

# NEWS



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

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### Day of liberation - 8/9 May 2020 - Day of victory

75 years ago, on 8 and 9 May 1945, mankind experienced the final military crushing of German fascism. These dates mark the victory over the inhuman regime of Hitler fascism,

- which excluded, persecuted and imprisoned political opponents and dissenters,
- which murdered millions of people from a self-constructed race alone as Jews, as Sinti and Roma, as Slavs,
- which covered the states in Europe and even countries and peoples in other parts of the world with war, occupation and annihilation, with the aim of imperial hegemony and the destruction of the Soviet Union,
- which, in its cruel outcome, cost the lives of at least 55 million people.

Today in some countries of Europe the historical truth is denied, the liberators from the fascist barbarism are disregarded, the collaborators with the fascist occupant are honoured as “freedom fighters”. Against these forms of historical revisionism, we emphasize as FIR:



The fascist plans of world domination were stopped by the common activities of the anti-Hitler coalition. It was the members of the armed forces of the allies, above all the members of the Soviet army, who carried the main load of the war, which destroyed this threat also militarily.

It was the partisans and resistance fighters in all countries occupied by fascism, with the communists in the front rows, who gave their lives for the freedom of their homeland. Part of this anti - Hitler - coalition were also German anti-fascists, who fought illegally in Germany, in the ranks of the partisans or together with the allied forces for the

liberation of their own country.

We remember all those women and men who - often at the risk of their lives - made the liberation possible.

The scandalous declaration of the European Parliament on 19 September 2019 is a bad example, an ideological relapse into the worst period of the Cold War. Contrary to all scientific evidence, it is claimed that it was only with the German-Soviet Non-Aggression Treaty that “the course was set for the Second World War”.

In this text the oppressors and the oppressed, the victims and the criminals, the occupiers and the liberators from fascist barbarism were equated untruthfully. It is also claimed that with the end of the war only one “totalitarian rule” was replaced by the other.

The FIR stresses in contrast to this:

May 8/9, 1945 was the day of liberation and victory

- for all peoples threatened by German fascism,
- for the prisoners of the fascist concentration camps, who had been sent on death march while still in the agony of the Nazi regime,
- for the forced labourers who had to perform slave labour in various forms for German industry, agriculture and war policy,
- for the Nazi opponents in Germany itself.

It marks the beginning of a new policy in international relations. The community of action of all Nazi opponents created the basis for the founding of the United Nations and the establishment of the foundations of international law for the prosecution and conviction of the main war criminals in the Nuremberg Tribunal. These legal norms are still valid today, as the General Assembly of the United Nations has repeatedly confirmed.

At that time the common slogan of all anti-fascists was “Never again war! Never again fascism!” For the FIR and its member federations, this is an obligation for today and tomorrow.

We act together with the members of today’s generations

- against neo-fascism, extreme right and right-wing populism,
- against xenophobia, racism, religious intolerance and anti-Semitism,
- against war, imperial hegemony, state and non-state terrorism and their social roots.

Liberation forms the basis for the vision of a “new world of peace and freedom”, as the prisoners of Buchenwald concentration camp called for on 19 April 1945.

In their sense, the member organizations of FIR fight today for the realization of comprehensive political and social human rights, for peace and democracy. Together we celebrate 8/9 May 2020 as day of liberation and day of victory.

## 75th anniversary Liberation of Budapest

MEASZ has held commemorative events on February 13 to remember the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Budapest. It organized a wreath-laying ceremony at the memorial of the Buda Voluntary Regiment in the presence of MEASZ President Vilmos Hanti and Mayor Gergely Örsi of the II. district of Budapest. The central ceremony took place at the Martyrs’ Memorial where 3 political parties, 14 civil organizations, trade unions and local governments participated at the wreath-laying event, alongside representatives of the Russian, Belarusian and Cuban embassies.



## Never forget the Day of Victory

*Joint Statement by the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Serbia, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Victory in World War II adopted at the 26th OSCE Ministerial Council meeting Bratislava, December 5-6, 2019*

In 2020, we will commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in World War II, one of the most violent and bloody conflicts in human history, which claimed tens of millions of lives and inflicted terrible suffering on all of humankind.

Nazism was defeated thanks to the indestructible unity and solidarity of our peoples and the joint struggle waged by the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition. We remember every one of those whose unparalleled courage on the battlefield and on the home front saved our civilisation from destruction. We bow to the bravery of the anti-Nazi resistance and the memory of victims of the death camps and the sieges of peaceful cities.

It is our solemn duty to preserve the historical truth. We denounce as a sacrilege any acts of disrespect with regard to the monuments of Red Army soldiers and officers, as well as the cases of vandalism directed against the graves of those who gave their lives for the liberation of Europe from Nazism. There is no justification for the vandalism against these memorial objects. We urge all countries to honour the memory of the heroic liberators and to maintain military graves in proper condition.

We condemn any and all attempts to falsify the outcome of World War II. We are outraged by some countries' striving to rehabilitate and glorify Nazi criminals and their accomplices. We firmly believe that the decisions of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, which have no statute of limitations, must be strictly complied with. Throwing a veil over ethnic and religious hate crimes will inevitably lead the humankind to a new catastrophe.

We note the importance of the decision taken at the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly to adopt a resolution on combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

History has shown how dangerous it is to pander to nationalism, intolerance, discrimination, extremism and ethnic, racial and religious hatred. We recognise the importance of the 1948 UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide as a vital international instrument.

We reaffirm our commitment to the idea of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community. The heroism of WWII liberators and their readiness to make sacrifices should be accepted as their behest for the future generations to strengthen peace on the principles of justice, equality and indivisible security.

### **Statement of PEAEA for 9 May 1945 -2020 (excerpts)**

#### **The Day of the Anti-Fascist Victory of the People will forever illuminate the Future!**

May 9th is the day that marks the end of World War II in Europe, the deadliest war humanity has known, which lasted a total of 2,194 days, spread over 22 million square kilometers and took the lives of 50 million people. On this day, we honor those men and women who gave their lives, those who became disabled, those who took part in the struggle fighting on the fronts of the war and from whatever position, against the fascist monster.

We pay tribute to the millions died of famine, in the concentration camps, in every place of horror and martyrdom where human-to-human exploitation has transcended all limits, reaching the utter devaluation of human existence. All the forces involved in the anti-Hitler coalition contributed to victory over the Axis. However, particularly decisive was the contribution of the Soviet Union and the Red Army, as well as the ubiquitous national liberation / antifascist movements whose soul, organizer and main donor were the Communist Parties.

...  
In the Baltic States and other former socialist countries (Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Ukraine) they themselves support or tolerate reactionary regimes that persecute the resistance fighters, destroying the Monuments and Symbols of Resistance of the Second World War, while they name "resistant fighters" and pay tribute to the Nazis' Quisling partners. They pass anti-communist laws to ban the existence and any activity of Communist Parties; they ban and punish the use of communist symbols and the action of communists.

However, the peoples must learn the true History and be taught from it. An elementary key in the dissemination of this knowledge, so that we keep the Memory alive for the Day of the Anti-Fascist Victory of the Peoples, is the fight against falsify of the history of the Second World War attempting by the imperialists, as an element of the anti-fascist struggle. Denouncing Nazism – Fascism is effective only in the fight against monopoly capitalism. ...  
Glory and honor to the heroes and martyrs of WWII!

## Joint anti-fascist protest against SS commemoration in Budapest

For more than 10 years Hungarian neo-fascists of the “Légió Hungária” have organized an international meeting in Budapest under the heading “Fortress Budapest”. While the democratic society and the anti-fascist federations remind of the liberation of the city by the Soviet army 75 years ago, the supporters of the extreme right carried out again their march of remembrance to the SS, German Wehrmacht units and Hungarian collaborators on 8 February 2020.

They wanted to escape the military encirclement of the city on April 11, 1945 by attempting to break out of Buda Castle to the west. They left behind their wounded and sick. Nevertheless, only a few hundred soldiers survived this escape attempt. Despite this senseless prolongation of the war, today’s neo-Nazis see the SS and the German Wehrmacht as their “heroes”, whom they want to remember with this memorial march into the night. However, it is not only the open fascists of Hungary who take part in this memorial march, which was even supported by the Hungarian Hiking Association.

Unlike in 2019, the neo-Nazis present had to accept that their rally was widely surrounded by police. The second neo-Nazi event of the day began during the rally organized by the Legion Hungaria. Neo-Nazis from all countries, some in imitation SS and Wehrmacht uniforms, some with steel helmets, but also supposedly normal Hungarians who are enthusiastic about hiking and wearing modern sportswear, set out to walk the route of the unsuccessful escape. The distance varied between 10 and 60 kilometers. This march, which was advertised by the neo-Nazis as an escape-run, ran through the city without any police control. The normalization of neo-Nazi symbolism and elements became clear here in all clarity.

Nevertheless, there is resistance. Even before the Nazis, about 200 members of the Roma community met at 12:30 pm at Széll Kálmán Square and moved from there together to the vicinity of the fascist memorial at the Városmajor Memorial. At about the same time the protest of about 200 Hungarian and international antifascists formed at the back of the monument. The initially separate protests quickly merged into a joint action. Beside various Roma flags, red and black flags, anti-Fascist flags and also flags of the VVN-BdA were waving in the wind and thus stood exemplary for the common resistance against neo-Nazism in Europe.

At the same time, a public protest action against this neo-Nazi march in Budapest took place in Berlin in front of the Hungarian embassy.



## No to military bases in Greece

On January 30, 2020 thousands of people took part on anti-war, anti-imperialistic, anti-fascist demonstrations all over Greece, demanding the withdrawal of the Greece-US agreement on military bases.

The PEAEA-DSE was there along with workers' unions outside of the Parliament marching to the American embassy.



Call of “rising up against racism”:

### 21 March 2020: International Day of Action against Racism

Worldwide racist and fascist forces are gaining influence. Also in Germany, anti-Semitism, antiziganism and anti-Muslim racism are on the rise. Violent Nazi structures are spreading against the background of a nationwide presence of AfD. The terrorist attack in Halle and the murder of District President Walter Lübcke are only the tip of the iceberg.

The AfD has further radicalized itself. The influence of the neo-fascist wing has grown, the allegedly moderate forces around party leader Meuthen have signed a standstill agreement with Höcke & Cie. We will point out on 21 March that the rise of racism in society and the presence of the extreme right in the parliaments and on the streets go hand in hand.

Our alternative to right-wing agitation and violence is the diverse and courageous protest of many – against discrimination and exclusion, against intimidation and Nazi marches, against the building of a new fascist mass party.

On March 21, people all over the world will take the streets to protest together against racism and right-wing agitation, for a solidary and respectful coexistence. Also in Germany, activities will take place in many places. Let us show together that we are resolutely opposed to Nazis and racists. Let us send a strong signal against the inhuman agitation of AfD, NPD & Cie.

In 1966, the United Nations proclaimed 21 March as the “International Day to Overcome Racial Discrimination”. This is to commemorate the bloody suppression of a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville in South Africa against apartheid on 21 March 1960. In Germany, the “Foundation against Racism” is organizing the International Weeks against Racism in 2020 for the 25th time from 16 to 29 March 2020 under the motto “Showing face - raising your voice”.

Rising up against Racism participates in the international initiative “World against Racism”. Last year there were demonstrations in 60 places worldwide. This year there will be protests in London, Berlin, Copenhagen, Athens, Chemnitz, Barcelona, Arnstadt, New York and elsewhere.





*Die Mitglieder des Ehrenpräsidiums der FIR  
bestätigt auf dem XVIII regulären Kongress in Reggio Emilia 2019*



Dušan Čukić, Serbien



Esther Bejarano, Deutschland



Jean Fournier, Frankreich



Ilja S. Kremer, Russland



Michail A. Moiseev, Russland



Günter Pappenheim, Deutschland



Baruch Shub, Israel



Carlo Smuraglia, Italien



Christos Tsintzilonis, Griechenland



Zoltán Viczián, Ungarn

## List of members of Honory presidency of FIR (since 2004)

Ana, Marcos (Spain/ Spanien)	2004 – 2016
Bejarano, Esther (Germany/ Deutschland)	2019 –
Čukić, Dušan (Serbia/ Serbien)	2019 –
Efimov, Alexander N. (Russia/ Russland)	2010 – 2012
Fournier, Jean (France/ Frankreich)	2004 –
Kremer, Ilja (Russia/ Russland)	2004 –
Krüger, Lore (Germany/ Deutschland)	2004 – 2009
Moiseev, Michail A. (Russia/ Russland)	2019 –
Moraitis, Georgios (Grece/ Griechenland).	2004 – 2018
Nagy, Janos (Hungary/ Ungarn)	2004 – 2018
Pappenheim, Günter (Germany/ Deutschland)	2010 –
Qatipi, Adnan (Albanien/ Albanie)	2007 – 2010
Shub, Baruch (Israel)	2007 –
Smuraglia, Prof. Carlo (Italy/ Italien)	2013 –
Tsintzilonis, Christos (Greece/ Griechenland)	2019 –
Valkanov, Velko (Bulgaria/ Bulgarien)	2016 – 2016
van de Hoek de Vries, Celine (Netherland/ Niederlande)	2010 – 2011
Vanderborght-Veldemann, Marie-Louise (Belgium/ Belgien)	2013 – 2018
Viczián, Zoltán (Hungary/ Ungarn)	2019 –
Wiesflecker, Oskar (Austria/ Österreich)	2004 – 2009

### The Train of 1000 – May 2020

Under the High Patronage of his Majesty the King

On two occasions, in May 2012 and May 2015, the 'IV-INIG', the Auschwitz Foundation and the International Resistance Federation jointly organized a new Train of Thousand towards Auschwitz, in partnership with other foreign associations / institutions, bringing together over 1,000 young people coming from Belgium and Europe.

Given the success of previous editions, the Auschwitz Foundation, the War Heritage Institute (formerly the Belgian Veterans Institute) and the International Federation of Resistance Fighters (FIR) intend to organize a new Train of 1000 from Brussels to Auschwitz. The train will go with 1000 young people from May 05 to May 10, 2020 (including a commemorative ceremony on May 8 on the spot, the date of the German surrender and the victory over Nazism.)

In addition to the Commemoration, the trip has several other objectives:

- educational: allow these 1000 young people to visit the Auschwitz Museum and the extermination camp of Birkenau, and to see first-hand the Nazi concentration camp and genocide system
- remembrance: visit the camp with survivors and witnesses
- citizen: to be clearly aware of the concentration issue and thereby of the absolute denial of human rights.
- media: The gathering should attract, as for previous editions, huge media attention in order to highlight this massive and symbolic mobilization of European youth, gathering for Democracy and against political extremism.

In the train will be 17/18 year old students from Belgium and Europe. Participating nationalities will be Belgian, French, Dutch, Luxembourgish, German, Italian, Russian, Portuguese, Spanish, Polish, Hungarian, Greek, etc. Former deportees from Auschwitz and other camps will participate in the trip. In the past we had some parliamentarians from different parties.

We actually already have people from Belgium, from Italy, from France, from the Netherlands, From Luxemburg and from Germany. We would be pleased if some young people (even a few) from other European countries could participate. It is also possible, for some youngsters to participate, without coming by train but coming directly to Cracow from 6 or 7 until 8th of May.

Please contact the office of FIR, if you are interested to participate with a group of young people in this project. Technical details and information of the cost will be given to all interested ones.

## **That Auschwitz is never again - and this country must change**

*Esther Bejarano, survivor of the concentration camps Auschwitz and Ravensbrück, wrote a letter to the Federal President, the Federal Chancellor and the members of the Bundestag 75 years after the liberation of the concentration camp Auschwitz on January 27, 1945. In it, she summarized her experiences of the last 75 years after her liberation from the concentration camps, gave advice and addressed demands to those in power and to all those who want to learn from history. Advice and demands that should urgently be disseminated, discussed and enforced.*

Where do we - this country, this society - stand 75 years after the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp by the Red Army?

Suddenly there were no more Nazis, back in 1945 - everyone had disappeared. Nevertheless, Auschwitz has not left us. The faces of those who were doomed to die, who were driven into the gas chambers, the smells remained, the pictures, always death before our eyes, the nightmares at night. We have experienced the great silence after 1945 - and how the injustice - the murderous NS injustice - was accepted. Then we experienced how Nazi criminals could escape - as judges, teachers, civil servants in the state apparatus and in the Adenauer government. We learned quickly: the Nazis had not left.

People mourned for what they had lost: loved ones, loved places. But who thought about the causes of these losses, who asked why houses, towns, whole regions were devastated and destroyed, everywhere in Europe? Who did they blame for hunger, need and death?

Then the Ice Age came, the Cold War, anticommunism. It was a long way from the collective silence to the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem, from the Auschwitz trials in Frankfurt am Main to the student protests in the 1960s and the television series "Holocaust" from 1979 onwards. Only hesitantly did the awareness, the perception of Nazi injustice develop.

Also the right wing, the old and neo-Nazis and Auschwitz deniers formed.

In the meantime, there is talk of remembrance and commemoration as a culture of remembrance. We feel how deeply moved many people are, some of whom have made "never again" their life's work. However, Sunday speeches, which show dismay, are not enough. This consternation must lead to action; one must ask how it could have come so far. We have to fight for a different, better society without discrimination, persecution, anti-Semitism, antiziganism, without hatred of foreigners! Not only on commemoration days!

You, Chancellor Merkel, said on 6 December 2019 at the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp memorial site: "We must be all the more clear and unequivocal: We do not tolerate anti-Semitism. [...] All people must feel safe and at home here in Germany, in Europe. [...] There can be no end to this - and no relativization. "

This task is not yet finished! Moreover, I add, we owe it to the millions of victims of fascist crimes!

It is unbearable for us survivors when Nazi slogans are shouted again today, when people are chased through the streets and threatened, when death lists are circulating. We do not want to get used to reports of anti-Semitic, racist and misanthropic attacks in Berlin and elsewhere, in Halle, where only solid doors protected the Jewish community, but two people were murdered.

What can we do?

I want all of us to stand up when Jews, Roma or Sinti, when refugees, when people are racially insulted or attacked!

I want a loud "no" to wars, to the arms trade. Whoever forgets the last war is already preparing for the next one.

I want us to fight against the exploitation of people and our planet, to support those seeking help in solidarity and to rescue fugitives from distress at sea. A society must be measured by the way it treats the weakest.

I call for decisive action against the activities of the neo-Nazis, because despite the basic law and all that, members of a new right-wing party were able to speak of the NS as "bird shit in German history" and of the Holocaust memorial in Berlin as a "monument of shame". The NSU was able to murder undisturbed for a decade and the neo-Nazi group "Combat 18" was able to operate freely.

I demand that the defamation of people and organizations that act decisively against the right - wing should stop. What is more non-profit than anti-fascism? It is also intolerable when a few antifa-stickers in schools are the cause of denunciations on defame-portals of new-right parties. Nobody should be discredited and persecuted for anti-fascist actions, for common actions against hatred, against old and new Nazis!

I demand: 8 May 1945 must become a holiday! A day on which the liberation of mankind from the Nazi regime can be celebrated. This is overdue for seven decades. In addition, perhaps it will help to finally understand that 8 May 1945 was the day of liberation, of the suppression of the Nazi regime. Like many others from the concentration camps, I too was driven on the death march. Only at the beginning of May were we liberated by American and Russian soldiers. On 8 May would be an opportunity to reflect on the great hopes of humanity: on freedom, equality, brotherhood - and sisterhood.

Then we can, and then a Federal President can perhaps at some point say: We have learned from history. The Germans have learned the decisive lesson.

## Commemoration the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp in various countries

For more than a decade, January 27 has been commemorated worldwide as an International Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Holocaust, following a decision by the United Nations. In addition, the FIR and its member federations take this date often as an occasion to remember the victims of the destruction policy and to remind at the same time of the liberators.

**Portugal:** On initiative of URAP and the PCP parliamentary group in the Lisbon city parliament a resolution was adopted to 27 January 1945 connected with a minute of silence.

**Italy:** On invitation of ANPI, ANEI and ANED Italian anti-fascists reminded with a cultural event in San Giustino of the liberation of Auschwitz and the girls orchestra of Auschwitz, to which also the member of the FIR honorary presidency Esther Bejarano belonged.



A  
Federação Internacional dos Resistentes Anti-  
Fascistas

Sua referência	Sua data	Nossa referência	Data
Assunto: "Sessão Assembleia Municipal de Lisboa de 28 de janeiro de 2020 - Voto de Pesar pelas Vítimas do Nazi-Fascismo."		OF 1105/AM/L20	2020-01-29

A Assembleia Municipal de Lisboa, na sua reunião de 28 de janeiro de 2020, aprovou, por **Majoria**, o **Voto de Pesar** (assinalado com um minuto de silêncio), pelas **Vítimas do Nazi-Fascismo nos 75 anos da libertação pelo Exército Soviético do campo de concentração nazi de Auschwitz**, subscrito pelo Grupo Municipal do PCP, que abaixo se transcreve.

**"VOTO DE PESAR PELAS VÍTIMAS DO NAZI-FASCISMO nos 75 anos da libertação pelo Exército Soviético do campo de concentração nazi de Auschwitz"**

*Assinalaram-se ontem 75 anos da libertação, pelo Exército Soviético, do campo de concentração nazi de Auschwitz, onde foram sistematicamente assassinados – nas câmaras de gás, pela fome e a doença, nos fuzilamentos e sob a tortura – mais de um milhão e cem mil seres humanos.*



### 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**

## Vilmos Hanti in Bulgaria

Invited by the Bulgarian antifascist Union (BAU), President Vilmos Hanti had a fruitful visit in Sofia and Plovdiv. In Sofia, BAU organized an antifascist conference with 130 participants.

In Plovdiv, he met with antifascist and socialist leaders, laid flowers to the antifascist memorial and also went to visit the monument to the Soviet heroes. Back in Sofia the president attended two antifascist city district meetings and laid flowers in three different places to antifascist memorials. He met with the leaders of the parliamentary socialist group. In all these venues he had the opportunity to refer to the resolutions of the FIR congress, and answered a number of questions raised.

One of the main theme was that the Bulgarian government should recognize the deeds and preserve the memory of the antifascist resistance fighters and should pay respect to all those still alive. It should regard them as heroes and they should be presented as examples to be followed. The President of FIR was welcomed everywhere with warmth and enthusiasm.

Vilmos Hanti underlined: “My assessment is that the visit in this country has considerably strengthened there the role of FIR which, as an international organization, through our presence, has thus contributed to help the efforts deployed by our Bulgarian antifascist friends. Our visit did reinforce our close relations with a number of their leaders.”

A positive signal for the anti-fascist work in Bulgaria came in February 2020 from the city administration in Sofia. For the first time in 17 years the neo-fascist Lukov-march in memory of a Nazi collaborator and war criminal was banned - and the ban was confirmed by courts.



## Antifascist conference in Croatia

At the end of February, an international conference took place in Zagreb on the invitation of the Croatian anti-fascist association SABA HR on the topic “Fascist-Antifascism in Europe today”. Co-organizers were the FIR and the World Veterans Organization WVF.

As president of FIR and the Hungarian antifascist organization MEASZ, Vilmos Hanti emphasized in his speech that the antifascist organizations and associations expect more financial resources from the European Union, national governments and local governments to strengthen the antifascist work.

Among the speakers of the conference were the President of the Croatian Parliament, the Deputy Prime Minister and Mesic, the Vice-President of Croatia.

The Croatian media reported in detail on the conference. In interviews on Croatian television and radio, the problematic situation in Hungary and other European states was particularly in demand.

During the conference, Vilmos Hanti received an Honor medal of WVF.



## **New biography of Rosa Jochmann**

Rosa Jochmann (1901-1994) was a prominent public figure in Austria, but also beyond its borders. She was known as the “Grande Dame” of social democracy, as a contemporary witness, as a former resistance fighter and as a survivor of the Nazi women’s concentration camp Ravensbrück. Throughout her life, she was committed to the fight against fascism, anti-Semitism and racism.

The present biography locates Rosa Jochmann in Austrian history and thus at the same time in the socio-political developments of the 20th century. The work looks at Rosa Jochmann’s political network of women and friends in the interwar period, at the period marked by the establishment of (Austro-) Fascism and National Socialism, at the post-war period and the Cold War, and at her role as a politician and contemporary witness. The emphasis in the presentation is placed on her experiences in the women’s concentration camp Ravensbrück, where she actively participated in the resistance and survival of the prisoner women. Based on this experience, she was involved for many decades in the Association of Socialist Freedom Fighters, which has honored her with the award of the Rosa-Jochmann-Medal since 2015.

The source basis of the biography are the documents about Rosa Jochmann in the Association for the History of the Labour Movement and the Documentation Archive of the Austrian Resistance, as well as holdings in Austrian and German archives, which make previously unknown connections visible.

Rosa Jochmann is more than “just” a historical figure. Her life is at the same time a reminder of the necessity of democratic and social commitment for a more just and solidary world. She died in 1994 at the age of 93 - she was a contemporary witness of (almost) a whole century of Austrian contemporary history. Her life is at the same time a reminder of the necessity of democratic and social commitment for a fairer and more solidary world.

Bernd Kant

### **Bibliography:**

Veronika Duma, Rosa Jochmann, Politische Akteurin und Zeitzeugin, ÖGB-Verlag Wien 2019, 504 S., ISBN: 978-3-99046-465-6

## **Auschwitz extermination camp**

Auschwitz stands world-wide for the - apart from the unleashing of the Second World War and the war of extermination in the occupied territories of the Soviet Union - worst crime of German fascism: the industrial mass extermination of people who did not fit into its racial conception or its plans for world domination - Jews, Sinti and Roma, Slavs, Soviet prisoners of war, political opponents or people excluded from the “national community” because of their sexual orientation. About 1.3 million people became victims of the extermination policy at this place. When the Soviet Army troops liberated the camp on 27 January 1945, they still found almost 7,000 survivors. In addition to the mass extermination in Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Auschwitz camp complex included the “extermination through labor” in Auschwitz-Monowitz, the Buna plant of IG Farben. Therefore, it is also about the “profiteers of death”.

In time for the 75th anniversary of the liberation, Ulrich Schneider presented a compact introduction to this complex topic in the series Basiswissen (Basic Knowledge) published by the PapyRossa Publisher Cologne. In this book, contemporary witnesses themselves have a variety of say.

It begins with the German attack on Poland and the founding of the Auschwitz concentration camp and the expansion of the camp. The author goes into detail about the prisoner groups and the changes in the camp’s functions, whereby the everyday life of the prisoners and their exploitation are dealt with in detail.

Auschwitz is the site of mass extermination, as discussed at the Wannsee Conference. Thus, the volume describes the expansion of the killing facilities in Auschwitz-Birkenau and the mass deportation of European Jews to Auschwitz as well as the “Porajmos” - the “Gypsy Camp Auschwitz” as part of the mass extermination. The author also names the profiteers of death: IG Farben AG and the construction of Auschwitz-Monowitz as a concentration camp of IG Farben.

An important chapter deals with the will to survive and resistance in the camp. The prisoners of Auschwitz were not only victims, but tried to ensure survival under the extreme conditions. The results were the “Auschwitz Battle Group”, the uprisings in the camp and the liberation on 27 January 1945 by the Soviet armed forces.

In the final chapter, you can find information in the necessary brevity about the legal processing of the crimes, especially in the trials before the Allied courts and in the Frankfurt Auschwitz trial 1963 - 1965.

This is an introduction to the subject matter, aimed especially at young readers who are looking for a quick but nevertheless substantial overview of the history of this central camp in the Nazi extermination policy.

Bernd Kant

### **Bibliography:**

Ulrich Schneider, Auschwitz, Basiswissen Politik / Geschichte / Ökonomie, Mit einem Geleitwort von Henri Goldberg, Präsident der Fondation Auschwitz, PapyRossa Verlag Köln 2020, 142 Seiten ISBN 978-3-89438-725-9, € 9,90

## The legacy of the survivors

### The Oath of Buchenwald (19 April 1945)

We Buchenwald, Russians, French, Polish, Czech, Slovak and German, Spanish, Italians and Austrians, Belgians and Dutch, British, Luxembourg, Romania, Yugoslavia and Hungary, fought together against the SS against the Nazi criminals for our own liberation ,

Inspired us with an idea: Our cause is just - Victory shall be ours!

We performed in many languages the same hard, merciless, so many sacrifices fight and this fight is not over yet. Still blow Hitler flags! Still living the murderers of our comrades! Even our sadistic tormentors roam free!

We therefore swear the whole world on this appeal court, in this place of fascist terror:

We make the fight a only when the last culprit stands before the judges of the peoples!

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

### The Mauthausen - Oath (from May 16, 1945)

The many years of stay in the camp has deepened the understanding of the values of a fraternity between nations in us. True to these ideals, we swear, solidarity and mutual consent, to guide the further struggle against imperialism and national incitement. Just as the world was liberated by the joint effort of all the peoples of the threat posed by the Hitlerite superiority, so we need to look at this-won freedom as the common good of all peoples. The peace and freedom are the guarantees of happiness of the people, and the structure of the world on new foundations of social and national justice is the only way to peaceful cooperation among nations and peoples. We want to maintain the international solidarity of the bearing in our minds and learn the lessons of acquired after freedom and according win the battle of freedom of our nations, we are treading a common path, the path of the indivisible freedom of all peoples, the way of mutual respect, the way cooperation in the great work of building a new, fair to all, free world. We will always remember with what a big bloody sacrifices of all nations this new world was won. In commemoration of the shed blood of all peoples, in memory of the millions murdered by the Nazi fascism brothers we pledge that we will never leave this way. On the secure foundations of international community, we want the most beautiful monument that we can put the fallen soldiers of freedom, build: THE WORLD OF FREE PEOPLE. We turn to the whole world with the cry: Help us with this work. Long live international solidarity! Long live freedom!

### Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations (10 December 1948)

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt have led human rights in barbarous acts which the conscience of mankind with indignation, and has been proclaimed as that of a world in which people enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want, the highest aspiration of the people applies,

because it is necessary to protect human rights through the rule of law, that the man is not compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations, proclaimed by the General Assembly (UN) this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations ideal.

### Imprint :

Responsible: Dr. Ulrich Schneider, (General Secretary)

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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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