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## Bulletin of the International Federation of Resistance Fighters (FIR) – Association of Antifascists

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**No. 51**

**March 2019**

### **Call of FIR for the European Parliament Electoral Campaign**

The next elections to the European Parliament will take place in May 2019. For the International Federation of Resistance Fighters (FIR) - Association of Anti-Fascists, its member-federations in almost all European countries and Israel, veterans of antifascist struggle and antifascists of today's generation, these elections are very important for a variety of reasons:

In recent years, we have often had to experience painfully that the present policy and development of the European Union does not correspond to the interests of large parts of the people in the European countries. In particular, the response to refugee situation and the fiscal clout of several states have deepened the social divide in Europe. Numerous decisions lead to massive social exclusion and dismantling of workers' rights, at the expense of the weakest in the respective countries. At the same time, the tendencies to foreclosure of the "fortress Europe" are massive reinforced and the development of a European military power for international missions is promoted. On the other hand, voices calling for a democratic, peace-oriented, solidary and socially just development of Europe must also be strengthened to have the basis to a real construction of the progress of the European Union. In addition, in many European countries, we must see a significant upraise of openly racist, nationalist and extreme right-wing parties and groups. They are not only strongly represented in national parliaments, but meanwhile they also participate in the government in several states, where they put their anti-democratic and racist policies into government action.

The anti-fascist, anti-racist and peace-moving organizations and groups as well as trade unions, and social movements must join forces in order to engage and successfully counter such developments in the election campaign and later in the European Parliament.

The basis of this action is not a vote for a party, but the common advocacy for a Europe,

- opposing any form of racial discrimination or xenophobia,
- promoting comparable living conditions in all countries, to avoid forced departure of workforce - necessary for living condition.
- working for refugees and minorities and against human trafficking,
- standing against nationalist and separatist attempts by guaranteeing the cultural identity of minorities and regions in Europe,
- opposing any form of Holocaust denial, denial of the resistance fight, destruction of memorial sites, falsification of history and rehabilitation of SS criminals,
- ensuring a social policy that guarantees work, education, nutrition and adequate housing for all as a basis for a wide democracy,
- representing a community in the interest of the people and claiming that Europe cannot be reduced to the role of big financial trust and pure business lobbies,
- advocating a peace policy based not on domination in matter of foreign policy, but on non-military conflict solutions.

Such a Europe is possible if the peoples actively and vocally campaign for their interests.

FIR will do its part to ensure that the different political movements and forces move forward along this path. Just as the national member federations advocate in their countries for social alliances against right wing developments and for the defense of the anti-fascist foundations of a society, the FIR works on an international level to connect existing initiatives and movements in order to become a common political voice in Europe

## Offer for anti-fascist associations for the European elections campaign 2019

The elections to the European Parliament in May 2019 are coming closer and closer and the antifascist associations are called upon to make their contribution to the political debate and against the advance of extremely right-wing and right-wing populist parties and groups in this election campaign. The executive committee of the FIR wrote to it a common "Call of FIR", which describes our content wise position to Europe and the goals of our intervention. The member federations can take over this call or extend it with their national topics.

As assistance for the public appearance of the FIR and its member federations in these arguments, we have prepared a poster and small flyers on which our common slogan is printed: "For a Europe without racism and fascism" in different languages.

At the head of the poster you find the logo of the FIR and – if you want – the logo of the respective member organization or partners. The office of the FIR can prepare for each member federation a suitable master copy (A2 or A3) as pdf format, which can be printed in your countries.



### **Fédération Internationale des Résistants (FIR) Association Antifascistes**



**Für ein Europa ohne Rassismus und Faschismus**

**For a Europe without racism and fascism**

**Pour une Europe sans racisme et fascisme**

**A rasszizmus és a fasizmus nélküli Európa számára**

**Por una Europa sin racismo y fascismo**

**Per un'Europa senza razzismo e fascismo**

**Για μια Ευρώπη χωρίς ρατσισμό και φασισμό**

**Voor een Europa zonder racisme en fascisme**

**For et Europa uden racisme og fascisme**

**Dla Europy bez rasizmu i fasyzmu**

**Pro Evropu bez rasismu a fašismu**



## Neo-fascist “Day of Honour” in Budapest

In 2019, neo-Nazis from the “Blood & Honour” movement (B&H) once again organized a “Day of Honour” with a Nazi concert and military sport exercises in Budapest in February. The occasion is the date of a military outbreak attempt by SS units, the Wehrmacht and the Hungarian military in February 1945 during the liberation of the city by the Soviet armed forces. It was a last - bloody - rebellion of the fascist military against the impending defeat. To commemorate this event, rallies and public marches of Hungarian and European neo-Nazis have taken place since the end of the 1990s. One of the peculiarities of this action for some years now has been a military sports exercise - the so-called “outbreak march” on various marches up to 60 km long.

The organization is led by the “Movement for the Unity of the Homeland” under the leadership of the Hungarian division of the neo-Nazi network “Blood & Honour”. Although the B&H Group has also been banned in Hungary since 2004, nothing stands in the way of the implementation or the lively presentation of B&H insignia. In order to comply with the Hungarian right of assembly, a private person registers the events. The fact that she herself is one of the leading B&H activists and has conducted several television interviews in this capacity no longer matters. The number of participants is always several hundred, sometimes more than 1000.

The arriving neo-Nazis come from different parts of Europe. In a neo-fascist self-portrait, participants were listed for 2018: Sixty-Four Counties Youth Movement, Hammerskins, Skins 4 Skins, B&H/C18 Hungary, Bulgaria, Italy and the Netherlands, representatives of the Nordic Resistance Movement from Sweden as well as nationalists from Poland and Russia.

German neo-Nazis are also regularly present with larger delegations and prominent representatives. In the past years, one could find reports and pictures of the delegations on the different Nazi sides. In 2007, Udo Voigt (NPD, MEP) appeared in Budapest and certified that the Waffen-SS had led a “flawless hero fight”. In 2018, Nazis of the party “The Right”, from III. The NPD, the European Action and free comradeships in Budapest.

In recent years, there have been repeated attempts to organize resistance against the marches. The FIR organization MEASZ, Jewish student groups, anti-fascist initiatives and representatives of the civil society organized among other things in the year 2010 a larger anti-fascist demonstration. But the majority relations turned out to be very to the disadvantage of the anti-fascists, so that in the last years there were no more public protests against this march.

When the authorities tried in 2018 to pronounce a formal ban of the march, it was lifted by the court. Only the use of the “Heldenplatz” was denied to the neo-Nazis. They then started their action from the western side of the Danube.

No direct actions were possible in Budapest this year either. Small groups of anti-fascists were stopped by the police. The FIR protested together with the German VVN-BdA in Berlin in front of the Hungarian embassy. Before that, a protest letter with the demand had been conveyed to the ambassador: “Do not allow Hungary to become a playground of European neo-Nazis”.

Also the Hungarian federation of the anti-fascists MEASZ condemned the Neonazi march with its commemoration meeting to the anniversary of the liberation of Budapest on 13 February.



## **Lukov March in Sofia**

Since 2003, neo-fascists, extreme rightists and nationalists from Bulgaria and other European countries have been organizing a public march in Sofia in mid-February. They show Nazi uniforms and fascist symbols. In slogans, they rush against refugees, foreigners and the Turkish minority in the country. The march takes place in honour of General Hristo Lukov, who was executed in the “name of the people” after the Second World War for war crimes and crimes against the humanity of partisans.

General Lukov was Bulgarian Minister of War and head of the ultranationalist organization “Union of Bulgarian National Legions”. He was an extremely brutal supporter of Hitler. In the government he had worked with all his strength to participate in the racist extermination policy and to send Bulgarian Jews to the fascist death camps. He also supported the idea of sending ten Bulgarian divisions to the Eastern Front against the Red Army. All this is well known in Bulgaria and Europe.

Nevertheless, the torch-lit march takes place in his honour. With Nazi symbolism, with neo-fascist slogans on banners, with hate slogans neo-fascist followers demonstrate this “idol” in the sense of fascist stylistics. The number of participants in the past years was always about 1000 persons or more. Mostly there were young demonstrators, followers of different neo-fascist groups, skinheads with corresponding tattoos and football hooligans. The march on the streets of Sofia will be accompanied by music, flags and fireworks. Registered by the “Bulgarian National League” you can find here Ultras of the Bulgarian fascist and National Socialist organizations, the Bulgarian branch of “Blood & Honour” as well as representatives of nationalist parties. There are also participants from Nazi organizations from Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Italy, Falangists from Spain, right-wing extremists from France, the Union “United and Ethnically Clean Europe”, the Russian imperial movement and the Swedish Nazi movement “Nordic Front”.

Since several years, there is also a participation of German neo-Nazis in this march. The Free Comradeship South, which also took part in Budapest, was sighted there. For 2018 “Die Rechte” Dortmund and JN Niedersachsen had announced their participation via Facebook. During the march itself, a good 30 neo-Nazis from German-speaking countries were counted, who appeared as a closed bloc with the front banner “Together for Europe”. During the opening rally, Dortmund’s Sven Skoda spoke, whose speech was simultaneously translated into Bulgarian. In it he promoted the Dortmund demonstration “Europe awakens”, which took place on 14 April 2018.

The social protest against this march was visible in 2018. More than 175,000 people supported an online petition to ban provocation. Approximately 300 followers of the Bulgarian anti-fascist union (BAU), member federation of the FIR, and other initiatives of the civil society demonstrated against this form of the history revisionism. Even diplomatic representatives from Israel, Russia and the USA had called on the Bulgarian government to oppose this spectacle. In 2017, the mayor of Sofia tried to stop the march with a ban. The neo-Nazis ignored it and the police secured the march of the right instead of enforcing the state ban. In 2018, the city government again banned the march. This time the ban was lifted by the Supreme Court. However, the public protests against the neo-Nazis were restricted in their freedom of movement.

## **For the unity of the anti-fascists in Europe**

### **ANPI International Conference in Rome**

On 14/ 15 December, the Italian association ANPI invited to an international conference in Rome with the title: “Being antifascist in Europe today”. Among the hundred guests were antifascist and veteran associations from Spain, Portugal and Greece, from Belgium, Germany, Great Britain and Austria, from Croatia, Slovenia and Hungary as well as from Poland and Russia. Greeting letters came from France and Serbia. In addition, the FIR Executive Committee was present at the conference.

In speeches and debates, it did not only concern an inventory of the current developments in the individual countries, but around political answers of the anti-fascist forces against the right development and the different conditions of the social mobilization locally and in Europe.

Thus, guests from Italy, Belgium, Poland and Hungary reported on the problems, which result from the influence of the racist, anti-democratic and nationalistic parties on the governments for political acting in the sense of the socially weakest of the society and the refugees. The representatives of Austria, Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia pointed to the dangers of rehabilitating Ustasha fascists as “fighters for an independent Croatia”. They proposed to answer the annual meeting of history revisionists in Bleiburg by international actions.

In the statements, the variety of the antifascist positions in the respective countries became visible. Some called above all on their governments to ban the actions of racist and extremely right wing parties and groups, others, e.g. a representative of a trade union group from London, reported on their experiences of social resistance, blockades and other actions against racist provocations. The proposal of the FIR to bring a common campaign on the way under the slogan “For a Europe without racism and fascism” with common posters and further public material to the European election in May 2019 was positively received.

In the center of all statements stood the thought of the reinforcement of the unity of all anti-fascist and anti-racist forces. The view was not only directed at the member federations of the FIR, but also at the cross-linking with other anti-racist and civil society initiatives, as for example “Stand up to Racism”, UNITED or other structures.

Carla Nespolo, president of ANPI, stressed in her closing speech once again the responsibility of all anti-fascists for the defense of freedom, the preservation of the historical legacy and the solidarity with refugees. She underlined the necessity of the networking and unity of the anti-fascist and anti-racist forces in Europe and the world. Further international consultations and conferences are to take place in 2019.

### **Being antifascists in Europe today**

Today as never before since the war, Europe sees a fierce and composite gathering of neo-fascist, racist, neo-Nazi-nationalist inspired political forces. Those forces, although often different among them (probably because of each specific national history), operate with similar goals, ideals, language, proposals and political practices. The implementation of neoliberal economics on over Europe and the effects of the severe economic crisis that began after the 2007/2008, with the scandal of sub-prime mortgages, have been devastating under the socio-economic and cultural point of view, resulting in a decline of the great ideas of solidarity, equality, freedom and democracy, which were the flags of the international resistance movement and which prevailed in the post war Europe, after the defeat of Nazi-fascism.

Economic policy and liberal culture have led to an extraordinary rise in poverty and at the same time an increasing concentration of wealth in the hands of a few.

The EU appeared therefore to millions of citizens, not as a higher form of solidarity among peoples and States, aimed at increasing democratic cohesion and well-being for its peoples, but as one of the main causes of the growing social exclusion, of the impoverishment, of the deterioration of personal rights. It appeared as a Europe of elites, of the major financial funds and economic lobbies, indifferent to the fate of countries and of a large part of the people.

Within this framework, have largely grown and/or have gradually prevailed in many countries, political forces either of nationalist, racist, fascist, neo-Nazi inspiration, or strongly influenced by these ideas. We therefore share the concerns expressed in the European Parliament resolution of 25 October 2018 on the increase of neo-fascist violence in Europe, with particular reference to the anti-democratic drift of various Eastern European countries, where current Governments are increasingly questioning political, civil, and social rights, denying antifascist memory, trivializing, minimising or even denying the crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators, obscure the value of the forces that fought and won against the Nazi-fascist occupation. These obscurantist, antidemocratic and repressive positions closely resemble to fascist and Nazi policies.

Those forces all share the pursuit of “scapegoat” of the unquestionable difficulties of such a large part of the people: the migrants.



## ESSERE ANTIFASCISTI OGGI IN EUROPA

EMERGENZA DEMOCRATICA:  
UNA RISPOSTA UNITARIA E POPOLARE  
A VECCHI E NUOVI FASCISMI

**Roma, Palazzo Merulana**

Via Merulana, 121

Venerdì **14 dicembre 2018** - ore **14.30**

Sabato **15 dicembre 2018** - ore **9.30**



[www.anpi.it](http://www.anpi.it)

The migrant, who is the preferred target of the right-wing radical forces, is not the only target. Discriminations against any real or alleged diversity, the Roma and Sinti, homosexuals, women, Jews, political opponents are also taking place more and more often. The everyday more explicit attack to the achievements of women also deserves a special attention. Ethnicity, gender, language, religion, political views, personal and social conditions have now become the new frontier of a creeping racism that poisons the social cohesion and identify "the Other" as "the enemy".

In this serious situation, made even murkier by the possible further progression of those forces at the next European elections, we must react quickly and together. It is not the time for divisions and distinctions: to counteract this issue we need to be united against anyone who spread the contagion of nationalism, racism, fascism, neo-Nazism; against any person seeking to shift Europe into a climate obscurantist.

The EU needs an intense rethinking of the economic and social policies, which should focus on employment and a new welfare, to bring Europe back to its founding values - starting with antifascism - and relaunch in a modern way, its essential principles, to begin with human rights. We need a common policy to encourage employment and investment, to tackle unemployment and poverty, to redistribute income, to rebuild welfare. This is possible through the common work of the European Union and the individual States, so that the partial transfer of sovereignty of each State goes to the concrete advantage of its own people and of all the peoples of the Union. Moreover, we need a common European and national policy to strongly tackle all forms of racial discrimination and xenophobia, fascism and neo-fascism, nationalism, obscurantism.

Furthermore, we need an uncompromising opposition to any form of Shoah and Porajmos and all extermination camps denial: Slavs, homosexuals, political prisoners, prisoners of war, Jehovah's witnesses, Pentecostals, POWs, mulattoes, disabled, mentally ill.

The European Union has guaranteed more than seventy years of peace between countries, with some rare and unfortunate exception. Yet, EU countries were too often involved, frequently in the front row, in wars of aggression in the Middle East and Africa. The return of nationalisms frightens, because history shows how many times they have triggered a war as a solution for international disputes.

We are worried about the continued increase of military exercises on the Eastern front of the European Union and the increasing tension that opposes NATO to Russia. There is an urgent need for a gradual de-escalation of both sides, and that Europe finds back its role as an actor of peace. We are committed to a Europe of peace within its borders and around the world, because peace is the necessary scenario for any social and civil advancement

We send out a cry of alarm in front of the continuous erosion of democracy and the increasingly worrying successes of the right-wing radical forces in Europe; we work to build a broad democratic front, Republican and popular, we put forward and practice a relentless contrast to those forces.

Facing the danger of new fascisms, however masked or hidden, facing the reality of new racisms that affect many countries, facing the attempts to reduce the democratic freedoms, the freedom of the press, of denial of separation of powers, is time to create the unprecedented experience of unity between old and new antifascists, unity in the vast world of associations, unity among institutions, trade unions, peoples and citizens, to enhance the respect of human and civil rights, in a nutshell we shall give birth to the unity of antifascists.

For these reasons 1) We urge to support, in the forthcoming European elections, the forces that are unambiguously opposed to the sovranist, racist and fascist formations, 2) We are committed to creating a permanent European network of Antifascist associations and organisations, 3) We decide now on a next common appointment for the first months of 2019.

Roma, 15 december 2018

This declaration was signed by:

|                                                                               |                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Carla Nespolo, Presidente nazionale ANPI;                                     | Ulrich Schneider, Segretario generale FIR; |
| Tit Turncheck, Presidente ZZ NOB Slovenia;                                    | Franjo Habulin, Presidente SABA Croazia;   |
| Andrej Mohar, Segretario generale ZKP – Unione Partigiani Carinzia (Austria); |                                            |
| Casimiro Baptista Levy, Presidente URAP (Portogallo);                         |                                            |
| Nicolay Royanov, Vicepresidente Associazione Veterani Russi;                  |                                            |
| Manuela Gretkowska, fondatrice Partito delle Donne (Polonia);                 |                                            |
| Conny Kerth, Presidente VVN-BDA/RFA (Germania);                               | Dario Venegoni, Presidente ANED;           |

## **No nuclear armament in Central Europe!**

At the beginning of February 2019, the US administration put its threat of last autumn into practice and cancelled the bilateral treaty with Russia on the destruction of nuclear medium-range systems (INF) concluded in 1987.

This decision was linked to the assertion that Russia had not adhered to the treaty because it had developed a missile that could be used in the range of the prohibited ranges between 500 and 5,500 km. This was repeatedly rejected by the Russian government. Russia itself has several times accused the USA and NATO of violating the treaty by building missile-launching bases in Poland and Romania. In addition, the permanent stationing of troops and offensive weapons near the Russian western border is an aggressive step.

In autumn 2018 the FIR reminded of it: “When 30 years ago the USA and the USSR signed this agreement, it led actually to a scrapping of a whole category of nuclear weapons, thus to a real disarmament. The end of the block confrontation with the dissolution of the “Warsaw Treaty” contributed to the fact that the military tensions in Central Europe could be reduced at times actually.” Moreover, the FIR warned, “The end of the INF treaty would be more than the termination of a treaty, it would be the end of an international disarmament and arms control policy which has made Europe and the world safer from the dangers of a nuclear war. The Treaty has sufficient provisions in case any party to the Treaty should see violations of the INF Agreement. These joint commissions must work. Propaganda “accusations” do not help.”

Instead of approaching the USA and Russia in the sense of reason and demilitarization of Europe, the European NATO states demonstratively stood behind the escalation policy of the USA and encouraged the Trump administration to withdraw from the treaty – with the now visible result.

The consequences were predictable. Russian President Putin declared after the American decision “We reply in mirror image: Our American partners have suspended their participation in the INF treaty. We are also suspending (our participation).”

The FIR and their member federations see in this contract also today still an important instrument against a nuclear arms race. The FIR calls on all European governments to use their influence, to approach the American and Russian side and to initiate negotiations in order to preserve the agreement. Instead of deciding on armament, the measures of mutual inspections agreed in 1987 must be revitalized again.

Together with the peace movements from all countries the FIR, which received in the 80’s from the UNO the honorary title “ambassador of the peace”, will become active against a renewed nuclear armament. A world without nuclear weapons remains the goal, no “retrofitting” or nuclear medium-range missiles in Europe!

**We renew the legacy of 1945: “Never again war!”**

### **Support the political work of the International Federation of Resistance (FIR) - Association of Antifascist!**

The political work of international anti-fascist organization requires large resources. Since civil society organizations do not have national or institutional grants, the organization depends on contributions and donations.

**Bank-account: Postbank Berlin IBAN DE 04 1001 0010 0543 0541 07, Owner: FIR**  
Donations from foreign countries only with IBAN DE 04 1001 0010 0543 0541 07 and  
**SWIFT-BIC: PBNKDEF**

## Call for worldwide marches against racism and fascism on 16 March 2019 to mark UN anti-racism day

We make this call in the very worrying context of the current international growth of racism and the far right. Far right parties are advancing electorally and are even entering governments. With Donald Trump in the USA and Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil, far-right hatred — against migrants, Muslims, women, LGBT+, black and indigenous people— has reached the presidencies of the two biggest countries of north and south America. There are violent fascist street movements in more and more places.

The growth of anti-migrant racism feeds other forms of racism. Antisemitism, which should have gone forever after the Holocaust, is growing again, with terrible results like the attack on the synagogue in Pittsburgh. Roma people were also major victims of the Holocaust but attacking the Roma has become the official policy of some European governments. And Islamophobia is rife.

Muslim women who wear a hijab, particularly, suffer increasing aggression.

The rise of racism and the far right represents a grave danger for the vast majority of the population. We will never be able to resolve the different social problems we face unless we defend the unity of ordinary people in the face of the attempts of racists and fascists to divide us.

This year around UN anti-racism day there were marches or other events in Greece, Britain, France, Ireland, Germany, Holland, Austria, South Korea, Holland, the Spanish state and other countries.

The situation now is even more urgent. There need to be more mobilisations in the spirit of the 250,000 who marched on the #Unteilbar (indivisible) demonstration in Berlin in October, the quarter of a million against Trump in London in July, the resistance in Brazil, the marches and protests in Vienna, the fightback against Golden Dawn that has hurled them back.

And we need broad movements to continue and develop this work. We are the majority, we can win.

For that reason we make this call for united mobilisations against racism and the far-right on 16 March 2019, around the UN Antiracism Day.

By coordinating ourselves locally and internationally for that protest, we can and must build stronger links between us. This day of action should become a step forward in the collective fight against hatred and for solidarity in diversity.

**One world against racism and fascism.**



## **PEAEA calls: Keep your hands off Venezuela!**

The Panhellenic Union of National Resistance and Democratic Army Fighters Greece (PEAEA-DSE) denounces US-EU imperialist intervention along with other reactionary governments and forces in Venezuela's internal affairs, attempting to overthrow the legally elected government of President Nicolas Maduro and to impose another is favorable to them reactive government.

The US Government with the involvement and complicity of the EU, as in many other cases (formerly with the fascist juntas imposed in many countries and in Greece and lastly with the imperialist interventions in Iraq, Yugoslavia, Libya, Syria, etc.), continues the practice of imperialist interventions in the interior of other countries to overthrow non-favorable to these imperialists legitimate governments in order to promote their interests against the peoples of these countries, while the so-called democratic forces in the EU hypocritically claim to fight against the rise of the far-right (fascist) powers.

The PEAEA-DSE - the resistance fighters have experienced along with the Greek people such imperialist interventions (of Great Britain and USA) - is supporting the Venezuelan people and their struggle against the imperialist interventions in the interior of the country. The people are responsible for the authority they choose and it is the sole responsibility of the Venezuelan people who they choose.

At the same time, the PEAEA-DSE complains of the unacceptable attitude of the capitalist parties of our country and, of course, of the SYRIZA government, that they agree with the imperialist intervention, or hold a "neutral stance" avoiding denouncing the US-EU for their unacceptable interference in the interior of Venezuela. We say not in imperialist interventions and express our solidarity to the people of Venezuela.

**Keep the imperialists' hands away from Venezuela!**

## **KZ-Verband Oberösterreich concerned about right-wing extremist development**

The Upper Austrian Regional Association of Antifascists, Resistance Fighters and Victims of Fascism (KZ-Verband/VdA OÖ) is concerned about the inaction and questionable handling of right-wing extremism in Upper Austria. An effective fight against the particularly high number of right-wing extremist crimes and the active right-wing extremist and neo-fascist scene in Upper Austria cannot be established.

"In an open letter, the provincial governor of Upper Austria is rightly called upon to take action against right-wing extremism in Upper Austria," said Harald Grün, chairman of the provincial government. In view of the massive increase in public subsidies for German national fraternity members reported in "Falter" (1-2/19) - probably a knee before the FPÖ coalition partner - skepticism about the will of the provincial governor is, however, quite appropriate.

The graduate association of the JKU Linz switched even an advertisement in the application brochure for the Linzer Burschenbund-Event taking place on Saturday with reference to the "loyalty song" of the SS "... in such a way we remain nevertheless faithful ...", as well as clear flirting with their codes. Although the managing director of the graduate club had to go under pressure from the rector Meinhard Lukas, at the same time Lukas has no problem taking part in the Burschenbund-Event again. His statement that "an anti-fascist attitude is part of the DNA of the JKU" should be followed by deeds and the participation in the Burschenbund-Event should be withdrawn.

This event serves primarily as a networking meeting for right-wing extremist fraternities with the economic and political establishment.

The KZ-Verband/VdA Oberösterreich supported a demonstration of the alliance "Linz gegen Rechts" under the slogan "Champagne for you, 12 hour day for us! No to the Burschenbundball, no to black/blue!" early February 2019 in Linz. About 1.100 persons took part and gave an very good political signal against right-wing attempts and the neoliberal policy of FPÖ and ÖVP.

## **Michel Vanderborght Award 2019**

The Michel Vanderborght Award will be presented for the third time in 2019. This honor honors deserved anti-fascists and groups, which made themselves particularly earned around the work and the request of the FIR. The first award ceremony took place in Brussels, the second in the context of the FIR congress in Prague and the third is to be accomplished now in May 2019 in Budapest. On suggestion of the Hungarian member federation MEASZ, which honors Hungarian anti-fascists and democratic personalities since many years with the Miklós Radnoti price, the meeting is to take place in a worthy framework.

So far six suggestions for honors are present. Among them are two veterans of the resistance fight and/or the military forces of the anti-Hitler coalition, which used themselves for decades for the legacy of the survivors and the political work of the FIR.

Among them are also later-born ones, who acquired themselves great merits as journalists, artists or in the historical clearing-up work.

And under it is an initiative, which brought several thousand mostly young humans into actions against racism and the advance of right-wing populist forces as network under participation of anti-fascist federations in the past years.

The list of the awarded is also a clear signal to the public, for which values the FIR and the antifascist federations in this Europe will take responsibility. Therefore the ceremony takes place - in time before the elections to the European Parliament on 3 May 2019 at 17:00 h in Budapest.

FIR member associations and the interested public are cordially invited to this ceremony.

## Active for antifascist historical memory

On the initiative of the Hungarian antifascist association MEASZ the exhibition “European Resistance against Nazism” was shown in autumn 2018 together with the Slovakian Veterans Association SZPB in different Slovakian cities with great resonance. Slovakia has a great antifascist tradition. This can be seen not only in the memorial places in Bratislava, but also in the impressive Museum for the Slovak National Uprising in Banská Bystrica. The anti-fascist veteran federation SZPB took over the responsibility for the historical clearing-up work over the anti-fascist liberation struggle for many years in coordination with the Ministry of Education. In this framework, not only numerous public commemoration meetings take place, but in schools and public buildings also memory meetings for the later generations are offered. It shows the success of this work that even in smaller localities such meetings and offers encounter large resonance.

In September 2018 the exhibition, which the FIR developed together with the then Belgian “Institut des Vétérans”, was shown for the first time in Zselíz in a school. Vilmos Hanti, president of FIR and president of MEASZ, gave an introductory speech in front of a large group of young people and interested adults. Afterwards numerous visitors visited the exhibition. Even in a small town called Újbárs- Nový Tekov more than 70 guests came to the opening event. Vilmos Hanti also introduced the exhibition here and spoke with the guests.

In spring 2019 the impressive exhibition can be seen in Germany, Thuringia, Hesse and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. The first event was the presentation in the premises of the Thuringian Parliament. On 22 January 2019 the deputy president of the state parliament Margit Jung and Dr. Ulrich Schneider opened the exhibition with a small celebration hour. Representatives and their coworkers, Elke Pudzuhn as regional chairwoman of the Thuringian VVN-BdA as well as guests from the city Erfurt participated in the opening meeting. While Margit Jung stressed the importance of the exhibition for the historical-political remembrance work, Ulrich Schneider also referred to the regional references to the Buchenwald concentration camp and reminded of the recently deceased Ottomar Rothmann and the deputy chairman of the International Committee Buchenwald-Dora and Commandos Günter Pappenheim. On the commemoration hour for the victims of fascism on 27 January, numerous guests visited also this exhibition. Until the end of February 2019, the panels will be shown in the premises of the Parliament.

The presentation will then take place in the trade union building in Hanau (Am Freiheitsplatz 6). From 11 March to 12 April 2019, it can be visited during office opening hours and at events in the building. The event is supported by the DGB and the regional structure of VVN-BdA.

The opening is planned for 11 March 2019. There Ulrike Eifler of the DGB region Southeast Hesse and Ulrich Schneider as Secretary General of the FIR will make the presentation and invite to a discussion. As offer for the attendance of the exhibition, a Workshop takes place on 23 March 2019 to the topic “discrimination in the everyday life”.

For the DGB it is important - as it says in the announcement - that the exhibition shows men and women from many European countries who fought against fascism. It shows how people in Europe resisted and what different forms their actions took in the individual countries. The exhibition lives through impressive images and reproduced documents that underline the concise explanatory texts. In particular, pictures were chosen which depict the breadth and depth of the resistance, express national peculiarities of the struggle and general tendencies.



## Résistance: The French Resistance against Occupation and Collaboration

In the French-language literature, there are entire libraries on the history of the Resistance, now also on regional events. Nevertheless, this book from the series Basiswissen published by PapyRossa-Verlag Cologne is an important addition. It provides a brief but substantial overview of the history of this epoch of the 20th century, which is of course so important for French history.

The volume goes into detail into their prehistory in the 1930s and provides answers to the question of how France's catastrophe in 1940 could have come about at all. It reports on the social resistance against the march of French fascists in February 1934, which was an important impulse for the establishment of a popular-front government under Leon Blum. The "Front populaire" and its achievements are deeply rooted in the collective memory of the French. While the economic and political elites were already flirting with Hitler, these fighting experiences formed the foundation for the first resistance groups after the military defeat and occupation of the country in the summer of 1940.

While today General de Gaulle's call of June 18, 1940 from exile in London is mostly declared a "signal" for resistance, the author traces the different forces that built up the Resistance, especially the communist and socialist combat groups. The bourgeois forces referred to de Gaulle, and occasionally the military. In this context, the text also deals with Jean Moulin's important role in the formation of the National Resistance Council (CNR).

The Résistance was not only a form of military struggle, as the author describes in detail. It also deals with solidarity with the persecuted and refugees, the publication of illegal newspapers, the mobilization of social forces against the occupation and the Vichy collaboration. As in other occupied countries, the resistance was not only a national affair, but people from different nations participated in the resistance. The most famous example is the Group Manouchian ("L'Affiche rouge"), which consisted of emigrants and foreign workers and was responsible for numerous spectacular actions. In a separate chapter, the book also deals with the participation of German anti-fascists in the ranks of the Resistance. On the one hand, they were organized in the structures of the TA ("Travail Allemand") as part of the French command units. On the other hand, the German anti-fascists saw their commitment as a concrete contribution to the fall of Hitler, as the political work of the CALPO (Committee "Free Germany" for the West) showed.

The events of 1944 are traced in a separate chapter. The Résistance and the armed struggle as an important component experienced an enormous social upswing, which massively hindered the fighting power of the occupying troops and the ability of the Vichy government to act. This was an important support for the "second front", which became a reality with the Allied invasion of Normandy in June 1944. The Nazis reacted with an intensification of terror, which left unforgettable places of fascist crimes with mass murders in Tulle, Oradour and Maille. At the same time, the Resistance experienced its greatest symbolic confirmation on 25 August 1944 with the liberation of Paris by the uprising of the Resistance and the deployment of the military forces of the "Free France". However, it took several months before the entire French territory could be liberated from fascist occupying forces. In this context, the manuscript also briefly discusses the French resistance in the concentration camps and forced labour camps.

The final point is an information about the process of the political new beginning in France and the reckoning with the collaboration ("Épuration"), which was contradictory and especially marked by de Gaulle's attempt to achieve a "national reconciliation" with the involvement of the collaborators. The author's thoughts on the significance of the Resistance for the politics of remembrance today round off the text.

One could reproach the book for failing to take adequate account of various individual events in the history of the resistance. However, this is a negligible point of criticism in view of the wealth of historical events and the often very group-related evaluation. On a positive note, the author has presented an overview work that provides substantial information for learners in schools and universities and interested laypersons and, with the attached bibliography, opens up the possibility of an in-depth study of the subject.

Bibliography:

**Ulrich Schneider, Die Résistance, Basiswissen, PapyRossa Verlag, Köln 2019, ISBN 978-3-89438-627-6**

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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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