



Solidarity



FREEDOM FOR BERNHARD HEIDBREDER

No extradition to Germany

On July 11th, 2014, Bernhard Heidbreder was arrested in Mérida/Venezuela by Venezuelan police. German security forces had been looking for him for almost 20 years. They suspect him to be involved with two attacks by the group 'Das K.O.M.I.T.E.E.'. He is also accused of gaining Venezuelan citizenship by using a false identity. The German government has requested his extradition – which needs to be prevented. Bernhard explicitly wants to stay in Venezuela.

After his arrest Bernhard was taken to the Interpol offices in Caracas. In early August his lawyers lodged a complaint against his custody situation and after a few weeks he was moved. This has improved his situation, but it is uncertain what will happen next. The main objective is to prevent his extradition to Germany.

A story from the 90ies – but still as current as 20 years ago

The group 'Das K.O.M.I.T.E.E.' developed out of the radical left. Their first campaign was an arson attack on a building of the German armed forces (Bundeswehr) in Bad Freienwalde on October 27th, 1994. The context was the criticism of the German political position towards the Kurdish liberation struggles. Germany was supporting the Turkish war against the Kurds by exporting weapons and prohibiting the organization of the PKK within Germany. The campaign by 'Das K.O.M.I.T.E.E.' was aimed against the repressively biased position of the German state towards the Kurdish liberation struggles: Germany is "party to the genocide in Kurdistan (...) – in military, economic and political regard".

The intended attack on the building of the new deportation camp/prison Berlin-Grünau

about six months later was part of a protest against the German isolation and deportation politics against refugees from all over the world. In the early 90ies the political climate was shaped by the so-called asylum-debate, which fostered and fueled racist attacks on refugees. In August 1992 these racist attacks reached a climax in a pogrom against refugees and Vietnamese contract workers in Rostock-Lichtenhagen, lasting several days. In 1993 this social climate led to a change in the German constitution which undermined the fundamental right to asylum to a degree where it was basically abolished. For years resistance against these racist attacks and the German isolation and deportation politics has been carried out by a wide variety of political groups, from church congregations to militant resistance.



In April 1995 the K.O.M.I.T.E.E. wanted to do more than just undertake symbolic acts. Their aim was to destroy a building which was being reconstructed to become a deportation camp for refugees. Unfortunately the detonation of the building did not occur. Based on indications, Bernhard, Thomas and Peter have been accused of being members of the group K.O.M.I.T.E.E.

In September 1995 the group disbanded. The topics which were addressed by the group are still current: even though today the Kurds are the critical factor in the democratization process in the Middle East, the PKK is still illegal in Germany and the repressive politics against Kurdish people continue. According to the UNHCR the brutal isolation policies against refugees have caused an estimated 23.000 deaths and disappearances since the year 2000 along the EU external borders.

Bernhard needs our solidarity!

Bernhard and the other two accused have escaped German judiciary. Almost 20 years ago they managed to disappear and start new lives. We as old friends of Bernhard have not forgotten him despite the numerous years.

Bernhard remained true to his principles as a left-winged activist. In Venezuela he has been involved in grassroot social movements for years. We want to do everything possible to prevent his extradition to Germany.



Practical steps to help

Use your connections to Venezuela to publicize the appeal to the Venezuelan public. You can find the appeal as a pdf file and up-to-date information on the website

www.dageblieben.net

LET'S MAKE USE OF ALL MEANS AND WAYS TO PREVENT HIS EXTRADITION!

FREEDOM FOR BERNHARD! NO PASARAN! VENCEREMOS!

SOLIDARY GREETINGS TO THOMAS & PETER,

WHERE EVER YOU ARE, TAKE CARE!!

BERNHARD'S SUPPORT NEEDS MONEY!

Rote Hilfe e. V.

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