

Throughout her life, Ulrike has been an activist above all else. When, at the age of 25, she abandons her studies to devote herself entirely to her political activities, she is already campaigning for several years against the rearmament of West Germany, nuclear armament in Europe, and the suffocating politics of Germany's social democratic party, the SPD. For her, writing is merely part of the struggle. And increasingly rather skeptical as a journalist. On the editorial board of *Konkret* magazine, she doesn't last more than five years. Same at the Communist Party, for that matter. She continues to write, because that's what she is good at and because it was the best thing to do at the time. But she always tries to do more.

Next to the research for her background articles and documentaries, she takes part in international discussions on the organization of the anti-imperialist struggle and stresses "the necessity to question the effectiveness of oppositional actions". Her analyses, in different magazines, on the radio and on television, are essential for the self-understanding of a militant Left which, by the end of 1966, formally constitutes itself as an 'extra-parliamentary opposition', the APO. Ulrike is an active part of this movement and its campaigns, she participates, among other things, in the organization of the International Vietnam Congress in Berlin and the mobilization of a group of young people at Berlin's *Märkisches Viertel* suburb.

In the RAF, co-founded by her in 1970, she is the person with the longest political experience. After military training in a Palestinian camp in Jordan, she participates in all aspects of the RAF's formation and development. After two years, when several RAF members fall into the hands of the manhunters, she is betrayed by a host while travelling through and is also arrested.

The prisoners from the RAF are isolated from each other and from other prisoners. Ulrike is acoustically isolated in a 'dead' wing of Cologne Prison for eight months. Three collective hunger strikes change little to the prison conditions, but they show to the prisoners that they can still act together. The introduction of the *info* – a platform of intense discussions organized by the political prisoners via lawyers' mail – enables them to re-appropriate a collective process, which they need to assert their integrity in prison and remain capable of acting.

When, during the last year of her life, the trial in Stammheim starts, Ulrike works together with the others on preparing the trial statements, which primarily present the political context of the RAF's struggle and insights from the time underground. What runs like a red thread through the drafts and letters she wrote in prison, is the collective, which was close to her heart and for which she has fought tirelessly.

For us, apart from our personal relationships, she remains one of the most important people in the development of the urban guerrilla and our resistance in prison. After all, she is one of those who initiated the armed struggle in the capitalist centres of the West.

– some of those who fought together with her

(*Gefangenen Info* Nov 2024, text read out at gigs in three cities (Berlin, Hamburg, Magdeburg) in memory of Ulrike's birth 90 years ago.)