

28 October 1998

Dear Friends,

In part of a wider pattern of state repression in Germany, there have recently been police raids on three left cultural associations in Duisburg. The International Bolshevick Tendency and its German section, the Gruppe Spartakus, urge you to sign the solidarity declaration below. We will forward the list of endorsements of this declaration (as well as any additional related materials) to the organisations under attack. We will also post a complete list of endorsers on our website (www.bolshevik.org).

Please forward signed declarations to the above address or to:

Gruppe Spartakus
Postfach 100601
47006 Duisburg
GERMANY

Solidarity Declaration:

STOP STATE ATTACKS ON LEFTISTS!

On 24 September 1998 there were police raids against three cultural associations in Duisburg – the Cultural Association of Immigrants, Workers and Youth, the Association for the Advancement of the Cultural and Social Situation of the Turkish People, and the FABRIK Cultural Association.

The FABRIK Cultural Association was searched by order of the Duisburg county court. Rooms were photographed, identity details recorded, and a leaflet confiscated (in both German and Turkish versions). The judicial excuse for these police infringements are proceedings being taken against a young female immigrant charged with breaking paragraph 164 (2) of Germany's penal code. The leaflet describes earlier police attacks as 'unlawful', and on that basis she is charged with having wrongly accused the police in a way that is likely 'to induce or allow the continuance' of 'official proceedings or other official measures' against the police. If found guilty she is liable to up to five years imprisonment.

The state is offended by a leaflet published by leftist Turkish and Kurdish immigrant associations and Kurdistan Solidarity Duisburg, which protested against the repeated police attacks on those associations. This state repression of left immigrant organisations has been going on in Duisburg for years. Attacks have sometimes been intensified, and for a time were virtually weekly, leading on 15 November 1997 to a protest demonstration by Kurdish, Turkish and German organisations.

These court and police measures are intended to put the memberships of these associations under pressure as well as deter visitors to their premises, and to intimidate neighbours. The clear aim of these police attacks is to criminalise free political activity and organisation (especially the political activity and organisation of immigrants) and to suppress political co-operation among German, Turkish and Kurdish leftists.

An injury to one is an injury to all! The left and the workers movement of all countries must unite against state repression!

Regardless of political differences among us, the signatories to this protest demand:

- Immediate cancellation of all proceedings against the Duisburg leftists!
- Stop state attacks against the left!

Signed:

THE SOCIALIST TRUTH IN CYPRUS
MONTHLY POLITICAL SOCIALIST NEWSPAPER