



Bulletin 3/13

Information for revolutionary and Marxist-Leninist forces of all countries

Excerpts and synopsis from the publications by "Gegen die Strömung" - Organ for the Building of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Germany: **July - October 2013**



Appears quarterly in ENGLISH, French, Italian, Spanish and Turkish



The leaflet from July/August was on the subject:

Police Terror Against Refugees Executed with Cold-Blooded Calculation in Munich on 30.6.2013:

Solidarity with the Struggle of the Refugees against the Deadly Police and Deportation Terror of the German State!

The hunger and 'thirst' strike of over 50 refugees at a protest camp in the city centre of Munich was ended on 30th June by a brutal police action carried out with deadly premeditation. This was a new peak in the police terror against the refugee movement. Refugees, weakened through thirst and hunger, were attacked, beaten and some dragged away without even medical aid. Bourgeois press and politicians lied and libelled: the police terror was allegedly „to save lives“, and the struggling refugees were abused as „extortionists“.

The hunger strike of the refugees in Munich is part of an offensive struggle that they have been waging for over a year against inhuman living conditions imposed by the German state, against racist laws, against their isolation, against restrictions on their freedom of movement and against deadly police-, isolation- and deportation-terror.

Despite the strengthening struggle of the refugees, active solidarity with the refugees is not a central focus of the really democratic forces. This can be clearly seen in the almost complete absence of protests against the police terror of 30 June. The reasons for this are primarily to be found in the development of the struggle of the refugees over the last few months, in the role of reformist groups and with the effect of German and European chauvinism, which appears to stretch even into the ranks of the anti-racist and anti-Nazi groups.

The following section „Police Terror against

Hunger-Striking Refugees“ described the brutal clearance of the refugee camp in Munich by the notorious „USK“ special police unit. The declaration of the refugees was quoted as follows:

„It is a clear contradiction to say that 300 police officers tried to ‘rescue’ us when, on the sixth day of our ‘dry’ hunger strike, they tried beat us almost to death. All of us were beaten, forced to go to hospital and even put in prison without any medical supervision. We were all put under pressure to sign incriminating statements against our representative (Ashkan Khorasani). We were even offered a legal residency status if we were to cooperate with them.“

The police also acted with brutal violence against the supporters of the camp, which can only be understood as a threat to all of those forces struggling in solidarity with the refugees. The goal of this police terror was spelled out: to make an example of the struggling refugees in order to smash the developing and radicalising refugee movement.

In conclusion it was emphasised that the struggling refugees in Munich didn't let themselves be intimidated and that they are continuing to struggle for the fulfilment of their demands.

The following sections were entitled „The Dirty Lies of the Bourgeois Media and Politicians to Legitimise the Police Terror“ and „On the Acts of Solidarity with the Refugees in Munich“.

The Hunger Strike in Munich is Part of the Self-Organised Struggle of the Refugees

The hunger strike of the struggling refugees in Munich is part of a strengthening refugee movement in Germany since March 2012. Its importance and the actions of the German state on 30 June need to be seen in the context of these strengthening struggles of refugees in Germany. ...

The following section reported the continuing actions of the refugees since March 2012 and summarised thus:

The public action with tent camps and hunger strikes spread to a total of eight cities (Würzburg, Bamberg, Aub, Regensburg, Passau, Nuremberg, Düsseldorf and Berlin) in the next few months, with well over 100 hunger-striking refugees. An important goal here was the conscious abandonment and the publicly visible boycott of the refugee camps. Numerous incidents of harassment and terror from the police, courts and local authorities were endured, along with threats of punishment aimed at restricting their right to freedom of assembly. The protest, directed against the deadly police- and deportation terror as well as the racist laws for refugees in Germany, was summed up in four central demands:

- Stop All Deportations
- Shut Down the Refugee Camps
- Abolition of „Compulsory Residence“
- Recognition of all Asylum Seekers as Political Refugees

Behind the demand to **Stop All Deportations** is the demand for an unlimited right to remain, which is a demand primarily from those whose asylum applications are rejected and who have the status „tolerated“ refugees, often for many years, as well as by those subject to immediate extradition, who are permanently under threat of deportation.

Shut Down the Refugee Camps is a demand for the abolition of isolation, for the right to a private sphere and a private apartment, and thus for the abolition of these unbearable living conditions for ref-

ugees.

The so-called „**Compulsory Residence**“ - which doesn't exist anywhere else in Europe - is a product of the bureaucratic German system of order and control, whereby every departure from an arbitrary area (a rural district, administrative district or federal state, depending on the particular rule) needs an approved request. This law stands in the tradition of the Nazi „Police Rules for Foreigners“ from 1938, and of the colonial laws of the German colonialists, as for example in the German colony „German Togoland“ (today the nation of Togo), which were designed to restrict the freedom of movement of the African population in order to better control the anti-colonial resistance against the German „master-race“. It's a question of the right to freedom of movement and of the free choice of residency, generally proclaimed as a human right and enshrined in the „General Declaration of Human Rights“, to which the Federal German Republic has formally signed up.

In addition, the striking refugees made the demand for **Recognition as Political Refugees** which, flowing from the residency status would automatically fulfil all other the demands, because the hostel- and „compulsory residence“-terror would no longer apply. ...

The following section reported from the continuation of the refugees protest and in conclusion it was emphasised:

The state and the government of the Federal Republic of Germany were justly accused by the refugees of being the main cause of their intolerable situation:

- Firstly: through the colonial injustice and the fomenting of wars, through imperialist, neo-colonial exploitation and oppression, and through militarization, training and support of the ruling apparatus of repression in their countries of origin, of destroying their countries and thus creating the conditions causing their flight.
- Secondly: through the practical abolition of political asylum, through the permanent terror of deportation and through the sealing of the borders of Europe, of being jointly responsible for the deaths of thousands of refugees.
- Thirdly: through the system of isolation camps and of racist laws, of causing mental and physical suffering for the refugees and leading up to

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racist murder through police violence which was detailed by several concrete cases. ...

The Next Steps in the Struggle

What should be done in the light of this situation?

We believe that the first step has to be a massive strengthening of solidarity with all of the refugees persecuted by imperialism and reaction against any and all manifestations of German-European chauvinism and arrogance in our own ranks, in the ranks of the anti-racist and anti-Nazi groups. This is a precondition if we are able to gain the confidence of - and to develop further cooperation with - all of the struggling refugees.

In the longer term we need to discuss how we can build a united fighting front between the anti-racist and anti-Nazi groups and the refugees, persecuted by imperialism and reaction in order to fight

against state police- and deportation terror and against Nazi-terror, and to struggle for unqualified political asylum for all those persecuted by imperialism and for all of the legitimate demands of the refugees.“

The 8 page leaflet also contained the following articles:

- *Declaration of the hunger/striking refugees in Munich*
- *The deadly program of the German state against the refugees persecuted by imperialism and reaction*
- *Joint Demonstrations of Anti-Fascist and Anti-Racist Groups and Refugees (August 2012 – May 2013)*
- *The declaration of the protest movement of the refugees in Germany from 13.10.2012*
- *On the problems of the demand of „asylum for all“ and on the reactionary pro-Nazi tradition of the „right of asylum“ in the Federal Republic of Germany*



The subject of the leaflet of October 2013 was:

Over 360 refugees die off Lampedusa; 200 refugees die in the Strait of Sicily ...

German Imperialism and the Mass Murderers from „Frontex“

On the morning of 3 October 2013 a boat carrying 545 refugees, mainly from Eritrea and Somalia, caught fire and sank off the coast of the island of Lampedusa in the Mediterranean. The Italian coast-guard only showed up an hour later, even though it has the ability to detect ships hundreds of kilometres away. Over 360 people died in the fire or drowned, 26 are still missing. The refugees who survived were immediately the subject of proceedings by the Italian authorities because of ‘illegal entry’.

On 11 October 2013 a boat with over 400 refugees, primarily from Syria and the Palestinian Territories capsized and sank in the Strait of Sicily. Survivors reported that a patrol boat of the Libyan coast-guard had chased and fired at their boat for over six hours until it finally capsized. 200 refugees drowned in the Mediterranean.

The politicians in Berlin reacted as if the deaths of over 560 refugees in the Mediterranean had nothing

to do with the policies of the German state or with German imperialism. Hypocritical crocodile tears were shed and the blame was laid at the feet of the so-called ‘trafficking gangs’. But what is really the role of the German state and German imperialism in the deadly terror against refugees on the external European borders, for example in the form of the murderers from ‘Frontex’?“

In the section „‘Frontex’ is part of the deadly program of the German State against refugees“, the structure and role of „Frontex“ was described. The subsection „The deadly practices of ‘Frontex’“ addressed the issue that „Frontex“ is directly and indirectly responsible for the deaths of thousands of refugees in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic.

The section „The intensification of the deadly terror against refugees under the leadership of the ‘Frontex’ murderers since 2006“ told of the previous „successes“ of the „Frontex“ murderers and of

their future plans (e.g. the complete surveillance of the Mediterranean).

The sealing of the sea- and land routes, the mass deportations in aircraft and the coordinated hunting down of refugees with non-EU countries has already cost the lives of many refugees. The bourgeois newspaper „Frankfurter Rundschau“ was quoted as follows:

„In the last 25 years at least 19,000 refugees met their deaths on the outer borders of Europe. Most of them drowned in the Mediterranean. The actual number is surely much higher. Since the formation of ‘Frontex’ there has not been any reduction in the number of deaths on Europe’s external borders, in fact, quite the opposite. In 2011 alone, according to official sources, over 2,300 refugees were driven to their deaths.“

The final section emphasised the need for a fight against ‘Frontex’ and the whole system of imperialism:

How to fight against „Frontex“ and the whole murderous program of German imperialism against refugees

The struggles in Hamburg for the right to remain of the Lampedusa refugees, the struggles of anti-racist and anti-fascist groups together with the refugees in Würzburg, Munich and Berlin in recent weeks and months, as well as (for example) the struggles in France against the deportation of a Roma family are the right answer to the murderous terror of the police and the deportations. For only the most radical fight can produce the necessary pressure in order to win concessions from the imperialist states.

There can be no question of appealing to the alleged ‘humanity of the State in the way that for example the group Pro Asyl (and the refugee councils that it organises) very often does in a particularly nauseating way. That is worse than useless, as it encourages illusions in the state.

Instead of appealing to a non-existent morality of the German State, in the next step we need to devel-

op a militant, united mass struggle of the anti-racist and anti-fascist groups and the refugees, on the streets, in schools and in the workplaces which transcends local and legal borders – against the state police and deportation terror, against the murderers of ‘Frontex’ and against the terror of the Nazis, for the right of unconditional political asylum for all of those persecuted by imperialism and for securing of all of the justified demands of the refugees.

The question which flows from this is: How can the causes of the misery of the refugees be eliminated once and for all? We need to discuss how we, in this imperialist Germany, can make our contribution to the destruction of the system of world imperialism, a machinery which generates imperialist wars, hunger, misery and exploitation, and which forces these „prisoners of want“ to leave their home countries and to flee to the imperial metropolises. For us, that means placing questions about the goals and the road to revolution in imperialist Germany and the task of supporting genuinely revolutionary forces across the globe on the order of the day.“

The 4 page leaflet also addressed the following subjects:

- *Solidarity with the struggles in Hamburg against racist police controls and for the right to remain of the Lampedusa refugees!*
- *A difference between France and Germany: School students across France campaign against the deportation of a Roma family*



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