

The demolition of the Thälmann Memorial in Ziegenhals (Brandenburg, Germany, near Berlin) must be prevented!

Declaration of human rights and peace prize bearers of the „Society for the Protection of Civil Rights and Human Dignity“ e.V. (registered association) GBM and the Circle of Friends „Ernst Thälmann memorial“ e.V. (registered association)

Still within the 70th year, after the beginning of the Second World War, of the German raid on Poland, the important antifascist memorial in remembrance of the illegal conference at Ziegenhals of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Germany (KPD) and of its opposition to Hitler in Germany is to be torn down. The excavators are already standing by. This demolition must be prevented.

This memorial is no ordinary regional place of remembrance in an idyllic atmosphere in Krossinsee close to Berlin. It is not only a simple monument for an important leader of the German and international labour movement; an antifascist Reichstag representative for whose release from prison and concentration camp antifascists from all over the world fought for until he was murdered.

He had warned: „Who votes Hitler, votes for War“! He had, at this historic location, immediately after the fascist takeover of power - and in recognition of the KPD's own shortcomings - called for a United Front, for the unfolding of all forms of mass resistance and mass struggle against the fascist dictatorship, against its wanton destruction, and for the overthrow of the Hitler government. He pleaded against the militarization of the country and of its youth to prevent a new imperialistic world war.

The preservation of this memorial is the duty of the Federal Republic of Germany. The German government was obliged to guarantee to the peoples of the world, who after World War II had the right to await that war would never again be started from German terrain, that war would, in fact, never be started from German soil again. This promise has been broken. See Yugoslavia or Afghanistan.

How it is possible, that a government in Germany, whose former government had started the 2nd world war and in whose regional and municipal parliaments today representatives of Neo-Nazis sit, in which radical right-wing activities and criminal offences abound and which is rife with anticomunism, can behave in such an unhistorical and irresponsible way? We demand that the Federal Republic fulfil her responsibility to preserve the memorial from this act of planned historical vandalism.

We demand that it be guaranteed that the Brandenburg Ministerial Council whose purchase of the property containing the memorial - whose give-away price can only be explained by the requirements for the preservation of sites of historic interest - fulfil their obligation under the purchase, „to further guarantee ... a public use“.

The property's owner may not put (as the Berlin Superior Court of Justice has stipulated) his self interests above the preservation of the memorial.

As human rights and peace prize bearers, we, the „Society for the Protection of Civil Rights and Human Dignity“ (GBM), demand to preserve in honorary recollection the contribution that Thälmann and the communists made in their antifascist fight, and to have their historical site of operation preserved as a National Memorial.

We demand the preservation and the reopening of the memorial in Ziegenhals at its authentic historic place.

Hitherto existing signatures: Priest i. R. Dr. Dieter Frielinghaus (Brüssow), Professor Dr. Velko Valkanov (International Law, Sofia), Dr. Friedrich Wolff, Lawyer (Berlin), Kate Reichel (Actress, Buckow), Professor Hermann Klenner, (Solicitor, Berlin), Vil N. Romaschtschenko for the Ukrainian section of the European Peace Forum

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Appeal

I support the explanation of bearers of human rights and peace prize bearers
of the „Society for the Protection of Civil Rights and Human Dignity e.V.“
(registered association) GBM and the Circle of Friends „Ernst's Thälmann
memorial“ e.V. (registered association) in Ziegenhals and join to their protest.

name und first name	address	phone/E-Mail	sign

Collected signatures please send to the GBM.