



Information for revolutionary and
Marxist-Leninist forces of all countries:

Bulletin 01/07

Excerpts and synopsis from the publications by "Gegen die Strömung"
- Organ for the Building of the Revolutionary Communist Party of
Germany: January - March 2007

Appears quarterly In ENGLISH, French, Italian, Dutch, Spanish, Russian and Turkish

Gegen die Strömung's leaflet of January 2007 addresses the subject of:

The Reactionary Paragraph 175 and Nazi Fascism:

No slandering or discrimination of any sort against those who are attracted to members of the same sex!

"The Nazi Regime committed such a plethora of criminal acts that, reinforced by all sorts of bourgeois prejudices, the real danger exists in the potential to overlook and to underestimate a serious facet of the Nazi crimes: the Nazi 'male role model' and the Nazi campaign to eliminate 'homosexuality'. Homosexuality between men was a criminal, prosecutable act since the days of the German Empire and later the Weimar Republic. The Communist Party of Germany (KPD) led a campaign in the days of the Weimar Republic to abolish the disgraceful Paragraph 175, but the Nazis seized power in 1933. They particularly targeted homosexual men, or those classified or denounced as such, to a degree that was unimaginable up until that point, using judicial prosecutions (Paragraph 175), incarceration, penitentiaries and concentration camps. Today, Communist-oriented comrades cannot and must not disregard this fact... „

It goes on:

"If we discuss first of all the Nazi-Fascist crimes against 'homosexuals' - which we should take to mean crimes against those who are attracted to members of the same sex (for the Nazis 'prime targets were first and foremost men) - then another question immediately presents itself: What was special about the Nazi persecution of this minority? For it was not the case, even after 1945, that men attracted to other men ceased to be pursued according to the provisions of the infamous Paragraph 175... in West Germany."

Nazi-Fascist discrimination, persecution, murder of people attracted to members of the same sex

The leaflet highlights the following stages of the criminal Nazi persecution of homosexuals:

- **Nazi laws, registration and prosecution:** from the burning of the books in 1933 to the "Röhm Putsch" in 1934 as a new phase in homophobia and the tightening of Paragraph 175 in 1935 and also to the establishment of a central "Reichszentrale zur Bekämpfung der Homosexualität und Abtreibung" in 1936.
- **Mass terror by the police state** - in an atmosphere of denunciation, raids and mass arrests - and forced castrations.
- **Penal battalions, sadistic cruelty and murders in Nazi concentration camps:** in the time between 1940 and 1945 the Nazis escalated the practice of murdering inmates in their penitentiaries, psychiatric establishments and concentration camps, places where those attracted to the same sex were oppressed, even driven to death, providing forced labour for construction, quarrying or the building of V2-missiles. As „pink-triangle“ prisoners they were subjected to especially bestial torture methods.

Post-1945: Denazification?

On the subject of same-gender sexuality, fighting against the ideology of Nazism meant (and still means) debating not just the history of Paragraph 175, but also

the entire history of discrimination against those attracted to the same sex and the significance of this discrimination in the history of the class struggle. The leaflet comments on some of the central ideas of reactionary demagogy and falsification which need to be exposed by the Communist forces. It explains:

"...As far as voluntary sexuality and voluntary relationships are concerned, what is being discussed are the private concerns and private lives of an individual person; as far as involuntary relationships are concerned - forced through repression, hardship and financial reasons - these must be combated..."

On the difficulties of evaluating the discrimination and persecution faced in today's Germany by those attracted to members of the same sex

The leaflet goes on to carefully examine the arguments of the euphemistic sugar-coaters, who have contended that there have been great advances in Germany in recent decades (for example, the abolition of Paragraph 175, public memorials to homosexual victims of the Nazis and the introduction of civil partnerships, as well as the election of openly homosexual mayoral and political candidates of the reactionary Berlin parties, without this causing any apparent damage to their careers).

"Without doubt, all of these changes would not have been possible in the Germany of the 1950s and 60s ...We could expose the half-measures and shortcomings of these aspects — which have been cast in a positive light - with a very good rationale. However we are dealing with a completely different matter.

These partial advances, compared with the Germany of the 1950s, are coupled with a simultaneous sharpening of the climate, which betrays more than just a „backlash“ against these changes. This is not (or almost not) a matter of the legal and governmental regulations, but we are talking about the media, public institutions and the mobilisation of a prejudiced ‚popular sentiment‘. These reactionary prevailing moods are by no means coincidentally, but rather systematically sustained by the propaganda of the contemporary Nazi movement, by organised aggression against those attracted to members of the same sex by Nazis or by young people with Nazi sympathies, and even by murders carried out by Nazis. Overall it can be seen that the situation for those attracted to members of the same sex has, in several regards, become more dangerous in Germany, more threatening and more reactionary."

In conclusion, the publication goes on to state:

"Our struggle against German imperialism, indeed our very struggle against capitalism and imperialism themselves, includes us leading a real battle, a real argument with all reactionary points of view held in the great majority of the working class and the other working masses. The aim of the struggle is clear: only when the majority of the working men and women, the majority of all working people, have come to understand and refute the demagogic trickery and ruses of the ruling class, particularly the Nazi-Fascist lies and manoeuvres which still live on, only then will they be able to victoriously carry out the struggle against the exploitative and repressive system in its entirety.

This conscious debate with the 'reactionary traditions which weigh like a nightmare on the brain of living' is vital and essential. But only those Comrades who are geared towards scientific Communism can conduct this struggle comprehensively, with appropriate scientific foundations and in a well-organised fashion. Our fundamental position is:

'The fight against all types of slandering and discrimination of those attracted to members of the same sex is closely linked to the fight against the oppression of women and against the dominant male role model. A foundation of this slandering and discrimination is, above all, also machismo, that is, the ideology and politics of ‚masculinity‘, which in the Nazi-Fascist times was intensified, taking German racism as a basis, to the persecution, to concentration camps and murders of those attracted to members of the same sex. In Germany, reactionary prejudices against those attracted to members of the same sex are deeply ingrained in large parts of the German population. In today's Germany, those attracted to members of the sex are threatened by State and day-to-day discrimination, as well as by the terror of the Nazis.

The Communist forces are fighting for maximum indemnification of the victims of the Nazis and are fighting against all instances of slandering and Nazi terror against those attracted to members of the same sex. They are fighting against all instances of discrimination and against the reactionary ideology of the machismo and masculinity. (Extract from the documents of the Third Party Conference of Gegen die Strömung: Touchstones, RotFront Nr. 19, January 2005, p. 121)..."

Moreover, the eight-page leaflet contains the following additional articles:

- The reason why we prefer the term "attracted to members of the same sex"
- The KPD's struggle against Paragraph 175 in the Weimar Republic"

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Extracts from an essay by Kurt Tucholsky against the campaign initiated by the SPD in 1931 for the removal of the head of the SA, Rohm, which was carried out not because he was the leader of a gang of murderous Nazis, but because he was homosexual

Examples of the murderous conditions endured by pink-triangle prisoners using the example of the concentration camp at Sachsenhausen

Highlights of the anti-Nazi resistance by those attracted to members of the same sex

On the state of research into the persecution of those attracted to members of the same sex in



The leaflet from February and March 2007 was released under the title:

Appeal to the Communist-orientated forces to study the writings of Lenin, "Renegade Kautsky" and "LeftWing" Communism, an Infantile Disorder"!

The Majority of the Working Men and Women

"In the history of the revolutionary working class movements since 1848, the question of the level of the working class 'consciousness and the degree of organisation in the working class has always played a paramount role: for which goals is the working class actually struggling, for which goals is it supposed to struggle?"

"The writings "The Proletarian Revolution and the Renegade Kautsky" and ' "Left-Wing" Communism, an Infantile Disorder" systematically tackle these problems. Without doubt, the main danger is that under the pretence to win the majority of working women and men the aims of the socialist revolution are abandoned and replaced by a reformist and trade-unionist struggle. But there is also another way of capitulating to difficulties, garnished with revolutionary phrases: to declare that a struggle to win the majority of the working class for the benefit of the socialist revolution in Germany is futile and as a result simply can no longer be led."

In Section One, the leaflet singles out some of the touchstones, some of the particularities of the historical development of Germany, which themselves show for

the time of Nazi Fascism. It is a sign of the continuous contempt in which the homosexual victims of the Nazis are held that, until this day, there has not been a single research paper published which has concerned itself with providing a comprehensive overview of the practices of persecution in Nazi Germany. Other fields -such as the persecution of women attracted to members of the same sex, the resistance by homosexuals or the persecution in those countries occupied by the Nazis -have remained similarly almost entirely unexplored.

German conditions: Examples of the Nazi-motivated terror and the murders of those attracted to members of the same sex today. - In 2003, four Nazi-motivated murders of homosexuals were reported; in 2004, there were three!

Communist positions against the discrimination against and persecution of those attracted to members of the same sex. — Rough scetch of Gegen die Strömungs' planned comprehensive study in 2007/08 on the topic of the discrimination against and persecution of those attracted to members of the same sex.

which ends particular sections of the working class had already been won over and for which ends they had not yet been so won over, in order to get a clear picture of what it means to secure the majority of working women for the ideas of Communism:

- From 1848 up until the First World War: increasing Communist influence and wide-reaching backlash: in 1914, the majority of working women and men followed orders of the "Defence of the Fatherland", and for the Communist forces that meant that they had to dissuade the majority of the working class, on a level far below the fight for the socialist revolution, from the imperialistic class truce.
- The wrestle between the revolutionary and the counter-revolutionary forces for the majority of the proletariat until 1933. After the revolutionary upsurge until 1923 the KPD, the Communist Party of Germany, was mainly concerned with the emerging Nazi mass-movement - once again on a level below the struggle for the socialist revolution - and the winning of the majority of the work-

ing class in order to organise them into an active and militant anti-Nazi force.

- Extensive annihilation of Communist influence by Nazi Fascism
- Prospects and approaches in the Soviet-governed German Occupation Zone (SBZ) / German Democratic Republic (DDR) and the revisionist "majority"con. The realistic recognition of the low level of consciousness prevalent in the working class after 1945 was not used as a starting point for a deep-reaching struggle against the "German ideology", but rather ended in nationalist ingratiation. "The majority is for us, the majority is for socialism," became the self-deluded lie of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED), which soon sank into its own revisionist swamp.

In Section Two, the publication handles - amongst other things - difficulties to accurately assess the current state of consciousness of the majority of the working class today in Germany (imperialist opinion polling organizations, propaganda programs, etc.), and goes on to set itself the mission:

"This consciousness, this self-awareness of the majority of the working class to organise itself politically, to build a state for itself to eke out forms of socialist democracy - this self awareness must be created by the Communist Party through rigorous and militant struggle of the working class through all twists and turns that they will encounter. This consciousness and self-awareness is the prerequisite for ensuring that also those who are currently wavering are neutralised and won over, so that on this basis - equipped with the moral support of the majority of their own class, in fact the majority of the very same exploited and working people - the counter-revolution can be eliminated, with a steady and dictatorial might."

In Section Three, the publication concludes by remarking on the aforementioned two essays by Lenin:

"It would be absolutely facile to get on board with the primitive formula that 'Renegade Kautsky' is directed 'against the right-wing'... and the "'Left-Wing' Communism' is directed 'against the left-wing'. Both writings are directed against one and the same main enemy, namely right-wing opportunism, and in the struggle against this main enemy there is one overriding theme: given the presence of all the illusions that the capitalist system and middle-class parliamentarism create, how can the majority of the working class, with their high morals and discipline, bring the revolutionary socialist democracy into existence and exercise their

dictatorship over the counter-revolution, without allowing themselves to be lulled away from it by this phrase 'pure democracy for all'"

"In his writing 'Renegade Kautsky', Lenin shows in detail: the rejection of all unprincipled methods of encouraging the majority of the working class to work with us means, at the same time, not hesitating to advance positions that leave us from time to time behind in the minority. The readiness and ability to fight against the current was a prerequisite for being able to confront the intermittent and apparently overwhelming chauvinist pressure at the time of the First World War, as well as for 'being able to withstand 'all the reformist temptations with the allegedly possible theory of 'peacefully growing into 'this or that partly-socialist reform

"A thorough study of this writing ... should expose two particularly weighty points. Firstly, on the basis of a majority of consciously socialist and well-organised working women and men, raising the question of socialist democracy means - to put it bluntly, the question of whether the majority of the working class is armed and the bourgeoisie is disarmed. That is to a certain degree the decisive factor. Secondly, the writing concerns itself with Kautsky's arrogant, German-chauvinist claptrap, which asserts that the revolution in Russia had done all the same things except in a more dignified, more civilised and generally tidier fashion..."

"To a certain extent, "'Left-Wing' Communism" is the most important writing for the Communist world movement to have appeared after the October Revolution of 1917. It was written directly for the delegates of the Second World Congress of Comintern in 1920, and is an unsurpassable historical outline of how the necessary majority of the working class can secure their consciousness and organise themselves and create the discipline they need, not with moralising appeals and phrases, but as the result of a protracted historical process of struggling ... The central idea of it is, from the first to the final line, that the Communists of all countries must not just understand, but rather must really learn for which goals, along which avenues and with which methods the majority of the working class can be won over away from the capitalist ascendancy with its reformist demagoguery, and towards the side fighting for socialist democracy, and for the dictatorship of the proletariat."

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(but don't underestimate the secret services anywhere in the world)