

Appeal to the venezuelan public and government

Early July Bernhard Heidbreder was arrested by Venezuelan security forces in Merida. Since then the formally German national has been held in custody in Caracas. German authorities are seeking Bernhard's extradition based on ongoing criminal investigations against him. According to the German authorities, Bernhard and two other persons are accused of having been members of the militant leftwing group the K.O.M.I.T.E.E.. In 1994 this group committed an arson attack on a building of the German armed forces (Bundeswehr). In 1995 a planned attack on a remodeled deportation camp was abandoned before it took place. Due to these actions by the group K.O.M.I.T.E.E., Bernhard could face a serious prison sentence if he were to be extradited to Germany.

Bernhard and the other two accused have absconded from the German judiciary. Almost 20 years ago they managed to disappear and created a new life for themselves. We are old friends of Bernhard and we do not know what has been happening for him or the other two. But we do know that under no circumstances does he want to be extradited to Germany. This is why we are addressing the Venezuelan public and the Government with this open letter.

We know Bernhard as an activist of the revolutionary Left. The K.O.M.I.T.E.E. was part of a left winged movement, which amongst other things fought against repressive regimes and against the racist policies re refugees in Germany. The attack on the military building was directed against the prosecution of Kurdish people in Turkey and its support by the German government. The planned attack on the building of the new deportation camp/prison was intended to show ways to prevent the deportation of refugees into countries where they will be prosecuted or forced to live in poverty. Today more than ever, refugees, left winged activists and many others fight against racist refugee laws within the European Union, which are causing the death of countless people on a daily basis. The countries of the European Union are heavily indebted towards the countries of the Tricont, and they are desperately trying to evade compensation.

In Venezuela, like in other places, there is strong criticism of racist and capitalist conditions. The Venezuelan government's objective is a just world, where everyone can live a dignified life. The K.O.M.I.T.E.E. has been fighting for this. Independently of the question, if these three people have been part of this group or not, one thing is obvious: the people responsible for these attacks are not criminals. With their campaigns they have taken a clear stand, which, in opposition to the German refugee laws, did not harm anyone. This is why we decided to appeal to the Venezuelan government not to extradite Bernhard to the German justice system.

July 2014, friends and comrades of Bernhard Heidbreder