

## Athens backs villagers' fight for German compensation over 1944 SS massacre

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*Greek civilians look on as the Germany army makes its way to Thessaloniki in April 1941. Photograph: Getty*

George Papandreou's decision to support claims at International Court of Justice risks row with Berlin when its financial help is needed

- [Helena Smith](#) in Athens
- [The Observer](#), Sunday 13 February 2011
- [Article history](#)

A Nazi massacre remembered by Greeks as one of the worst atrocities of the [second world war](#) is threatening to plunge relations between Athens and Berlin to a new low amid rising criticism of [Germany](#)'s failure to pay compensation.

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