

NEW S

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

Franz - Mehring - Platz 1, D - 10243 Berlin,
Tel +49 30 – 29 78 41 74, Fax +49 30 – 29 78 41 79
E-Mail: bundesbuero@vvn-bda.de, Internet: www.fir.at

No. 11

July 2007

FIR protests against destruction of soviet Memorial in Tallinn

Without reacting to international protests and reminding words of the democratic public, the Estonian government implemented the disassembly and violating of the Soviet memorial for the liberator Estonians from fascism at the end of April 2007 with brutal policy violence. This is the terminator point of a political development, in which the Estonian government documented a fatal attitude of historical revision and ignoring of the historical achievement of the anti-fascist liberation struggle.

Already in January 2007 the FIR saw itself compelled to advice in a letter to the Estonian Prime Minister Ansip against a planned disassembly of the memorial.

Honoured Prime Minister Ansip,
with irritation and indignation we, the International Federation of Resistance fighters (FIR) - federation of anti-fascists, the umbrella organisation of organizations of former resistance fighters, partisans, members of the anti-Hitler coalition, pursuits of the Nazi regime and anti-fascist of today's generations out over twenty countries of Europe and Israel must take knowledge of press reports that the Estonian parliament passed a "law over the protection of military graves" on 10 January 2007 with large majority, with which however in the reality the outline of Soviet honour monuments in the country and the "moving to an other grave" of Soviet pleasures are connected.

Concretely the mortal remnants of Soviet soldiers are to be eliminated, who died during the liberation of Tallinn from Nazi troops and were buried in the proximity one central in the city of monument lain. The monument is to be grinded down likewise. In newspaper reports you, Mr. Prime Minister, are quoted with the statement, that the Soviet memorial in Tallinn concerns it a "symbol of Soviet occupation of Estonian". For such

memorial is no place in the centre of the capital.

We are deeply indignant about this planned violating of the worthy intending places for those, which used their life to liberate Europe from the scourge of fascism. That is in our eyes a serious offence against the democratic bases of Europe and contradicts the values of the European Union.

Particularly it infuriates us that on the other side in the summer last year veterans of the former 20th SS division inaugurated in the Estonian town Sinimae a monument for SS members from Belgium and the Netherlands to inaugurate. We will inform our member federations about this scandalous procedure and expect from you that this law raid is not converted in reality.

In a detailed letter in reply to the FIR the Estonian Embassy in Germany insured us that the law over the disassembly was not signed by the president because of offence against the Estonian constitution, so that a disassembly was not legal. An identical answer still received in April 2007 Sarah Wagenknecht, delegate of the European parliament, who concerned itself anxiously with this development.



The memorial of soviet liberators in Tallinn

Regardless of these official explanations the Estonian government, that saw itself politically strengthened after the parliamentary elections from March, began with the preparations of the disassembly of the monument. Young Estonian peoples, which had held many days reminding guard at this monument, was driven apart with brutal police violence, it gave countless hurt ones, even a dead one of violence was to be registered. With all hardness police and state implemented its politics. They could not be confused also by political protests from Russia and other states.

With a letter of the president of the FIR, Michel Vanderborght, to Estonian government the International Federation of Resistance fighters (FIR) - federation of anti-fascists, the umbrella organisation of resistance fighter, pursuits and veteran federations from all parts of Europe and Israel, protests against this misalignment of the Soviet memoria in the Estonian capital Tallinn.

"We see in this measure a fatal falsification of the history of the anti-fascist fight, if the monument with the reason, it stands for Russian occupation, is removed from streetscape in Tallinn", stresses Dr. Ulrich Schneider, Secretary-General of the FIR.

It contradicts each civilized handling the graves of the soldiers of the Second World War and the memory of those risking their life, which liberated Europe - not alone Estonia- from the threat by the Nazi barbarism. In all countries of Europe such intending places are protected, they are retained and maintained within the responsibility of the national authorities. This is not alone a humanitarian obligation; it corresponds also to the perspective that new Europe could be established only on the foundation of the anti-fascist liberation struggle of the peoples. Who eliminates this memory, leaves the democratic bases of Europe. Such monument violating lets miss straight that "spirit of the respect", which UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon required in the debate around this memorial of all involved ones.

"Although we see ourselves consciously deceived by the Estonian government, that still in March 2007 let answer its Embassy to a critical note of the FIR that the president will not execute a law, which wanted to specify the transfer of the Soviet war monument, because the law offence against several paragraphs of the constitution", underlines FIR.

Different European governments, as for example from Belgium reminded the Estonian government to the deliberation and retaining of the memory. Even the German Chancellor Merkel tried as an advice president of the European union to affect careful the Estonian government.

The monument violators received open support only from the NATO, which interfered in favour of the Estonian attitude into the conflict and requested Russia to stop the protests in Estonia as if these protests of the Russian government were "remote controlled", and from the Polish government, that announced, it wants to follow the Estonian example and to eliminate memorials for memory of the anti-fascist fight. One will submit in addition still in this year a bill, which is directed - so the absurd reason - equally against National Socialist and communist memorials.

It requires the watchfulness and the political mobilization of all democratic forces to prevent such historical revision.

Ulrich Schneider

Meeting of the executive committee of FIR in spring in Brussels

At the beginning of March 2007 met the executive committee in Brussels to its regular meeting. The main point of the political emphasis were located in the year 2007 and 2008, the planned conference in the European parliament to the fight against the increasing Neo-fascism and the role of the youth, as well as the long-term preparation of the youth action "on the tracks of the democracy" in the KZ memorial Buchenwald. (Current details in the next expenditure of

the FIR bulletin) Natural there were also the current political challenges by the newly formed parliamentary group extreme rights in the European parliament and the threatening danger of war by the military efforts of the USA in the Middle East topic of the debate. In addition two resolution requests were present. The cashier of our organization refunded an interim report on finances of the past yearly and a first overview of the costs which can be expected 2007.

To the building of a parliamentary group of extreme rights in the European parliament

With large concern the International Federation of Resistance fighters (FIR) - federation of anti-fascists observes developments of the European parliament. By the extension of the European Union with Bulgaria and Romania further delegates of openly racist and extremely right parties came into the parliament. Therefore it became possible that the group of the extremely right parliamentarians could form its own parliamentary group under the name "identity/ tradition/ sovereignty" (ITS) under guidance of the Holocaust denier Bruno Gollnisch with all rights and generous financial equipment.

The FIR, which already in the autumn 2006 with its "political declaration to the danger of the extreme rights in Europe - European initiatives are demanded" took clearly position the problem, warns of the consequences of this development. It demands - in the sense of the explanation of ENAR (European network against Racism) that the democratic parties and parliamentary groups in the European parliament avoid any co-operation with this union of extreme rights. At the same time the FIR appeals at the democratic parties and parliamentary groups, to give funds for programs for the political integration, stabilization of the democratic civil society and for the fight against dissolution, Xenophobia and racism.

The FIR as an umbrella federation of former resistance fighters, partisans, members of the anti-Hitler coalition, pursued the Nazi regime and anti-fascist of today's generations and their member federations in over twenty countries of Europe and Israel are from their historical tradition and its current constitution a reliable partner in political acting against extreme rights, against racism and anti-Semitism and for the development of a democratically founded civil society.

Advise against the war preparation against Iran

The International Federation of Resistance fighters (FIR) - federation of anti-fascists, the umbrella federation of former resistance fighters, partisans, members of the anti-Hitler coalition, pursued of Nazi regime and anti-fascist of today's generations and their member federations in over twenty countries of Europe and Israel advice against the current war preparations of the United States and some NATO states against Iran. We register the propagandistic preparation of a military strike with large concern on the part of the Bush administration, for which the present president of Iran supplied the references several times.

The statement of a new atomic threat by Iran ignores all Iranian explanations in relation to the international atomic energy organization and the fact that in this region already several States (India, Israel and Pakistan) have weapons of atomic mass termination.

We are also concerned about the strategic and logistic war preparation, which settles for example in the reinforcement of the foreign troops and the military commitment in Afghanistan. It is recognizably that the imperialistic states in this conflict situation have only one option, i.e. the war.

The FIR condemns such politics and demands together with the peace forces around the world a non-military conflict resolution under responsibility of the United Nations. Both the interests of the Iranian republic must be considered on secured power supply, and the demand after nuclear disarmament in the world.

International contacts of MEASZ

Ukraine – Hungary

The President of MEASZ, at the end of March, paid a visit to Kiev, where he had a meeting with the leaders of the Association of Ukrainian Veterans.

Both sides emphasized the importance of military graveyards and war memorials in the two countries which can strengthen the memory of younger generations about the monstrous deeds of fascism.

General Vladimir Vorontsov, President of MUSUV, and Vilmos Hanti, President of MEASZ sign the Agreement of Cooperation, in the presence of Mr. András Bársony, Ambassador of Hungary to the Ukraine.



Hungary - Croatia

A four-member delegation of the Alliance of Antifascist Fighters and Antifascists of the Republic of Croatia (SUBNOR-HR) paid a visit to Budapest, under the leadership of President Dr. sc. Vesna Culicovic-Konstantinovic. The Croatian delegation

exchanged views with the leaders of MEASZ about the development of cooperation of the two organizations.

The guests visited the Abbey of Pannonhalma and had a short meeting with Chief Abbot Asztrik Várszegi.

Serbia - Hungary

The delegation of MEASZ, under the leadership of President Vilmos Hanti, at the invitation of the Association of the Fighters of the Peoples Liberation War of Serbia (SUBNOR-Serbia) paid a visit to Belgrade in April. General Slavko Popovic, President of SUBNOR-Serbia, and Dr. Miograd Zajevic, President of the Foreign Relations

Committee, emphasized the importance of relations between the two organizations. President Hanti informed the Serbian delegation about the activities of MEASZ, as well as about FIR and FMAC. He encouraged SUBNOR-Serbia to develop closer contacts with FIR.

Russia – Hungary

A four-member delegation of MEASZ, under the leadership of President V. Hanti, at the invitation of the Moscow Committee of the Russian Veterans Association, paid a visit to Moscow at the end of April. The first deputy president of the Russian Association

and the leaders of the Moscow Committee appreciated highly the relations with MEASZ. President V. Hanti expressed the intention of MEASZ to strengthen these relations further.

Obituary for Avraham Cohen

With deep mourning we take leave of Avraham Cohen, chairman of the Israeli federation to wounded veterans of the Second World War, which deceased on 7 April 2007 at the age of over 85 years.

Avraham Cohen participated in the Soviet Union in the Great Patriotic War in the fight against the fascist invaders and for its activity and its services he was highly honoured. Still in the year 2005 Avraham Cohen for this reason met with Russian president Vladimir Putin, when these Israel visited. He was a convincing example of all Jewish fighters against the fascist barbarism, which did not want to be subjected to the race and destruction politics without resistance.

Many years he led the Israeli federation of wounded veterans of the Second World War and was their representative in the International Federation of Resistance fighters (FIR). It participated in numerous congresses, was member of the general assembly and on the XIII. regular congress 2004 in Berlin he was intended unanimously for the member of the honour presidency of the FIR. He represented passionately the position of the State of Israel, used themselves however at the same time together with the FIR for international peace solutions in the Middle East.

His solidarity with the FIR showed he also in the fact that he honoured the executive members of the FIR with the medal of the Jewish fighters against fascism given to the 60th Anniversary of the victory. We will retain an honouring memory to him.

We would like to express his relative and the federation of wounded veterans of the Second World War our sympathy.

Obituary for Alix Lhote

With deep mourning we take leave of our comrade, combat companion of many years and fellow combatant in the ranks of the International Federation of Resistance fighters (FIR).

Already as a young man he fought as a communist from the first time against the fascist occupation of France. He was fellow combatant of the "Résistance Intérieure Francaise" (RIF) and changed 1943 into the "organization civile et militaire" the Forces Francaises Combattantes (FFC). Arrested because of sabotage he was kidnapped into different institutes for detention in France and into the camps Struthof and Waldsee (Bavaria).

Only in June 1945 he returned to France. From then on he began to last with its whole strength for the comrades deported with him and engaged themselves for retaining the historical memory.

In France he lobbys particularly for his organization, the "Fédération Nationale des Déportés et Internés, Résistants et Patriotes" (FNDIRP). He took over numerous responsible person functions. He was member in the national committee, in the general council and in the executive board. Since 1998 he was elected member in the honour committee.

Equally, as for its French comrades, Alix Lhote engaged itself on the international level in the FIR. Already in the year 1973 he was elected to the Secretary-General. In this function he brought important political initiatives on the way to the organization, thus for example the world meeting of the former war veterans in Rome, at which the FIR, FMAC, CPAG and other umbrella organisations of war veterans and resistance fighters occurred for peace, disarmament and policy of detente.

Later Alix Lhote took over the tasks of a president, before he had to deliver 2001 this function for health reasons. The 13th regulare congress of the FIR 2004 in Berlin intended him unanimously for the member of the honour presidency. Alix Lhote has received high honours in its homeland, as the "Croix de Guerre" or the medal of the resistance. The highest honour was its appointment as the commander of the "Legion d'Honneur".

We will retain an honouring memory to him.

To his wife and his relatives, as well as the FNDIRP we insure our deepest sympathy.

Wladimir Putin to the "Day of victory"

In his speech on the red Place in Moscow on the Day of Victory President Wladimir Putin declared:

The day of victory unites not only the peoples of Russia, but also our neighbours in the countries of the community of independent states. We are deeply grateful to that generation, whose heavy fate was it to take on the war. However they passing on their traditions of the fraternity and the solidarity at us, their truthful hard compiled experience of unit and mutual assistance (...) Those, which try today to lower this inestimable experience which violating monuments of the war heroes, insult their own people, sow enmity and distrust between states and humans.

We do not have the right to forget: One must look for the causes of each war particularly in the errors and miscalculations of

peacetime, their roots however - in the ideology of the confrontation and in extremism. All the more as in our days threats of this kind do not become smaller. They are transformed only, change their feature. And under these new threats - like also at present the "third Reich" - is the same depreciating the human life, the same requirement on world-wide exclusivity and dictation.

I am convinced that only common responsibility and equal partnership make possible to resist these challenges, to stop in common effort each possible attempt an armed conflict or to undermine the security in the world.

Bertrand Herz, President of International Committee Buchenwald - Dora and Kommandos

Speech on behalf of the 62nd anniversary of self-liberation of CC Buchenwald

Nearly before 62 years, on April 19, 1945, the survivors of Buchenwald swore at exactly this place that they would help to reconstruct a new world of peace and liberty. Since 62 years remind the survivors of the camps Buchenwald, Dora and commands again and again on the torture, which brought the Nazi barbarism to them, but they remind above all also of the solidarity and their fight against this ideology of arbitrariness and the inhumanity.

In this way they want to remain faithful their oath and contribute by its example and its act to create a world of the peace and the tolerance.

But our voices will soon grow silent.

Our voices will grow silent, but the oath from 19 April 1945 remains. The memory of Buchenwald and against the indifference, forgetting and the historical falsification remains. And above all the obligation remains to fight against the fact that again revives, which among other things was the pot of fascist atrocity: Wars of aggression, terrorism and violence, racism, Anti-Semitism, nationalistic, ideological and - today - religious intolerance.

Now the todays and future generations must continue. If we, the former prisoners, exist any longer, they will carry our voices.

General assembly of International Auschwitz Committee (IAK): "Activity of NPD is absolutely alarming"

April 20 – 22, 2007 the general assembly of the international Auschwitz committee took place in Oswiecim/Auschwitz, to which survivors of the concentration camp Auschwitz Birkenau and representative of Auschwitz Foundation from 14 countries had met. For the first time also representatives of the 2nd

and 3rd Generation took part at the general assembly of the IAK - descendant of Holocaust survivor - from Greece, Israel and the Czech republic.

Apart from questions of the future educational work of the memorial place Auschwitz and the support of the survivors in many

countries one discussed with large concern the rise by right-wing extremism and Anti-Semitism in Europe and the role of the neo-fascist NPD with the combination of the right-wing extremists forces in Germany: "the role of the NPD is absolutely alarming. For us is it unacceptable that such a party, which its opponents threatened with force and liberty and wants to eliminate democracy, is granted by the society such a room for activities.", stressed Noach Flug, old and

newly elected president of the IAK from Jerusalem.

Beyond that stressed Noach Flug the close connection of the IAK to the work of the United Nations: "we are grateful the fact that the UN appointed January 27- which day of our liberation in Auschwitz - the international day of the memory of the victims of the Holocaust. We evaluate this also as answer to the repeated attempt of the Iranian president to deny the Holocaust."

Anniversary of Liberation of Camp Mauthausen Liberation, what else?

More than 9000 humans participated on Mai 6, 2007 on the commemoration and liberation celebration of the concentration camp Mauthausen in Austria. Also numerous survivors and international delegations, under it a group of Polish survivors (photo), took part at the meeting to the 62nd Anniversary of the liberation of the camp part. In Mauthausen were between 1838 and 1945 more than 200000 humans from completely Europe arrested, for instance half one killed there. The camp was liberated on May 7, 1945 by the US army.



Commemoration for peace: 70th anniversary of bombardment of Guernica by Legion Condor

Declaration of Gernika: Deutsch-Baskischer Kulturverein e.V.

Bombardment Gernikas at April 26, 1937 by the German Legion CONDOR entered as "civilization break" history. It was the first destruction of a city behind the lines. It was at the same time the destruction of the "holy city of the Basques", symbol of their free democratic traditions and its self-confident culture. For the ruling powers of fascist Germany the destruction Gernikas was "a full success of the Air Force". They made Spain the test field for the already in the preparation World War II. Picassos picture "Guernica" perpetuated the crime, frightening in the face of devastations of the war. It is that picture become accusation of its victims. "Guernica" is up to the today's day symbol of the refusal of the war and its destructive force absolutely.

70 years after bombardment Gernikas disappeared to a large extent this act and the responsibility of the German "Legion CONDOR" for it from the memory of our country. Some years ago the German Federal Armed Forces erased the names of in this crime involved ones of barracks, ships and roads on its locations. While the Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero thanked in October 2006 the German members of the international brigades for their power and courage and their victims by defence of the idea of the democracy and the liberty in the Spanish civil war, an honour explanation of the German government for these women and men is still pending
We think it is for urgently required that according to the letter of Federal President

Roman Herzog at that time 1997 to the survivors of Gernika the Federal Government now also accept and acknowledged the contribution of the German fighters on sides of the Spanish republic for anti-fascist and democratic Europe. We want to draw courage from the happening before 70 years

teachings for a future, which overcomes the hate, to the confidence witness.

Around this peaceful future sake the happening of before 70 years must take its firm place in the collective memory of the Basques and the Germans.

Fight for social recognition of resistance fighters

The FIR receives reports and letters again and again from its member federations, in which one refers to the problems of the political recognition and the social supply of the former resistance fighters and deported. It is a political and human scandal that those, who fought for the liberty of their country, must occur still decades later for a moral recognition and an appropriate material security. Three examples of the past weeks are documented briefly here:

Greece

The Panhellenic organization of the fighters of the national resistance 1941 - 1944 (POAEA) informed the FIR about an initiative, which was to cover a legal reorganization of the material remuneration for resistance fighters. In particular the organization demands that the remuneration for resistance fighters of the partisan fight is adapted of 1941 - 1944 of the remuneration for the military members of the Greek armed forces of 1940 - 1941. Since more

than 20 years this demand discussed and different judgements and decisions in favour of the resistance fighters became already please. Now it is to be met finally at the time a legal regulation. With such a regulation the government can prove its sensitivity and generosity, a minimum of moral compensation and social acknowledgment opposite the fighters of the Résistance.

Latvia

The Latvian union to veterans of the corps Latvian riflemen and the brigades of Latvian partisans reports of the following scandal:

In Latvia the governing circles and offices still ignore the social emergency of poor and ill anti-fascist veterans, who live in poverty, not only, but refuse to them the acknowledgment of the legal status as fighters of the patriotic anti-Hitler war. One makes the participants of the Latvia Waffen-SS - volunteer legion for heroes, who fought at the side of fascist Germany. The Latvian government pays them from the state budget an additional pension. The patriots, who had liberated their homeland at the side of the anti-Hitler coalition with weapons, are called occupants and Koloborozi-onists. They are pursued and placed before court. Among them is the former partisan Kononow. He was condemned in September 2004 by the highest Latvian court to have committed war crime in its partisan

activity. The condemnation Kononows we regard as mockery of its honour and it is also related to the memory of the heroes, who were fallen for the liberation of their homeland and the European countries from the brown plague.

We are proud on the fact that Kononow attacks in the partisan department over 40 diversionary on German military objects, under it 14 railway trains with military equipment and armed forces troops, which were sent to the front, personally prepared and converted. Kononow inserted complaint against the judgement with the European Court of Justice for human rights in Strasbourg. Now two and a half years passed, but the complaint was so far not worked on to accelerate regardless of the request the thing with consideration that Kononow be-

came 84 years old on January 1, 2007, is severely disabled it and its health worsened because of the detention strongly.

We must state that the European court in Strasbourg leaves itself in restriction from the powerful ones in Latvia and everything tried not to examine the thing during lifetimes Kononows. Thus the court acted also regarding other veterans of the war out of

Latvia, which had turned because of injury of the human rights to the court.

With its fighting hero acts Kononow earned it that the unfair accusation is waived still during its lifetimes. We, fighters against the Nazi regime, ask for Your assistance in the acceleration of the treatment of the complaint Kononows.

Cyprus

The Cyprus federation of veterans of the World War II demands - purchase taking to an announcement of the French government for war veterans from earlier colonies - from the British government a material remuneration for veterans of the Cyprus regiment, who fought from 1939 to 1945 at the side of the British army.

Also widows of fighters should be supported, if they are not again married, equally.

In a letter it means: "it gives hundred old veterans in our country - and we are surely in many other countries also, which live at the poverty border. It is to time that the countries, for which they fought see that they owe them somewhat." The FIR and its member federations are called to support such demands actively for the social supply of veterans of the anti-fascist fight.

SUBNOR Serbien warns violate to international right

In an actual resolution of the executive board of SUBNOR of Serbia all attempts of a solution of the problem of Kosovo and Metohia, which aim at a separation under break of the international right, are rejected. SUBNOR Serbia warns of an acceptance of a resolution of the USA and the European union by the United Nations, in which a separation of the Kosovo is demanded.

Veterans of the national war of liberation reject the suggestion of Marti Ahtisari about the future status of the Kosovo as one-sided and unbalanced. They welcome the

attitude in principle of Russia, China and other countries and hope; they will prevent a renewed ignoring of the Charter of the United Nations and the international right. A separation by force of Kosovo and Metohia would cause large bitterness and an uncontrollable situation under the Serbian population in resistance against such a decision. This would have unforeseeable consequences without doubt not only on the Balkans, but also in other parts of the world.

Portugal

European neo-fascist meeting prevented.

On occasion of Hitler's birthday, April 20, 2007, a meeting of the "European national front", which union extremely right groups and parties from 11 countries, should to take place in Portugal. The Portuguese Juventude Nacionalista had invited to Lisbon. Representatives of Noua Dreapta (Romania), NPD and "Freier Widerstand" (Germany), Front National (France), Forza Nuova (Italy), "Combat Espana" (Spain) and British National Party (England) should participate. Speeches and concerts with Nazi Skin music were planned.

Due to different protests from Portugal and other European countries this meeting was forbidden and prevented with the police. From the foreign country travelling neo-Nazis received the order to leave the country within short time again. Thus a renewed attempt of networking of neo-fascist organizations in Europe has been prevented. However the anti-fascists must remain further watchful.

Ulrich Schneider

15 Years internationalist political work of DRAFD

The federation of Germans in the Résistance, in armed forces of the anti-Hitler coalition and the movement "free Germany" (DRAFD) commits on May 24, 2007 the 15th Anniversary of its establishment. Developed as the first all-German anti-fascist federation it made a specific and at the same time indispensable contribution over years for the switching of future-oriented historical knowledge. With its establishment could so far only sporadic co-operation between the IDEW, which in the Federal Republic of Germany existing community of interests of former resistance fighter in the countries occupied by fascism, and a working group of armed fighters in the ranks of the anti-Hitler coalition and the partisan federations, formed in the GDR, continued at qualitatively new stage. DRAFD stands thereby in the tradition that German anti-fascists, who had joined consciously the global anti-Hitler coalition, in order to furnish thereby also a contribution for the liberation of the German people from the fascist barbarism.

They were only few more than thousand Germans, in which main thing political emigrants, who participated in armed forces of the Soviet Union, France, Great Britain and the USA like also in partisan units in different countries in this specific section of the world-wide and German resistance. Their contribution should be neither overrated nor forgotten.

By publications, under it that 1995 published standard work "cooperating with the enemy" and the 2005 under the title

"against Hitler" published over 1000 short biographies, as well as special exhibitions and not least numerous meetings with above all younger humans the federation DRAFD documented an active work.

Especially the documentarily meaningful exhibitions "Germans in the Résistance" and "For Germany - Against Hitler" received in numerous German cities, in addition, in Russia, in France, in the Netherlands, in Belgium and in Italy a lively attention. Representatives of DRAFD took part in conferences and meetings of other anti-fascist organizations both in Germany and in further countries, organized beyond that youth journeys to places of the anti-fascist fight.

Members of DRAFD became invited of the presidents of France and Russia 2004 the celebrations on the occasion of 60th Anniversary of the landing in Normandy and the liberation of Paris as well as then 2005 to 60th Anniversary of the victory over fascism to Moscow. Beyond that DRAFD members were honoured by high national French, Russian and American honours.

The necessity for a common international defence against an unfortunately living fascist danger is today more urgently then ever.

Also therefore DRAFD maintains contacts as close as possible as a member of the FIR to all, which feel connected with the anti-fascist traditions and occur in this sense for a further strengthening of the international peace in the spirit of human solidarity.

André Lohmar

Greeting words of the FIR on the occasion of 65th Anniversary of the demonstration for peace and liberty in Budapest

My homeland Baden in the south of Germany has a large community with the cause of the demonstration at that time for peace and liberty, i.e. the large civil revolution in the year 1848, which up-frightened the European prince houses duly. Here, as in my homeland, this revolution was brutally shot down.

It was the large common will already at that time reaching liberty, equality and rights for any human being confirmed by a document, which drove our ancestors on the roads and on the barricades.

The fact that it was again possible nearly hundred years later, the most brutal regime of mankind history, the German Nazi re-

gime, up-purchases over Europe, was completely reliably not in the sense of these fighters for the goals and ideals of the human. In the tradition of these fighters the demonstration from March 1942 stood.

At each time required it high courage, a large civil courage, against all dominant one, against the inertia and adjustment, against the own and collective fear to go on the road for new perspectives for itself and for the others. They all have it done with the knowledge that this consequences for their own life and that the family as well as for their goods and property will have.

This commemoration ceremony is to be estimated therefore not highly enough, if we make clear here and today, what we have to make clear that it will not give historical revisionism, no reinterpretation of history with us that it will not give a glorification of the fascist crimes with us. We say it completely loud and unmistakably: **Fascism is not an opinion, but a crime!**

We say it in all clarity also to those, who demonstrated some weeks ago in Budapest at the place of the republic.

The FIR has referred in September 2006 in their "political declaration about the danger of extreme rights - European initiatives are necessarily" the activities of extreme rights in total Europe and called for common acting in Europe against extreme rights.

Who did not recognize the necessity yet, which gradually a light must come up with the building a neo-fascist parliamentary

group in the European parliament. The fact that we may not rely alone on the policy proved the past. The more we are pleased that cross countries and parties delegates of all European parliaments united in the ENAR (European network against Racism) and expressed itself to have European initiatives.

In the fight against extreme right are however also social initiatives necessary.

In Germany we started a campaign for the prohibition of the neo-fascist NPD and want to collect until November 100,000 signatures.

On initiative of the MEASZ in June 2007 with support of the socialist parliamentary group in the European parliament in Brussels a conference of youth will take place about "youth against neo-fascism in Europe",

and with Belgian support in the year 2008 large youth meeting at the KZ Buchenwald.

We thank the MEASZ and our vice-president Vilmos Hanti naturally for the support of the work of the FIR. The close solidarity of the FIR and the MEASZ is underlined by the today's meeting again and will lead also in the future to positive results.

I hope, we all still often see us at such opportunities, to itself the oath of Buchenwald from 19 April 1945 of ten thousands KZ prisoners, under it many hundreds Hungary, fulfilled: **Never again fascism! Never again war!**

Heinz A. Siefritz

Bulgaria

Political memory to 125th Birthday of Georgi Dimitroff

The international foundation "Georgi Dimitroff" and the Bulgarian anti-fascist union organized at the beginning of June 2007 in Sofia under the title "Georgi Dimitroff in the today's world" a historical political conference, where the topicality of the political analyses and orientations Dimitroffs for anti-fascist work in 21. Century has been debated.

Dimitroffs estimates of fascism and the possibilities of anti-fascist unit front and alli-

ance politics are important aspects, about which on the occasion of the ceremonies to 125th Birthday has to be thought. The conference was supported by a broad social committee from intellectual ones, culture-creative, representatives of different political parties and non-government organizations (NGOs). The FIR and numerous member federations were invited to this conference in Sofia.

Documentation of Brussels conference 2006 Antifascism in Europe

End of May the documentation of the common conference of FIR and the GUE/NGL - parliamentary group in the European parliament "60+1 year anti-fascism in Europe" has been published.

Under the headings "the political danger of extreme rights", "the political work of the anti-fascist federations", "handling history and memorial places" and "challenges and perspectives of the anti-fascist fight today" are printed on 136 sides all submitted speeches and texts of the conference in German language.

Also some months after the conference are this texts still of large topicality, because the political problems, to which they take position, changed not fundamentally. The texts are an impressive indication of the political

variety of the work of the member federations of the FIR in east -, central and Western Europe.

The documentation has been published in the Pahl - Rugenstein - Verlag, Bonn.

The retail price amounts to 12 €. Members of the FIR order the book directly by FIR for 10 € (plus postage).

We deliver orders of member federations to special conditions:

10 ex. 90 € (plus postage),

20 ex. 160 € (inclusive postage)

50 ex. 350 € (inclusive postage).

Orders are to be addressed to the office of the FIR in Berlin.

A bilingual edition in English and French language is in preparation for the autumn.

A new Internet-site of the FIR

After our organization has a first experience in the Internet two years ago, now the presentation of the organization has been fundamentally relaunched. Functionalities and offers were arranged clearer, the possibilities, of reacting fast and of spreading our positions in the Internet up-to-date, were improved. Also this FIR - bulletin becomes in future as pdf document on the Web Site deposits, so that it becomes possible for all federations to multiply if necessary further copies for their members.

Even the list of the member federations was improved in that way that all member federations, whose Internet address we have, were

linked on the page. Now we have the urgent request that all member federations check first of all, whether the entrance data for their Internet presentation are still current (changes please by E-Mail to the office in Berlin), and secondly place on its own homepage a link to the side of the FIR.

Thus we improve not only the connection between the member federations on electronic way, but contribute also to the fact that our own Web Site can be found better by search machines in the Internet. If you want us to give assistance for an appropriate linking, communicate us likewise by E-Mail.

Imprint :

Responsible: Dr. Ulrich Schneider,

Secretariat: Internationale Föderation der Widerstandskämpfer - Bund der Antifaschisten (FIR), Franz-Mehring-Platz 1, D- 10243 Berlin, Fon (30) 29 78 41 74, Fax (30) 29 78 41 79, E-Mail: bundesbuero@vvn-bda.de, Internet www.fir.at

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.

Bank account : Postbank Berlin (BLZ 10010010), Account: **543 054 107**, Kontoinhaber **FIR**, IBAN **DE 04 1001 0010 0543 0541 07** SWIFT-BIC: **PBNKDEFF**

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