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

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FIR declares solidarity against terrorist attacks in Paris

Deeply shocked we had to take note of the terrorist attacks of this weekend in Paris. According to previous information, several hundred people were killed in a series of attacks or seriously injured. At a total of five points in Paris, among others in the Concert Hall at the Bataclan and the Stade de France, there were shootings, murders and bombings. After this wave of terror the French president declared the state of emergency across the country. The FIR condemned in any form such forms of insane terrorism.

Our thoughts are with all the victims of these crimes and their families.

Our solidarity goes to our member federations and partners in France who are committed for decades to the preservation of the ideals of anti-fascism and democracy, which are attacked directly by such crimes.

Our solidarity is with the French people, which in its vast majority stands against all forms of racial violence itself - from whomever it emanates - and promotes a peaceful coexistence of all people living in the country.

We mourn with them and hope that in French society all democrats and anti-fascists could manage to counter such crimes and at the same time to defend the ideals of freedom, tolerance and humanity.

We see this as a European task too. For this, the FIR and its member federations will make an active contribution.

Declaration of FNDIRP

Facing the terrorist attacks of 13 November, the FNDIRP shares without limitation, the indignation, condemnation and abhorrence as well as sympathy with the victims and their families that have been expressed not only in France, but by many heads of state in the world.

The targets selected by the assassins, i.e. the east of Paris, which stands for its 'living together' of a multiethnic population that is young in the majority, are an additional demonstration of the objective of the terrorist organization: the spread of fear and terror for the purpose of destabilization, to cause the abandonment of the principles of the Republic, undifferentiated view of other, to develop suspicion, division and hatred.

Those who have had the experience of the factories of dehumanization in the Nazi concentration camps or have experienced in their families find the same tendencies in such terrorist activities. It's about the jihadists to subdue a sectarian process of a supposedly religious indoctrination - but by a vast majority of theologians and experts on Islam based on false references and tendentious interpretations of the Koran and other sacred texts - with the aim to make this individual to a fully dehumanized 'killing machine'.

In the next step those who use these terrorist actions operate substantially with the aim of securing and expanding their tyrannical power, exploit this 'killing machines' to destroy our democratic societies the humanistic values by primal reactions of fear and rejection of others as well as a change in the political orientation be provoked in the country concerned - to the detriment of its own

short- and long-term interests.

In this context, carrying those who exploit those bombings unscrupulously for their political goals, a heavy responsibility to ensure that they help this strategy to succeed and thus become objective allies of terrorism.

So we must say and repeat it: Despite concern and an understandable desire for vengeance, even if the feeling of powerlessness sometimes consists cope, is the solidarity demonstration of respect for the fundamental principles of the Republic, the most effective weapon to combat the murderers based on international terrorism and to eradicate it, even if it will be long. This is everyone's responsibility, our struggle and our task.

International antifascist conference in Slovenia

An international antifascist conference took place on October 28-29, 2015 in Novo Mesto, in Slovenia. The idea of organization of such event emerged in FIR and the main initiator and main patron was Mihail Moiseev, vice-president of FIR. Antifascist and veteran organizations from Russia, from the former republics of Yugoslavia (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia), Austria, Hungary and Italy participated on the event. FIR has been represent also by Vilmos Hanti, president of FIR.

Almost all the representatives underlined the strengthening re-emergence of fascist tendencies in Europe and in their countries. They pointed out that the main cause of this is the impoverishment of the people. The falsification of history in many European countries is also a common characteristic feature of the present situation. In the countries of the former Yugoslavia the role and the figure of Josip Broz Tito, the hero of the Second World War appears to be shadowed and covered from the youth.

The Croatian speaker said that the gap between the poorest and the richest people widened during the last forty and fifty years that's why the social bomb is ticking now. Two ways stand before his country: forward to democracy or back to the past.

The president of the Slovene Resistance Organization mentioned about that we took responsibility to continue our ancestors' case. We should respect the past which at the same time gives us tasks for our present. We should make concrete steps towards building up an antifascist coalition, like our forefathers did.

The Italian antifascists who took part actively in WWII want solidarity. They think that it is necessary to deal with the social development and the youth.

Many of the speakers spoke about that the international terrorism is nothing else than another version of fascism and all antifascist organizations should take action against it. Our main task is now to unite ourselves like it was done during the Second World War, when an antifascist coalition was formed against Hitler. All who were present at the event agreed that an Antifascist Coalition should be set up. As a result of supporting speeches the participants of the conference created the Antifascist Front.

A joint statement was accepted to which some additions will be made and the host of the event, the Slovene Antifascist Organizations will send it via internet to the representatives of the conference for adoption.

(Gizella Pál, vice-president of MEASZ)

The president of MEASZ and FIR, Vilmos Hanti's speech (Novo Mesto, Slovenia, October 28, 2015)

70 years ago we achieved military victory over fascism. Yet, particularly nowadays we are experiencing that we were unable to destroy this inhuman idea, which seeks to gain ground by cloaking itself with new methods. It presents itself differently in the Baltic countries, in Ukraine, in Hungary or even in Greece and in France. But even intolerance, barbarism, and the so called Islamist terrorism occur in different forms, whose curbing creates as much of a challenge today, as the formation of

the former anti-Hitler coalition did. Mankind faces unprecedented new challenges whose effective management could be achieved only with cooperation of the forces which respect human values and dignity. That is why it is of vital importance to have such conferences, where we can discuss the means of common steps against the re-emergence of fascism and speak about the unity against these new threats jeopardizing humankind.

We see how in many countries the governments make concessions for the far-right forces thereby discrediting the parliamentary democracy. Such actions include glorifying the soldiers who fought alongside Hitler's Germany and those persons and groups who collaborated with the SS; abolishing memorials and names of public places representing heroes of the Second World War, which are in some cases even replaced by statues or names of fascist and/or racist figures. Falsification of history is taking place not only on the level of certain political parties and radical groups, but can be found equally in textbooks and in public speeches. The historical past of the antifascist resistance and its personalities appear less and less in public education and in public speeches, and as a result the possibilities of presenting the actual genuine history of the past are greatly reduced.

Let us unite against intolerance, manifestations of neo-Nazism for a fairer and more solidary world, where our fellow human beings are not excluded from society because of their skin color, belief, culture, opinion or sexual orientation. The anti-Hitler antifascist coalition proved 70 years ago that people with different world views can unite in the interest of important goals. We expect from our societies to find those critical common goals and their means to achieve them, which could secure to avoid bloody conflicts and preserve the survival of mankind. Today, when we are walking on thin ice on our Earth due to the result of a number of urgent problems, we must realize that, as an integral part of this fateful mission, the civilized world needs an effective collaboration against the exclusionary ideologies.

The millions of antifascist resistance fighters sacrificed their lives seven decades ago not for their offspring to passively and idly stare at the public appearance and strengthening of fascist and inhuman ideas.



Call for the year 2016 on the occasion of the ceremony of the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Inter brigades to defend the Spanish Republic

80 years ago, the Franco coup was directed against the will of the Spanish people to remove the democratically elected government and the associated desired social changes. Countless antifascists from more than 50 countries around the world - people of different religions, ideologies, parties, skin color - made their often arduous journey to Spain to fight on the side of the Spanish people for the defense of the 2nd Spanish Republic against the fascist forces of Franco, Germany and Italy. For many, including the German antifascists, this meant the continuation of their anti-fascist resistance, they had already run out illegal in their own country or even from exile.

In October 2016 marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of the International Brigades. "Viva la República! No pasarán!" – these were the slogans. The objectives of the fighters of yesteryear are still ours: freedom, peace, human rights and human dignity, social justice, anti-fascism, international solidarity. Let us take the solidarity of the fighters across the national borders to the struggles of the present, where we live!

That is, to share their historical experience in the current internationalist work. That also means that we stand in solidarity today on the side of the Spanish people, in supporting the work of memory, as well as in social struggles.

We as members and friends of the fighters of the Spanish Republic our mission is to pass on the memories of the struggle of the International Brigades in Spain and following the end of World War II to the following generations. Let us in many places publicly display, who were the people who went to Spain and what it has prompted. Let us impart knowledge about and care for their memorials. Let us use the co-operation with scientists and historians. We will give support by ourselves when they work on Spain. We intend to expand our potential especially of international cooperation and use in joint projects.

We appeal to all those whose active behavior is connected with the ideals of the International Brigades: Do we understand ourselves as part of global internationalist, anti-fascist movements - and so honoring the fighters of yesteryear, to bear their objectives in the public. Only together will we be able to make social conditions for all decent.

The fight goes on! La lucha continua - until we can say: Pasaremos!



Declaration of FIR on behalf of the 70th anniversary of the opening of the Nuremberg Trial

International law, peace and human rights must be defended today!

70 years ago, the Nuremberg trials created International Law

Today we are experiencing on various levels of international politics, that the principles of international law are repeatedly questioned. To mark the 70th anniversary of the opening of the Nuremberg Trials FIR commemorates this process and the sentences that were brought in the name of the people FIR condemns all attempts of falsification and relativism.

November 20 1945 began with the opening session of the Nuremberg Trial against the main War Criminals. Accused were leading delegates of the fascist regime, both as individuals and as representatives of the fascist government, the Nazi Party and all its subdivisions – the SA, the SS, the SD and the Gestapo – as well as representatives of the Armed Forces, the economic and the propaganda apparatus. The four Allied prosecutors highlighted that for serious crimes against humanity, war crimes and preparation for war both individuals and the institutions of the fascist apparatus were responsible in the same way.

The reports from the subsequent cases and OMGUS shed light upon the responsibility of major industries such as Krupp, IG Farben and other arms factories along with and banks that all have contributed to the fascist war of conquest. The processes were based on hundreds of testimonies and thousands of documents stemming from the fascist administration itself.

In the court's verdict stated: "The evidence of war crimes has been overwhelming, both in terms of the scope, as well as in its details." Several pages and notes followed that outlined what kind of war crimes in which occupied countries were enacted against the civilian population and prisoners of war. All other charges were proven and condemned in the same manner.

These processes were not about "victor's justice", as many Nazi groups claim even until now, but rather were able to enforce the norms of international law. The court itself stated this in its judgment: "The statute is not an arbitrary exercise of power by the victorious nations, but is in accordance with the Law ... expressing the, at that time existing, state law and that the extent of the statute itself is a contribution to international law."

The United Nations already affirmed in early 1946 the definitions of war crimes, crimes against peace and crimes against humanity set out in the Nuremberg Statute of the International Military Tribunal to be binding. Its validity has been reaffirmed in numerous resolutions of the UN General Assembly.

Many years ago, the International Federation of Resistance Fighters has stated:

"Strict compliance with the conditions laid down in the Nuremberg legal norms is the essential prerequisite for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms; because "disregard and contempt for human rights [led] to barbarous acts that have gravely hurt the conscience of mankind", as stated in the Declaration of Human Rights adopted on December 10, 1948 by the United Nations. Safeguarding the respect for human rights is a concern and duty of all democrats and anti-fascists, whether old or young. "

This statement has not lost its validity.

The history of the Belgian and European resistance

An educational colloquium

On November 9/10, 2015 in Brussels under the title „Resistance in Europe and Belgium“ invited by the Prime Minister of the Wallonia-Brussels region and in the same time Minister of Education took place a colloquium. This event was prepared with regard to contents by the network „Démocratie ou Barbarie“ and the Institut des Vétérans (IV-INIG). The opening of this interesting conference was connected with a presentation of the exhibition „European resistance against Nazism“ in the representation of the Wallonia-Brussels region in the center of Brussels by the Prime Minister Rudy Demotte. In his impressive opening speech he stressed the importance of anti-fascism for the present generations. Michel JAUPART, General-administrator of the IV INIG, also thanked the FIR for joint work in the preparation of the exhibition and the catalog. In a substantial lecture a historian

explained the changing approach in remembering the history of the resistance struggle in Belgium. Jean Cardoen (IV-INIG) introduced to the guests from Belgium, but also from Germany, France, Italy and Hungary the concept of the exhibition, and then handed over to the Prime Minister and the President of the FIR a copy of the exhibition catalog.

On the second day, a scientific conference followed with contributions to the history of the resistance struggle. The colloquium was welcomed by the Secretary General of the Government of the Wallonia-Brussels region, which thus completed his speech that he quoted the Oath of Buchenwald as a commitment to the present day.

Lined with numerous pictures, Jean Cardoen delivered a presentation on the history of European resistance struggle, in which he presented the different thematic approaches and forms of expression and integrated these into the national specifics.

Philippe Plumet dealt - also with many picture examples - with the numerous sites of memory of the history of anti-fascist struggle in Belgium and gave an overview as to whom or what will be remembered in any form.

Two presentations dealt with the diverse political and social roots and the expressions of the Belgian resistance. It became apparent that even in opposition political differences could be overcome only partially, although the common struggle against the fascist occupation supported a co-operation.

Exciting was to compare the resistance experience of 1914-18 with 1940-44. Within these years, altered the composition of the carrier of the resistance of the bourgeois patriotic forces of the petty-bourgeois-proletarian forces of the Belgian society.

A practical example presented Ulrich Schneider, by - starting from the Buchenwald concentration camp - speaking about the resistance into the fascist camps. He made it clear that this resistance had to take place under completely different conditions than the struggle in the occupied countries. Likewise, he could make an important contribution to the rescue of prisoners.

Two presentations dealt with impressive actions of the workers' resistance. At length the events surrounding the strike of 100,000 in Seraing and the struggle of the miners of Nord-Pas-de-Calais were traced and described the importance of these struggles of resistance. Another outstanding action was the attack by the armed fighters of the Secret Army on the 20th deportation train to Auschwitz. With this action, which stopped the transport and freed deportees, the resistance saved the life of many hundreds of Jewish people.

The fact that the resistance in Belgium was an internationalist struggle, Anne Morelli focused in the fight of foreigners in the ranks of the Belgian Resistance groups reported by numerous examples. Olivier Van der Wilt, curator of the memorial Breendonk explained - also in view of the present teacher - the significance of the memorial-place and the possibilities of the educational work.

It was overall a very interesting conference, whose results will be published in the coming period by electronic means and in booklet form.

Interested ones can contact for more information the Institut des Vétérans.

Support the political work of the International Federation of Resistance fighters (FIR) – Association of Antifascists

The political work of an international antifascist organizations needs a lot of financial sources. Because such work didn't receive any governmental or institutional support, our international federation needs contributions and donations.

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Donations are welcome. Donations in Germany are tax-deductible.

Awakening and agreement

At an antifascist antiracist conference in Copenhagen had Horserød-Stutthof Forening and FIR Denmark invited different organizations on November 21/22 2015. FIR and VVN-BdA participated as guests. About 60 participants discussed the international situation, the situation of the fugitives and the Europe-wide rise of right-wing and right-wing populist parties. In his opening Anton Nielsen (FIR-DK) pointed to the importance of imperialist military interventions to the growing flows of refugees. Antifascist associations commit to come together and to keep journalistic against it. With a look at the series of attacks in Paris our comrade Heinz Siefritz (FIR) evoked those present to defend the values of anti-fascism against all political attempts to change society in an authoritarian manner. Anton Nielsen presented five action points with which the antifascist antiracist struggle in Denmark should be put on a broader basis. It's about self-understanding to the way into a police state, social defensive struggles against unemployment, against the erosion of the right of asylum, to continue the war operations.

Raimund Gaebelein



Greeting-words of Heinz Siefritz, Financial secretary of FIR

First of all let me bring to the floor the best greetings from our president Vilmos Hanti and the members of the FIR Executive committee. Your conference is from its topic valuable and it comes just in time.

I don't need to explain, what political consequences the criminal terror in Paris will have. You all have heard the public reactions of French President Hollande, but also of several leaders of other European countries. They declared war – war against the “terror”, but this is an invisible enemy.

The France military send air-crafts to bomb IS in Syria, but the government itself declares that the responsible one is staying in Brussels. Will the French military bomb next time Molenbeek?

Our common reaction as antifascists in this situation can only be to defend the values of anti-fascism, liberty, peace and democracy against all political attempts to change the society in an authoritarian way. That is not only the task of the French democrats. That is our common task because the governments of various countries try to change these political structures.

We should give clear signals against such attempts also from this conference.

Such a signal can be finding a common position against all attempts of an imperialistic foreign policy like the German government and other European countries practice today. Such militaristic policy not only in Middle East and other countries is one of the reasons for the actual refugee-catastrophe.

Such a signal can be a clear condemnation of all kinds of racism and ultra-nationalism, as we must realize in the today's policy in several European countries. We need to stay in line together with other parts of the society against racist violence, against xenophobia, neo-fascism and social segregation. We need to protect human rights against such policy.

Such a signal can be defending and preserving the memories of those who fought in the Second World War as partisans, as deported, as soldier in the ranks of the Anti-Hitler-Coalition against the fascist enemy of the world. These women and men fought for a better world without racism, nationalism, expansionism and fascism. They promised – as the former prisoner of the CC Buchenwald on April 19, 1945 did – in their “Oath of Buchenwald”:

“We will finish our fight only when the last culprit stands before the judges of the peoples!

The destruction of Nazism with its roots is our slogan. Building up a new world of peace and freedom is our goal.”

Such a signal can be a promise to strengthen the unity under all organizations which want to fight against war, racism and fascism, for peace, freedom and human rights.

We all know that there is any organization or structure which has the power and/or the right to dominate the common fight. Co-operation must be on eye-level and in solidarity – or it isn't a co-operation.

In this sense I wish you a successful and fruitful work.

Greek antifascists celebrated blowing up of Bridge of Gorgopotamos 1942

On Sunday November 29 PEA-E-DSE celebrated with a large participation of resistance fighters, their descendants and friends of the National Resistance and the Democratic Army of Greece the 73th anniversary of the blowing up of the train Bridge at Gorgopotamos. And with this action, they put serious difficulties on the supply of the Nazi's troops in Africa.

Grigoris Touglidis, first vice-president of PEA-E-DSE and member of the Executive Committee of FIR, held a speech at that celebration referring among other things to the history of that battle and of the blowing up of the bridge by partisans of the Greek People's Liberation Army ELAS, under the leadership of Aris Velouhiotis, in cooperation with the partisans of the National Democratic Greek Association EDES, under General Napoleon Zervas and also with the participation of a group of English saboteurs.

The celebration was also attended by Nikos Sofianos, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Greece, KKE, who held a speech.

Wreaths were laid and at the end of the celebration all those present sung the National Anthem.



A political outlook 2016

Anyone looking at the political situation in Europe in antifascist perspective, is looking with concern to the coming year 2016. In many aspects peace, democracy and human rights are under threat.

Refugee situation

As we have declared in the summer, it is important to tackle not refugees, but the causes of flight. We are sorry to see that the European Union and its member states are not willing and able to embark on a constructive course here. Several EU states refuse ever to assume humanitarian responsibility for refugees. Thus aggravate the political problems in countries like Greece and Italy, but also in Germany, which has now received more than 1,000,000 people.

Added to this we see that the extreme right and right-wing populists approach increasingly violent towards refugees and their institutions. The European Union as a whole must finally take effective policy measures to aid for refugees and reset selfish interests. Not the other foreclosure or shift the problem to Turkey is the solution, but an international peace policy and comprehensive humanitarian aid.

Role of Turkey

In particular, the fateful role of the current Turkish government in this dispute must strike ourselves as anti-fascists with concern. On the one hand it is known that the president and his family are on the side of the supporters of the military conflict against the Syrian population through financial support of the IS-terrorist gangs. At the same time the Turkish army aggravated by the totally unacceptable shooting down of Russian military aircraft over Syrian territory, the military tension in the region. Erdogan tries obviously NATO to drive in a direct confrontation with Russia - in order to stabilize its own authoritarian rule inside against the Kurdish population and the democratic opposition and strengthen its leadership towards neighboring countries.

Instead of banning such a disastrous policy politically, the EU promises this government nor billion payments in political conduct.

Development of democracy in European countries

We are experiencing in various European countries against the background of the terrorist attacks of Paris a massive dismantling of democratic rights and freedoms. Such a state of emergency regime was established in France for several months, which gives the police and security forces broad powers to engage in the personal liberties. Many French people reacted to this reactionary move towards a „strong state“ not with the support of the president, but with the election of representatives of the extreme right „National Front“, which was the country's strongest political force in the regional elections, even if this not yet translate into political power.

While it is still legitimized in the Western European countries with the terrorist threat, the dismantling of democratic freedoms and rights after the parliamentary elections taking place in Poland on „legal“ level. Using the absolute majorities the independence of the Constitutional Court will be undermined and the public media are subjected of the direct control of the Government. This creates - in addition to the government Orban in Hungary - in Poland another autocratic regime, which also represents an aggressive front against Russia. Thus offers the current government to the NATO to deploy nuclear weapons on Polish territory. This is a threat to people all over Europe.

The political work of FIR and its member associations therefore remains indispensable - against extreme right-wing populism and rights, against historical revisionism and for the preservation of memory, but equally for the defense of democracy, freedom and peace.

Ulrich Schneider, General Secretary

Conference about Interbrigades in Prague

End of October in Prague took place an one-day scientific conference on the subject „The Czechoslovak Brigades and the Spanish Civil War“. The invitation had come on behalf of Pavel Vranský of the Association of Friends of the International Brigades and also German friends of the Spanish Republic participated.

In the Senate Hall of the Czech Parliament, which has its headquarters in the largest palace of Prague, the Wallenstein Palace, welcomed Senate President Milan Štěch the conference participants. He recalled the establishment of the International Brigades in October 1936 and its importance for the defense of Madrid. „In Madrid is fought for Prague“, he quoted a slogan of Czechoslovak antifascists that time. The Senate President emphasized the timeliness of the conference theme for the elucidation of the causes of war.

Historians, but also political scientists, lawyers, diplomats, journalists and literary scholar spoke about the development of Spain at the beginning of the 20th century, about the victory of the Popular Front and the causes of their defeat in the war of the Nationalists and their supporters from the „non-intervention committee“. The situation of the Spanish Republic in the European context was shown from diplomatic, political or legal points of view. The Czechoslovak foreign policy towards the Spanish Republic and the state policy of the Czechoslovak Republic, which was directed against the recruitment of volunteers for the Spanish republic, were other topics of lectures. Another presentation dealt with the support of the Soviet Union for the Republican Spain. Dr. Zdenko Maršálek by the Institute for Contemporary History of the Czech Academy of Sciences spoke about the Czechoslovak Brigades in the various armies of WW2.

It is intended to publish the conference materials in a brochure. And next year a next conference is scheduled to take place, then about the path of the Czechoslovak volunteers to Spain.

According to a report by Karla Popp

Photos from the conference:

Link: <http://www.senat.cz/cinnost/galerie.php?aid=17295>



Never forget!

FIR as co-publisher of books on memory work

In the past two years, the FIR has involved in the publication of three important books for the investigation of Nazi Crimes, the memory work at the anti-fascist resistance and in memory of a concentration camp in France's Alsace region in cooperation with the German publisher PapyRossa Verlag.

Two of them are documentaries and illustrated books of Florence Herve and Martin Graf to Oradour and Natzweiler-Struthof and the third one is the large catalog for the exhibition „European resistance against Nazism,“ which was developed jointly with the Belgian „Institut des Vétérans“ and currently is shown in various European countries.

The book „Oradour - history of a massacre“ traces the story of the massacre of the fascist occupation forces in France in eyewitness accounts, in historical documents and with about 40 impressive black and white photos. On June 10, 1944, the SS Panzer Division 'Das Reich' has laid this place in ruins. 642 people were shot, burned - the majority women and children. The crime itself and the associated place were in France and internationally synonymous with all German atrocities of the occupation time, while in Germany these acts were concealed for decades. As an homage to the French victims the book is written completely bilingual (German and French).

Following the same principle the book „Natzweiler-Struthof, a German concentration camp in France“ is working. Through this camp, which was built in Alsace originally planned for 3,000 prisoners, ran about 52,000 prisoners, of which the majority were in the more than 70 sub-camps from Lake Constance to Frankfurt / M. used for forced labor. After evaluating the present fascist documents you can say that about 40% of the prisoners were killed by the incarceration, through the slave labor or executions. In addition to texts for historical analyzes in the book can be found different literary and artistic processing of what happened in this camp. Again, Martin Graf has added a series of impressive black-and-white photos. Since Natzweiler-Struthof today is the central memorial site of the French state, it sees itself as „European Centre of Deported Resistance Fighters“. Also this book is kept completely bilingual.

The third important book is the catalog for the exhibition „European Resistance“. Over 300 pages give - after the introductory contributions of the editors - texts and explanations for a classification of resistance, for the national history of resistance and for most of the pictures of the 50 exhibition panels. In short texts, but especially by expressive images reports the book from the heroic resistance of Italian partisans against Mussolini, by the Romanian fighters in the ranks of the International Brigades against Franco's troops, the resistance and the places of fight like Guernica and Stalingrad, the uprising in the Warsaw ghetto and the young idealists of the Edelweiss Pirates, of Sophie Scholl or Zoia Kosmodemianskaja, the young Soviet partisan who just 18 years old hurled their executioners: „We are 170 million and you never will hang all of us. „ At the end one can find in the book statements to the political history workup. Because the exhibition itself will be presented in many countries, all the texts of the catalog are in four languages (English, German, French and Dutch).

All three volumes can be ordered from the office of the FIR:

Herve / Graf, Oradour - History of a massacre	price 18,00 €
Herve / Graf, Natzweiler-Struthof - a German concentration camp	price 19,90 €
Cardoen / Schneider, European resistance against Nazism	price 29,90 €

We supply the books in Germany postage free. For shipments abroad we calculate the price „Book International“.

Member associations and partners who want to order several copies for resale, contact in advance at the office (dr.u.schneider@arcor.de). We will give you the terms of trade.

Literatur for Antifascists

Antifascist exile in Sweden and Norway

It is a well-known fact that even in the Scandinavian countries antifascists in exile had not adjusted their fight against the fascist rule. Even if they were actually forbidden by their residence status in any political activity, they nevertheless used semi-legal opportunities and contacts with local anti-fascists, to become active in particular in the educational work.

An important personality in this context was the German Social Democrat Willy Brandt, who worked first in exile in France, then in Sweden and - with the name Herbert Frahm – later in Norway.

From summer 1942 to June 1945 in Stockholm every 14 days „Håndslag“, a newspaper in a small format that was smuggled as an underground newspaper of the Norwegian resistance to the by German troops occupied Norway. This paper often spend long time wandering through many hands and were in fact „information and guidance for Norwegians“. The idea of this newspaper was the result of the debates in the circle of democratic socialists, who lived in Stockholm at that time. They wanted to give information to war situation, „reports of the home front“ and political essays should be an anti-fascist orientation. However, before this newspaper was published, many problems had to be solved, even if it was not located in an occupied country. The Swedish government wanted to avoid conflict with the fascist Germany. Therefore, the newspaper addressed formally to the Norwegian citizens living in Sweden. However, anyone who reads the translated numerous original contributions, provides that the anti-fascists could not be limited by such problems.

A separate chapter gives anextensive information on the historical research about the journal. It is interesting that this contribution to the anti-fascist struggle was perceived until the 80 years only in Sweden and Norway, among others by the Nobel Prize in Literature for the Swedes Eyvind Johnson. Willy Brandt spoke about his role only when he held no prominent political role in the FRG anymore. Was he afraid that this action would be negatively received in the public? Now there exists with the book of Dammeyer an extensive collection with many first time translated original texts from the „Håndslag“. They are an interesting source for every historian.

A note on edition. This meritorious work would have won respect by a more intensive work of the publisher on the readability and the historical overview.

Ulrich Schneider

Bibliography:

Manfred Dammeyer, Handschlag, Eyvind Johnson – Torolf Elster – Willy Brandt und ihre Widerstandszeitung aus Schweden für das von den Nationalsozialisten besetzte Norwegen, 432 S., Schüren-Verlag Marburg 2015, ISBN 978-3-89472-239-5

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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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