

Antiwar Activist Faces Repression in Germany

By [Phil Wilayto](#)

Global Research, December 28, 2022

Region: [Europe](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Law and Justice](#)

All Global Research articles can be read in 51 languages by activating the Translate Website button below the author's name.

To receive Global Research's Daily Newsletter (selected articles), [click here](#).

Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) and subscribe to our [Telegram Channel](#). Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

June 22, 2022 was the 81st anniversary of Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union, and a prominent German antiwar activist took the occasion to publicly question why the German government is now supporting neo-Nazi organizations in Ukraine.

As a result, that activist is now facing the possibility of up to three years in prison.

Heinrich Bucker runs Berlin's popular Coop Antiwar Cafe, which since 2005 has been a gathering space for activists working on a wide range of issues. Since 2019 the cafe has co-organized the weekly event "Frente Unido América Latina" in front of the U.S. Embassy. He's a member of the "Kommunistische Plattform" in the party DIE LINKE; a member of the League of Anti-Fascists; and represents the U.S.-based World Beyond War in Berlin. The cafe also represents the "Aufstehen" Initiative in Berlin Mitte, backing the left politician Sahra Wagenknecht and organizing left events against sanctions and for peace.

On June 22, Bucker gave a speech at an event hosted by Berlin's Friedenskoordination (Peace Coordination) at the Soviet War Memorial in Berlin's Treptower Park, in which, according to a statement on the antiwar cafe's website, he said that

"... it seems incomprehensible to me that German politics should again support the same chauvinistic and especially Russophobic ideologies on the basis of which the German Reich found willing helpers in 1941. The SS and Wehrmacht used Ukrainian national-fascist organizations as repressive and murderous squads against their own countrymen, including millions of Jewish men, women and children."

The collaboration of ultra-nationalist Ukrainian organizations with the Nazi occupation is a matter of historical record. And, before the present war, Western mainstream media would routinely report on the existence of present-day fascist organizations in Ukraine, such as the Azov Battalion, Right Sector, National Militia, C-14 and many others. (See [this](#))

But that coverage has now ended.

On Oct. 19, Bückner received a letter from the Berlin State Criminal Police Office notifying him that he was under investigation for possible violation of Paragraph 140 of the German Criminal Code, which has to do with disturbing the public peace. A violation of the statute can be punished by a fine or a prison sentence of up to three years. The investigation was apparently prompted by a complaint by a Berlin attorney upset about Bückner's speech.

"In Germany, we are currently experiencing a narrowing of the space for debate and massive restrictions on freedom of expression, caused by one-sided reporting in the mainstream-media," Bückner writes. "There are now a number of individuals who are in the focus of the German criminal investigation authorities. Similar tendencies are also reported from other EU [European Union] countries."

The Coop Antiwar Cafe itself also has come under attack. In addition to threatening emails, the cafe's front windows were recently smashed.

Along with his June 22 speech, Bückner also initiated a statement on the war in Ukraine that questioned the official line that it's simply an act of unprovoked Russian aggression. Instead, the statement, posted on the cafe's website, points to the steady eastward expansion of NATO up to the very borders of Russia, and U.S. and European support for the 2014 coup that drove out the elected president of Ukraine and brought in a right-wing government anxious to join NATO and hostile to both Russia and the country's ethnic Russian minority.

Another reason for the police interest in Bückner could be the prominent role he has played in promoting an anti-imperialist statement on the war in Ukraine initiated by the U.S.-based Odessa Solidarity Campaign, a project of the Virginia Defenders for Freedom, Justice & Equality. That statement, similar to the one initiated by the Coop Antiwar Cafe, has been endorsed by more than 230 organizations and individuals in 22 countries, with nearly two-thirds of the endorsers from Germany.

Meanwhile, in the United States, the African People's Socialist Party is calling for support in the face of expected indictments of four of its leaders and prominent supporters who have been actively speaking out against U.S. support for Ukraine. The APSP is a Pan-African organization that for the past 50 years has been opposing U.S. wars at home and abroad.

In response to the police pressure, Bückner's allies and supporters in Germany have been preparing a united defense effort. Stay tuned for new developments and calls for solidarity.

For more information on repression directed against antiwar activists and efforts to support them, see:

Coop Antiwar Cafe: <http://coopcafeberlin.de>

African People's Socialist Party: <https://apspuhuru.org>

Odessa Solidarity Campaign: <https://odessasolidaritycampaign.org>

*

Note to readers: Please click the share buttons above. Follow us on Instagram and Twitter and subscribe to our Telegram Channel. Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

Phil Wilayto is a longtime antiwar and social justice activist based in Richmond, Virginia. He is editor of The Virginia Defender quarterly newspaper; co-founder of the Virginia Prison Justice Network; and coordinator of the antifascist Odessa Solidarity Campaign. Wilayto is the author of several books, including "The Feeding Trough," an investigation into the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation; "We Won't Go Back!" an eyewitness account of the 1989 Pittston coal strike;" and "In Defense of Iran: Notes from a U.S. peace delegation's journey through the Islamic Republic." He can be reached at: DefendersFJE@hotmail.com.

Featured image is from [Restaurant Guru](#)

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Phil Wilayto](#), Global Research, 2022

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Phil Wilayto](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca