

Dear Friends,

I would also like to welcome you and thank the DGB-Jugend (Trade Union Youth Organisation) for organising this important commemorative event for the 40<sup>th</sup> time.

Because remembrance is all the more important in these times. It must be shown that right-wing terrorism is by no means a thing of the past and that the handling of events and dealings with surviving dependants have not yet reached the point where they need to be.

Because 42 years have passed since the Oktoberfest bomb attack. 42 years during which the subject was hardly broached, apart from within anti-fascist circles. The most serious terrorist attack in the history of the Federal Republic – but, to this day, no light has been shed on the right-wing network that supported the perpetrator. So many unanswered questions, evidence that has gone missing, legal exhibits destroyed. Unfortunately all these things are not unfamiliar, even in other cases since that time. And to this day, there has been no real appraisal of the bomb attack in society as a whole.

For these reasons we must continue to remember and make it clear that we will not forget the people who were killed or injured on 26 September 1980. But we also have to draw attention to continuity that is evident in other right-wing crimes. And what better way to do this in Munich than with the NSU or the racist attack in the OEZ – the Olympia shopping centre?

Between 2000 and 2007 10 people were brutally murdered for racist motives. 5 of the 10 murders and one bomb attack were committed in Bavaria. Two of the murders took place here in Munich. The victims themselves were initially accused of criminal activities until the NSU's video claiming responsibility was made public in 2011. Until then, the victims were portrayed as the guilty parties in the media and by investigating authorities. From the outset the families and the bereaved were harassed and criminalised throughout the shameful search operations by the police. Racist terms, such as 'kebab murders', could be read in the headlines every day. The victims were turned into perpetrators; the actual perpetrators were protected.

In the NSU trial that was concluded in 2018 after more than 5 years, only a handful of people were charged, among them Beate Zschäpe, even though the trial clearly showed that the NSU had a Germany-wide network in the right-wing scene. In every city they were able to find somewhere to stay; in every city there were people who gave them support. From financial support to procuring weapons. The Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz (BfV / Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution) also actively supported the NSU. The President of the BfV, Thomas Haldenwang, has in the meantime had to admit that mistakes were made by official bodies. Starting with the fact that information was not passed on to the investigating officers, to the fact that 40 people in the immediate environment of the NSU worked as undercover informants.

In addition, a few days after the exposure of the NSU, all files on the NSU at the Office for the Protection of the Constitution in Cologne were shredded. Nevertheless, the theory that it was simply committed by a group of 3 neo-Nazis acting as individual perpetrators continued to be upheld. Today we know that even Walter Lübcke's murderer was in contact with the NSU. How is it possible that no parallels to the Oktoberfest bomb attack were drawn? Once again, talk is of individual perpetrators. Once again, evidence disappears and the network is ignored.

Dear Friends,

Unfortunately, right-wing terror continues to exist in Munich. On 22 July 2016 an 18-year-old right-wing radical murdered nine people and injured 5 others in the Olympia shopping centre. And while it is clear to all of us that the perpetrator killed for racist motives, it is the Office for the Protection of the Constitution in Bavaria, of all instances, that does not classify the crime as politically motivated. But how can it be non-political when the perpetrator worshipped none other than Anders Breivik, and when he shared his hostile attitude towards others with like-minded people in numerous right-wing chat forums? Once again the attitude is taken that right-wing terror is a problem that becomes evident in individual acts rather than seeing the serious danger behind it and taking action accordingly. Once again, it is the relatives who were left in the lurch and have had to fight since the time the crime was committed to ensure that their loved ones are not forgotten and that something like this does not happen again.

All this shows that we must continue to take the fight against racism in Germany into our own hands. Right-wing thoughts and actions have long ceased to be a constraint in our society. In parliament there are the Alice Weidels, in the Bundeswehr and the police the Hannibal Network, the NSU 2.0 and, underground, countless racist groups prepared to use violence. Together they are responsible for the fact that, even after the Oktoberfest bomb attack and the NSU, murders are still carried out in Germany, whether in Halle, Kassel or Hanau. The shift to the right, the entry of the AfD in parliament and the numerous racist attacks call for us to fight this trend. Because right-wing forces cause an even greater division as a result of the precarious situation in which large sections of the population now find themselves. It is not structural reasons that are named for people's fear of losing their social status, for poverty in old age, competition within the employment market and unemployment. No. Instead, the problems are blamed on refugees and migrants. Once we are divided, it is always those who exploit us, who benefit.

We oppose this. Our fight is against social division, racism and right-wing terror. We demand a thorough clarification of racist attacks.

We know that we have to carry on demanding that everything is clarified as it will not happen by itself. And, likewise, we will carry on remembering. In the case of the Oktoberfest bomb attack, in the case of the OEZ attack, in the case of the NSU and many others we have seen that both commemoration and the demand for clarification continue to come from anti-fascist groups. We are the ones who are fighting for this so that the surviving dependants are not alone, so that the crimes are not forgotten, so that right-wing terror is not distorted into the problem of individual perpetrators. We are the ones who have demanded a second NSU investigation committee, who will not stop asking questions. We will continue to fight the right-wing wherever we are. Because remembrance always means fighting and that is what we will do. We will not forget, we will not forgive and we will not give up.