

## European Liaison Committee "Against War – Against Social War"



**More than 20,000 in Berlin**

**For a ceasefire – stop the arms deliveries!**

**»No to Wars – Stop Armament Madness – Shape the Future Peacefully and Justly«**

Under this slogan, 130 personalities from the trade union movement, activists from the peace movement and members of parliament have called for a rally on 25 November against the German government and its policy of *"uninhibited rearmament"*. The €85.5 billion in military spending for 2024 is the largest in Germany's history, accompanied by dramatic cuts in funding for health, infrastructure, etc., inflation and real wage losses...

More than 20,000 people responded to the call. It was a rally of resistance against the warmongering and socially destructive policies of the Scholz government. The anger and indignation were also very impressively expressed in the shouts and applause during the rally.



The central demand of all speakers and on many banners was: *"Immediate ceasefire in Ukraine and the Middle East"*, *"Lifting the blockade of Gaza"*. Other banners or posters read: *"No billions for rearmament – 100 billion for schools, hospitals, climate"*, *"Stop the social war against the people"*.

The trade union colleagues from different regions of Germany received a lot of encouragement from ver.di, GEW, IG Metall, IG BAU... with flags and banners; such as: *"No to war – yes to the welfare state"*.

Colleagues strongly criticized the fact that the union leaders refused to call for the rally.

Right at the beginning of the rally, Reiner Braun made it clear that war and rearmament are followed by social war: *"This social war against the people must be ended."*

Sahra Wagenknecht also called and spoke at the start. She sharply criticized the war policy of the Scholz government. The Minister of Defence demands that Germany must become fit for war again: *"He wants Germany to master the craft of war again!"*

Since the overturning of the shadow budgets by the Federal Constitutional Court, there has been renewed talk of saving, saving for the *"poor children, the unemployed, pensioners"*. 90 billion for armaments will be handed over to the arms manufacturers, *"while in this country there is a shortage of thousands of teachers, hospitals are being closed and the infrastructure is rotting."* These 90 billion, *"you can save that."*

A day before the Federal Constitutional Court ruling, Germany's arms deliveries to Ukraine were doubled, but the people of Ukraine don't need more weapons, they need peace.

Sahra Wagenknecht took a clear stance against the policies of the German government alongside the Netanyahu government. She was shocked by Hamas' atrocities in Israel: *"Nothing, no injustice in this world, justifies such*



crimes." But that does not justify the German government's support for Israel's "reckless warfare." "We should be just as shocked by the ruthless bombardment in the Gaza Strip." "The war must be stopped".

"We Germans in particular have a special responsibility for Jewish life ... And we have a responsibility to defend Israel's right to exist without ifs and buts. But this responsibility does not oblige us to whitewash and support the Netanyahu government's reckless warfare as self-defence." "This escalation of war does not protect Jewish lives – it endangers Jewish lives." These bombs strengthen Islamist terror. "That's the logic." This is also the lesson of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Iris Hefets of the Jewish Voice Association explained that she left Israel 21 years ago because of its militaristic policies. She strongly condemns the defamation in the media, which does everything possible to stifle any voice against the war: "Anyone who advocates a ceasefire is vilified as a Putin sympathizer or Hamas supporter." The government-led smear campaign, which demonizes any criticism of the Netanyahu government as "anti-Semitism," provokes a climate of intimidation. Iris Hefets, for example, points out that the historian Ilan Pappé and the political scientist Norman Finkelstein of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation were *disinvited* as "anti-Semites" because of their sharp criticism of Israeli policy.



Nadija Samour, a Palestinian lawyer, made a bitter accusation against the Scholz government. "We live in a Germany in which unconditional solidarity with war crimes and genocide is a reason of state." She pointed to the massive attacks on freedom of expression and demonstration. "In Berlin alone, all Palestinian demonstrations were banned by general decree in October." There are legal proceedings against 1000 people because they "wanted to exercise their constitutionally guaranteed right of assembly.... It was the daily indomitable gatherings on Sonnenallee that finally managed to break the ban on demonstrations. It was the solidarity of 10,000 Berliners and internationalists who fought for the Palestinians' right to exist. Even today, here at this demonstration, it is important to demand loud and clear solidarity with the Palestinian people."

### International echo of the demonstration.

The organizing committee of the peace demonstration received numerous messages of greeting not only from all over the republic – especially from the trade union base, but also from numerous countries in Europe, the USA, Asia and Africa, including Jeremy Corbyn and Noam Chomsky. In Great Britain, Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia, Spain (including Bilbao, Valencia and Barcelona), France, Norway, Ireland, Belgium and Romania, solidarity actions with our demo took place in Berlin. Other greetings come from Poland, Greece, Italy, Denmark, the Philippines, South Africa, Russia, Norway and Austria.

### These were the speakers at the peace demonstration.

Reiner Braun (for the initiators of the demonstration), Petra Erler (former Head of Cabinet of the European Commission for "Enterprise and Industry"), Ates Gürpınar Chairman Die Linke), Iris Hefets (Jewish Voice for a Just Peace in the Middle East), Nadija Samour (German-Palestinian lawyer), Prof. Dr. Gabriele Krone-Schmalz (author, publicist), Michael Müller (former State Secretary in the Ministry of the Environment, former MdB, Chairman of NatureFriends), Dr. Michael von der Schulenburg (diplomat, Assistant General Secretary to the UN Secretary General), Dr. Sahra Wagenknecht (MdB, BSW). Jutta Kausch-Henken and Wiebke Diehl moderated the rally.

---

All documents and greetings under <https://nie-wieder-krieg.org/>  
and <https://gegendenkrieg-gegendensozialenkrieg.info/> contact: [GotthardKrupp@t-online.de](mailto:GotthardKrupp@t-online.de)  
translated with the help of deepL