narrow chambers, in tents. The prison is not big enough to house more than a thousand people. Most of them sleep on the ground. They are malnourished. They carry water in buckets. At first, a cup of water is given to each prisoner for his daily needs. Hard work and propaganda. No contact with the world outside. Letters are forbidden and so are packages. Among them, a five-year-old child. His mother, Anna Solomou, didn't want to separate from him when she was arrested. She took him with her in exile.</p>
00:17:22.01	<p>Anna Solomou - Yaros, 33 years ago The other women detainees were taking care of my child. The space was really filthy and we were trying to open the windows, although we were terrified of the scorpions existed outside. There were only a few beds. I had my child sleep on a bed, that my co-prisoners offered me, and I slept on the floor. For a few days, I stayed with my child in the infirmary, because there was a lot of people here, the atmosphere was bad. But all of them were taking care of the child.</p>
00:18:10.27	<p>TITLE ON SCREEN Anna - Makis Solomou Yaros - 40 years later</p>

	<p>Although there was no food, Makis had almost everything. Of course, there was no meat or fish, but if a detainee had a tin of milk, she would give it to him. Although the child was playing around, he must have felt sad. He was telling me "Mummy, I want to get out of this place, because everybody here is unshaved and in pajamas!" All people in here was like that. He was also disturbed by the extra care he was receiving. Everybody was kissing him and he was reacting to that. He had gotten wild!</p>
00:18:51.02	<p>Makis Solomos I remember a wooden guardhouse there was out there. I walked around but I couldn't find it.</p>
00:18:57.16	<p>TITLE ON SCREEN <i>Makis - Anna Solomou</i> <i>Yaros, 40 years later</i></p> <p>I also remember that famous cake you all prepared for my birthday on May 23rd... It was a cake carrying a note from my father saying that he loves me, that he is thinking of me and so on. They were laughing, because I didn't believe the note was real.</p>
00:19:18.27	<p>Anna Solomou One day, Pattakos arrived here and told me to send my kid back home. He told me that I'm not a good mother.</p>
00:19:32.20	<p>Stylianos Pattakos I was right saying so. Although there was someone to take care of her kid, she preferred to take him with her, she was not a good mother!</p>
00:19:48.11	<p>Anna Solomou They were always telling me to send the kid back home, but I kept refusing, until the day when the commanding officer told me "If you don't</p>

00:19:56.14	<p>send your kid back, we'll take him from you!"</p> <p>Makis Solomos</p>
	<p>The last thing I remember is that when I left, you escorted me.</p>
	<p>Anna Solomou</p>
00:19:59.10	<p>Yes, we went to Piraeus together to give you back. And after that, I was feeling like an empty sack.</p>
	<p>Kostas Maragoudakis, exiled</p>
00:20:12.15	<p>I am a member of the communist party. My syndical activities bothered them, for I was in the front line of those activities. On April 21st, two policemen knocked at my door; they arrested me and brought me here on the charge of my being dangerous for the public safety. This building was not used during the first period, although it was designed by an English prison organizer in order to be used. His name was Brisman, but the people used to call him "handless". He was saying that he did all the designs.</p>
	<p>NARRATION</p>
00:21:10.18	<p>On December 23d, 1967, after the failure of a counter-coup, attempted under the orders of the king Konstantine B', Georgios Papadopoulos -who in the meantime had declared himself Prime Minister- issues a general amnesty; the detainees of Yaros are left out. As the dictator says, these people are "the quintessence of communism"; they are no convicts nor people waiting to be trialed. By the law of the government, they are under confinement. Even so, some would leave. Others will stay until the closure of the camp, in the end of '71.</p> <p>Meanwhile, in the inland, the wave of resistance is growing. Charges for arrests, tortures and executions of dissident people reach the international fora. Europe close no more the eyes to horror.</p> <p>The anti-dictatorship front spreads out. The students' uprising at the Law School and at the</p>

	<p>Polytechnic university speed up the process for the overthrow of the regime, which is in crisis.</p>
00:22:34.06	<p>TITLE ON SCREEN <i>The uprising at the Polytechnic University</i></p>
00:22:38.15	<p>STUDENTS PROTESTING -Down with the fascism! -People, it's now or never!</p>
00:22:44.21	<p>STUDENT BROADCASTING ON THE RADIO This is the Polytechnic University! This is the radio station of the free fighting students, of the free fighting Greeks.</p>
00:23:05.21	<p>NARRATION After Papadopoulos' deposition from the new dictator Ioannidis, in November 1973, history seems to repeat itself. Tanks in the streets, prosecutions, tortures in the Military Police base (ESA), desert islands.</p>
00:23:27.19	<p>Yannis Charalampopoulos former Minister of Foreign Affairs I was arrested after the events at the Polytechnic University, on November 21st, and I was brought to ESA, where I was kept until December 29th. At the ESA, I had the traumatic experience of watching my son George tortured in front of me. George was arrested and brought to ESA after me, where the tortures took place, at least the ones I witnessed. Through a crack on the skew door of my cell I could see George while he was tortured.</p>
00:24:16.04	<p>George Charalampopoulos I was not tortured in order to give away something, unless they wanted me to talk about things I was not aware of. When my father came back from his exile in Yaros, he told me that</p>

	<p>when he was at ESA, he watched me being tortured. We wondered whether they wanted to torture me or my father.</p>
00:24:47.04	<p>NARRATION</p> <p>Yaros opens up for 44 political prisoners. This time the repetition seems like a practical joke. The end is near...</p>
00:25:00.03	<p>Nikos Manios, exiled</p> <p>We were brought here on December 29th, 1973. We found many policemen here and a derelict situation. We were thoroughly searched at the entrance of the building, since they wanted to see what stuff we had taken with us. However, we managed to hide a small radio and we were able to listen to foreigner stations broadcasting the news.</p>
00:25:29.15	<p>ON THE RADIO</p> <p>-This is London.</p> <p>-This is Radio Deutsche Welle from Cologne, Germany.</p>
00:25:50.20	<p>Stavros Paravas, exiled</p> <p>I was starring in a performance at Rex Theatre and I was arrested while I was on the stage.</p>
00:26:08.10	<p>TITLE ON SCREEN</p> <p><i>Stavros Paravas - 35 years ago</i></p> <p><i>(singing: "We're for any educated man who wants to rule the country. We're against those short, crazy guys with the tanks..."</i></p>
00:26:34.05	<p>I couldn't even imagine that there were such awful places where human souls were confined.</p>
00:26:46.23	<p>ON THE RADIO</p> <p>-This is London.</p>

	<p>NARRATION</p> <p>In 1974, following a period of violence between Greek and Turkish Cypriots, a Greek Cypriot coup sponsored by the Greek military junta was attempted. But this is just the beginning of a big tragedy. On July 20th, 1974, -after the failure of the treacherous coup, as it was called-, at the observation towers in the coasts of North Cyprus, sounds the alarm. The Turks under the codename "Attila" invade the island and occupy one-third of the island.</p> <p>In Athens, the situation reveals the nudity of the regime and its complete inability to handle the chaos created by the same regime. Junta falls apart.</p> <p>The night of July 24th, Konstantinos Karamanlis comes back from Paris -where he had spent 11 years in a self-imposed exile, after his disagreement with the palace- and forms a government of national unity. The people jubilant fill the streets.</p> <p>In Yaros a new morning dawns. It's the first day after a long night. For 44 people, this is the first morning of a fearless life..</p> <p>Yannis Charalampopoulos former Minister of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>We were informed on the changes occurred during the fortnight after Turks had invaded Cyprus. Eventually, when the dictatorship fell apart and Karamanlis came in power, we were informed that we were free.</p>
00:28:01.06	<p>TITLE ON SCREEN</p> <p><i>Exiled from Yaros are welcomed back</i></p>
00:28:31.09	<p>NARRATION</p> <p>Yaros is a desert place. The old facilities of the prison stand empty on the rock, exposed to the vicious north winds.</p> <p>After the complaints of the survived prisoners, the state decided to declare Yaros as a place of remembrance. The buildings and the facilities of</p>

	<p>the camp were considered monuments of the modern political barbarity. Till now, the island fights all alone against its own demons..</p>
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