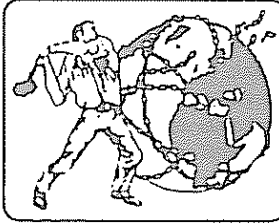


GEGEN DIE STROMUNG



Organ for the building of the Marxist-Leninist Party of West Germany

October 1991 / In English June 1995

Nazis are doing the dirty work for CDU/SPD/FDP/GREENS who have long proclaimed a policy of "deterrence":

Pogroms!

After state organs, media and all political parties in Bonn propagated a policy of "containment by deterrence" against asylum seekers, neo-Nazi forces in West Germany and the former GDR made arson attacks on over 100 asylum seekers' housing facilities in the last few weeks: Dozens of seriously injured people, the murder of asylum applicants Samuel Yeboah from Ghana and two heavily burned children from Lebanon - Mukadesh and Zainap Saado - after an arson attack in Huenxe are the result... and the arson attacks continue day after day.

In West Germany and the former GDR, a deeply reactionary policy towards refugees applying for asylum has been executed for months, even years on end. By means of the traditional policy of "divide and rule" West/German imperialism attempts - not without success - to incite parts of the German population against asylum seekers.

All Bonn politicians are agreed that the most important thing is to pursue a "policy of deterrence" and to create really unbearable conditions for asylum applicants - more than 70 large assembly camps have been arranged by CDU and SPD. Stiffened deportation practices, material supplies only in the form of - in most cases nearly uneatable - food and a minimum amount for clothing - the news about these matters have flooded the population now for weeks and months.

The neo-Nazis, however, acted. In a hitherto unprecedented manner, every day dozens of refugee housing facilities were attacked systematically.

The course of events repeated itself according to a certain well-known pattern:

- Increasing agitation in mass-media against asylum seekers and people who don't have a German passport or who are considered to be "un-German".
- Under the cover of the night, attacks - during the last weeks mainly arson attacks - are carried out by neo-Nazi gangs.
- Police present themselves uninformed and are allegedly "powerless." In places where parts of the population show an "understanding" for the Nazi attacks, the neo-Nazis proceed to manifestations and excesses in the evening hours or in the light of the day.

- Demonstrations and actions of anti-Nazi forces that are really directed against the Nazis, that are not only designed to "calm down" and to "relax the situation" are dispersed and smashed by police and the Federal Border Police with the utmost brutality.

That is what happened in Hoyerswerda and elsewhere.

It is not only by the extent of these Nazi actions that a new scale of terror has been reached: against asylum seekers, but also more and more against workers, against entire families from other countries, especially Turkey, who are living here.

For the first time, with the approval of the most reactionary portions of the population, public housing facilities of asylum seekers and workers from other countries were openly attacked by Nazi murder gangs for five days long. With obvious consent of the local police, a mood was created and crimes committed in Hoyerswerda that can only truly be described by the word pogrom.

Police on the Side of the Nazis!

The fact that police were on the side of the Nazis, that their stupid "apology" of being too weak or being incapable of doing anything against the Nazis - the fact that all this isn't true was proved several days later when a demonstration directed against the Nazis was beaten up, stopped and shoved back in the most brutal manner.

The detailed "reporting" on Hoyerswerda in the former GDR in the media here was, however, not an expression of outrage and rejection of the fascist assaults but served primarily - apart from the usual

Fight the Nazis in the Spirit of Stalin's Toughness!

The following leaflet calling for an uncompromising struggle against Nazi-gangs was sent to us. We gladly consent to the request for publication!

Fight the Nazis in the Spirit of Stalin's Toughness!

- Put an end to the rumour of the alleged "bravery" of the nazis

In World War II, there wasn't much of this bravery. A nazi showed "bravery" in the bestial murder of defenseless POWs or of the unarmed civil population. But his "bravery" left him very quickly as soon as he was confronted with the organized force of the Red Army and the Soviet partisan formations - this was the experience of the struggle of the Red Army and the Soviet partisans already in 1942, as Stalin makes clear.

The same goes for today. Nazis demonstrate their "courage" in beating up unarmed refugees from other countries but are often very quickly on the run or much less "prepared to attack" when they are confronted with the same number of well organized, battle-tested anti-fascists.

If we acquire for ourselves the necessary means and really organize ourselves, we don't need to have any fear of the nazis. Then we are stronger and can also beat them decisively, so that they will loose the desire for confrontation with us for a while. This is proven by dozens of examples.

- Put an end to carelessness and good-naturedness towards the fascists!

We must not underestimate the nazis. They are courted, nourished and protected by the West German reactionary state, its cops, its "Federal Porder Police", its courts. Hence, they have great material resources and are able to gain ground nearly undisturbed. Their effectiveness is proven by the nazi murders of the last years, by the daily attacks of nazis against people who are "un-German" for them.

How, then, must we proceed against the nazis? To fight the nazis unsparingly and with real hatred - that was a feature of the struggle of all anti-nazi forces that fought together with Stalin, the socialist Soviet Union against the nazi criminals. In this spirit, Stalin educated the fighters of the Red Army and the partisans; in this spirit, the Communist Parties educated their comrades during the time of Stalin.

When we are at the controls and the nazis in the defensive... then, no pity for this rabble!

- Attack the nazis in their rat holes!

The prevention of nazi marches, the "clearing" of the book tables of the nazis, the defence of refugees from other countries from nazi attacks etc. - all this was and is an essential component of our anti-fascist struggle.

But if we stop here and do not pursue the nazis right into their holes in order to smash them there, the fascists will always be able to recover and to gain new forces.

Let's pursue the nazis right into their pubs and their meeting-places and paste them a lesson which they won't forget all too quickly!

Group Mustapha Suphi/Karl Liebknecht

sensationalism - to divert attention from attacks on a much larger scale that took place in West Germany.

After the murders and murderous attacks, for example against the two six- and eight-year-old children from Lebanon, the Bonn politicians expressed hypocritically their "dismay". But it is only their seed that is germinating, it's their slander campaign that is now coming to fruition.

In this context, it is very important to keep in mind that asylum applicants do not only have to live in daily fear of Nazi assaults but are also threatened by the damocles' sword of deportation day by day. It is important to see that German police daily deport entire families without the least scruple - all too often directly into the torture cells of the fascist secret police in countries like Ghana, Turkey, India etc.

Fight State Terror and Neo-Nazi Terror!

Of course, solidarity with the nazi-terrorized asylum seekers, with all people affected by the Nazi terror means and necessitates to confront the Nazi murder-gangs as energetically and effectively as possible.

If even against this most obvious form of terror visible for everyone no resistance is organized, we cannot even think of a more developed form of resistance against reactionary politics.

As much as Nazi pogroms are momentarily in the foreground, nevertheless the primary form of terror against asylum seekers remains state terror.

State terror begins with the bureaucratic harassment of asylum applicants and workers from other countries generally by means of "special laws", stately organized nationalist and racist slander campaigns up to police terror and deportation terror, police raids and assaults in the refugees' housing facilities.

Beyond that, neo-Nazi gangs don't act completely independent of the state apparatus of West/German imperialism: they are tolerated, nourished, promoted by it. Hence, it would be totally wrong to rely on this state apparatus in the struggle against the neo-Nazis. The struggle against Nazi gangs as well as the terror of the state apparatus must be conducted with much more resolve than in the past.

The Dirty Phrase of "Understanding for the Population"

The neo-Nazis could undertake their murderous assaults in an atmosphere where they are supported by a certain "understanding", some "sympathetic attitude". It is claimed that it would really be "too much" for the village x when a certain number of asylum seekers from Romania, from Mozambique or somewhere else comes into the village, that this would really be impossible "to cope with", etc. etc.

Against all these phrases, we say with all clarity: in view of the neo-Nazi murder assaults, there is simply and only one thing:

Solidarity with the victims of Nazi attacks!

The whole lament about the supposed "overstrain" of the "German population", of village x

and village z", misses the core of the matter completely:

The ruling class wants to split and agitate, we must oppose their slander campaign frontally!

Even before neo-Nazi attacks are carried out, even as early as it is only announced that asylum applicants may be accommodated in a village or a municipal ward, so-called "citizen's initiatives", reactionary movements - often virtually provoked by the public authorities - proliferate.

Under the slogan "A village struggles for its survival," a united reactionary front is forged. Between poor and rich, the mayor and the agricultural worker, between those who consider themselves as progressive and the most sinister reactionaries. All of a sudden there is a "consensus" between all these people: 40 "Romanians," or even Romanian "gypsies" (the widespread abusive word for Roma people) that come into a village with 800 inhabitants, that means that the "village is in danger", that all people stick together. The feeling of the "village community" is awakened. All those who otherwise - whether it's against the Bundeswehr or big capital that obtrude on such a village - don't dare to put up resistance, these people now begin "to demonstrate" and feel courageous in the face of refugees about whose life they neither know nor want to know anything.

Even if examples like that cannot be generalized - one basic problem clearly emerges: The present events have shown and continue to show that, there can't be made even the slightest concessions to these reactionary movements of "national community":

To struggle against the current means to demand - and, of course, practice - active solidarity with the refugees threatened by neo-Nazi assaults. A first step could be, by way of example, to take responsibilities for refugees' housing facilities, as proposed by representatives of the metal worker's union IG-Metall:

Within the IG-Metall, at a conference of 250 union representatives someone brought forward the proposal that unionists in the metal companies should take charge for asylum seekers' housing facilities and send delegations from the factories to them. That's an initiative that can only be welcomed. An initiative that is certainly based on the fact, among others, that, especially in the IG-Metall, colleagues from Turkey with a really progressive orientation play an important role. (See Frankfurter Rundschau, 5.10.91)

A second step could be massive support against and during neo-Nazi attacks and especially support for refugees threatened by deportation.

Argue Where Possible, Strike Where Necessary!

In view of the flood of neo-Nazi terror assaults, massive self-defence is the most important thing: prattle and good words, some sort of "dismay" far away from where the assaults take place, can't change anything. Placatory phrases such as "No violence at all!" as well as the falsifying reactionary reporting in the bourgeois media on successful resistance of progressive and revolutionary forces together with the refugees against the Nazis are both big dangers. By no means we can give in to this sort of pressure. There's no room for discussion

and persuasion against active Nazis in action. These murderous gangs must be dealt with rigorously and without any pity. Self-help against Nazi terror must be organized with every strength, everywhere where Nazis appear.

But the whole situation West Germany and the former GDR requires also, wherever it is possible, to come into deep discussions and to bring forward arguments about a whole range of questions. It requires to organize meetings and debates, to make clear by leaflets and posters that there is quite more at stake than a current horrible wave of Nazi attacks:

Playing different roles, different departments of the ruling class want to incite the majority of the population to stand idly by and watch or even approve neo-Nazi or state terror. This or that way, German nationalism and racism is instigated by the ruling class.

West/German imperialism tries to draw attention of the population of West Germany and the former GDR away from increasing unemployment, crisis and the Bundeswehr being ready to get engaged in and to lead wars in other countries in the interest of German capital. It tries to stir them up against "Asylanten" (derogatory term created for them) and to direct their disappointment and bitterness about the permanent worsening of the living conditions of a large part of the population against refugees.

Our Tasks

It must become clear, especially to the working class, to the lower strata in the villages and all exploited and oppressed working people *that the "wretched of the earth" on the whole world are fighting for their right to mere existence, to work and food and that this is reason why they are persecuted and hunted.*

It is a question of showing the whole mechanism of this so-called "world economic order", of imperialist exploitation of all peoples of the world by a few imperialist big powers. It is a question of making conscious, of understanding and explaining to others who are willing to fight the brown plague the consequences of this "order", that is, among other things, the growing so-called "modern migration of the peoples".

Above all, in view of the increasing international crisis, the growing danger of reactionary wars of conquest and big imperialist wars, it is a question of declaring war against this entire system based on exploitation and oppression of the proletariat and the other working people. We have to prepare ourselves and others for a long struggle. Its clear aim is in the first place a deep-going change, a revolutionary change, the struggle for social revolution, for a really socialist revolution, shoulder to shoulder with the working class of all countries, shoulder to shoulder with the "wretched of the earth"!

Workers of All Countries, Unite!

Extracts from a leaflet published in October 1991. The German version also contains a detailed chronology of Nazi murders and Nazi attacks of the last months and the case of Ayhan Öztürk, a 22-year-old truckdriver from Turkey, who gave the right answer to nazi terror: When he was attacked by Nazis, he defended himself with a knife and one Nazi died. He was charged of murder, but in the end had to be acquitted on all charges.