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# THOMAS SPIESS



A GERMAN INTERNATIONALIST, MARTYRED IN THE  
FREE MOUNTAINS OF KURDISTAN

JUNE 2023 - XAKURKÊ

"NOW IT IS TIME TO SHOW THE ENEMY THE ROPES!"

Thomas Spiess' youth was marked by a intense interest in political theories and movements of emancipation. This led him to ultimately join the PKK in 2016, where he took on the name Azad Şêrger. He was decribed as a "very able guerillero who displayed a strong internationalist spirit, always being a source of inspiration for his comrades." This year, he and two other comrades fell Şehîd in an attack of the Turkish army.

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# DELAL ŞORES



MARTYRED IN THE FREE MOUNTAINS OF KURDISTAN

SEPTEMBER 2022 - ZAP REGION

“THE ENEMY TRIES TO DESTROY OUR PSYCHE WITH ALL HIS MEANS. LET HIM COME HERE AND SEE HOW WE DESTROY HIS PSYCHOLOGY.”

She was active for long time in the Youth movement. There she was doing press work, interviewing and portraying the guerrilla and always ready to help new fighters. With a lot of Initiative in her work, she never lost her smile that came from the depth of her heart. She was martyred by an attack from the Turkish state with illegal chemical weapons.

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# FRED HAMPTON



ORGANIZING THE COMMUNITY MEANS DEFENDING IT!

DEZEMBER 1969 - CHICAGO

“WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT RACISM NOT WITH RACISM, BUT WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT WITH SOLIDARITY. WE SAY WE'RE NOT GOING TO FIGHT CAPITALISM WITH BLACK CAPITALISM, BUT WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT IT WITH SOCIALISM.”

Fred Hampton fought to educate and to organize within the Black community. He further promoted the struggle of the working class man, women and the youth. His political practice reached from organizing school strikes and walk-out's to creating different social programs as well as self-defense militias in the community.

He became a martyr during a police operation.

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# BARAN MAWA



ORGANISING THE REVOLUTION WITH YOUTH SPIRIT

JULY 2018 - COLEMÊRG

"NOT ONE OF US CAPITULATED. THE WILL OF NOT A SINGLE PERSON BROKE. OUR RESISTANCE AS WELL COULD NOT BE BROKEN."

He made great contributions to the founding of the Komalên Ciwan to its development. It was through his efforts and perspectives that the Ciwanen Şoreşger youth movement was organized in Rojava when the revolution there was still developing. Together with him, a generation of revolutionary youth in Rojava developed. He was also instrumental in building self-defense structures, the youth vanguard, in the North of Kurdistan.

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# AURORA PICORNELL



MARTYRED IN THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR

JANUARY 1937 - PALMA DE MALLORCA

**¡NO PASARÁN!**

As a young woman she got involved in the Communist Party of Spain, where she was one of the main leaders of the Balearic Federation. At the age of 16 she published many articles in the communist newspaper Nuestra Palabra ("Our Word"). She was 24 years old when she fell in the fight against the Franco regime.

# MALATHI



MARTYRED IN THE INDIAN-TAMIL WAR

OKTOBER 1987 - KOPAY, YALPPNAM

"I SAW THE COURAGE OF OTHER GIRLS WHO WERE JOINING THE MOVEMENT AND DECIDED THAT THIS WAS REALLY THE ONLY WAY TO SURVIVE."  
-KALA, 23 YEARS A CADRE OF THE TAMIL MOVEMENT

She was the first woman who was martyred in the revolutionary Tamil movement. At 20 years old, she died and became immortal as a symbol for the young Tamil women who continued her anti-colonial struggle. To this day she is remembered as vanguard.

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# RAFAEL AND EDUARDO VERGARA TOLEDO



MARTYRED IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST THE  
PINOCHET DICTARORSHIP

MARCH 1985 - CHILE

“DON'T ASK ME TO BE PACIFIST. I NEVER WILL BE! THE MONTH OF MARCH COMES AND THE YOUTH COME TO ME AGAIN... I SEE THE SMILE OF RAFAEL IN EVERY CHILD, IN EVERY YOUTH WHO GOES OUT TO FIGHT. THE SERENITY OF PABLO, THE ELOQUENCE OF EDUARDO, SO THIS IS WHO I AM, COMPAÑEROS.”

LUISA TOLEDO (MOTHER OF RAFAEL AND EDUARDO)

The two brothers were martyred at the age of 18 and 20 years during an operation of the Chilean police. They took an active part in the resistance movement against the Pinochet dictatorship. They became symbols of the Youth movement in Chile.

The day they were martyred is known as the “Day of the Young Combatant”.

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# LALLA FATMA N'SOUMER



## LEADER IN THE KABYLE STRUGGLE

SEPTEMBER 1863 - PRISION OF BENI SLIMANE

**“YOUR SOLDIERS WENT OUT OF THEIR RANKS TO PENETRATE MY VILLAGE. MY VILLAGE DEFENDED ITSELF. I AM NOW YOUR CAPTIVE. I HAVE NO REPROACH TO YOU. YOU SHOULDN'T MAKE ANY REPROACH TO ME. IT WAS WRITTEN THIS WAY!”**

As a young woman she was struggling against the French conquest of her country Kabylia. In 1854, she was 20 years old when she became the leader of the resistance movement of the indigenus Kabyle people. That same year, she won the battle of Haut Sebaou, her first victory against the French. The colonial troops were forced to withdraw, and the villages retained their independence.



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# BAO LOUNG



A VIETNAMESE REVOLUTIONARY WOMAN

OKTOBER 1987 - KOPAY, YALPPNAM

**“THE PROMISE WE MUST MAKE IS NOT OF MARRIAGE,  
BUT OF COMMITMENT TO THE REVOLUTION.”**

As a young woman she joined the Vietnamese Revolutionary Youth League. She was a great force in the organizing of young women. With them she discussed the connection between the French colonialism and their specific oppression as women. After her arrest she became the first female political prisoner in Vietnam. Her revolutionary name means “Precious Honesty”.

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# EVA M. STEIGER



## FOLLOWING THE PATH OF THE ECOLOGICAL STRUGGLE TO KURDISTAN

NOVEMBER 2019 - REGION OF GARÊ

“THIS WAR IS NOT JUST THE WAR OF THE KURDS, IT IS THE WAR OF EVERYONE OPPRESSED BY THE SYSTEM, ESPECIALLY WOMEN. FOR THIS REASON, WE MUST STRUGGLE AT EVERY MOMENT OF OUR LIVES TO ACHIEVE WHAT WE BELIEVE IN. NO ONE CAN BE FREE UNTIL EVERYONE IS FREE!”

In the Kurdish Liberation Movement she chose the name Elefteria Hambi. It is an expression of her connection with the German ecological struggle and the Hambach forest occupation. Her search for truth lead her to build a bridge between the two struggles.

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# LORENZO ORSETTI



AN INTERNATIONALIST DEFENDING THE ROJAVA  
REVOLUTION

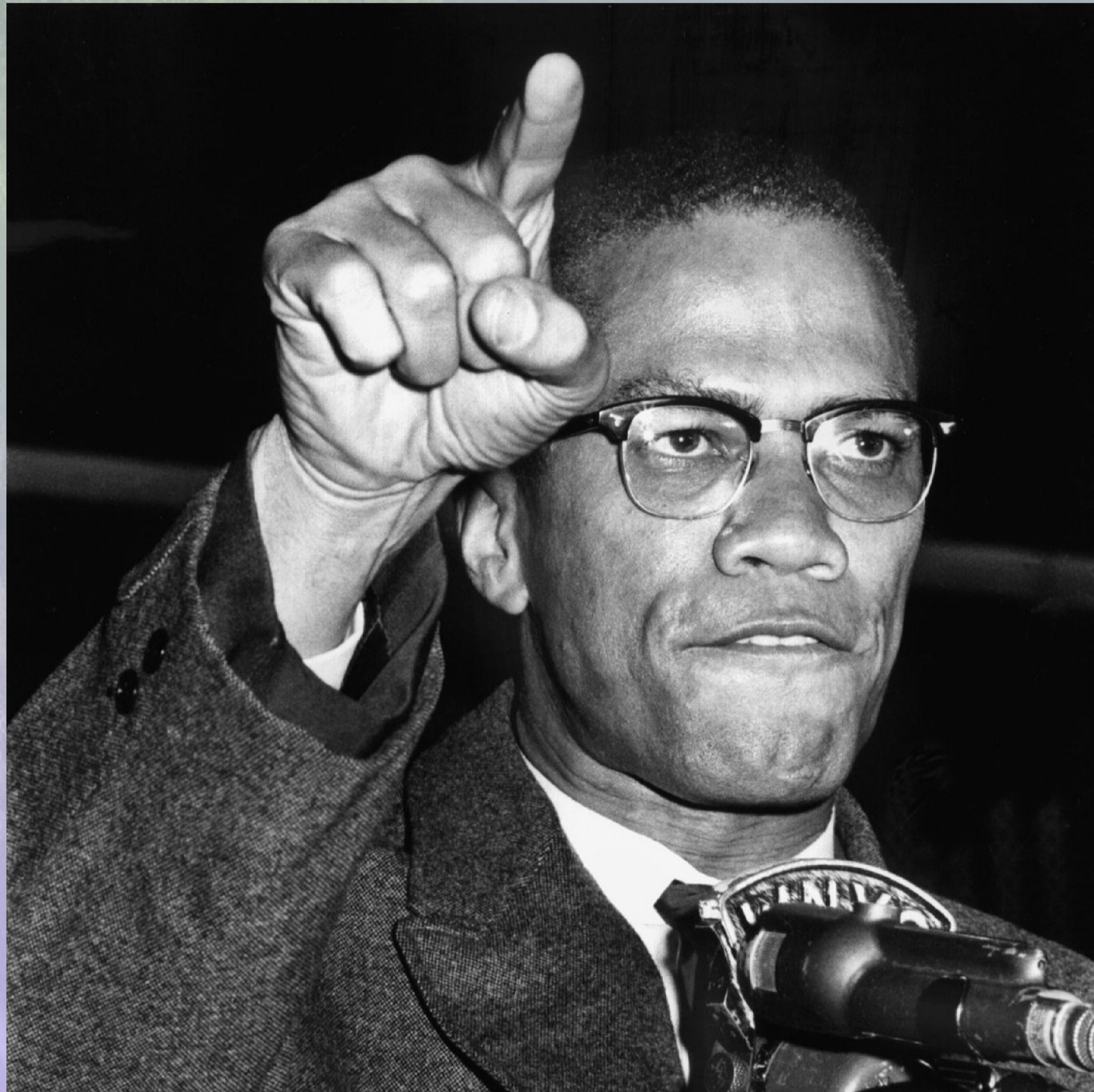
MARCH 2019 - DEIR EZ-ZOR

“EVERY STORM BEGINS WITH A SINGLE RAINDROP.  
YOU MUST BE THAT RAINDROP.”

As a revolutionary Internationalist from Italy, he joined the People's Defense Units (YPG) in 2017 to fight against the forces of ISIS. He continued his struggle in Kurdistan under the name Tekoşer Pilling.

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# MALCOLM X



REVOLUTIONARY LEADER OF THE BLACK MOVEMENT

FEBRUARY 1965 - NEW YORK

“IT IS A TIME FOR MARTYRS NOW, AND IF I AM TO BE ONE,  
IT WILL BE FOR THE CAUSE OF BROTHERHOOD.  
THAT’S THE ONLY THING THAT CAN SAVE THIS COUNTRY.”

Malcom X is one of the pioneers of the Black Liberation movement. As such he didn't just seek to advance rights, but fought for complete emancipation, not excluding militant means. On the basis of this thought the Black Panther Party was founded.

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# JAKOB RIEMER



INTERNATIONALIST GUERILLERO

JULY 2018 - NORTHERN KURDISTAN

"THE YOUTH OF THE WORLD SHOULD STRIVE FOR REVOLUTION. THE YOUTH IN EUROPE SHOULD REALIZE THAT YOU CANNOT LIVE WITH THE SYSTEM. THE SYSTEM DECEIVES SOCIETY WITH ITS LIES."

A German young man, Jakob joined the Liberation movement in Kurdistan in 2013. He was 19 years old, when he made the decision to give his whole life to the revolution and become part of an International fight.

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# LEPA RADIĆ



MARTYRED IN THE JUGOSLAVIAN RESISTANCE

FEBRUARY 1943 - BOSANSKA KRUPA

“LONG LIVE THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND PARTISANS! FIGHT, PEOPLE,  
FOR YOUR FREEDOM! DO NOT SURRENDER TO THE EVILDOERS! I WILL  
BE KILLED, BUT THERE ARE THOSE WHO WILL AVENGE ME!”

As a young woman partisan she fought against fascism in Yugoslavia. She was 17 years old when she was caught and hanged by soldiers. She refused to give any information about her comrades leading up to her execution.

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# CLÉMENT MÉRIC



ANTI-FACIST YOUTH

JUNE 2013- PARIS

“WE’LL THINK BETTER, WE’LL UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER BETTER, SO WE CAN CARRY ON FIGHTING.”

He was active in the French Anti-Facist Left.  
When he was 18 years old, he got attacked and killed by fascists.

# LEYLA ŞAYLEMEZ



MARTYRED IN THE HEART OF CAPITALISM

JANUARY 2013 PARIS

"I HAVE ACHIEVED MY GREATEST GOAL OF GOING TO THE MOUNTAINS OF FREEDOM."

In the Kurdish Liberation Movement she called herself Ronahî. In the young women's structures Komalên Jinên Ciwan, she was the first to be martyred. Together with two other comrades, Sakine Cansiz and Fidan Dogan, she got assassinated in a complot by the Turkish Secret Service.



# FARAŞIN SÎDAR



## ADVANCING THE STRUGGLE FOR SELF-ADMINISTRATION

FEBRUARY 2016 - REGION OF NORTH KURDISTAN (CITY OF CIZÎR)

“WOMEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO PROTECT THEMSELVES IN  
EVERY POSSIBLE WAY FROM THE PHYSICAL AND  
IDEOLOGICAL ATTACKS OF THE STATE AND MEN.”

YPS-JIN

After the preparations for the Autonomous Administrations in the cities of Kurdistan, such as Sûr, Cizîr and Nisêbîn, comrade Faraşin participated in the victorious resistance first in Sûr, then in Cizîrê. She became a part of the YPS-JIN (women's units in the cities) and put up a heroic struggle against the enemy. She became immortal on February 16th, 2016.

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# MICHAEL PANSER



## THE TRUTH-SEEKER WHO FOUND THE FREE MOUNTAINS OF KURDISTAN

DEZEMBER 2018 - MEDYA DEFENSE ZONES

"I WANT TO LIVE A LAUGHING REVENGE AGAINST THE LONG TIME OF PREVENTED LOVE AND BLOCKED DESIRE, WHICH DOES NOT DESTROY, BUT FORCES EVERYTHING WRONG TO CHANGE AND TO RECOGNIZE THE TRUTH."

Born in 1988 to a socialist family in East Germany, he began to question the social upheavals of the collapse of real socialism at a young age. His analysis of the shortcomings of the German left and his search for a free life eventually lead him to the Kurdish guerilla, where he left a big impact on the culture and internationalist works. He got murdered in a Turkish drone strike.

# NADIR ŞÊX HESEN



MARTYRED AS AN ARAB INTERNATIONALIST

APRIL 1986 - HAKKARI (NORTH KURDISTAN)

“FATHER, IF YOU KNEW WHAT THE TURKISH STATE IS DOING TO THE KURDS, YOU WOULD ALSO JOIN THE STRUGGLE.”

Nadir Şêx Hesên, or as his comrades called him, Eziz Ereb, was born in 1964 in Northern Syria. From an early age, he rejected the Arab chauvinism of the Syrian regime. In the early 1980's, he went to Libya and joined the Communist Party.

This is where he met fighters of the PKK and joined the Apoist movement. In 1986, he fell in Hakkari, Northern Kurdistan in a battle against the Turkish occupying army. He is the first Arab martyr of the movement.

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# ANDREA WOLF



FROM GERMANY TO KURDISTAN, NEVER BETRAYING  
HER REVOLUTIONARY IDEALS

OCTOBER 1998 - REGION OF VAN IN NORTHERN KURDISTAN

“MY CONCEPT OF INTERNATIONALISM HAS BEEN RESHAPED. UNTIL NOW, IT HAS PROCEEDED FROM A SCHEMATIC ORDER. FIRST BUILD SOMETHING HERE AND THEN WITH OTHERS. BUT IF WE ARE INTERNATIONALISTS, WE CAN AND MUST DO BOTH AT THE SAME TIME, AND WE CAN PARTICIPATE IN A STRUGGLE IN ANOTHER PART OF THE WORLD IN ORDER TO LEARN, BECAUSE OUR HORIZON DOES NOT STOP AT OUR OWN NATIONAL BORDERS.”

She was the first internationalist woman from Germany who fell martyr in the Kurdish revolution. Andrea's political consciousness crystallized in her early youth. She formed her militant personality in the German squatting movement, anti-capitalist and ecological protests. In 1996 Andrea goes to Kurdistan where she takes the name of Ronahî. She got martyred in a Turkish attack

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# OLGA BENARIO



COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL AND ANTI-FACIST FIGHTER

APRIL 1942 - CONCENTRATION CAMP BERNBURG

“I FOUGHT FOR THE JUST AND THE GOOD, TO MAKE THE WORLD BETTER. IF I MUST SAY GOODBYE NOW, I PROMISE I WON'T GIVE YOU ANY CAUSE TO BE ASHAMED OF ME, NOT TO MY LAST BREATH.”

Olga Benario was interested in politics at an early age. After turning 18, she went to Berlin and got involved in the Communist movement. As a young woman she played an important role in the the Communist Youth International. She took care of every task with great responsibility. When caught by the Nazis and transported to a concentration camp, she continued to resist until the end.

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# MINA KEŞVAR KEMAL



VANGUARD OF THE AFGHAN WOMEN'S STRUGGLE

FEBRUARY 1987 - AFGHANISTAN

“THE MIDNIGHT SCREAMS OF BEREAVED MOTHERS STILL RESONATES IN MY EARS. I’VE SEEN BAREFOOT, WANDERING AND HOMELESS CHILDREN. I’VE SEEN GIANT HENNA-HANDED BRIDES WITH MOURNING CLOTHES. I’VE SEEN THE GIANT WALLS OF PRISONS SWALLOW FREEDOM IN THEIR RAVENOUS STOMACH, I’M THE WOMAN WHO HAS AWOKEN, I’VE FOUND MY PATH AND WILL NEVER TURN BACK.”

As a young student she founded the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) fighting for Freedom, Democracy and Women's Rights.

# HAKI KARER



MARTYRED AS THE FIRST PKK INTERNATIONALIST

MAI 1977 - DÎLOK (ANTEP)

"HAKI KARER PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE FOUNDING OF THE PKK. AS A TURK, HE MADE A BRAVE EFFORT FOR THE KURDISH LIBERATION MOVEMENT. FROM HIS SACRIFICE THOUSANDS OF HAKI KARERS SPRANG UP ALL OVER KURDISTAN."

CHIHAN DENIZ

Haki Karer was part of Turkish Left student circles where he met Abdullah Öcalan in 1972. He never looked back and started working tirelessly for the Kurdish anti-colonial fight. Together with Kemal Pîr, both co-founders of the struggle, he laid the foundation for the Internationalism of the PKK. His comrades founded the party after his martyrdom, convinced that nothing less would do justice to his memory.

# KEMAL PÎR



MARTYRED IN THE PRISON RESISTANCE

SEPTEMBER 1982 - AMED (DIYARBAKIR)

"WE LOVE THIS LIFE SO MUCH THAT WE ARE  
READY TO DIE FOR IT!"

Kemal Pîr was born in 1952 to a Laz family. Together with Haki Karer, he joined the first cell of the Apoist revolutionary group in the tides of the 1970's Ankara student movement. Successfully working in agitation and organizing new militants, he escaped from the clutches of the state twice before being brought to the torture dungeons of Amed (Diyarbakır). There he participated in a death fasting which is remembered as the Resistance of July 14th.



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# SAKINE CANSIZ



A SYMBOL FOR THE STRUGGLE OF  
THE KURDISH WOMAN

JANUARY 2013 - PARIS

"IT IS SO BEAUTIFUL TO ARRIVE TRUTHFULLY AT A CONVICTION, AN IDEAL, THROUGH A PATH OF CONTRADICTIONS AND STRUGGLES. I RAISE MY VOICE AND I REPEAT: I AM THE HAPPIEST PERSON IN THE WORLD BECAUSE I PARTICIPATE IN THIS STRUGGLE"

Sakine (Sara) is one of the vanguard women in who participated in the founding conference of the PKK. She worked with great commitment in the organizing of young women. After her arrest in 1979, she put up a legendary resistance in the prison of Amed (Diyarbakır). When she was released, she continued laying important foundations for the struggle, from the free mountains of Kurdistan to Europe, where she was murdered in 2013 by the Turkish Secret Service.

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# GHASSAN KANAFANI



A DEFENDER OF THE PALESTINIAN CULTURE

JULY 1972 - BEIRUT

"EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD CAN BE ROBBED AND STOLEN, EXCEPT ONE THING; THIS ONE THING IS THE LOVE THAT EMANATES FROM A HUMAN BEING TOWARDS A SOLID COMMITMENT TO A CONVICTION OR CAUSE".

Ghassan Kanafani was born in Akka but had to flee at a young age from the Israeli occupation. A teacher to Palestinian children and the he was the editorial director of the party newspaper (al Hadaf) of the revolutionary organisation PFLP committed to his people. He developed a clear political consciousness. For his work with the PFLP he became a target of Mossad and was martyred through a car bomb.

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# THOMAS SANKARA



A SOCIALIST POLITICIAN FROM THE  
"LAND OF THE HONEST MEN"

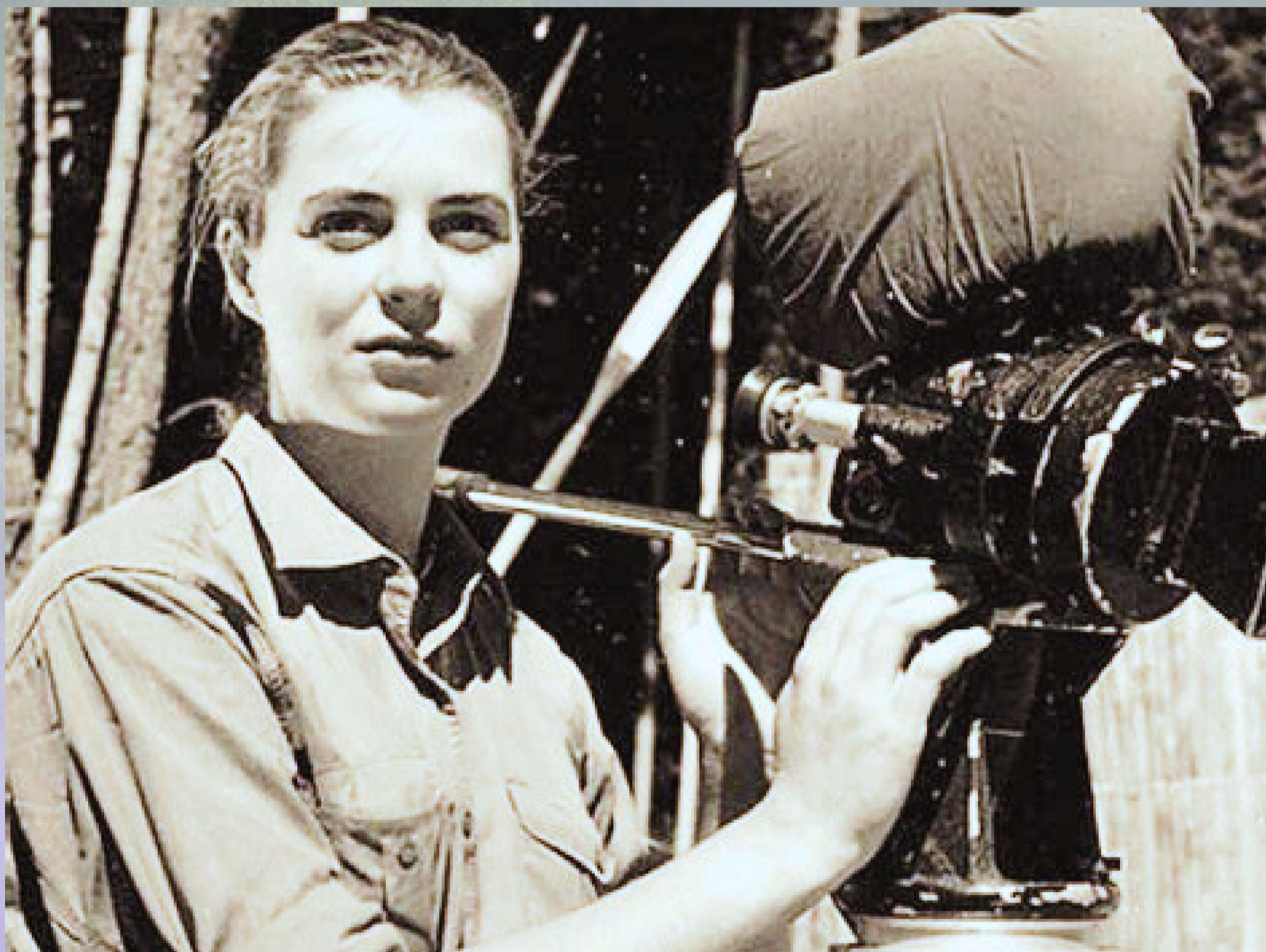
OCTOBER 1987 - BURKINA FASO

"THE REVOLUTION AND WOMEN'S LIBERATION GO TOGETHER. WE DO NOT TALK OF WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION AS AN ACT OF CHARITY OR OUT OF A SURGE OF HUMAN COMPASSION. IT IS A BASIC NECESSITY FOR THE REVOLUTION TO TRIUMPH. WOMEN HOLD UP THE OTHER HALF OF THE SKY."

Thomas Sankara was an anti-colonial Pan-Africanist and president of Burkina Faso. Taking a stance against corruption and imperialism all his life, he used his time in power to implement vast social reforms that addressed social inequality, public health, education and women's rights. He was killed in a coup d'état with international support.

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# MONICA ERTL



## THE AVENGER OF CHÊ GUEVARA

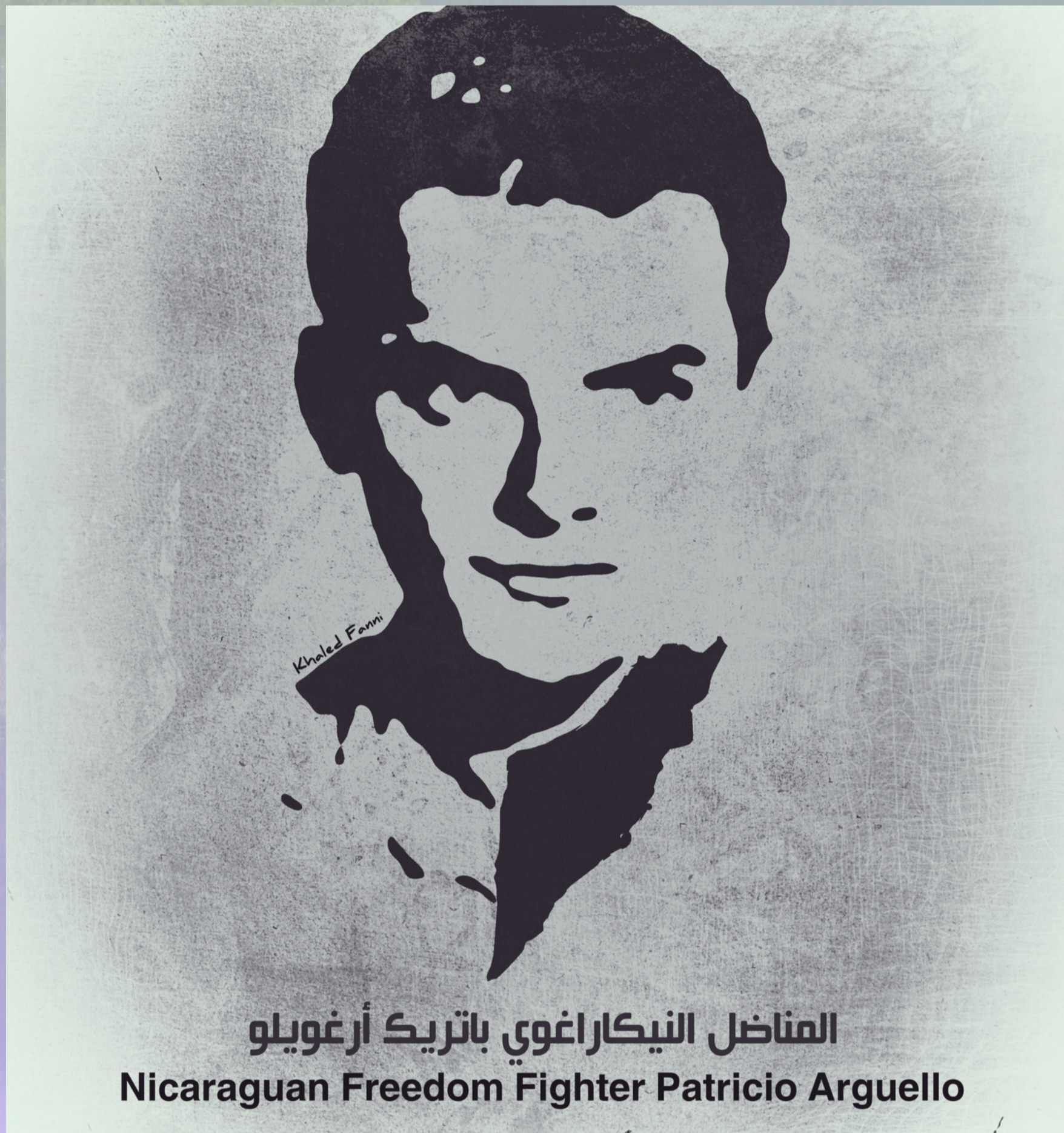
MAI 1973 - BOLIVIA

# "VICTORIA O MUERTE!"

Monica Ertl joined the militant underground of the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN) in Bolivia.

She conducted the assassination of Roberto Quintanilla Pereira, the Bolivian ex-chief of secret services who was responsible for the murder and mutilation of Ché Guevara. She was also part of an effort to bring the SS-torturer Klaus Barbie to justice. In 1973 she was killed by state forces.

# PATRICK ARGÜELLO



MARTYRED IN AN ANTI-COLONIAL ACTION

SEPTEMBER 1970 - LONDON

"THE MASSES OF PEOPLES OF THE INTIFADA PROCLAIM LOUD AND CLEAR: NO VOICE WILL DROWN OUT THE VOICE OF THE INTIFADA! NO GOING BACK!"

Patrick Argüello was militant of Nicaraguan and US-American decedence. Following his Marxist-Leninist convictions and analysis, he and other Sandinist comrades sought out military training from other Liberation movements. This is how he got in contact with the Popular Front of the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). He participated together with Leila Khaled in a plane hijacking operation in September 1970, where he got shot and martyred.

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# MONTE MELKONIAN



FROM THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS ROOTS,  
HE WAS ABLE TO LEAD A GLOBAL STRUGGLE

APRIL 1993 - ARZACH

"WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN BENEVOLENT FRIENDS, THE INEVITABLE TRIUMPH OF JUSTICE, OR COVERTLY AND CLEVERLY MANIPULATING THE SUPERPOWERS. IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL SELF-DETERMINATION, THEN WE OURSELVES, THE ARMENIAN PEOPLE, WILL HAVE TO FIGHT FOR IT. WE BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF ORGANIZED MASSES AND IN THE CAPACITY OF OUR PEOPLE TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE. WE BELIEVE IN REVOLUTION."

Monte Melkonian was a scholar and militant who fought along side many peoples. Growing up in the US, he connected with the historic oppression of his people in Armenia. From there he became a revolutionary who took part in the the Vietnam war, the Iranian revolution, the Lebanese civil war, actions of the Palestinian liberation movement and finally in the war in Arzach where he fell as a martyr.

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# MANUEL TERÁN



MARTYRED BY THE POLICE IN THE FIGHT FOR THE  
ATLANTA FOREST

JANUAR 2023 - ATLANTA

"BILLIONAIRES ARE CAUSING MASS EXTINCTION AND CAN ONLY BE STOPPED BY COLLECTIVE ACTION. WE NEED PEOPLE ON THE FRONTLINES, AND ROBUST SUPPLY NETWORKS. WE NEED TO LOVE AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER!"

Going by the name of Tortuga / Tortugita, they were part of an array of environmental and social-revolutionary activists that squatted an Atlanta forest, in order to prevent a mega-project of the police force. During an eviction of the area, he was shot 54 times by a police officer.

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# CAMILLO CATRILLANCA



MARTYRED BY CARABINERO ON HIS WALLMAPÚ  
HOMELAND

NOVEMBER 2018 - LA ARAUCARIA

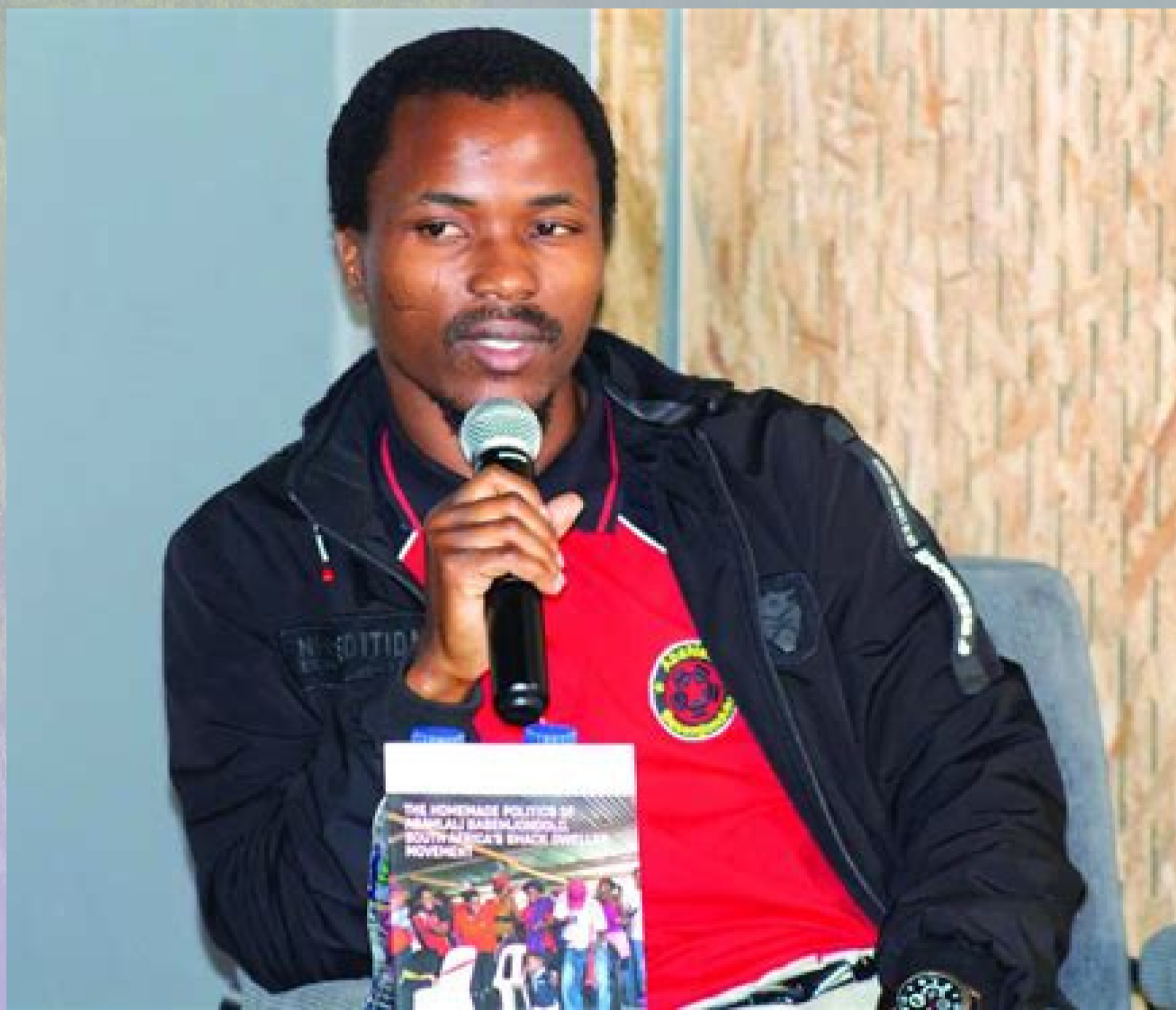
"MAPU MEW IÑCHIÑ TA NGEN-NGENKÜLELAIÑ,  
IÑCHIÑ MAY TA MAPU NGEIÑ."

Camillo Catrillanca was an indigenous Mapuche activist and a local leader in his community. Special police units came on his property and shot him in the head. His death sparked mass protest of the Mapuche movement, that has a very strong anti-colonial fighting spirit and history.



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# LINDOKUHLE MNGUNI



## ORGANIZING THE YOUTH, ORGANIZING LIFE

AUGUST 2022 - DURBAN, S.A.

"THEIR STRATEGY TO KEEP US BEHIND BARS IS NOT WORKING AND THE ONLY CHOICE THEY WILL BE LEFT WITH IS TO KILL US, BUT WE WON'T STOP...THEY WILL KILL US. WE EVEN SAID, 'IT IS SOCIALISM OR DEATH!' NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES, EVEN IF IT MEANS DEATH, BECAUSE WE CAN'T CONTINUE LIVING IN THESE INHUMANE CONDITIONS."

Lindokuhle Mnguni was a community organizer with the South-African movement Abahli baseMjondolo, where he was the chairman of the Youth Committee. He fought for people's autonomy and believed in the necessity of food sovereignty. He was assassinated in his home in the eKhenana commune together with two other leaders from the movement in 2022.

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# HANS BEIMLER



MARTYRED IN THE INTERNATIONAL BRIGADES OF THE  
SPANISH CIVIL WAR

AUGUST 2022 - DURBAN, S.A.

"OUR MISSION IS TO MOBILIZE ALL THE WORKERS AND OPPRESSED CLASSES  
(...) TO THE DECISIVE FIGHT AGAINST THE MURDER-FACISM AND FOR THE  
LIBERATION OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS."

Hans Beimler was a communist politician who took part in the German revolutionary councils in 1919. As a central figure in radical politics, he was brought to the KZ Dachau by the newly installed Nazi-Regime. From there he fled in the uniform of a SS-officer that he had killed to revolutionary Spain. He participated in the Inter-brigades and was shot in the effort to defend Madrid.