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***In defense of the working class: Panagiotis Argyriades in the court of law***

On the night of April 9th1889 in Limoges, a desperate woman named Souhain, kills her five children and tries to commit suicide,after hearingher husband has been arrested for stealing lead.Panagiotis Argyriades, Greek lawyer and militant, takes over her case in the court of law, and in the name of the helpless mother he eventually defends the entirety of the working class and the vision of socialism.

This paper will attempt to highlight special moments of Argyriades’swork as a lawyer, beginning with his defense of anarchists during the years of the “propaganda of the dead”, up to his most famous case, that of the Souhain family.The main bulk of my research is based on the pertinent contemporary French press and also on material traced for the first time in the Archive of the Parisian Police. I will argue that the actions of this “mediocre layer” and “political underachiever” had been drawing the attention of undercover policemen for almost 17 consecutive years and discuss the intertwining between his legal career and his political activities.