

„The Rote Hilfe (Red Aid) is a leftist organization engaged in providing protection and support. It is independent of any party and transcends the various streams of the political left. To the best of its abilities, the Red Aid supports solidarity for all those, irrespective of party membership or weltanschauung, who are subject of repression in Germany because of their political activities.

Political activities in this sense include activities on behalf of the goals of the worker's movement or of international solidarity, the fight against fascism, sexism, and racism, the fight for democracy, unionist struggles, as well as the fights against antisemitism, militarism and war. Our support goes to all those who lose their jobs, who are subject to occupational bans, who are dragged before the courts or sentenced to fines or imprisonment or who suffer other disadvantages. Moreover, the Red Aid proclaims its solidarity with all those persecuted by the forces of reaction in all countries of the Earth”

Sect. 2 of the Red Aid Charter

As of the fall of 2018, more than 9,500 people all over Germany are members of the Red Aid, with active political work being done in more than fifty local and regional groups. Over the last few years, the Red Aid has turned into one of the largest member organizations of the left. Its members come from all parts of the German left, including members of

- ★ the communist, socialist and anarchist movements,
- ★ the peace and antimilitarist movements,
- ★ the movement against nuclear power and nuclear armaments and the movement against the “Castor” transports of nuclear waste,
- ★ internationalist and anti-imperialist groups,
- ★ the ecological movement,
- ★ legal aid groups and those fighting for civic and human rights and liberties,
- ★ the antifascist movement,
- ★ the feminist movement and women's/lesbian groups,
- ★ antiracist groups and the refugee movement,
- ★ trade unions,
- ★ groups engaged in workers' struggle and diverse other social struggles.

Accordingly, the Red Aid has lived up to its character as an organization transcending the various streams of the political left and has shown that it is possible to conduct common political activities on that basis.

Solidarity is Our Weapon

The Red Aid as an organization forming part of a country-wide network is able to compare and analyze acts of repression (e.g. in the “Rote Hilfe Zeitung”, the quarterly magazine published by the organization) and to bring together those combatting repression (e.g. in country-wide campaigns). The Red Aid does not aim to “replace” local anti-repression groups (such as Ermittlungsausschüsse or “Fact Finding Committees”, Bunte Hilfen or “colorful aid groups”, mutual support funds, committees for the incarcerated etc.), but to complement their work with our common activities. In most cases, those facing repression for their political activities will receive support from the political circles responsible for these activities. We feel that this self-evident form of solidarity is the most important of all. However, there will always be people who, e.g., participate in a demonstration on their own and who do not have ready access to support networks in case of, e.g., an arrest. And sometimes the strain of monetary costs or of public outreach activities simply cannot be borne by one group alone. It is in these cases that a nationwide organization with many members can provide aid and support. Similarly, many political cases are drawn out over many years, some only arise years after the groups conducting the political activities have ceased to exist in their original form.

The continuing political activities of the Red Aid aim to prevent repression from becoming an individual problem and to protect individuals and groups against feeling left alone with the costs of trials or with periods of imprisonment.

Support for the individual is always meant also to strengthen the movement as a whole. We wish to ensure



that everyone participating in political struggles does so knowing that they will not be left alone if their activities lead to prosecution. The state and the forces of reaction are trying to combat left wing politics as a whole by targeting individuals, by way of exemplary punishment, a strategy based on isolating certain people or groups from the rest of the left and from society more generally. In fighting against this strategy of isolation and division, the Red Aid bases itself on the principle of solidarity. We wish to work together in combating the ruling class policy of division and intimidation – leaving aside for the moment all differences within the left concerning political theory and practice. We thus wish to encourage all members of the left to continue fighting for their political goals.

What Does the Red Aid Do?

Probably the most important task of the Red Aid is to provide financial support in cases of indictments and court cases. Our goal is for the financial pressure of court costs, fees and lawyer's costs to be borne collectively. Accordingly, upon a motion by the person suffering repression, the Red Aid carries a share of currently 50% of all costs incurred – in cases of dire need, a follow-up motion for additional monetary support can be made. In the year 2017, the Red Aid was able to pay out more than 380,000 Euros in monetary support in this manner. One of the basic principles of the Red Aid is that it also supports non-members when they are subject to repression based on their political activities. Besides the general funds for monetary support, there are frequently calls for donations covering specific causes.

However, the Red Aid does not see itself as a “Red Charity Organization” or a leftwing legal expenses insuran-

ce. Accordingly, it provides not only monetary, but also political support. Such support can take the form of calling for donations, organizing solidarity events, sending observers and supporters to court dates, and taking care of the needs of political prisoners. In addition, the Red Aid has set itself the task of combatting political repression in a more general sense. Accordingly, ever since the founding of the Red Aid, we have tried to educate people about various forms of political repression and about the institutions engaged in that repression (police, state security police, secret service agencies, the military and the judiciary) not only in the context of demonstrations, but also much earlier. By organizing presentations, by publishing leaflets and pamphlets, we wish to work towards a state of affairs in which activists know how to protect themselves and others against injuries and arrests and what rights they (at least formally) have. The Red Aid is also engaged more generally in the fight against reforms of the law on demonstrations leading to further restrictions, against “state security laws”, against a slashing of the rights of the defense, against solitary confinement and torture, against restrictions of freedom of speech and of other civic rights and liberties.



Declaration of membership ★ Change of the current address / bank account / amount ★ ROTE HILFE E.V., please tick where appropriate and write in capital letters!

I hereby join the Rote Hilfe e.V.
 I am also interested in active participation
 I am a member of the Rote Hilfe and I would like to change my membership fee / my bank account details / my address
 I wish to receive the email newsletter of the Rote Hilfe in order to be informed about current repression.
 I will pay my membership dues to the bank account of the Rote Hilfe e.V. by standing bank order with the subject *Mitgliedsbeitrag*
 IBAN: DE25 2605 0001 0056 0362 39, BIC: NOLADE21GOE, Sparkasse Göttingen
 or
 By signing this mandate form, you authorise the National Executive Board of the Rote Hilfe e.V. to send instructions to your bank to debit your account in accordance with the instructions from the Rote Hilfe.
 As part of your rights, you are entitled to a refund from your bank under the terms and conditions of your agreement with your bank. A refund must be claimed within 8 weeks starting from the date on which your account was debited. Fees that might be charged if the bank account lacks sufficient funds are at the expense of the account holder and can also be withdrawn from the named account.

First and Last Name of (new) member _____
 Street address _____
 Postal code / Place of residence _____
 Telephone number _____
 E-mail _____
 Name and Location of the bank _____ BIC _____
 IBAN _____
 Date / Signature of the (new) member _____

I wish to pay a **regular** membership fee of _____
 EUR 90 annually | other amount _____
 EUR 45 semi-annually | other amount _____
 EUR 22.50 quarterly | other amount _____
 EUR 7.50 monthly | other amount _____

I wish to pay a higher **solidarity** fee of _____
 EUR 120 annually | other amount _____
 EUR 10 monthly | other amount _____

Send this form to: Rote Hilfe e.V., Bundesgeschäftsstelle, Postfach 3255, 37022 Göttingen

Organize the Red Aid!

- ★ As a member by paying regular dues
- ★ By working actively in a local or regional group
- ★ By taking part in the concrete work of the organization, e.g. by caring for political prisoners or taking part in one of the political campaigns
- ★ By advertising our work, e.g. by way of selling the **ROTE HILFE-Zeitung**, or passing out or leaflets and brochures.

If you need further information material, please contact:
ROTE HILFE E.V.
 Bundesgeschäftsstelle
 Postfach 3255
 37022 Göttingen, Germany

Phone: +49 – 551 – 770 80 08 (Tuesday and Thursday 3pm until 8 pm)
Telefax: +49 – 551 – 770 80 09
 bundesvorstand@rote-hilfe.de | info@rote-hilfe.de
 www.rote-hilfe.de

The bank account for member's dues, but also for political donations: Rote Hilfe e.V.
 IBAN: DE25 2605 0001 0056 0362 39
 BIC: NOLADE21GOE
 Konto-Nr: 560 362 39
 BLZ: 260 500 01, Sparkasse Göttingen

The closest local or regional group of the Red Aid:

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Organize the Red Aid!

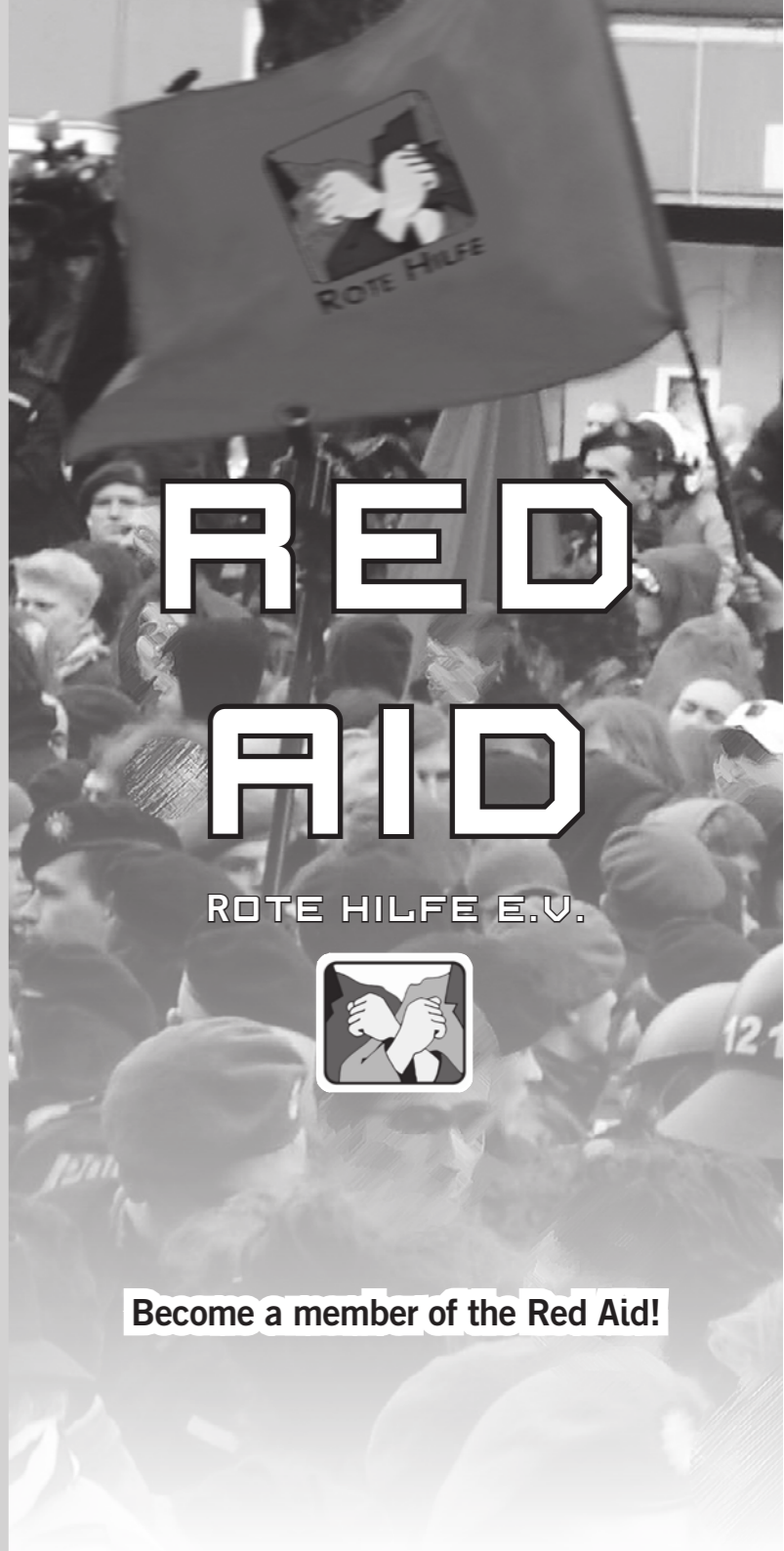
The Red Aid calls upon everybody to refuse to accept political oppression and persecution – in Germany or elsewhere – and instead to organize and work together in combatting them! Only an organization which is independent of political parties, which is active continuously and which organizes many members is able to ensure that all those suffering from political repression are given as much of the help they need as possible. This must necessarily be a country-wide organization which is therefore able to continuously do its work independent of day-to-day politics and to reliably provide financial support based on regular donations and members' dues. A country-wide solidarity organization like the Red Aid is necessary so that someone feels responsible for everyone facing political repression – even if they come from the remotest village, no matter what part of left-wing movements they belong to. The Red Aid is necessary to be able to react on a national level against law reforms furthering repression, against waves of arrests and indictments, and to initiate and support campaigns on a national level financially and politically.

- Practicing solidarity
- Becoming a Member
- Becoming Active in the Organization

Every member paying their dues, but also everyone giving a donation is practicing solidarity, is supporting and encouraging others to continue their fight even in the face of repression. Nearly all members of the Red Aid are politically active, are fighting for a better world in other groups and organizations. The Red Aid can only fully realize its potential when everybody realizes that every member's dues are important, when no one relies on the fact that others are already paying, when no one relies on the fact that others will do the necessary work. The work of the Red Aid needs to rest on many shoulders. Accordingly, the call goes out to everyone:

- Become a member of the Red Aid!
- Become active in the Red Aid!

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RED AID

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Become a member of the Red Aid!