

NEWS



S

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

Magdalenenstr. 19, D - 10365 Berlin,
Phone +49 30 – 55 57 90 83 - 2, Fax +49 30 – 55 57 90 83 - 9
E-Mail: office@fir.at Internet: www.fir.at

No. 65

September 2022

FIR condemns desecrations of the memorial trees to Buchenwald

Indignation and consternation caused the news in the middle of July 2022 that on the Ettersberg memorial trees in memory of prisoners of the Buchenwald concentration camp have become victims of political vandalism for the repeated time purposefully. For more than 20 years, such memorial signs have already been planted on the Ettersberg, near the obelisk, but also along the routes of the death marches. Neo-Nazis from the Weimar area have attacked this form of remembrance several times. Trees were wantonly damaged, memorial plaques destroyed.

In a press release, the German Buchenwald-Dora camp committee pointed out the double discrimination caused by this desecration. First, it is a public damage to the memory of former prisoners of the concentration camp, usually initiated by family members, friends of the deceased or political companions, such as the LAG Buchenwald-Dora, secondly, an attack on the “Lebenshilfe”, which as an integration project for many years has assumed social responsibility for these trees of memory.

The camp committee demanded of those politically responsible and the civil society public in Weimar and the surrounding area not only to condemn this vandalism, but also to take initiatives to restore these signs of remembrance. Forgetting history and right wing political vandalism must not be allowed to shape the social climate.

“This can’t be true!”

LAG Buchenwald-Dora recalled those for whom the trees were planted in 2015:

1600 children of Buchenwald who did not survive the concentration camp.

Marcel Dassault: French aircraft manufacturer, arrested by Vichy government in 1941, sent to Drancy, from Aug.1944 to Buchenwald until April 1945

Emil Carlebach: arrested for the first time in 1933 at the age of 19, from 1934 imprisonment in Hameln and Hanau, 1937 Dachau concentration camp, Sept 1938 Buchenwald concentration camp until April 1945

Otto Kipp: 1933 “Schutzhaft” in Halberstadt, Hohnstein, Colditz, 1934 escape, Spanish fighter, imprisonment in Spain, extradition to Germany, Nov 1938 Buchenwald concentration camp until April 1945

Erich Loch: 1933 emigration to the Netherlands, 1934 imprisonment in Aachen, Münster, Neu Sustrum, Aschendorfer Moor, Oct 1938 Buchenwald concentration camp until April 1945

Reinhold Lochmann: 1933 10 months in Hohnstein “Schutzhaft”, from 1935 imprisonment in Dresden, Zwickau, Aschendorfer Moor, July 1938 Buchenwald concentration camp until April 1945

August Stötzel: 1933 illegality, from Jan 1934 imprisonment in Dortmund, Herford, Dec 1937 KZ Buchenwald until April 1945.

The FIR welcomes that this political vandalism was noticed for some days in the German and international media. Protests came from the German and international camp committee and LAG Buchenwald-Dora, the International Auschwitz Committee. The memorial files criminal charges. Prime Minister Bodo Ramelow interrupted his summer vacation to send a clear signal of solidarity by his presence.



Greece:

FIR criticizes German foreign minister Baerbock over reparations issue

Those who expected that the new German government would show a more realistic attitude than previous governments on the issue of recognizing Greek reparations claims as compensation for German war crimes and the theft of Greek financial assets during the period of occupation were sorely disappointed during the visit of German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock.

It is true that the German foreign minister visited, as Frank-Walter Steinmeier did in 2018, that place of detention near Athens where several thousand Greeks were imprisoned and persecuted. She also laid flowers at the Athens Holocaust memorial, after which she announced in a newspaper interview that it was a “matter of the heart” for her to remember the Nazis’ reign of terror.

Nevertheless, with such symbolic gestures and pretty words alone she wanted to fob off the Greek victims, their relatives and the Greek government, which of course insists on the reparation payments. She made clear that she and the German government were not even ready for talks in this matter.

The FIR is dismayed about this bigoted appearance of the German foreign minister. It may not be that one completes publicly media-effective “commemorative rituals”, however the necessary political consequences refuses. The FIR and its member federations continue to support the political request of the Greek survivor federations for an appropriate compensation and restitution of the looted Greek property.

This statement of the FIR was noticed with great attention in different German and Greek media and was shared in online media many times.

Italy:

FIR Greetings to the congress of ANPPIA

In the name of FIR Alessandro Pollio Salimbeni, member of the executive committee, made the following statement at the congress of ANPPIA in Milano:

I’m very proud to be here on behalf of FIR but it’s a pleasure too. I’ coming back to distant times, when I knew among other comrades Mario Venanzi, former president and a lot of antifascists and politically persecuted. I was an young communist and those were meetings full of teachings and life lessons.

It was very easy because we were able to learn directly. Nowadays it is more complicated, for objective and political reasons.

Objective reasons: the passage of the time means that values and guiding principles must be translated and made current because the generations do not learn spontaneously nor are the values transmitted automatically. The memory and the deep feeling with our masters are the basis on which to build a new way of force and legitimacy for the present and the future.

Political reasons are very denser. The problems of today are crowded: inertia in dealing with our history, all the more unbearable in a changing world. And this world seems to give importance only to what it sees on social media.

FIR is fully committed in the task of maintaining the memory of the opposition and Resistance to fascism and Nazism, with the strong relationship with the Associations in all countries and through many initiatives for the maintenance of monuments and memorials. We do not miss that against the monuments in several european countries anger is unleashed motivated by the unjustifiable attack on Ukraine. But we do not miss that from years – without an adequate and strong answer by the public and state authorities – there is a plot of dark relationships and open provocations with a clear fascist imprint, in the network of social media and on the most significant dates and anniversaries.

We will not give up. Instead we insist so that every country and Italy first of all equip yourself with adequate and modern tools for effective contrast, until dissolution of the organizations responsible of provocations.

The antifascist forces have to realize a stronger cooperation and lead to unity a whole movement 100 years after his birth and almost 75 after his victory and mostly because they do not exist anymore the reasons for division. In Italy, fascism didn’t start with the special laws, racism didn’t arrive in the 1938, ruin didn’t begin in the 1940 and the Resistance was not born on 1943 september 9th.

Fascism as systematic political violence and super nationalism began during the First World War and the terrible years that followed. There were opportunisms and collaborations in all countries and yet racism was widely present in logic and in colonial wars, in the construction of the Empire.

The ruin of the country is in the progressive march of convergence with Germany and the war was the culmination of twenty years of warfare.

And the Resistance, above all, began precisely with the persecution of anti-fascists starting from the 1920s. In short, fascism must be recovered as the nation’s autobiography if we want to defeat returns, nostalgia, indifference.

Not a transhuman, eternal fascism, with all due respect to a great of Italian culture, because if it were eternal it would also be unbeatable: a fascism historical and political phenomenon, to be opposed but above all to cut the roots to strengthen the constitutional tree we have planted and that we want to continue to take care of to make it grow. Not a generic anti-totalitarianism.

Antifascism, Resistance, Republic, Constitution are not a sequence of dates but a trajectory of civil and democratic development.

100 years - fascist rise to power in Italy

The advance of the fascist movement in the Biennio Nero, the two “black years” of fascist terror in 1921/1922, led to an increase in fascist violence and an upsurge in the fascist movement, which by 1922 numbered over 300,000 members, making it the strongest mass political movement in Italy. Benito Mussolini had asserted himself as “Duce” in the leadership circle of the fascist movement by the end of 1921, shaping the hitherto loosely held together movement of local squadras and fasci di combattimento into a party, the Partito Nazionale Fascista (“National Fascist Party,” PNF).

A central function of this party’s violent formation, the “Blackshirts,” was to fight quite handily, in the interests of the entrepreneurs and landowners, the revolutionary and social movement that was fighting for a socialist transformation of the country through factory and land occupations. It was not the Italian state but the fascist forces that ensured capitalist property and power relations. Just how influential they were became apparent in the summer of 1922, when their violent marches in the major cities actually crushed the general strike propagated by the Socialists. After this political success, the fascists raised the question of power by first demanding new parliamentary elections. If their demand was not met, they said, they would enforce it with a “march on Rome.”

As a first signal of power to the Italian king and the liberal prime minister Facta, the fascists organized a “March on Bolzano” on October 1-2, 1922, which was to be understood as a demonstration of power in South Tyrol against the German ethnic group. It was significant that the police and security forces of the Italian state did not oppose this demonstration. The fascists gained the impression that the state apparatus was rather on their side. At the end of October 1922, Mussolini rallied the fascist fighting squads and announced a “march on Rome” by his supporters to take over the Italian government by force if necessary. The Fascist squads began on October 27 to occupy local administrative buildings (prefectures and quaestors, i.e., police stations), transportation hubs, and barracks, and attempted to gain access to state armories. However, they succeeded only in a few towns in northern Italy. A few dozen kilometers from the gates of Rome, several tens of thousands of fascists gathered in three large groups at this point. Contemporary accounts speak of more than 70,000; it is likely that in the end there were between 40,000 and 50,000 men who had arrived near the capital on foot or in special trains, some of which had been hijacked. However, none had yet reached Rome.

Significant was the reaction of the political forces. Although urged by various quarters to take clear action, Prime Minister Luigi Facta hesitated for a long time to declare a state of emergency. After the government finally got around to preparing a decree of emergency that would enable the army to strike out immediately against the fascists, King Vittorio Emanuele III refused to sign it. This had to do with the fact that representatives of the military as well as right wing liberals and nationalists in the Italian parliament sided with Mussolini. Luigi Facta resigned as a result. Former Prime Minister Salandra persuaded the king to appoint Mussolini as the new prime minister. Vittorio Emanuele III then summoned Mussolini from Milan to Rome on the evening of October 29.

The “Duce” boarded a night train from Milan to Rome the same evening and arrived at Roma Termini station on the morning of October 30, 1922. He went first to the hotel and then, wearing a black shirt, to the King, who appointed him Prime Minister. Only after this appointment as head of government did the Fascist associations march to Rome, where a parade was held on October 31, 1922. Afterwards, as in the days before, there were raids on socialist and communist press offices and acts of violence against their supporters.

The fascists’ seizure of power in Italy in the fall of 1922 was anything but a “revolutionary” action, as it was propagated in the fascist self-portrayal with the glorification as the “March on Rome”. This was already shown in the memoirs of the anti-fascist Emilio Lussu, which he published in 1933 in exile in Paris. Lussu, a member of the Sardinian Action Party, was exiled as an anti-fascist to the island of Lipari in 1927. In 1929 he managed to escape to France, from where he continued his fight against Mussolini. From 1943 he worked in the movement “Giustizia e Libertà”.

The struggle of the anti-fascists against the violence of the Black Shirts resulted already in 1921 in the formation of the “Arditi del Popoli”, the first non-partisan anti-fascist movement. Nevertheless, it took years before the politically fragmented Italian anti-fascist movement came together and fought in the Resistenza not only Mussolini and his Republic of Salò, but especially the German occupiers.

Ulrich Schneider

FIR President on visit in Slovenia

At the end of FIR President Vilmos Hanti's visit to Slovenia, he participated in the central celebration of the National Day of the Republic of Slovenia at the Congress Square in Ljubljana. Together with the representatives of the Slovenian Association of the National Liberation Movement (ZZB-NOB) he laid a wreath at the anti-fascist monument next to the Parliament in Ljubljana. He pointed out that in Hungary - at the time of FIDESZ rule - such anti-fascist remembrance is no longer possible with military honorary formation.

On the picture, one sees the common wreath of FIR, MEASZ of ZZB-NOB. The ceremony was accompanied by the chairman of the parliamentary defense committee.



In a **report of ZZB-NOB** about the meeting it says:

Vilmos Hanti, President of the International Federation of Resistance Fighters - Federation of Anti-Fascists (FIR) and President of The Federation of Hungarian Resistance Fighters and Antifascists (MEASZ) visited Slovenia. On the second day of the visit, he had a reception at the headquarters of ZZB NOB Slovenia in Ljubljana by the President of the Slovenian Combat Organization Marijan Križman and his comrades-in-arms.

It was Vilmos Hanti's first visit to Slovenia and marks the beginning of the official cooperation between ZZB and MEASZ and an important official step towards deepening the cooperation between ZZB and FIR. Tamas Lovas, Vice President of MEASZ, accompanied President Hanti. The FIR is for 70 years an international umbrella organization of anti-fascist and anti-Nazi forces and organizations. It is committed to preserving the memory of the anti-Nazi and anti-fascist coalition and its victory over Nazism and fascism in World War II, against current forms of historical revisionism and neo-Nazism and neo-fascism in individual countries, member states and the international environment. Today, more than 60 organizations from 20 European countries and Israel are involved in FIR.

During the talks at the headquarters of the Slovenian ZZB NOB President Marijan Križman informed the guests about the work and activities of the Slovenian veterans' organization and pointed to efforts in Slovenia to rehabilitate Nazi collaborators, change history, demolish and destroy monuments.

Hanti explained at the same time the problems of FIR and MEASZ, when he said that the anti-fascist association since the beginning of the FIDESZ rule of President Orbán would not receive any support, not even financial contributions.

Vilmos Hanti also visited the National Assembly, laid a wreath at the grave of national heroes, visited the Ljubljana Castle, where he was received by the Deputy Mayor of Ljubljana Dejan Crnek, and the museum in Urh.

On the picture

On the picture

Participants of the consultation at ZZB Slovenia (from left to right):

Marjan Šiftar, President of the Commission for International Relations, Boris Budin, Secretary of ZZB NOB Lendava, Vilmos Hanti, President of FIR, Marijan Križman, President of the ZZB NOB of Slovenia, Julijana Žibret, member of the ZZB NOB Presidency of Slovenia, Lovas Tamas, Vice President of MEASZ and Bojan Pahor, Vice President of ZZB NOB of Slovenia.



Serbia

International antifascist conference of FIR and SUBNOR in October 2022

FIR will organize an international antifascist conference in Belgrade in October 2022. The event is to be held in connection with the anniversary of the uprising in Yugoslavia 80 years ago and in the week of the Liberation Day in Belgrade. We expect delegates from all member associations and from international networks with which we are connected. The main topic will be “Anti-fascism today and the danger of right-wing politics in Europe”. The congress is supported by SUBNOR and will be held in Hotel M in Belgrade (where we held the Balkan Peace Conference years ago).

The **technical details** so far are as follows:

The conference will start on October 23, 2022 in the evening with a dinner for the guests. On Monday, October 24, we will have the whole day for the deliberation of the international anti-fascist conference. On Tuesday morning there will be public ceremonies at memorials in Belgrade and in the afternoon FIR will celebrate the awarding of the Michel Vanderborcht Prize.

The departure of all delegations is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26.

In preparation for this conference, the President and the Secretary General visited SUBNOR for a working meeting in Belgrade. Together with our comrades from SUBNOR we visited the Memorial of the Anti-Fascist Uprising in Belgrade.



Memorial ceremony for Slavic partisans

On the occasion of a commemoration of Slavic partisans who fought and gave their lives for freedom on Italian soil, a meeting was held at the monument in the village of Parchiule in the municipality of Borgo Pace in the province of Pesaro Urbino in the Apennines (Alpe della Luna) on the border between the Marche, Umbria and Tuscany.

The construction of the monument – a work by Vittorio Corsaletti – with stones coming from Yugoslavia, was promoted by the ANPI of Pesaro and Urbino, the provincial administration, the municipal administration and local institutions. Above the monument, two concrete stars intertwine. The monument reads, among other things:

THESE SLAVIC STONES ON OUR LAND / COMMEMORATE TWO PEOPLES WHO / BROTHERHOOD LOVE FREEDOM / OVERCAME THE HATRED OF WAR

Mari Franceschini, member of the Executive Committee, also represented FIR at the commemoration.



France FIR at the congress of ANACR

After due to the Corona pandemic in the past years also in France the execution of congresses of the member federations was impossible, in June 2022 ANACR could accomplish its regular congress in Troyes. Under the slogan: “Fraternity and Solidarity - Values of Resistance” the tasks of the anti-fascist preserving history and the social work against the political development of the right in the country were discussed.

Particularly after the result of the presidential and parliamentary elections, which brought a clear increase of the votes for the extreme right, anti-fascists must formulate clear answers.

As representative of FIR, Vice-President Filippo Giuffrida was again a guest at this meeting and brought the solidarity greetings of the umbrella organization and for ANPI Europe.



Bulgaria: Commemoration of the 140th birthday of Georgi Dimitroff.

In honor of the 140th birthday of Georgi Dimitrov, the International Foundation “Georgi Dimitrov” June 15, 2022 held a scientific conference on the historical role of G. Dimitrov and the contemporary significance of his ideas and works. The conference was attended by scientists, politicians and public figures. The discussion highlighted the role and importance of G. Dimitrov as a politician, statesman, activist of the international communist and labor movement, theoretician and fighter against fascism.

The National Initiative Committee for the Celebration of the 140th Birthday of Georgi Dimitrov held a ceremonial meeting in Sofia on June 16, 2022. Guests of the meeting were representatives of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Bulgaria and the Russian Cultural and Information Center in Sofia. Greetings to the meeting were sent by the International Federation of Resistance Fighters (FIR), Chairman of CPRF Gennady Zyuganov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Cuba Caridad Yamira Cueto Milian, International Assembly of the Peoples of Eurasia, Chairman of the Union of Veterans of Moldova - Alla Mironik, Moscow Interbrigade Organization and many others. General Angel Marin, Chairman of the National Initiative Committee for the Celebration of the 140th Anniversary of G. Dimitrov and the International Foundation “Georgy Dimitrov” delivered the opening speech. Professor Emilia Lazarova presented a report on the historical significance of G. Dimitrov’s work and the relevance of his ideas.

On June 17, the celebrations continued with a wreath-laying ceremony at the grave of G. Dimitrov in Sofia; with a visit to his birthplace and the “G. Dimitrov” Memorial House in the village of Kovachevtsi.

The National Initiative Committee, chaired by Gen. Angel Marin included, in addition to the International Foundation “G. Dimitrov”, numerous organizations, parties, media, politicians, statesmen, veterans and youth organizations. Among them are the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) with many subdivisions, the Youth Organization of the BSP, the Bulgarian Anti-Fascist Union, the Patriotic Union, the Democratic Union of Women, veterans in the BSP, the Union of Reserve Officers and Sergeants, the Union of Bulgarian War Veterans, the Foundation “Sustainable Development for Bulgaria”, the Union of War Invalids and War Injured, the Union of Thracian Societies in Bulgaria, the Forum Bulgaria-Russia, the “Federation for Friendship with the Peoples of Russia and the CIS”, movement “Russophile”, the Sofia Association for Friendship with Russia “Al. Nevsky”, the Union of Bulgarian Writers, and the Union of Bulgarian Journalists.



Russia - China: Delegation of Chinese military diplomats at the Russian Veterans Association.

On June 21, 2022, the Chairman, bearer of the Order of the Great Patriotic War I degree of the All-Russian Public Organization of Veterans "Russian Veterans Union", Army General M.A. Moiseyev, received a delegation of Chinese military diplomats led by the Defense Attaché of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Moscow, Major General Kun Yanwei, at the headquarters of the Russian Union of Veterans .

Colonel General V.M. Azarov, First Deputy Chairman of the RSFSR, and Colonel D.A. Babychuk, Head of the International Department, also participated in the talks from the Russian side.

This was the second meeting of General Kun Yanwei at the Russian Veterans Association. The first of them took place on November 14, 2019, on the occasion of the visit of a large delegation of the Ministry of Discharged Soldiers of the People's Republic of China to the RVU.

Taking into account this circumstance and the already existing relations, the Chinese side was informed in detail about the changes in the forms and methods of work of the Russian Veterans Association that have taken place in the past period and were caused by the unfavorable epidemiological situation.

Based on the new realities, the heads of delegations outlined the main directions for resuming productive interaction and specific activities for its implementation in the near future. The most important were the preparation of an international conference of Russian and Chinese veterans and the establishment of contacts between the Russian Veterans Association and the aforementioned Ministry of Discharged Soldiers' Affairs of the People's Republic of China, which deals with veterans' issues.

A particular focus of the talks was the situation in Ukraine. During the talks, Army General M.A. Moiseyev factually and convincingly informed the Chinese side about the objective reasons and preconditions for launching a special military operation, its main objectives and tasks, as well as the specifics of combat operations, taking into account a whole range of factors of international, political and military nature.

At the end of the meeting, a schedule of further meetings and contacts between the Russian Veterans Association and the military apparatus of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Russian Federation was agreed upon. The talks and their results were assessed by both sides as useful, productive and conducive to mutual understanding between the parties in the difficult conditions of the current international situation.

Belarus: International parliamentary conference on memory work

In mid-June 2022, an international parliamentary conference was held in the Belarusian capital Minsk under the theme: "Historical memory: the great victory, achieving in unity". Deputies from almost all former Soviet republics participated in this conference. Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko addressed a message of greeting to the participants of this international parliamentary conference.

He stated:

"We are the heirs of the victors. We are Azerbaijanis and Moldavians, Belarusians and Georgians, Armenians and Kazakhs, Ukrainians and Kyrgyz, Russians and Uzbeks, Tajiks and Turkmen. We are representatives of all nationalities of the formerly united country and in the Great Patriotic War we defended the right to life, liberty and human dignity," the letter states. "Today, when many Western countries outlaw our victory, they massively destroy our monuments to the liberators; they declare murderers and executioners heroes. We assume the responsibility to defend the historical memory of the selfless struggle of the Soviet people against the Nazis, that struggle which cost the lives of millions of our compatriots."

The head of state stressed that for Belarus, which lost every third citizen in that war, the people's heroic deed is an indispensable part of the national idea. "We were the first state in the post-Soviet space to constitutionally establish the falsification of history as inadmissible."

"I am convinced that together we will preserve our heroic past. We will not allow ourselves to be deprived of the victory that we won unitedly and for which our soldiers, partisans, underground fighters and civilians displayed unprecedented courage and shed blood. We will pass this truth on to future generations," said Alexander Lukashenko.

It was agreed at the conference that further consultations between parliamentarians on international historical commemoration should take place in the coming years. FIR welcomes such consultations. Nevertheless, FIR would like to see the associations of veterans of the anti-fascist struggle and the Great Patriotic War and their umbrella organization actively involved in such conferences in the future.

France: Memory of the “Exiles of Hope”.

To commemorate the anniversary of the liberation of Paris by the French Resistance, the association “August 24, 1944” (Paris) invited to a tribute EXILANTS OF HOPE in the Jardin de la Nueve.

This year, the Friends of the Spanish Fighters recalled the role of foreigners who fled to France. Those who fled Nazism and fascism did not hesitate to stand up for freedom. In addition to a large number of Spaniards, the Nueve included a colorful patchwork of nationalities: Joaquin CARRASCO (Brazil), Guiseppe CATIZONE (Italy), Daniel CORTESI (Italy), Felix MENDELSON (Germany), Krikor PIRLIAN (Armenian from Turkey), Wilhelm PORESKE (Germany) and Johann REITER (Germany) are remembered.

Together with the Spaniards, they were the soldiers on the front line, the partisans of the first hour, liaison men, line and border crossers, bearers of weapons, leaflets or news. They were present in all the battles, in the worst conditions; they endured the worst sufferings in order not to allow fascism to rob them of their dignity.

After the commemoration, the exhibition VISAGES D’EXIL 1939-2019 was opened in “Halle des Blancs Man-teaux”.

It consists of two photo exhibitions:

“Ways of Exile” by Philippe Gausso, who captured the retreat and the camps on the French Mediterranean coast in February 1939 on the living object, but before that he had also photographed the aid to Basque and Catalan children in 1937.

“La Sangre no es agua” by Pierre Gonnord, who in 2019 was commissioned by the Spanish Socialist government to search for surviving exiles or their children, and luckily for him (and us to meet him), found them. The anonymous crowds that Philippe Gausso captured in 1939 are juxtaposed with the portraits and testimonies of Pierre Gonnord 80 years later. For what Pierre Gonnord says in 2019 is that every man, woman and child of 1939 has a story.

Greece: Large protest in front of the Court of Appeal against the fascist “Golden Dawn”.

On Wednesday, June 15, a large, massive and militant protest of the trade unions and youth took place in front of the Athens Supreme Court of Appeals, when the appeal of the fascist murderers of “Golden Dawn” was considered. The trade unions demanded even higher penalties and no leniency for the criminal fascists.

The trade unions, the student unions and the other organizations made it clear that the struggle against fascism continues in every workplace and in every neighborhood. To make it easier for workers to participate in the mobilization, some unions had called a three-hour strike.

Of course, our Greek comrades of PEAEA supported this mass protest of the PAME and the students.

After the third session, the trial was adjourned to September 28. However, the court rejected the request of the former leader of Golden Dawn, Nikos Michaloliakos, who is serving a 13-year prison sentence, to postpone his appeal hearing for health reasons.



Italy Anti-fascists show flag against racist murder

On August 3, ANPI and numerous social organizations called for a manifestation in the Italian seaside resort of Civitanova Marche. The issue was the firm condemnation of racist violence by all institutions and the entire national community.

The occasion was a brutal attack on an African street vendor in the middle of the shopping street of the seaside resort of Civitanova Marche in broad daylight. While many tourists were in the street, the 39-year-old Nigerian was attacked and beaten to death by a 32-year-old Italian. Police said that the perpetrator chased his victim, brought him down with his crutch and struck him several times. He then allegedly took the man's cell phone. Police arrested the 32-year-old on suspicion of premeditated murder and robbery. The police chief of Macerata subsequently claimed that this had been a trivial dispute over what must have been a bit too intrusive begging. In any case, the act had nothing to do with racism.

The mayor of Civitanova Marche, Fabrizio Ciarapica, met the dead man's wife at the scene on Saturday, where people laid flowers. "The city is shaken and marked by pain," he wrote on Facebook. Scores of people from the African community protested at the scene, chanting "We want justice."

In Italy, where the election campaign has begun after the fall of head of government Mario Draghi and tones are getting harsher, especially on the issue of migration, Civitanova's act has led to a public debate. The open fascists of „Fratelli d'Italia“, who with their racist demagogy support the public climate for such acts of violence, currently dominate the region.



“Piangiamo per lui e per quelle persone che lo hanno lasciato morire”
(da un'amica di Alike Ogorchukwu)

It was therefore all the more important that ANPI, other anti-racist and anti-fascist associations, as well as the region's trade unions, sent a clear signal from Italian civil society on August 3 that racist violence meets with their united resistance. In this way, they also want to contribute to oppose parties and politicians who appear with racist theses in the election campaign for the parliamentary elections in September 2022.

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

Obituary Carlo Smuraglia

With great sadness, we have learned of the death of Carlo Smuraglia, Honorary President of FIR and the Italian Associazione Nazionale Partigiani d'Italia - ANPI.

Born on August 12, 1923, after school he studied law in Pisa. In 1943, he fought in the ranks of the Italian Resistance and joined the combat group "Cremona", with which he fought against the Nazi fascists from the Marche to Venice until the surrender of Caserta in 1945. After the war, he began his political career as Provincial Councillor for Justice in the Province of Pisa and was later elected Regional Councillor in Lombardy. From 1992 to 2001, Smuraglia was elected to the Senate for the Democratic Party of the Left. In all these positions, he dedicated his career to the defense of anti-fascists, workers and the humiliated.

From April 2011 to November 2017, Smuraglia was elected president of ANPI. In 2016, he stressed that ANPI supported the "No" vote in the constitutional referendum. The FIR Congress in Reggio Emilia honored him by appointing him a member of the Honorary Presidium.



Carlo Smuraglia died on May 30, 2022 in Milan at the age of 98. The FIR expresses its deepest condolences to the family, his comrades-in-arms of ANPI and all anti-fascists associated with him. He will be greatly missed and will be remembered with the greatest affection and respect.

On the death of Baruch Shub

A few weeks ago, we were deeply saddened to learn that the member of our Honorary Board Baruch Shub had already passed in December 2020. Below we present the obituary from Yad Vashem:

Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Baruch Shub, a Holocaust survivor and World War II partisan. Shub was a member of Yad Vashem's Board of Directors and the Commission for the Naming of the Righteous Among the Nations.

Shub was born in Vilnius, Lithuania, the second child of a Hasidic family of six. During the war, his degree in mechanical engineering forced him to work for the Germans in various places. In March 1941, his beloved sister Zipporah was murdered in an action along with 840 other Jews, including many children. Shub, together with other Jewish youths, formed a resistance movement underground in the ghetto, but had to abandon these activities due to pressure from frightened families. Later he enlisted in the Russian army as a paratrooper. He was among the Russian troops who liberated Vilnius in 1944, where he learned that his entire family had been murdered during the Shoah.

After recovering from his war wounds, Shub decided to emigrate to Eretz Israel, which he finally reached in October 1945 after making his way through Hungary, Romania and Italy. He was recruited for the Haganah and served as an aircraft technician during Israel's War of Independence. Two years later, he transferred to El Al and rose to become a senior flight engineer until his retirement 33 years later.

Throughout his life, Shub devoted himself to Holocaust remembrance and education. He was chairman of the Israeli Organization of Partisans, Underground Fighters and Ghetto Rebels in Israel, as well as a member of the Center of Holocaust Survivors Organizations in Israel and the Board of Directors of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference). He has lectured widely on anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial. In 2010, Shub was selected as one of the six torch-lighters for the state opening ceremony of the Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day at Yad Vashem.

"Baruch was a partisan and a fighter who embodied throughout his life the rebirth of survivors and the commitment to building a new life for himself, his family, his nation and his country," said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. "He worked tirelessly until the end to ensure that the memory of the Holocaust would be preserved for generations to come. He will be greatly missed."

The FIR can echo these words. We also remember his many years of activity in the ranks of FIR. We will keep him in our memory.

Croatia and Slovenia

European antifascist heritage - an instrument for combating modern forms of discrimination and intolerance

The Union of Anti-Fascists of the Republic of Croatia in partnership with the Union of Anti-Fascists and Fighters of the National Liberation War in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Association of Fighters for the Values of the National Liberation Army SL from Slovenia has started the implementation of the project “European Anti-Fascist Heritage”. The project was funded by the program “Europe for Citizens”, Activity 4 - Active European Remembrance, and started implementation on 10.10.2020 and will last 24 months.

The project was designed in response to the rise of hate speech and intolerance, often associated with right-wing populists, directed against the new “others” and the new “enemy” in Europe in general and the participating countries: Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. During II. World War II, these were Jews, Roma, homosexuals/lesbians and some other minorities (such as the Serb minority in Croatia), while today the discourse of the “other” is mainly focused on migrants, Muslims, but also on Jews and Roma, sexual and ethnic minorities. In all three countries there is a very strong movement of historical revisionism, and in Croatia there is even Holocaust denial (referring to the Jasenovac concentration camp in Croatia). The expected outcomes of this project are: Mobilization of expertise, activism and connection of expert communities from three countries for the purpose of sharing expertise and knowledge in a contemporary context in these three countries that share a common history in relation to the anti-fascist movement and common contemporary problems related to historical revisionism. Second, we expect to increase awareness and availability of information among young people about the values of the anti-fascist movement, the importance of civil courage in totalitarian regimes, and the recognition of propaganda that leads to crimes against certain social groups.

The project is divided into three work packages corresponding to three specific objectives:

Work Package I: Valorization of civil engagement in building the anti-fascist movement as a specific form of civil disobedience in times of totalitarian regimes;

Work Package II: Analyzing political constructs of the “other” and “enemy” during fascism and Nazism and in contemporary European societies; and

Work Package III: Marking the most important historical milestones in recent European history: 2000 Proclamation of the EU Charter of Rights.

The project will directly engage 1,749 and indirectly impact another 50,000 participants through media campaigns.

Chile - FIR Association met government representatives

On July 1, 2022, UNExPP’s Board of Directors, President Nelly Cárcamo, Vice President Víctor Rosas, Treasurer Sergio Aranís and Secretary Sergio Reyes, and Legal Assistant Alisson Gómez met with Undersecretary for Human Rights Haydee Oberreuter, her Chief of Staff Enrique Gatica and Director of Memorials Karen Bascuñan. The main objective was to discuss the petition that UNExPP addressed to President Boric in April 2022. He refused the requested interview and referred it to the Secretary of State.

Nelly Cárcamo gave a brief overview of the history of UNExPP and the work it has done under its plan to combat impunity in the absence of a state policy in this regard. She also recalled that they were pioneers in submitting requests for reparations starting in 2005. These were all rejected until 2015, when the lawsuit filed by Magellan prisoners at the Dawson Island detention center was won. From then on, the courts began awarding different amounts of compensation for these types of claims. The Secretary of State admitted that she was aware of this work. Cárcamo explained that the processing of the claims was free of charge for the victims.

Cárcamo gave a brief overview of the UNExPP petition posted on their website, which the Secretary of State had already read. The Secretary of State then took the floor and stated that the government was willing to implement its government program on human rights and that, unlike in the past, it would not be just a discursive tool. Oberreuter doubted, however, that the program could be fully implemented in its four-year duration to pay the enormous historical debt that the Chilean state owes to former political prisoners.

The Secretary of State shared that President Boric is giving immediate priority to resolving the situation of the prisoners of the 2019 social uprising. This is something that has already developed. She announced that working groups will be established in different regions of the country to defend the human rights of these prisoners, starting with a first working group in Magallanes.

She pointed out that when she took office, she found that the Valech Scholarship Office no longer existed, which

she would like to reactivate as soon as possible. She also stated that the PRAIS program should be reaffirmed and expanded. She pointed out that the most applauded announcement during President Boric's accountability report was the government's intention to develop a plan to search for disappeared prisoners.

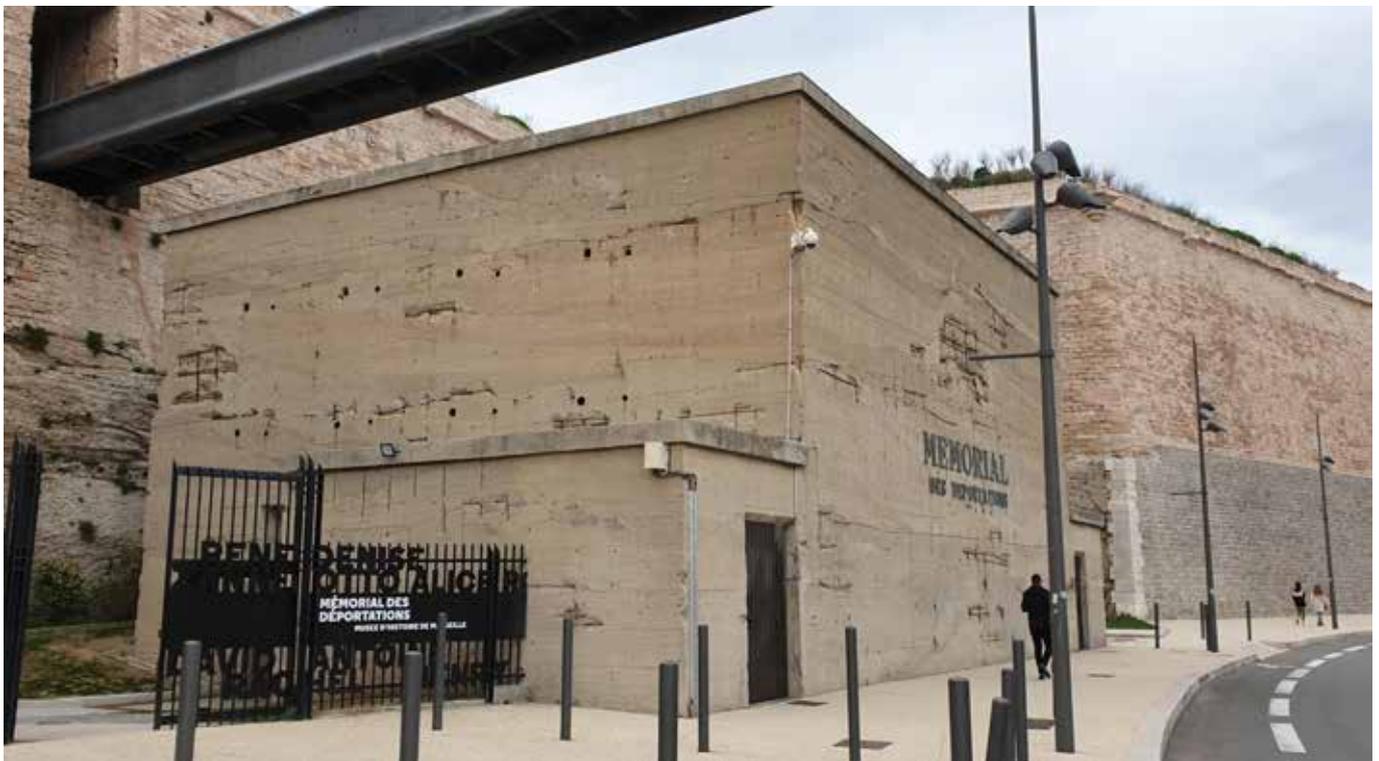
Finally, she announced that as part of the pension reform, which will hopefully be presented in late August or early September, former political prisoners and those released from prison will also have access to the guaranteed universal pension (PGU). The meeting was closed, leaving open the possibility of further meetings between the Secretariat of State and the UNExPP.

France: New memorial to the deportation inaugurated.

Located at the foot of Fort Saint-Jean, the "Mémorial des camps de la mort", inaugurated in 1995 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the camps, became the "Mémorial des déportations" (Memorial of the Deportations).

It is located in a World War II blockhouse built by the German army in a complex of the defensive barricade intended to prevent an Allied landing in Provence.

In 2019, it was transformed to now highlight the uniqueness of Marseille during World War II: main city of refuge in the unoccupied zone, transit city, destroyed city, strategic port city. The Mémorial contextualizes the genocidal policy of deportation and repression in Marseille and its region through maps, films, testimonies or accounts of victims born Jewish or repressed as politicians, resistance fighters or hostages.



Offered since December 2021, the exhibition recalls in detail the tragic events of 1943, carried out by the Nazis in collaboration with the Vichy regime: Raids, deportations and the destruction of the old neighborhoods on the north shore of the Old Port.

More information at: <https://musees.marseille.fr/memorial-des-deportations-0>

Imprint :

Responsible: Dr. Ulrich Schneider, (General Secretary)

Secretariat: Internationale Föderation der Widerstandskämpfer - Bund der Antifaschisten (FIR),
Magdalenenstr. 19, D- 10365 Berlin, Fon +49 (0) 30 – 55 57 90 83 - 4, Fax +49 (0) 30 – 55 57 90 83 - 9,

E-Mail: office@fir.at , 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**, Owner **FIR**,
IBAN DE 04 1001 0010 0543 0541 07 SWIFT-BIC: PBNKDEFF

Donations are welcome.