

# Solidarity action with FAU: German Anarcho-Syndicalist Union



On 29th January members of Organise!, the WSM and a few other comrades picketed the German Embassy in Ireland as part of an international day of solidarity with the Berlin branch of the "Freie Arbeiterinnen- und Arbeiter-Union" (Free Workers Union).

In January 2010 the Berlin Regional Court decided that the local branch of the FAU could no longer call itself a "union" or "grassroots union". This is the culmination of a series of legal manoeuvres by the management of the cinema "Neue Babylon Berlin GmbH" to hinder the strongest and most active workers' organisation in the company. This attack is tantamount to a de-facto ban of the union. In the opinion of the FAU, nobody should dictate to the workers how they should organise. "If it isn't overturned, this verdict will not only represent an affront against the FAU Berlin but also against any form of independent grassroots organising in Germany".

On January 29th and 30th, 2010, there were protests in at least 56 cities in 20 countries. The bosses at the Babylon Mitte Cinema are now trying to get the FAU Berlin charged with fines or even imprisoned.

The Leveller received reports of protests at Aachen (Germany), Berlin (Germany), Bonn (Germany), Darmstadt (Germany), Duisburg (Germany), Düsseldorf (Germany), Frankfurt/M (Germany), Fukuoka (Japan), Halle/Saale (Germany), Hamburg (Germany), Hannover (Germany), Karlsruhe (Germany), Kassel (Germany), Kiel (Germany), Leipzig (Germany), Moers (Germany), Munster

(Germany), Nurnberg (Germany), Recklinghausen (Germany), Schwerin (Germany), Alicante (Spain), Athens (Greece), Barcelona (Spain), Bern (Switzerland), Bilbao (Spain), Bratislava (Slovakia), Brussels (Belgium), Dhaka (Bangladesh), Florence (Italy), Granada (Spain), Goteborg (Sweden), Jerez (Spain), Katrineholm (Sweden), Kiev (Ukraine), Copenhagen (Denmark), Leeds (UK), Lille (France), Liverpool (UK), London (UK), Madrid (Spain), Malaga (Spain), Marseille (France), Oslo (Norway), Paris (France), Philadelphia (USA), Phoenix (USA), Plauen (Germany), Stuttgart (Germany), Thessaloniki (Greece), Trieste (Italy), 2 x Valencia (Spain), Wellington (New Zealand), Wien (Austria), Zaragoza (Spain) so far.

The FAU Berlin said:

"We'd like to thank all those of you in Germany and all around the planet who

expressed their solidarity with the FAU Berlin, and their disgust with the management of the Babylon Mitte Cinema and the scandalous verdicts of the Berlin courts. We are deeply touched that we have been the cause of one of the biggest waves of international solidarity within the anti-authoritarian workers movement in the past years. We also would like to thank all those in Germany and other corners of the planet who took action but did not send in reports. And of course those like the Freeters union in Japan, who will take action in the coming days. The struggle has just begun. We were therefore glad to hear that many more unions and organisations - though they did not manage to do anything this time - have announced that they will take action next time".

For reports and any further information please contact [soli-faub@fau.org](mailto:soli-faub@fau.org)



## Contacts

### Anarchist and Anarcho-Syndicalist Organisations

**International Workers Association**  
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+381 63263775  
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**Organise!**  
13-15 Clarence Street, Belfast, BT2 8DY  
[organiseireland@yahoo.ie](mailto:organiseireland@yahoo.ie)

**Revolutionary Anarcha-Feminist Group (RAG)**  
PO Box 10785, Dublin 1.  
<http://ragdublin.blogspot.com>

**Solidarity Federation**  
British section of the anarcho-syndicalist IWA  
PO Box 17773, London, SE8 4WX  
[Intsec@solfed.org.uk](mailto:Intsec@solfed.org.uk)

**Workers Solidarity Movement (Irish Platformist Group)**  
PO Box 1528, Dublin 8.  
[wsm\\_ireland@yahoo.com](mailto:wsm_ireland@yahoo.com)  
[www.wsm.ie](http://www.wsm.ie)

### Other groups, networks, campaigns and resources

**Alliance for Choice**  
Abortion Rights Group in Northern Ireland  
<http://allianceforchoiceni.org>

**Antifa Belfast**  
[antifabelfast@googlemail.com](mailto:antifabelfast@googlemail.com)

**Choice Ireland**  
Abortion rights action group in the Republic of Ireland  
[Choiceireland@gmail.com](mailto:Choiceireland@gmail.com)  
<http://choiceireland.org>

**Galway Social Space**  
24 Middle Street, Galway.

**Just Books Collective**  
Distributing Anarchist and radical books since 1978  
13-15 Clarence Street, Belfast, BT2 8DY  
Email: [justbooks@rocketmail.com](mailto:justbooks@rocketmail.com)

**Libcom**  
Libertarian communist online resource with forums, library and global news  
<http://libcom.org>

**Revolt Video**  
Radical Video Collective  
<http://revoltvideo.blogspot.com>

**Seomra Spraoi**  
Dublin Social Centre  
10 Belvedere Court, Dublin 1.  
<http://www.seomraspraoi.org>

**Shell to Sea**  
Campaign to move Shell's gas pipeline offshore from County Mayo  
<http://www.shelltosea.com>

**Solidarity Books**  
43 Douglas Street, Cork.  
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**Warzone Collective**  
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