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Daniela Klette: It is about settling accounts with this history of resistance



On Tuesday, the alleged former RAF militant Daniela Klette read a statement before the Verden Regional Court, which jW documents here:

I support my defense's motion to dismiss the case. I would just like to add a few sentences. After the end of the RAF's urban guerrilla project in April 27 years ago, Burkhard Garweg, Volker Staub, and I were confronted with the continued public manhunt by the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) for the alleged "last former RAF militants." Burkhard Garweg was even dragged into this public manhunt only after the RAF had disbanded. This was the state's response to the RAF's self-dissolution, just as Bad Kleinen—the shooting of Wolfgang Grams—and further long years of imprisonment and heavy sentences against RAF prisoners and resistance members had been the response to the RAF's 1992 de-escalation declaration.

We successfully evaded state control for decades, something I unfortunately only managed until February 26, 2024. A very valuable time. With many difficulties to overcome and even more positive experiences. These have strengthened my conviction that a better world, in which people live in mutual respect, is not only necessary but also possible, and they will

carry me through everything that is yet to come. Today, I would like to thank all those who have been with me or us as friends or dear acquaintances at different times. It wasn't easy not being able to openly share our true story, but that is a rule of illegality for the protection of everyone. I am sorry that so many of my friends or simply acquaintances were completely unprepared for the sometimes violent repression and were also harassed with repeated interrogations. I never expected it to become so widespread and threatening. I hope most of you feel the same way I do, because I'm glad to have met you. On February 26, 2024, I was torn from my previous life.

Last year, through the investigation file, I gained insight into the full extent of the endless manhunt for us. Here are just a few examples: There was spying on former friends and comrades, house searches and surveillance of our families, the tracking of old acquaintances on their vacations in other countries, questioning at campsites and hotels, and even surveillance at funerals—a lot of fishing in murky waters, in other words.

Entire careers must have been tied to it, and vast amounts of money were invested. This tremendous commitment shows that this was and is a hunt for political enemies, not simply robbers. For all the years prior, the BKA's manhunt hadn't yielded any results, despite a bounty of one million DM at one point. The public wasn't particularly interested in hunting us down. Why should they? People didn't feel threatened by the RAF, and certainly not by alleged former militants after its dissolution.

In 2015, the Lower Saxony State Criminal Police Office and the Verden Public Prosecutor's Office took over the manhunt for us in connection with the robbery and labeled it "attempted murder." This was intended to finally convey to the public the urgency of hunting us down because of our alleged "danger to the public."

This was repeatedly revived by the periodic appeals for arrests in "Aktenzeichen XY" (Case Number XY) or in various television reports – often on anniversaries related to the history of the RAF. Of course, these were always about the RAF and not just money-grubbing operations. After my arrest, the situation continued, accompanied by excessive agitation against Burkhard and Volker. All of this is merely an intensification of what had been going on for years without much publicity.

I see a blatant example of the defamation and incitement against us in the fact that my neighbors were evacuated under the lie that explosives had been stored in my apartment. They were supposed to feel as if I had been sitting on a powder keg for years, endangering their lives. In my opinion, this amounts to psychological terror at the very least: the elderly, the sick, children, and everyone else have to spend more than one freezing cold night outside

in specially designated buses, constantly worried that their apartment might explode at any moment – all to spread fear and terror – in front of us! Yet it was already completely obvious on the day of the search that there was no such danger.

The lie of this grave danger immediately provided a justification for the belligerent invasion of the trailer park where they suspected Burkhard was, as well as for countless searches in Berlin with military presence, violent behavior, and destructive rage. They've got me now, and all this fuss about my terrible dangerousness is meant to make a harsh sentence seem inevitable and to prepare the next trial, in which I am to be indicted by the Federal Prosecutor's Office and convicted by a Higher Regional Court for various militant actions against imperialist war, prison, and capital, in this vein. And it's meant to justify the continued incitement against Burkhard and Volker.

This trial isn't being conducted against me; it's once again about the conviction of the RAF, which has been history for 27 years. It's about settling accounts with this history of resistance and fundamental opposition. But it's also about deterrence, aimed at the future. Any thought of fundamental resistance that seeks to overcome this capitalist system of domination is to be stifled with the threat of life being destroyed through years of imprisonment. The emphasis on the absolute necessity with which we must be prosecuted can only be explained in this larger context.

We live in a globally escalating situation – in the capitalist crisis, the West is fighting against the impending decline of its global hegemony and for a renewed distribution of power. Europe is to be heavily armed and capable of war under the leadership of the Federal Republic of Germany. Currently, there are daily horror reports about billions of dollars that the new warmongering government intends to provide for armaments – i.e., for huge profits for the arms industry, as well as for infrastructure projects. Anyone hoping that the latter will lead to the repair of dilapidated school buildings, collapsed bridges, climate protection measures, social housing, women's shelters to protect against the almost daily femicides, the expansion of healthcare or local and long-distance public transport will be mistaken. The military needs great roads, energy, telecommunications, AI, not bridges over which trams also chug. What will result from this is "impoverishment through militarization." Society is to be sworn to war readiness and renunciation. To this end, fears of war against "the Russians" are stoked daily, as if they were already standing in front of Berlin, armed with weapons. A mentality is propagated that every conflict can only be resolved through military victory, by wresting the enemy to the ground or "ruining" them. "Whatever it takes," even if it means the

death of millions of people. Because this is about war with weapons of mass destruction, AI-assisted, and even a nuclear super-disaster.

Humanity is being systematically brutalized – the Mediterranean Sea, a mass grave for refugees, is supposed to be considered normal. And the genocide of the Palestinian population, perpetrated by Israel's right-wing extremist government, broadcast on television and the internet for the past year and a half, and their living conditions, reduced to rubble by bombs, are supposed to be accepted as normal.

This genocide has been identified as such by various international organizations and, from the very beginning, has been understood and denounced as an outstanding crime against humanity in the global South, and increasingly in the West as well, by a wide variety of people, including many Jews. Undeterred, this attitude is being pursued, particularly in Germany, and is being met with the most vile slanders, including accusations of anti-Semitism. Solidarity with the Palestinians against this war is being silenced, instead of at least halting the supply of arms to Israel and demanding an end to the genocide.

Anyone who wants to be prepared for war needs the widespread lack of empathy, even with regard to all other current wars. The Federal Intelligence Service has the audacity to publicly state that Germany would prefer a continuation of the war between Ukraine and Russia until 2029!!! All wars fought worldwide over the redistribution of spheres of power and raw materials for capitalist economic growth are supported and fueled by arms deliveries from Europe and the USA.

Solidarity in society is to be eradicated by right-wing and racist agitation. Support for refugees, the unemployed, or those otherwise dependent on public assistance, which is sufficient to ensure a decent existence, is no longer to be seen as a social responsibility. The agitation against refugees and alleged parasites from before the last election still rings in people's ears. Even if all social benefits are slashed, this will not result in any improvement for those who still have jobs. Queer feminist achievements are to be rolled back. While it is obvious that a broad, diverse, and determined resistance movement is needed to halt and reverse this destructive development, the warmongers are doing everything in their power to prevent such a movement from coming into being. More and more anti-fascists, anti-capitalist and climate activists, and Kurdish and Turkish comrades are in prison. Mass proceedings are being brought against people involved in Palestine solidarity, and there are renewed professional bans against left-wing activists. This is the current political backdrop, which I will only briefly touch on here, against which this trial is taking place.

The claim that it was an unscrupulous gang that would sacrifice human lives for money—that it was just a few dangerous individuals left over from the uprising back then—is intended to delegitimize the history of resistance. This has nothing to do with reality!

I quote Burkhard Garweg on this: "The image being created depicts a violently marauding gang of robbers, dangerous to the public and even prepared to kill—and all for money... There is no reason to believe anything the police and judicial apparatus say, because they are motivated by the desire to delegitimize fundamental opposition and to create a climate in which state violence and repression appear justified."

I demand an immediate halt to the inflammatory manhunt against Burkhard Garweg and Volker Staub in all media and in all public places! There are repeated, large-scale police operations because one of the two is said to have been seen by bounty-hungry informers. A success of police and media incitement. This is absolutely threatening and irresponsible and must stop immediately.

Back to the trial: The charges, the prison conditions, which – even if it's no longer solitary confinement as they were initially – are partly determined by confused and hysterical security measures, the media coverage – everything conveys the idea that the RAF must be suppressed here. The political discussion, which is so important to me, as well as the development and maintenance of friendships, is systematically made seriously difficult for me. It is clearly the intention of the justice system to weaken me.

Why else are requests for visits rejected on absurd grounds? Visitors I've only just gotten to know, or with whom I've begun to manage to block out the three or four people listening from the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA), State Criminal Police Office (LKA), and prison (JVA) and have a normal conversation, are kept away from me with visiting bans. Many who dare to visit me are subsequently interrogated by either the public prosecutor's office or the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) and prosecuted with hefty fines for refusing to testify. The investigating authorities clearly have carte blanche here. Everything they say to me is meant to depress me.

The idea of treating this as a completely normal criminal case was doomed from the start. No one believes in it. Neither those who wish me many years in prison because I—like many others—still reject capitalism and patriarchy as inhumane, hostile to life, and destructive to nature, nor those who care about me and us, or even feel solidarity with us.

I thank everyone who has come here today, or who is watching from further afield in solidarity with what is happening here. I am fully aware of my situation. This trial is being

conducted with political calculation, despite claims to the contrary. So what should I expect here?