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Bulletin of the International Federation of Resistance fighters (FIR) – Association of Anti-Fascists

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Political declaration on the dangers of extreme right political groups in Europe European initiatives are necessary!

0. The international federation of the resistance fighters (FIR) - association of the anti-fascists, the umbrella organisation of federations of former resistance fighters, partisans, members of the anti-Hitler coalition, pursued of the Nazi-regime and anti-fascist of today's generations from over twenty countries of Europe and Israel, warns of an increasing influence of extreme right ones in different European countries.

1. After the liberation from fascism and war it has been the common idea of all people from all over the world tolerating never again fascism, racism and anti-semitism or nationalist chauvinism.

2. More than one time in the past anti-fascist organisations had to alarm the public of rebirth of extreme right political groups in European politics. In Austria and Italy rightwing populist politicians came to power. In France an open fascist party reached a high number of voters in the last presidential election campaign.

3. While these parties locate themselves in the parliamentary system in Europe, we have to register actual an upgrowing influence of violent groups of the extreme right. For example:

In Hungary hooligans, rightwing skinheads and fellows of the neo-fascist MIEP (Party for Life and Justice) attack public buildings of media, of the governmental party and the parliament.

In Germany members of the violent neofascist scene have been elected as a parliamentary group in a second state parliament.

In Great Britain the BNP, which is responsible for violent racist riots in various British towns, reaches a significant higher level of votes with the local elections.

In Russia we must register in the past weeks more violent encroachments against foreigners and people coming from the trans-Caucasian region.

In Belgium a fellow of the Vlaams Belang murdered in Antwerp's several persons only because they had been foreigners and

In Denmark, Austria and Sweden openly violent and xenophobe parties come to more social influence.

In addition we have to register socially or nationally supported forms of historical-revisionist efforts, like into different Baltic States and Hungary.

4. These examples are only "the point of the iceberg" of a political situation, which is described by the EUMC (European monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia) and other social or-

ganizations as increasingly threateningly for "foreigner" and for expenditure-bordered within the majority company. Not integration and intercultural dialogues, but exclusion, Xenophobia and religiously legitimised pursuits are going forward. In addition belongs also a national policy of the social exclusion of "strangers", like in several former republics of the Soviet Union or in Switzerland. Democratic rights and liberties are threatened before this background.

The causes for this development are different in each country. Often it is a reflex of material social problems resulted by social change, that is orientated by neofascist demagogues in a racist perspective. Therefore an active strategy against this inhuman policy must be connected with the fight for social justice and human being-worthy conditions in each country.

5. The FIR welcomes that in most European countries already different social forces, parties and movements of the civil society resist together against these forces of the extreme rights.

The FIR warns of the increasing influence of extremely right forces, which can lastingly negatively affect the political climate in Europe. Our member organizations must pursue and in its respective countries contribute to the development of democratic resistance with large attention.

The FIR calls to fight against such political trends with European initiatives and concrete social acting. The member organizations will bring their strength into such activities.

The FIR offers therefore to all democratic organizations, social forces and institutions to participate in alliances and activities against this threatening trend.

The FIR requests those politically responsible persons in the respective countries and in the European Union to attach a larger weight to acting against such developments. Further funds must be made available for civilian-social projects against racism and Xenophobia, for stabilization of democracy and dialogue.

The member federations of the FIR will fulfil their duty also in the future for the destruction of fascism "with its social roots" and the "establishment of a new world of the peace and the liberty".

Executive committee of FIR
Decided 29th Sept. 2006

Meeting of the executive committee of FIR at Moscow

FIR debates the political situation and decides the tasks for the future

On September 29, 2006 the executive committee (EC) of FIR met on invitation of the Russian war veterans committee in Moscow. Unfortunately our Greek comrade Christos Tsintzilonis was prevented for time reasons.

On the agenda stood the discussion of the current situation in Europe with the different manifestations of the advance of extremely right forces. The EC - members reported from their countries of violent encroachments against foreigners and "strangers" and of political riots - fomented by extremely rights, from the creation of neo-fascist cells in the army as well as from successes of openly racist and fascist parties and groups in election campaigns.

While democratic and anti-fascist organizations in the society develop resistance against this, national organs act often contradictory, partly as promoters of historical revisionism and social exclusion of foreigners or the pursuit of anti-fascist activities. These developments are no more national affair, but require international activities. Therefore the FIR discussed a political declaration at this meeting and passed, which is to be conveyed to all member federations and social forces (see page 1).

In a second part the EC was concerned in detail with the suggestion of the Belgian "Institut des Vétérans" for a large international youth meeting in the memorial Buchenwald. Jean Cardoen, historical director of

the institute, presented the current conditions of planning as a guest of the meeting. The political meaning of the memory work in Buchenwald was brought up for discussion in detail and the associated aspects of history of pursuit and resistance, which resulted the self liberation on April 11, 1945. The FIR makes the offer to support the activities of the "Institut des Vétérans" as equal partner and particularly win veterans and member of the recent generations from all parts of Europe using the contacts to the member federations. The FIR transfers thereby also the task to address the International Committee of the former prisoners (IKBD) in Paris and in Germany (further details, see last page: Youth meeting in Buchenwald planned). A work - group of preparations was created of "Institut des Vétérans" and FIR.

At the meeting were evaluated again the value and effect of our conference in May in Brussels. The conference found - particularly in our member federations - a large resonance. The participation experienced that the FIR is a live organization, which places itself to the questions of presence and future. It was a very important conference and the EC expressed again its thanks and its acknowledgment at Michel

Vanderborcht and all partners in Brussels. Even if yet all contributions of the conference are not present in writing, a publication is prepared already now in three languages. For the calculation of a possible number of copies as soon as possible all member federations have to be informed and asked for subscriptions.

On the agenda of this meeting further invitations to conferences and meetings of the member federations were present. The EC members try to take an appointment to such invitations because the personal contact is important for the connection between the national federations. In addition at the meeting an important personnel decision was met. The place of a vice-president has been vacant since the death of the comrade Vladimir Werewkin Rachalski. From now - after consultation with the Russian war veterans committee – this place is filled out by comrade colonel general Anatoli Bogdanow. Thus we expect an important reinforcement of our relations with the veteran committees of the former Soviet republics. At the same time this decision underlines the great importance of this federation for the future work of FIR.

Ulrich Schneider
General Secretary

The 50th anniversary of the Russian Committee of War Veterans

Under large attendance of veterans of the Great Patriotic War and partisans committed the Russian federation of war veterans at the end of September 2006 in Moscow its anniversary. Founded as Soviet federation of war veterans in the year 1956 the Russian veterans continue its tradition today in all functions. The committee had placed itself to the task to combine veterans of the war to represent their social interests and to retain their experiences of the fight against fascism and to pass this to the later born generations.

In active co-operation of the legendary marshal of the Soviet Union Georgii Shukow the federation was created. In the following years merited generals of the Red Army stood at the point of the federation, e.g. Maresjew or Goworow. From the beginning the federation was internationally oriented. Among them one understood both the close solidarity between the fighters from the different peoples of the Soviet Union, and an active contribution in the structures of

the FIR. The number of the representatives of the Soviet and later Russian committee of war veterans in the committees of the FIR is very large.

An important development anticipated the Soviet federation by the extension of its name. It opened for later born ones, as the federation requested younger former military member, in the sense of the fighters of the Great Patriotic War to become member of the federation. Therefore, the about 700,000 members today are not only veterans and partisans, but also former military member, who carried their service out in the army after 1945. Thus the federation is in the position to master its current tasks successfully.

The world-wide acknowledgment under the veteran and resistance fighter organizations became clear on the anniversary celebration. Large delegations from the Ukraine, from Belarus and the other former Soviet republics were

present. In addition, delegations from Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Germany, Finland, Israel, Italy, Croatia, Mauritius, Poland, Serbia and Hungary could be welcomed. They all experienced an impressive ceremony, which was opened with an attendance of the large memorial park for the fighters and victims of the Great Patriotic War. After the attendance of the museum, which was introduced with a military ceremony, the delegations laid down wreaths at various monuments, thus at the column for the fighters of the anti-Hitler coalition and for the fighters of the Spanish republic, who fought later at the side of the Red Army.

The morning of the second day was used for discussions and meetings of the international delegations with the presidency of the Russian war veteran's federation. The new elected president, marshal of the Air Force Alexander Nikolajewitsch Efrimow, and his first deputy, colonel General Anatoli Bogdanow, welcomed the delegated ones and received the congratulations on the occasion of the anniversary. In the impressive scenery of the Redeemers church the main ceremony took place in the

afternoon. Marshal Efrimow reminded of the tradition of the work and formulated the current and future tasks, before the representative of the Russian government and the Moscow city brought the political greetings from president Putin and mayor Luschkow. As representative of all foreign delegations Michel Vanderborcht spoke as a president of the FIR on this meeting. He underlined the tasks of the international co-operation and the close connection to the recent generations. He reminded the good example of the Brussels conference of the FIR from May 2006 and communicated under the applause of the guests that colonel general Bogdanow has been appointed as new vice-president of the FIR. Subsequently, those about 1000 guests experienced an impressive concert of singers and dancers of the Russian army.

This ceremony was surely a high point in the work of the Russian committee, but it is also starting point for further various initiatives in the coming years.



The executive committee in discussion with the new president of the Russian war veterans committee, marshal of the Air Force Alexander Nikolajewitsch Efrimow.

**On the occasion of the death of
Joop Smidt (1924 – 2006)
Member of the honorary presidency**

With deep mourning we have to inform you, that our comrade Joop Smidt in the night October 4/5, 2006 – after a long-time illness – died.

Joop born April 6, 1924 grows up in a workers and public workers family. As a young man he acted responsible in the resistance fight. He worked at Netherlands Railway Company. From Central station in Utrecht many Jews have been deported. Sometimes he was able to make sabotage. Joop worked also by the distributing of political flyers against the Nazis.

In FIR Joop did his work together with the comrades from the other member federations to find solutions for political activities.

Joop was member of the honorary presidency and did his duty as a supervisor for us until the end of his life. 2004 from health reasons it has been impossible for him to participate at the FIR congress in Berlin. Joop gave the “flame of antifascism” to the young generation. In this sense we will prevent Joop in our memories.

Annabelle Schouten, Vertreterin bei der FIR für die AFVN/BvA
AntiFascistische Oudverzetsstrijders Nederland/Bond van Antifascisten
Piet Schouten, Vorstandsmitglied AFVN/BvA

**Letter of Condolence of FIR
On the occasion of the death of General Wladimir Goworow (1924 – 2006)
Member of the honorary presidency**

With deep mourning we have received knowledge of the death of the president of the Russian Committee of War-Veterans, the member of the honour presidency of the International Federation of the Resistance fighters – Federation of Antifascists (FIR) General Wladimir Goworow, hero of the USSR.

In the name of the executive committee and all member federations we would like to offer the sympathy of the FIR and condolences the Russian Committee of War Veterans and the family of the deceased.

General Wladimir Goworow born in 1924 fulfilled his duty in the Great Patriotic War and in the smashing of German fascism. Later he was a representative of the Russian Committee of War-Veterans for a long time. General Wladimir Goworow took part in November 2004 in Berlin at the XIII FIR - Congress and thus he contributed that the community of the federations of the anti-fascist fight found a new organizational and political future in 21st Century.

That he was nominated on this conference unanimously as a member of the honour presidency of the FIR was an indication of the global acceptance of his political work and his importance in the international community of the federations of the anti-fascist fight.

We are sure: He is not missing only in the new international federation of the resistance fighters - federation of the anti-fascists (FIR), he will be missing in the Russian Committee of War Veterans too. Therefore we would like to convey our sincere condolence to you. Please express the family of general Goworow too our deeply felt sympathy.

Michel Vanderborght (President)

Dr. Ulrich Schneider (General Secretary)

Statement of FIR to the war in Middle East
Stop the military escalation in the Middle East! Armistice immediately!
No NATO-troops to Middle East!

In view of the devastating consequences for humans in Israel and Lebanon the International Federation of Resistance Fighters – Association of Antifascists (FIR) sends an urgent appeal to all war parties in the Middle East to stop the escalation of the military force immediately and to resume negotiations about a common solution of the conflict.

We are united with our partner federation in Israel and in the whole world that in no way the right of existence of the State of Israel and the right of the Palestinian people to its own state should be challenged, as it is expressed in innumerable resolutions of the United Nations. Another point is to recognize the peace-keeping role of the UN. A wrong way would be to send NATO-Troops, as it is discussed in the political public.

A peace solution cannot be found militarily, but only on the ways of negotiations and in respect of the territorial integrity of all involved ones. An important political step would be the immediate discontinuation of all weapon supplies in the region and the serious influencing on those responsible persons, to stop terrorist, military and structural violence and to put into effect an armistice immediately.

We warn in this context also of an increase of Anti-Semitism and anti-Islamism in our own countries. We must experience, how extreme right groups use the military escalation in the Middle East for spreading their racist slogans.

Noah Flug, Chairman of the Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors, to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of Iran
Excerpts from his letter August 31, 2006

Since you came to power, we at the Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel have been following your appearances and your racist statements, and the fact that you are a consistence denier of the Holocaust. We have also taken note of the exhibition of racist caricatures currently on display in Teheran. We ask ourselves whether you are not aware of what happened, or whether you do not really want to know what happened?

You recently wrote a letter to the Chancellor of Germany, Angela Merkel. According to your interpretation, it is possible that the Holocaust was invented by the allies at the end of World War II, in order to shame Germany.

This is not the first time you have cast doubts on the fact that 6 millions Jews were murdered by the Nazis. In the past, you have even claimed that the Holocaust is a

myth used to justify the establishment of the state of Israel.

In light of this, I have come to the clear conclusion that you are lacking inn knowledge of the subject, and I would like to hope that you express yourself in this way as a result of your lack of knowledge, rather than malice. Perhaps the time has come for you to add to your knowledge of the subject.

For this purpose, I would like to invite you to visit the Auschwitz concentration camp together with members of the Auschwitz International Committee presidency, representing Polish, Czech, Hungarian, German, Austrian, French, Belgian, Dutch, British, American and other prisoners.

There we will be able to show you at first-hand how the Nazi extermination machine operated, killing over a million people, Jews and also non-Jews.

A monument of the Belgian SS and of the Netherlands in Estonia

A veterans gathering of the 20th division SS was held in the Estonian locality of Sinimae on August 20, 2006. The participants inaugurated monuments of the SS Belgian SS and the Netherlands. The monuments carry swastikas, flags as well as inscriptions in Estonian, French and Dutch, glorifying "the merits" of the SS of these countries which perished there.

The monuments is part of a unit commemorative of the Estonian SS which was already set up in the past. At the time of this ceremony, the national flag of the Netherlands was solemnly hoisted with the monument of the Dutch SS. The Belgian flag was not deployed there.

His Excellence, the Ambassador of Belgium in Estonia, Mr Pierre Dubuisson declared in the Estonian media that in its country, "the Belgians having fought in Estonia are regarded as traitors forming part of the Nazi-collaborators". According to the agency Interfax, some 300 old Estonian, Belgian, and Dutch SS, also young "skinheads" wearing black T-shirts were present. They acclaimed the messages of greeting on behalf of the old Belgian, Dutch and German SS. The Estonian Deputy, Mr Trivimi Velliste declared that "the Estonians were not to forget that from the historical point of view, Estonia always had two enemies: Russia and Germany".

The Secretary of the Estonian Antifascist Committee, Mr Andrei Zarenkov, present declared that it "was particularly made indignant by the open use of the symbols of the Estonian State at the time of similar events".

"It feels embarrassed to see that the Ambassador of Belgium reacted to such a fact while the authorities of my own country are silent. As an Estonian citizen, I feel myself bad in a country where the SS condemned by the Court of Nuremberg are glorified in their monuments while the authorities try to remove the monuments dedicated to the Estonian patriotic combatants died in the combat against Fascism".

He noted that during the gathering the militants of the Estonian Antifascist Committee distributed a book entitled: "crimes of the fascists and their accomplices in the Baltic States (Estonia)" published by the Estonian Antifascist Committee.

The video, recorded films and the photographs taken by the militants of the Antifascist Committee will be used to create the documentary ones in order to denounce the attempts of the revisionists aiming at modifying the History of the Second World War.

When assassins become heroes.

In the Federation of the Jewish Communities of Russia (FCJR) one is very shocked by the creation of a monument dedicated to the old SS in the North-East of Estonia. The Director of the department of the public relations of the Federation, Mr Boruh Gorine declared at the time of his meeting with the journalists that "the installation in Estonia of the monuments to SS soldiers represents an attempt at more of the authorities of the country to transform the assassins and the torturers into hero of the war for independence. It is obvious that the payment of the Nazis, their presentation as heroes constitute one of the orientations of the policy of State of Estonia. That shocks and makes perplexed." "One understands better why in this European Union country the discrimination of the Russian speaker population is allowed, adds it, any doors are open to believe that one takes the example of the same "heroes" with whom one set up the monuments "Mr Boruth Gorine is convinced as" all that only helps to make reappear the misanthropic ideology of the Nazism of which tens of million men fell victims ". According to the representative of the FCJR this is the natural reaction of a normal man of a possibility of even installing similar monuments".

It is a judgment in this manner that the Ambassador of Belgium in Estonia, his Excellent Pierre Dubuisson, acts while prohibiting using the symbols of his State at the time of the inaugural ceremony", pointed out B.Gorine. In these circumstances, he does not understand "the silence of the European Community which has just discussed the need of prohibition from the symbol even of the Nazism –swastika." "The Federation of the Jewish Communities awaits an adequate appreciation of this neo-fascist action not only on behalf of the European Union but on behalf of the democratic whole world", declared the representative of the Federation of the Jewish Communities.

Interfax, NEWSru RUS Media and FRONT (Belgique).

Mikis Theodorakis: "Expose all the USA's crimes"

The Greek composer and resistance fighter Mikis Theodorakis gave the following interview to the Greek Communist Party (KKE) daily "Rizospastis". It was published on 12 September 2006.

Rizospastis: The USA is relentlessly pursuing its aggressive policy towards Cuba. One expression of this policy is the condemnation of five Cuban activists, the "Miami 5", who were arrested in the United States because they were agents defending their country. What is your opinion of the case?

M. Th.: The young Cubans have already been held in American gaols for eight years. Meanwhile their condemnation was declared arbitrary and illegal by the committee of experts of UN's Human Rights Commission on 27 May, and the Atlanta Court of Appeal held their condemnation to be invalid on 9 August. But the US authorities responsible just turn a deaf ear. The super-power has been ignoring UNO as well as its own judiciary for a long time now.

Since 11 September 2001, it has even violated its own Constitution concerning the personal freedoms of its citizens. It was only recently that George Bush finally admitted the existence of secret prisons scattered all over the world – God alone knows what orgies of torture go on in them. Bush termed them "useful" in the war on terror.

The useful term „terrorism“ was found to legitimise the country's own crimes. Just as in another age Hitler discovered the Jews and the bad "Reds". A nazi-style concentration camp, Guantánamo, exists before our eyes, provocative and unendurable. Yet the powerful of the world act as if they couldn't see it, while the peoples, the majority of whom are in thrall to their pro-American leaders, remain to all intents and purposes silent.

R.: On 12 September, an international campaign for the immediate release of the five Cubans was started. Do you think it can succeed?

M. Th.: In my opinion, it can only be effective if it is accompanied by an active campaign of information that exposes all the USA's criminal activities. For these crimes do not come about because the country contains a few evil and ill-intentioned individuals but because they are part of a dynamic process that has transformed the USA into a militaristic aggressive imperialistic power with a clearly neo-nazi ideology, pursuing a long term aim of world domination. Starting off with the countries which are "easily" attacked and progressing methodically to further objectives, a few of which have already been announced.

“.. always an honoured name ”

Festive meeting in Berlin to the 70th anniversary of the formation of the international brigades. Over 400 anti-fascists appreciated legacy of the Spain fighters

For the first time in its history the German Bundestag was concerned with the fight of German volunteers at the side of the Spanish republic - and expressed by the majority against an of the Left parliamentary group requested "long overdue" appreciation of their anti-fascist liberty fight in Spain. "The other Germany, its anti-fascist and democratic Impetus after the Second World War was embodied in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany" - how it meant in the request - got in this country

bad dealing cards. Whereupon referred directly several speakers, who had pursued the parliamentary debate at the day before as guests, during the ceremony to the 70th anniversary of the formation of the international brigades in the tradition cinema "Babylon". To them belonged also Santiago Carrillo, a close combat and way companion of the legendary "Pasionara" Dolores Ibarruri, which had ranked in the autumn 1936 among the defence junta of the capital Madrid threatened by the Franco rebels, in

addition the former Interbrigadist, later KZ prisoner and today's honorary chairman of the international Auschwitz Committee, Kurt Goldstein, as well as Harald Wittstock. He is the chairman of the association of the "fighters and friends of the Spanish republic 1936 - 1939" (KFSR), which had invited together with the VVN – Bund der Antifaschisten into the "Babylon".

But it was by all means no nostalgic veteran meeting, that had found together itself generation-spreading here, beyond relational contacts, in order to prove the volunteers of the liberty their reverence. More than 400 younger and older anti-fascists experienced a militant afternoon, from which not only Carrillo and Goldstein did earn to be lifted out as speakers. Once more the in the meantime 91 years old Interbrigadist thanked here the Spanish people, whose government had decided the formation of international brigades on 22 October 1936, for the possibility given to the anti-fascists German thereby after the defeat from 1933, to be able raised head and with the weapon in the hand to fight against fascism. Santiago Carrillo, who appreciated this internationalist and solidly commitment in moving words, drew at the same time the bow into the present: The fight for peace, liberty and democracy, begun at that time, is not still terminated for a long time, because that today the world dominating system would bear still leaders, they could not deny a cer-

tain similarity with Hitler. In order to secure a surviving of the human kind, the transformation of this society is a historical necessity. And both speakers insured agreeing to be entitled up to the last breath for the ideals for which they took up once the fight.

In addition not least to this belongs the resistance against to up-to-date the arising of ghosts of neo-Nazi. Of it reminded with reference to the recent elections in Mecklenburg-Western Pomeranian Dietmar Bartsch, Member of the German Parliament and Federal business manager of Linkspartei/ Party of Democratic Socialism, who together with the honorary chairman of the party, Hans Modrow, participated also in the following appreciation at the monument of the Spain fighters nearby Friedrichshain. Also in this evening hour one could hear, as already in the Babylon, the songs of the Spanish liberty fight, which are connected probably for all times with the name of Ernst Busch. Manfred Wekwerth, friend of the singer and president for many years of the GDR Academy of the Arts, had reminded before of its working with a special cinematic, where one could hear once again the ballade of the XI. Brigade – written by Busch: "... Brigada Internacional remains always an honoured name."

Peter Rau, "junge Welt", October 02, 2006

News

"Greece has not been compensated"

Victims of massacres of the Wehrmacht complain. European Court of Justice must decide. A discussion with Ioannis Stamoulis

Attorney Ioannis Stamoulis represents the victims of the Nazi massacre from December 13, 1943 in the Greek Kalavryta.

Soldiers of the Wehrmacht murdered on December 13, 1943 in the Greek Kalavryta 696 humans. Why the case momentarily has to be negotiated before the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg?

When victims of Nazi massacres in Greece began to complain, explained the German state that for this only German courts are

responsible. It referred to the international-law principle of the state immunity, which excludes complaints abroad. In contrast to this stands the Brussels convention of 1968, which grants the right in trade and civil actions to complain in the country in which the act was committed. To the European Union as united right area it applies

that national courts can decide also on cases, they stand in any connection with other member countries. Article 5 Brussels convention specifies that for damage, which was caused by member of another country, the courts of the region are responsible, in which this happened. Hence it follows that in our case of the massacre of the Nazis in Kalavryta the district court of Kalavryta is responsible. Our complaint however granted negative, because against an individual German citizen can be complained, not however against the German State, which enjoys there the immunity. Due to this decision we inserted appointment with the higher regional court Patras, which submitted on our request the question to the responsible European Court of Justice (EuGH) whether states of the European Union can appoint themselves after the Brussels convention to state immunity or not.

During this process the first negotiation took place on 28 September. With which result?

We described that international law crime like the massacre by Kalavryta may not remain unpunished. Legal means must be open to each citizen, where the crime was committed. After European right all member states of the European Union have the right to express itself with questions at the EuGH, which concern national affairs. In our case were represented the Netherlands, Italy and Poland. Poland supported our view, while Italy and Holland followed the

view of the representative of Germany. On 8 November in a further hearing the public prosecutor will suggest a decision to the court. On the judgement we count only in approximately three months.

Kalavryta is not the only place, at which the Nazis committed massacres. What happens in the cases of the other human right crimes?

Nearly everywhere in Greece procedures were exerted. The highest Court of Justice in Greece, Aeropag, decided however with six to five voices that Germany state enjoys immunity and thus all procedures first of all frozen. In the case Distomo Greek courts however came to an indisputable decision, on which Germany is obligated to compensate the victims of the there Nazi massacre and/or their family members. This decision should being executed by seizing of property of the German state, like Goethe-Institute and the German school. The Greek Ministry of Justice refused however the necessary consent. Against this we inserted contradiction with that Geneva commission for human rights.

"junge Welt", October 5, 2006

The president of FIR and various member federations supported political to file this lawsuit to the European Court of Justice. In the next edition we will inform about the decision of the Court.

Hungary

**Vilmos Hanti, President of MEASZ,
on the occasion of the inauguration of the Memorial „ In the Memory of
Hungarians who lost their life in World War II.”**

We have gathered here today to remember. To remember the dreadful war having caused to Hungarians horrible loss of life. To remember appr. One million Hungarian victims.

We know very well that wars do not end with the standstill of arms or when the fighting sides put a stamp on the peace treaties never fully just.

The peace of souls comes true only then when there is a way and a place for everybody to mourn his/her dead without discrimination; his/her dead who probably has no real grave, as he/she went up in smoke in a liquidation camp, mouldered on a battlefield in a senseless war, or found his/her last rest in the mass grave of a prisoners' camp.

This monument inaugurated today belongs to each and every countryman of ours fallen in

World War II. It belongs to those who obeyed commands and to those who turned against such orders. To those, whom the Hungarian state sent to the war fronts as soldiers or forced labourers. Belongs to those too, who fought and fell in the ranks of allied armies or in the European partisan movements.

Modern wars cause wider devastation within the civilian population than among combatants. This monument serves the memory of peaceful civilian victims of air raids and street-fighting; serves the memory of the deported, the political prisoners taken into concentration camps, those dragged to "malenkij robot" or simply fell victim of circumstances. It is high time that peace be born in the soul of all of us. As you know I am here in dual capacity. Upon authorization of the Hungarian Government, under the leadership of Árpád Göncz, I was the vice-chairman of the committee which decided to erect this monument on the 60th Anniversary of World War II. At the same time I am the President of the Hungarian Federation of Resistance Fighters and Antifascists.

When I bow my head before the memory of all Hungarian victims of the war, I would like to remember with respect and – breaking with the faulty, moreover guilty practice of past decades – without exclusion the known and unknown Hungarian martyrs. Contrary to rumours, there were – and not in small numbers – people risking or even sacrificing their life out of political condition. In their ranks, be-

sides representatives of various trends of the left, there were right-wing minded people also: Zionist resisters, representatives of the Roman Catholic-, Protestant and other churches, public officials, military-, gendarme and police officers, as well as organized workers, students and other simple people acting solely out of humanistic affection.

Their sacrifice is the invaluable heritage of our Hungarian state, highly appreciated value in our European home. It is a common heritage which must not be divided into encampments. In this tradition there is a place for the Roman Catholic nun Blessed Sára Salkaházi, Archbishop Ferenc Kalló, Endre Bajcsy-Zsilinszky, Lt. General János Kiss and his comrades, as well as for Endre Ságvári, Hanna Szenes or Ferenc Dr. Jahn, - to refer to only a few emblematic personalities.

At this festive inauguration I cannot hide my hope that this memorial means an important step on the way to liquidate national divisions. A large number of spasms of the 20th century – full of tragedies – await dissolution in our souls, in order to be able to act afterwards. Following the Spanish example, here in the Hungarian "Valley of the Fallen" everybody should lay his/her flowers to the memory of his/her dead. Here, where it is hoped joint mourning "will mellow remembrance into peace". Let it be so, and then we can really settle our common matters.

Budapest, September 2, 2006.



European Youth on the road of democracy and freedom! International youth meeting in the memorial Buchenwald in preparation

The Belgium "Département Mémoire de l'Institut des Vétérans et Victimes de Guerre », a department of Belgium defence ministry presented an interest idea to various partners. End of 2007 or beginning of 2008 in the memorial Buchenwald should be an international youth meeting with 1000 participants all over Europe.

The symbol of place and date is quite clear. The Concentration Camp Buchenwald was a central camp, where peoples from more than 30 nations have been interned; it was a place of tortures, of martyrs and victims. From political, religious and racist reasons peoples were interned at this place. In 1944 transports from the extermination camp Auschwitz reached the camp on the top of Ettersberg.

But Buchenwald is also a symbol for the strong will to survive of inmates, the solidarity, the fight and the liberation. The international committee of interned and the activity of the international military structure of the inmates for self-liberation on April 11, 1945 are symbols for courageousness and international solidarity. The legacy of the inmates, the "oath of Buchenwald" is the orientation line for anti-fascist activities till now.

The meeting itself is connected with the 70th anniversary of creating the concentration camp in summer 1937 and the obligation of the recent generations to prevent the memories and act responsible. 1000 young peoples, most of them from Belgium and Germany will meet survivors of these camps to document the continuity of tradition.

FIR has been asked by the "Département Mémoire de l'Institut des Vétérans et Victimes de Guerre » to act as an equal-right partner in preparation. We will make the contacts to the International Committee Buchenwald – Dora and Commands in Paris, to the German organisations and all member federations and help to organise that survivors of the camp and young people from all over Europe will participate.

We will ask foundations for financial support to reimburse travel costs as we will ask trans-national institutions like the European Council for political support of this meeting. On that way we do our duty to prevent the memory of victims and survivors and give it to the recent generations.

Further details about the plans will be given to the member federations later.

Imprint :

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The International Federation of Resistant fighters (FIR) has been designated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as a «Peace Messenger». The Federation is accepted as NGO at the UNESCO, Paris, at the UN standing committee of disarmament, Geneva and the European council, Strasbourg.

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The bulletin will be delivered free to member federations and interested.
