

Bündnis **Nazifrei! - Dresden stellt sich quer**

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Press Release

Dresden, 16 February 2011: Largest Nazi march in Europe to be stopped on 19 February by mass blockades mobilized by »Nazifrei! - Dresden stellt sich quer« [Nazi-free! - Dresden blocks the way]

Detailed information about the actions to be provided by representatives of the alliance at press conferences in Dresden on 17 and 19 February.

THE ALLIANCE »Nazifrei! – Dresden stellt sich quer«

In February 2010, 12,000 people who answered the call by the alliance »Nazifrei! - Dresden stellt sich quer« prevented Europe's largest Nazi march in Dresden. This year, the alliance again wants to make the Nazi march impossible through mass blockades. Mobilization for mass blockades has been taking place across Europe since October of last year.

»At this point we have calculated up to 250 buses with participants from across Germany as well as people from Sweden, Denmark, Austria, and Poland,« explained Franziska Radtke, Spokesperson from »Dresden – Nazifrei!«.

The alliance »Nazifrei! – Dresden stellt sich quer« was created in October 2009. At that time, the existing »No Pasaran!« alliance, which was comprised of antifascist groups, organized an action conference in Dresden. This year, the alliance widened again. Among those active in the preparations are antifascist groups, trade unions, political parties, youth and student organizations, initiatives, and engaged individuals.

NAZIS ON 13 FEBRUARY

Since the end of the 1990s, Nazis have interfered with the public remembrance in Dresden on 13 February. One example is the wreath laying at the Heidefriedhof. At this location, Dresden residents and politicians gather to remember the bombing of Dresden on 13 February 1945.

The so-called funeral march of the extreme right »Jungen Landsmannschaft Ost« (JLO) traditionally takes place on 13 February, the anniversary of the bombing of Dresden in 1945. When 13 February falls on a Sunday or weekday, the Nazis organize an additional nation- and Europe-wide event. That is the case this year. On Sunday, 13 February 2011, approximately 1200 right extremists came to Dresden. On this coming Saturday, 19 February, several thousand Nazis are expected. Since in 2010 the right scene experienced a sharp defeat, this Nazi march is even more important for them. Most important for the internal scene, the Nazis want to prove that they will not allow their big event to be taken away.

»If we succeed in stopping the Nazis this weekend, that would be an enormously important step toward our goal, which is for the Nazi march to become history, and also to take an important big event away from the Nazis«, said Radtke.

CRITICISM OF THE POLITICS OF REMEMBRANCE

Until 2010, the city of Dresden did nothing to position itself against the yearly activities of the Nazis. Last year (2010), the mayor of the city for the first time initiated a human chain with which the city's remembrance should be connected with a signal against right extremism.

»The human chain does not go beyond symbolic protest«, criticized Radtke. »It takes place far away from the Nazi march, and this year not even at the same time. For us, purely symbolic politics is not enough.«

That many participants of the human chain feel the same way was illustrated already last year following the human chain event, when many of them then participated in the blockades of the alliance. Also on 13 February 2011 several hundred people who had participated in the human chain joined the protest against the Nazi march at the main Dresden train station at the conclusion of the symbolic human chain event. This was despite a legal order against a demonstration.

»With their participation, many Dresden residents have shown that they have had enough of Nazis in their city, and that they are also prepared to actively put themselves in the way. Therefore, we hope that on this coming Saturday as many residents of the city will participate in our blockade as possible«, said Radtke.

Detailed information about the actions will be provided at the press conferences in Dresden on 17 and 19 February.

On 19.2 an English-speaking press contact will be available.

Press conference: 17 Feb., 11 a.m., Landesgeschäftsstelle ver.di, Cottaer Str. 4, 01159 Dresden

Christine Schickert (Grüne Sachsen)

Mona Fries (»No Pasaran!«)

Thomas Bergmann (Spokesperson »Nazifrei! - Dresden stellt sich quer«.)

Ringo Bischoff (Bundesjugendsekretär ver.di)

Press conference: 19 Feb., 18 p.m., Volkshaus Dresden, Schützenplatz 14, 01067 Dresden

Katja Kipping, (Member of the Bundestag, LINKE)

Spokesperson from the alliance »No Pasaran!«

Stefan Thiele (Spokesperson »Nazifrei! - Dresden stellt sich quer«)

Hannes Roth (Aktionsnetzwerk Jena)

Ringo Bischoff (Bundesjugendsekretär ver.di)

Creative artist (requested)

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