Mega-project „energy-transition“:
Localising the weak spots

It seems that acts of sabotage in the struggle against the destruction of nature are spreading. At the very least, more and more circles are openly discussing whether the old forms of protest haven’t had their day, as they obviously have no effect and would only result in charges and fines. An urgent undertone can be recognised in more and more debates and who is surprised that, given the hopelessness of changing the destructive course of events, more and more people are resorting to more consistent means. While the vast majority of environmental and climate groups are working to attract the attention of the public and thus put pressure on politicians, whether by legal or illegal means, the urgency of the current situation has led many to consider another option: sabotage, the idea of interrupting the course of events and causing disruption. It is clear and obvious who is responsible for the ongoing destruction of the planet, who is profiting from it and who is making life increasingly impossible for all living beings on this planet: First and foremost the fossil fuel industry, the oil and plastics companies, the military companies, the pharmaceutical and fertiliser manufacturers, the chemical, concrete and steel industries and the mine operators. Clear responsibilities, clear hostilities. Do we want to appeal to these players, influence their conscience, symbolically draw attention to their role? Or sabotage their business in order to put an end to their activities? These are fundamental questions that need to be asked and dealt with in the struggles, because on the one hand they are the starting point for how we want to act (quantitatively or qualitatively?) and on the other hand they indicate how we want to deal with authoritarian forces in general (co-operate with those in power and their power apparatus, including cops and press, or confront them on all levels?).

Concentrating on the idea to carry the proposal of sabotage into social movements against destruction of nature last year an initiative called „Switch off! The system of destruction“ (switchoff.noblogs.org) developed. Within the framework of this proposal, a large number of attacks have taken place in various places, e.g. against the oil and coal industry, the automobile giants and their mendacious e-mobility, against the space industry as well as against extractivist infrastructure or political parties. An initiative that tries to carry the proposal of direct attack into the various environmental and climate struggles. An attempt to spread something other than the naive hope that those in power are willing to make reform. However, the somewhat artificially constructed mutual reference through the use of a common slogan is not the only thing that the actions share: they attempt to attack and sabotage the destructive production – a „switch off“ of the destructive system by their own hands.

Sabotage - what?

However, if a sabotage wants to hit a point where the attack actually causes interruptions in economic operations, a minimum of research is necessary. Well, let’s talk about the enemy: the economy of earth destruction. A global network. There are those who claim that the material basis of production is coming to an end at some points. The economy...
requires the constancy of availability of raw materials, trade routes and labour in order to produce goods and sell them on the market. The economy is gigantic and massive, and everything is precisely co-ordinated. If certain components are missing, this threatens to have a huge domino effect. And it is precisely this problem that is becoming ever more urgent: various raw materials are becoming increasingly scarce or are subject to price fluctuations, and raw materials cannot be met. At the same time, transport routes are becoming more complex and more vulnerable. The consequences are fatal. If there are no transport routes, if there are no smartphones, there are no apps, there is no profit. If there is no electricity or gas, there is no production. If there are no microwaves, there is no TV. If there are very concrete dangers are haunting a wide range of economic sectors and initiating that enormous efforts are being made to develop new infrastructures. At this level, the narrative of the current “energy transition” is also a huge economic engine to drive enormous structural change in the economy.

In the following, three specific aspects are highlighted, each of whose function embodies an outstanding significance for the industrial system:

- **Energy grids**: One of the biggest restructuring projects in the field of microelectronics is taking place in the energy sector. A central task for the German economy is for example the production of hydrogen in vast quantities (Namibia, Saudi Arabia, China, Argentina, North Africa, etc.) and the construction of hydrograph pipelines in Germany and Europe. In addition to pipelines, however, one should also think about the construction of a pipeline network with a length of 9700 kilometres within Germany is planned, whereby 60% of old natural gas pipelines will be converted into ammonia and then converted again in Europe. Although a state-led economic project with geopolitical interests, “climate-friendly”. The “energy transition” - actually start a war with Taiwan, this would have fatal consequences for production – the Covid crisis has demonstrated the fragility of global supply chains, which was particularly painful for the German car industry. In order to reduce these global dependencies, there are various EU projects (important project of Common European Interest) whose destruction and concreting over with thousands of wind turbines would not bother anyone. This is exactly what is happening in German ex-colonies such as Namibia, a country where an electricity connection is anything but normal. The fact that the switch from natural gas and oil to hydrogen has anything to do with climate protection quickly proves to be a pretextual argument, as the extreme methane emissions from burning hydrogen may be far greater than those from burning coal, but that one can still talk of “climate-friendly”. The “energy transition” is a state-led economic project with geopolitical, military and economic objectives.

- **Microchips**: The entire production of microchips (semiconductors) from chips into smartphones, computers, cars etc. The majority of all these microchips are manufactured in Taiwan. Should China attack Taiwan, it is perfectly possible that the German government is subsidising its construction with 10 billion euros (cynically from a “climate protection fund”). The explicit aim is independence from international supply chains. The construction of three further microchip factories is being subsidised along the same lines: The Taiwanese company TSMC is setting up in Dresden (5 billion subsidised by the Federal Republic of Germany). Instead, it is being subsidised by building a chip factory in Saarlouis in the Saarland with state funding. The East German chip manufacturers are all located in strategic proximity to the Tesla and Porsche e-car factories. The fact that the Federal Ministry of Economics has partly prevented the sale of German chip companies to Chinese companies, as happened with ERS Electronics, shows how state-controlling state-owned factories; the microchip industry symbolises a key branch of the entire industrial production and is therefore not only promoted, but also steered and driven by the state, as in times of the war economy.

- **Deep-sea mining**: The entire production of...
When we talk about sabotage, we are also talking about attempts to find weak points: Acts of sabotage can be attempts to intensify social tensions and perhaps inspire others to similar acts. But sabotage can also be an attempt to cause at least a temporary break in the functioning of this deadly economy. If you want to strike where it hurts, you have to localise the pain points. Researching means not only ‘investigating’ and ‘searching’, but also ‘exploring’. The Old French word “requerir” means “to roam in search” or “to search carefully”. This word is based on the Latin “circare”, which means “to walk around something, to roam an area in search”. So a bit of searching, a bit of exploring searching the enemy’s terrain and walking around the target – and then striking.

It might be interesting to take a closer look at the three points mentioned above – energy grids, microchip factories and mining, especially deep-sea mining. Each of these three areas represents a key sector of the industry and its mega-project of the “energy transition”. Each of these three areas also represents a weak point – sabotage could have fatal consequences for the entire earth-destruction economy. The current period of implementation of the “energy transition” may be a time when many people lose illusions about „green capitalism” and „renewable energy” and become more hostile to the industrial system in general in the face of new destructive infrastructure projects and the ongoing destruction of nature. Or at least those who are hostile to this destructive industrial system will become all the more determined to paralyse it. Perhaps the multiplication of different forms of action – sabotage, mass disruption, small reproducible attacks – fuelled by radical criticism on the streets and a growing disillusionment with politics can ensure that the possibility of direct action against those responsible for industrial destruction spreads. This spread does not necessarily have to be quantitative, perhaps it is only the qualitative conviction that the way to liberation from the all-polluting industrial system is to neither reform nor renew it, but to destroy it, that is gaining backbone and support. So, acting against the economy of industrial destruction and against the energy network that sustains the destruction of the earth. Against the gigantic project of the „energy transition”, which only renews, expands and perpetuates the infrastructure of earth destruction.

Deep-sea mining involves robots „harvesting” manganese nodules containing various rare earth elements at a depth of two to three kilometres below sea level and then „washing” them directly underground, which is extremely toxic. The absurd thing about this endeavour is the following: the deep sea is the least explored area on earth and is home to a number of organisms and animals that have hardly been researched to date. The only certainty we have about deep-sea mining is that it has extremely destructive consequences and that 90% of all organisms have disappeared where it has been experimented with. We have no idea what the consequences of the dust raised, the radioactivity released, the traces left by the robots on the deep-sea floor and the contamination with chemicals are for this huge, dark terrain, its inhabitants and the oceans as a whole. All we know is that the consequences have a destructive power that cannot be estimated. In this sense, the industrial system is capable of destroying something it doesn’t even know what it is and what lives there. And doing exactly that, destroying something without even guessing, let alone understanding, what it is, is being planned at highspeed. The oceans are the lungs of the earth and deep-sea mining is home to a number of organisms and animals and is subject to geopolitical dependencies and favours. Not only do the major- ity of rare earths come from China – China is also the player and major operator of mines in Africa. If relations deteriorate or there are disruptions on sea routes, this will have fatal consequences. One possible alternative to dependence on rare earths from China or Chinese companies is deep sea mining. Some countries, such as Norway, are pressing ahead with the massive application of the never-tried extractivist method and have opened up an area near Greenland with an area the size of Great Britain for deep-sea mining.

In this sense, the project of the “energy transition”, which is being planned at highspeed, shows the importance of rare earths for the entire industrial system. Research-who?
Growing up in this society is also always growing up in institutions: The state, the economy, the family, religion (or science), patriarchy, school, the military, the enlightened white-western society and so on... these institutions shape, form and educate us, they make us into functioning citizens who are supposed to reproduce the internalised values and norms. Each of these institutions embodies an ideal to which we are supposed to conform (depending on our gender, the respective “dominant culture” and its “tolerance”): The „good citizen”, the „hard worker”, the „devoted family member”, the „humble believer” or „productive scientist”, „the perfect man or woman”, „the good student”, „the obedient soldier”, the „recognised, integrated and wealthy member of white society”.

Likewise, each of these institutions reacts with repression against those who oppose these institutions, which ultimately make up the essence of this society, who escape them, ignore them or are somehow „different”: Repression in the form of punishment, repression, persecution, exclusion, disadvantage, violence – repression in the form of the imposition of marginalised and impoverished conditions, in the form of penal labour, punishment orders and prison, in the form of sexualised and racist violence, in the form of inquisition and persecution. After all institutions are never empty shells or mere abstract metaphors, but very concrete buildings and structures that are only brought to life by people working for them, upholding, defending and enforcing their ideals.

But of course the conditions and life within this exploitative system do not only become violent the moment someone behaves or is “inappropriate” – systematic violence is the status quo of this exploitative, warmongering and killing civilisation. But repression is not an exception within this authoritarian society, it is part of the cycle of functioning. The reprisals of the institutions and their sole threat are omnipresent and ever-present, hanging like an invisible sword of Damocles over...
the heads of all the subjugated and exploited.

In this sense, repression is not worthwhile and that everyone who does not want to get involved... to avoid exposing itself to the filming cops and press. You could actually see the fear in the cops's eyes for a second, even though it hadn't done anything... yet it felt as if hundreds of people cheered at the sight, and the cops actually withdrew after this act.

With such an escalation of violence, Zero was aware that the cops' response would not be long in coming, but it was also an expression of the motivation and anger that some people had in them. So Zero was prepared for all kinds of mischief from now on, but first they had to see where they could and would go with all these people. The chains of cops around the square didn't make this possible as well, but Zero was prepared for all kinds of mischief from now on, but first they had to see where they could... and Zero was also in the mood for rampant rioting and was therefore as well prepared as possible and had the appropriate (changing) clothes and tools with it. The walk to the meeting place was not too long and there was still some coldness and the atmosphere seemed to be good. In fact, the cops began to retreat. At the same moment, the ground behind one of the cops ignites... he doesn't even see the flames immediately and takes a few steps back, only to find himself in the middle of the flurry for a brief moment. Startled, he stumbles and loses his balance, literally flying into the flames for a few seconds... One of his colleagues grabs him by the shoulder, catches him and drags him away. You could actually see the fear in the cops's eyes for a second, even though it hadn't done anything... yet it felt as if hundreds of people cheered at the sight, and the cops actually withdrew after this act.

...but should they nevertheless offend or break with the principles of this authoritarian society and its institutions, they must realize that 'the heads of all the subjugated and exploited' is not worthwhile and that there is no "outside". The unsuitable must be re-educated and integrated with barons and sticks in accordance with the social ideals. Because as long as the inappropriate is integrated, it doesn't bother, the main thing is that it is part of the social institutions. Whether it is actually a contributing part of the institutions or not is ultimately irrelevant, the important thing is that the inappropriate can be managed, that is its integrated. This authorizes the institutions of this authoritarian society are adaptable, they are designed for integration, and everything can be integrated as long as it does not challenge the institutions into question, as long as it does not call into question the 'creativity' and 'individuality' exclusively within the economy...
When we look at repression in this context, two things jump out at us: repression is nothing extraordinary, it is not a scandal – it is normality and a normal part of the administration of this society. Every institution confronts us with repression if we do not respect its principles if we do not respect the order of property, the rules of the workplace, the unity of the family, the spiritual authority of God or the rational authority of science, the supremacy and potency of masculinity, the normality of the heteronorm, compulsory attendance at school, compulsory military service (currently suspended in many country) or, more generally, the self-image of the white West as the shaper of the world – we are confronted with one form of repression or another. However, if we oppose all these institutions and their ideals and not only declare ourselves to be their enemies, but work towards their ethical and practical destruction – we will undoubtedly be confronted with repression in one form or another. And we don't just mean police repression.

Many say that we are facing an increase in repression and there are many indications of this: both at a national level in Germany: in many places, proceedings for “criminal organisations”, repression against “the climate movement”, bans of demonstrations, public searches for wanted anti-fascists, etc., as well as at an international level: bans on anarchist newspapers, double-digit prison sentences for anarchists, for example in Italy, Chile or Russia, etc. It may be that the time of “tolerant democracy” and “social pacification” is over and we are moving towards “totalitarian democracy” with the experiences of the Covid-pandemic in our luggage and in the midst of global militarisation. In the following, we want to ask how we intend to deal with this repression in this context.

If one were to visualise the strategy of the repressive authorities, it would look something like this: Identifying the enemy; recording movements, conversations and contacts; isolating or encircling the enemy; checking and searching and then possibly arresting the enemy. The first step is identification. What precedes this step? Controlling the territory, restricting movement, preparing the social context in politics, media and measures, defining and staking out the space.

But let’s see how those who didn’t go to the starting point of the So Zero took his time and inspected the chains of cops around the encirclement and realised when the most sense to escape. There was a tree with low-hanging branches, a little away from the bushes, under which the cops were a good distance apart and even looked a little bored. So all Zero had to do was wait for the right moment and sure enough, the cop Zero had chosen briefly took off a glove and was busy putting it back on. That was the moment. Zero had already gotten into position in front of the cop and had been watching him inconspicuously through his sunglasses while nibbling on a pair of cookies. The cop seemed to be deeply relaxed in his own way, even though Zero was already loitering in his immediate vicinity.

That’s why he had allowed himself to take off his glove. Zero sprinted off and ran around the cop... Almost there! Zero could already see the first rows of people watching the action with wide eyes, but the cop has a good reaction despite his busy hands and simply reaches behind him, hoping to grab some of Zero’s clothes... Zero can already see the first rows of people watching the action with wide eyes, but the cop has a good reaction despite his busy hands and simply reaches behind him, hoping to grab some of Zero’s clothes... and sure enough, he grabs Zero by the back pocket of his jeans. He loses his balance and is dragged along for half a meter, but doesn’t let go. This slow Zero down drastically and it allows the other cops to pounce on Zero and take it down for good. Zero gets into the fetal position and expects the worst, but after a few punches and kicks, the cops let up and hold Zero’s hands. It could have been worse for Zero and he trembles a slightly and completely calm. Ok, failed attempt, but at least Zero will clearly skip the queue. While Zero is being led away, some shouting and the trampling of cops can be heard from another corner. Someone else has come to the same or a similar conclusion as Zero...
demo used their time: Just a little further south in the city, in Connewitz, a mob of hooded people used their time to build barricades, scare away police cars, attack a small police station and then wait for the cops to arrive and attack them in turn, retreat and build barricades again and attack cops again. The cops, who comb the neighbourhood in their hundreds, are overwhelmed by the small streets and the mobility of the mob, which disperses in time, and ultimately make hardly any arrests. Somewhere in the back streets a beping Tesla is burning, but that doesn’t bother the pigs any more, they have what they wanted, 1,600 reports, some in custody, and data that the secret service is rubbing its hands over, a huge milieu illuminated… after all, almost 20 people are still being sought in connection with the proceedings, who are said to have gone into hiding…

Let’s look at the task of repression to maintain society: it is an essential necessity for the state and the society structured by it in order to integrate, appropriate, colonise and control everything. Consequently, the integration of anarchists, or simply respecting and honouring the principles of this authoritarian society, would be the goal towards which repression works - in other words, re-education. Not cooperating with the state is therefore a vital necessity for us. A much more far-reaching and complex step, however, is not to submit to the permanent repression and not to allow ourselves to be re-educated and integrated into a functioning part of this society and thus to obviously throw the social ideals of the work slave, the isolated couple and the idiot striving for integration overboard and banish them from our minds and lives. However, if we do not want to be integrated and broken, both are indispensable.

If the enemy prepares the territory in such a way that any unpredictability has been cancelled out in advance and there is therefore no chance of agility and chaos, then you are engaging in a predictable bloc confrontation. In a sense, a military confrontation in which those who are better prepared and armed win. A confrontation in which the more militarised actor has more power, which is usually the state. Of course, there are many factors that can cause an initially static situation to become chaotic. A confrontation always has a social and psychological component, which we must utilise, because the state tries to contain a confrontation and deal with it in an orderly, i.e. “military” manner, whereby the part that has more and greater resources at its disposal always wins. The interesting thing about the example from June is that it was only a very small territory that the state was actually able to bring completely under its control. And it was precisely this territory that the crowd of black hooded people in solidarity gathered, exactly where the state wanted them. Just a few kilometres further on, there was already room for chaos again, it was already possible to attack and disappear again. Why didn’t more people act unpredictably that day? Of course, you’re always smarter later…

The one-sided and narrow-minded narrative of certain leftists about how bad the cops were on that day is part of a democratic narrative that denounces the violations of (constitutional) rights and the bludgeoning injustice of the state. This image of lots of “good people” against the “bad people” is distorted, paradoxical and a symptom of a faith in the state that needs to be shaken. If the intention is to attack the state and its order, then it is a total and permanent battle that can be waged at all levels of confrontation. The fact that many subversives gathered on June 3, “in spite of everything” shows the potential that lies within them. This should not intimidate those in power so much as spur us on to continue to find points - and moments - to attack.
But let’s let our minds wander... what if these 1,600 people, or even just a part of them, had spread out all over the city to carry out fast attacks and disappear again? Or if they had gathered in a rich neighbourhood to teach the bourgeoisie to fear, as they did in Hamburg’s Elbehaussee in 2017? What would have happened if the absence of the cops had been utilised in the places they had travelled from?

In general, we have to ask ourselves whether it is not a mistake to focus on developing anti-repression struggles after experiencing repression. The cycle of repression and anti-repression struggles can become a vicious circle if it prevents us from intervening offensively in social conflicts. Anti-repression struggles can be a trap in which we self-referentially only refer to ourselves and our comrades instead of opening up and attacking social issues. For example, does it really make sense to focus our offensive solidarity on those cliché bald Nazis instead of attacking this state in general, some of whose structures are showing increasingly obvious fascist traits? The structures of the state whose military and police, for example, created the Hannibal network armed with 70,000 bullets, hundreds of body bags, safe houses and death lists... What if the cops had been bored to death at the site of the demo while attacks on the structures of this military and police force were taking place all over the country? Or on the BILD newspaper, the biggest mouthpiece of racism in this country? Or to all the immigration authorities and migration offices that have just passed a fascist deportation law with the new European GEAS agreement?

All the “what ifs” make no sense, because we don’t know what would have happened. But next time we will be where we are not expected.

Against rigidification

In the course of life, circumstances may arise that force us anarchists to „run away“ involuntarily. We are certainly not the only ones, as millions of people around the world are currently on the run for various reasons, but their initial situation is sometimes more differentiated than that of the revolutionaries who have to go into hiding because of repression in our latitudes. Before us, there were several generations of revolutionaries who went through this experience, but they rarely gave any direct or indirect insight into it, and if they did, then only very timidly.

Nowadays, there are more and more people in German-speaking/European countries who have gone into hiding or are faced with such a decision.

The underlying political mood, the “worldview”, capitalist conditions, power relations, even targeted mass attacks and revolts: All kinds of social changes, developments and tensions can contribute to the sometimes unexpected and merciless intensification of repression against those who resist. Be it members of peaceful climate groups who are now portrayed as terrorists, or anti-fascists who have put their anti-fascism into practice and are now wanted all over Europe. All this and much more can lead to people being targeted by investigating authorities and having the opportunity to go - or stay - underground.

We want to talk about going underground. With the intention of developing a proactive understanding that one of the various options is to counter repression or even actively evade it.

In recent years, there have been a few publications and series of events on the subject of going underground. Not least because of the disappearance of a person from a certain context from one day to the next. This sudden event has left its mark on the environment, or rather, it has raised a thousand questions that can
Affect anyone and are therefore interesting to discuss. The debates that ensued provided a small but intimate insight into the dynamics and difficulties faced by the environment. Apart from this specific situation, there are only a few and isolated historical examples, such as the appeal from „Der Rebell” (a German-language anarchist newspaper during the Bismarck era), which called on the anarchists of the time to go into hiding. On the whole, however, clandestinity is and remains a largely blank slate even today. It just happens somehow. But perhaps we can, perhaps we must, change that.

One of the most important statements and findings from the above-mentioned public discussion is that „it can happen to anyone”. All the more reason to take this possibility seriously and not just treat it as a thought experiment for the worst-case scenario. The circumstances in Budapest, where some Nazis were physically attacked, and the resulting investigative zeal and political will show how quickly it can happen that many people suddenly have to disappear very quickly. One hypothesis that might make it easier, if necessary, would be to think beforehand about what going underground entails. This does not primarily mean the huge logistical effort involved, but the psychological aspect of being aware of your fears and knowing how far you have to and can go. As in the text „Let’s give weight to words” that appeared in Antisistema No. 1 on the subject of „Responsibility”, clandestinity is also about being aware of the impact on your own life before entering this difficult situation. It is rather rare for entire small groups to go into hiding, so you are usually alone and on your own, i.e. you will be confronted with being alone and all the consequences. This is an aspect that should not be underestimated and is largely linked to the successful duration and course of the trip.

It may be a phrase we have heard many times before, but clandestinity is a major challenge at all levels. On closer inspection, it can seem almost more oppressive than prison, because from one day to the next you disappear from the lives of others for an uncertain period of time and your communication options are extremely limited and fraught with risk. In a way, you become „invisible” and „die”, also because those around you will naturally try to cover up and protect you for as long as possible. Despite all the preparations, illegality can push everyone to their limits. However, there are a few steps that can be taken in advance to speed up or facilitate an unexpected disappearance: - having cash quickly available, - making contacts in order to obtain good identity documents quickly or in advance, - playing through scenarios alone or with other travellers to think about the best way to get from A to B, to C, - getting a “clean” laptop with the appropriate operating system in order to be able to access the internet as anonymously as possible...

This text is not intended to glorify clandestinity. However, it remains a valid option, a situational decision left to each individual. If the wish is to disappear, then it would be good if everything went according to the person’s wishes. There are moments when we feel strong enough to cope with everything and take it upon ourselves, and then there are moments when the fears and doubts prevail, and then maybe even prison seems like the lesser evil, and depending on that, we determine our future, and that is the important thing I decide, as far as possible, how I want to live, fighting in freedom, in prison or on the run. Nothing is a walk in the park, but knowing that there are almost always options allows us not to become rigid in the face of advancing repression.
In the form of a gentle flashing of the smartphone screen and the quiet “bling” of a new report we are informed about the mass murders taking place these days. We swipe over the news, the images of mangled bodies, starving children and people searching for loved ones in the rubble, and after that immediately enjoy the football results and the weather report. We read about death tolls, about millions of people fleeing death and being bombed in the meantime, and the next moment we are thinking about tomorrow's working day, the upcoming holidays and possible travel destinations. Domination trains us in cognitive dissonance, to harden, blunt, block out and, come what may, continue to function. When mass murder becomes a note in the mass media, becomes normality, and we apathetic wipe it away, our substance as human beings is attacked at the same time, our ability to empathise, our sensitivity. And thus also our ability to be indignant and to oppose this warlike normality.

As if we had been taken in by a propagandistic lie about the end of the Cold War in all the years between the collapse of the Eastern Bloc and today, old and new fronts are forming and militaris-ing at every turn. As ever, the West stylises itself as the bearer of the values of democracy and enlightenment, as the protector of freedom, minorities and private property. As if it were only a matter of rewinding the time when the “end of history” was still being declared, when the omnipotence of the West prevailed unquestioned after 1990 and a supposedly peaceful commodity paradise was on offer. Now the rhetoric has changed and what is at stake is openly stated: the “prosperity guardian” (the name of the NATO operation in the Red Sea).

As in a race, the West (NATO and the EU) and the East (Russia and China) are forging new trade and military partnerships all over the world: on the one hand, hydrogen deals on three continents and arms exports to interest groups (e.g. Saudi Arabia), and on the other, a new trade alliance (BRICS) that far exceeds the power of Western alliances (G7). The interlude in which it was claimed to want to pursue „change through trade“ (Europe’s Russia policy of the 00s) is over and each side is clearly defending its interests by military means. The four-month NATO manoeuvre „Steadfast Defender“, the largest since the supposed end of the Cold War, begins in mid-February 2024. Germany will be the host and hub for a major manoeuvre on the borders of Russia and Belarus – from Norway to Romania, NATO is positioning itself and practising for an emergency. In its own „Quadriga Manoeuvre“, the german Bundeswehr is once again specifically practising the deployment of troops and materiel. Major General Gerald Funke, the Bundeswehr’s logistics commander, aptly summarises: „Logistics does not win wars, but without logistics, wars are lost.“

The West, especially France, is losing influence in various parts of the world, such as in West Africa and Sudan, where there have been nine military coups in the last three years and Western states have had to withdraw their soldiers. At the same time, Putin is trying to capitalise on this new situation, using clearly articulated rhetoric against Western colonialism in the midst of his war over Ukraine. A Putin whose troops are occupying Ukraine and who at the same time claims to be fighting against a „neo-colonial system“ that is plundering the world „in the name of the rule of the dollar and technological
dictates” and at the same time promises to strengthen a “multi-polar global order”... and on the other side a NATO that prides itself as ever on fighting “evil” and defending democracy, minorities and human rights.

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War of words, war of opinions, war for minds and the sovereignty of interpretation. In the same breath, we are witnessing ethnic cleansing in Nagorno-Karabakh, the mass expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Afghans from Pakistan into the Taliban empire, the dropping of (internationally banned) cluster bombs by both Russia and Ukraine, the drowning of more than 700 refugees on 14 June 2013, driven off by the Greek coastguard. Memories of the mass incarceration, torture and sterilisation of the Uyghurs or the ethnic cleansing of the Muslim Rohingya minority in Myanmar (up to 43,000 dead) have faded in the nervous fast pace of life.

And now the tragedy of Gaza. More civilian deaths in just a few weeks than in the two-year war in Ukraine. Two million people on the run – and Israel and the West are openly discussing the forced distribution of all the Palestinian refugees to various European countries (or the Congo). In the face of the sheer incomprehensible suffering, some are trying to denounce all of this with the word genocide and hold it against the West again and again. But words have lost their meaning and can no longer shock. Nobody is shocked anymore, being shocked seems to be forbidden, there could be evidence of a political affiliation and this could be incorrect. As in a pre-rehearsed sketch, everyone instantly knows what is correct, who to show solidarity with and upholds a fixed opinion. Opinions that increasingly consist only of buzzwords, behind which there are hardly any well-discussed analyses, but whose use makes it clear where you stand: These words you can use, those you can’t. You show solidarity with these people, but not with those. No matter how events develop, you have your opinion, you have your fixed position within the polarization. Everything else is “incorrect” – as in pandemic times, public discourse is now just a militarised hegemony of fighting terms. A civilian population is declared to be “terrorists” in its entirety, a war is a “defensive operation” to “defend” and “destroy” those “terrorists” in their entirety. Every institution and every person compulsively proclaims their “solidarity” to the public. And anyone who does this with the wrong ones will be cancelled. A new law punishing incitement against Israel with at least 6 months in prison it being called for, shortly before house searches for posts on social media took place. Two years ago, “the covid deniers”, i.e. those who questioned the existence (or dangerousness) of the virus, were to go to prison, and now “the anti-Semites” who question Israel’s right to exist (or the war). And once again, ignorance is being sold to us as strength and war as peace.

This time, the repression against those who take to the streets in defiance of all this, while at the same time their family members or those of their friends are being bombed, seems even more indignant. This time, the majority of those taking to the streets in protest against the genocide are not white people, but “barbarians”, all of them “anti-Semites” who should all be deported. And so we witness another monstrosity: That those who administer the German state and its military industry and its train lines, which enabled the most heinous genocide of modern times, explain to the world what anti-Semitism is and label all those who mouth the word genocide as anti-Semites and want to deport them.

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The language is clear: Germany is required to stand behind Israel no matter what military action is taken. Whether orthodox, secular or Sephardic, only Israelis are now known in Israel and they are now at war. An entire country in mobilisation. An internal militarisation too. A country at war allows no contradictions. AI-controlled drones fly attacks, automatic and intelligent weapons systems everywhere, air strikes in Iraq, Syria, Iran, Lebanon and the completely destroyed Gaza. Gaza is to be razed to the ground, literally. The USA starts a war with the Houthis in Yemen and the next tragedy is just around the corner in a country where
22 million people are dependent on the delivery of aid. Meanwhile, in both Russia and Ukraine, mainly women are protesting for furloughs for the warring men. The number of Russian deserters (approx. 820,000 - 920,000) is rising steadily. They flee abroad (Kazakhstan, Serbia, Turkey, Armenia), where their stay becomes a question of money, as the prospects of asylum in Europe are poor. However, around 175,000 men of military service age have also fled from Ukraine, mostly to the EU. Ukraine is conducting around 5,000 criminal proceedings for draft evasion and desertion, 8,000 proceedings for illegal border crossing and a further 3,000 people have been arrested by Ukrainian border guards for false documents. In addition, at least 15 people died in 2022 while trying to cross the Romanian border undetected. The Ukrainian military apparatus needs new cannon fodder and Germany is considering “repatriating” those Ukrainians who turn down job offers here. At the same time, Ukraine is considering making military service compulsory only for the poor so that the rich can buy their way out officially (and no longer “under the table”). The world is a bloodbath, a bloodbath of the poor and exploited. The West is trying to keep this bloodbath at bay, to outsource it and hide it, but it is getting closer and closer: Germany must now become “ready for war”, a “turning point” is imminent and the reintroduction of military service is being considered, according to the German Minister of War. Military advertising is still trying to lure us voluntarily into the profession of soldier, the killer uniform is advertised with the hashtag “#save”, but soon this voluntariness will also come to an end. Since Covid at the latest, war has penetrated discourse, vocabulary and language, and soon it will also invade our safe front gardens, not only offering young people the opportunity, but also obliging them (this time including all genders?) to turn themselves into camouflage-coloured cannon fodder willing to die. It is not unlikely that, as in Russia, we will see some recruitment offices burning. According to the Russian media, there have been 220 arson attacks on recruitment offices since the invasion of Ukraine.

Dejà-vu: The left is talking about anti-imperialism everywhere and so-called anarchists are waving Lenin’s definition of imperialism around. The national flags have been taken out of the cubbyhole, the “people’s liberation fronts” are back in vogue and the “people’s war” is now called the “national liberation struggle”. We observe how, with the old anti-imperialist logic, the small states or not-yet states and their parties are unconditionally supported with the backing of the anti-colonial discourse. It is discussed in terms of identities, collective identities, and as a member of that category you are not allowed to say or criticise this or that. The enemies of our enemies suddenly become our friends, or at least necessary allies, and the attraction of armed resistance ensures that such dubious partnerships are entered into. The main thing is to oppose the West – many people don’t care next to whom they take sides. Now it is the wrong time to criticise, we are told, and hostilities against authoritarian groups are becoming blurred. First a state of our own, we are told, then we can talk further. As if mirroring racism, criticism is labelled racist and an inverted racism is rationally and historically justified, which explains the massacre of civilians as at least logical. The suffering of one side is used to explain why they also carry out massacres. And so we see how the logic of state war, of collateral damage, of the national mindset of one culture, one people, one state, as well as compromise and concession to deeply authoritarian, reactionary and para-state structures is gaining ground.

We maintain that the military logic of war and collateral damage cannot be combated by making it one’s own. Authoritarian, patriarchal structures cannot be overcome by tolerating or glossing over them. And a state can never be liberating. Global imperialism is capitalism, the economy on all sides that wants to penetrate and exploit everything. Western colonialism is present in the entire industrial culture, which wants to subjugate nature and all “savages”. Every state is an occupying power, expropriating its population, militarising its territory and continually extending its control.
The generalising moment of revolt arises where the question is not discussed along the lines of “pro-this”, “pro-that”, along self-rule and foreign rule, but along the question of oppression and exploitation, regardless of which language the exploiters speak and which culture they belong to. Where soldiers desert, where social revolts break out against all rulers, where resistance is not dominated by authoritarian groups.

More than half a century ago, the philosopher Günther Anders invented the concept of apocalypse blindness. This term originated from Anders’ observations on the nuclear arms race between the superpowers during the so-called Cold War. The destruction of the future inherent in nuclear weapons was and is not just a potential threat and danger – no, nuclear weapons do not pose a threat that may materialise, the destruction of the future caused by nuclear weapons is just as real and already exists as the thousands of nuclear warheads ready to be dropped. The apocalypse is therefore already a reality, not an event that may occur in the future, because the means to blow up and irradiate humanity dozens of times over already exist, the knowledge of how to produce them cannot be revoked and therefore a bunch of states and military alliances would have the possibility of wiping out the earth and the future at any conceivable point – with which they permanently threaten themselves. According to Anders, this situation is already apocalyptic in itself and not wanting to see, hear or label it as such is apocalypse blindness. Turning away from apocalyptic blindness would mean taking responsibility. Responsibility for putting a stop to those who threaten our lives and those of future generations. To threaten with death those who constantly threaten us with mass murder. Realising the presence of the apocalypse means having to act.

This possibility of a nuclear world war and the associated annihilation of humanity and the future exists today as it did yesterday. One could perhaps say more than ever, as one military conflict after another has flared up in recent times, ethnic cleansing, martyrdom attacks, genocides, targeted shootings by drones and blanket bombings have followed one another and a state arms race, militarisation and mutual threats and isolation are a global reality. Perhaps we have underestimated the omnipotence of nationalism, which is turning individuals around the world into obedient soldiers and blind followers of orders. While anarchists watch the global escalation of military conflicts, half shocked, half petrified, and discuss the questionable solidarity with this or that group – we have to admit that these discussions often have no influence and certainly no existential consequence on the reality of our lives. The faltering capitalist economy is picking up speed again thanks to the economic engine of war, and while war rages here and there, the tills are ringing in the peace zone. War and peace are two parts of the same coin, capitalist peace needs war, just as war needs the smooth production of war equipment.

The possibility of a third world war is discussed at many kitchen tables in these latitudes. Still quite abstract, perhaps tentatively, but again and again. What would happen if China invaded Taiwan? The USA in Yemen? If Ukraine joins the EU as planned – or the USA changes its government and stops supplying weapons to Kiev? All abstract, geopolitical speculation?

There are, however, a few other things that are not abstract, they are very concrete, tangible questions among comrades and we should not forget them: The repression of militarism towards the inside when a country actively enters into war. The importance of the state taking action against the “internal enemy”. The fragility of supply lines to the front. The military use of civilian transport and energy infrastructure. Very concrete things to think about. But perhaps these are things that should not be discussed at the kitchen table, but during a refreshing winter walk.
Berlin, 18.10: Five cars burning in the city in one week.

Berlin, 18.10: “The tyres of four company cars belonging to Deutsche Bahn (DB) were flattened. The company is involved in the destructive Treu ‘Maya’ megaproject in Mexico.”

Berlin, 19.10: Attack with several incendiary devices on a radio tower. “The technology as it is currently being used is aimed precisely at making people dependent by promising to relieve them of their fears and ‘problems’. Those who are dependent are controllable.”

Toulouse (FR), 21.10: During a demonstration against the planned A69 highway, several hundred people ran onto the Canjourn cement factory and the site of property developer Bardou Development. A workshop, three concrete mixer lorries and a construction machine were set on fire on the cement factory site. On the second building, the windows were smashed and the fences were torn down. The demonstrators then immediately retreated back to the protest camp.

Toulouse (FR), 22.10: Eiffage car set on fire. “This company is one of the big fish in the construction industry and therefore builds motorways and prisons. Prisons like the one in which the people arrested on 8 December 2020 were locked up and who are currently on trial in Paris.”

Munich, 23.10: Three fires, each far apart from each other, break out on a construction site directly on the geothermal pipes to Grünwald. 500,000 euros damage. Prior to this, an elevator burns in a nearby village.

Tusson (FR), 25.10: Another large-scale damage to a supermarket.

Bernard (FR), 26.10: Another megascale damage to a supermarket.

Toulouse (FR), 20.11: A major sponsor of the Sulm power plant, is visited at home and graffitied. “We would like to inform Alfred that his castle is not a safe hiding place. We advise him to withdraw from the “SoKo Linx” action. Love and anarchy”

Steyr (Austria), 8.11: The castle of prince Alfred, a major sponsor of the Sulm power plant, is visited at home and graffitied. “We would like to inform Alfred that his castle is not a safe hiding place. We advise him to withdraw from the Sulmkraftwerk and return the privatised land to the people.”

Munich, 10.11: An excavator and a lorry burn out on a construction site of the Munich transport company. Mehring (Baravia), 21.10: An agricultural chicken coop is torched. The coop was burnt. On the same day two years ago, there was also a major fire at the same scene.

Athens, 4.11: Collective looting of a supermarket.

Marseille, 15.11: Vandalism at a railway broadcasting centre, resulting in train cancellations.

Irière (FR), 14.11: Five cars belonging to the prison administration torched.

Bremen, 14.11: A barricade made of burning tyres is erected in front of the “Space Tech Expo Europe” (Europe’s largest space trade fair) and the trade fair itself is thrown at with paint bottles and pyrotechnics. “The aerospace industry is one of the key players in the arms industry! War, high-tech and male fantasies of omnipotence have a long patriarchal tradition. (...) Switch.4WP! The system of destruction.”

Ansewpe (BE), 15.11: A train station torched.

Athens, 16.11: Molotov attack on OPKE: special unit. Some pigs injured and car burnt down.

Athens (GR), 17.11: Three simultaneous arson attacks on the private homes of organised fascists.

Athens (GR), 17.11: “On 17 November, early in the morning, at the construction site of line 4 in the Kaisariani district, at the intersection of Ethniko Antistaseos and Filolaou streets, we attacked and set fire to three machines of the Attiko metro.”

Saint-Séries (FR), 19.11: In a village, the internet and telephone went down completely because fibre optic cables were cut in a control cabinet.

Loire (FR), 19.11: “During the night of 19, we attacked the power supply to two production sites of the Aubert et Duval group. In Firminy, we sawed down a pylon of the 220 kV line that supplies the site. It only fell partly. – In Anzo- 

e-Comps, we are about to cut a 220 kV pylon where the high-voltage cables were buried. We were able to safely reach the foot of the lines and place our cables there. The Aubert et Duval group is a central cog in the French military industry. It supplies parts for Naval Group submarines and for the Dauphins and Framatome nuclear power plants.”

Toulouse (FR), 20.11: War profiteer Apis smeared with waste oil.

Roche-la-Molière (FR), 20.11: One of the four feet of a high-voltage pylons was sawn through. This pylons enables the smooth operation of a...
large energy highway that supplies the Ondaine and the Côte d’Azur with electricity. The repair will take until next autumn. The media suspect ‘eco-terrorism’.

Dakovo (FR), 21.11: Two fibre optic cabinets torched at different locations in one night. Another one opened, but one person arrested.

Isère (FR), 21.11: Another prison van torched.

Berlin, 20 November: “On Monday night, 20 November, we simultaneously attacked the SPD office in Hermannstraße in Berlin Neukölln and a Green Party office in Wroclaw in Kreuzberg as an action against the genocidal war in Gaza.”

Athens (GR), 23.11: Two AB Vasilopoulos supermarket—merchandises demolished because hundreds of employees have resigned.

Athens (GR), 25.11: Attack on the offices of a major builder by the group “Conspiracy of Revenge.”

Saint-Évre (FR), 4.12: Sabotage at the Vicat cement plant – electrical equipment and a conveyor belt are sabotaged. “On behalf of the capitalist companies that exploit people and ecocidal industries, against the bourgeois state and its justice system that criminalises our comrades, we will continue to fight with words and deeds.”

Athens (GR), 7.12: A huge Christmas tree was torched in a central square in memory of Alexandros Grigoropoulo, who was murdered 15 years ago.

Thessaloniki (GR), 7.12: Molotov attack on MAT riot cops.

Milan (IT), 7.12: Two Carrefour shops were vandalised. “Conflitto has recently signed a contract with the Israeli company Electra Consumer Products and delivered food parcels to the IDF and is partly responsible for the massacres and ethnic cleansing of the state of Israel and its justice system that criminalises our comrades, we will continue to fight with words and deeds.”

Val-de-Reuil (FR), 11.12: A gravel pit of Bühler & Fils, managed by Lafarge-Holcim, is vandalised and everything is spray-painted with slogans. The plant can no longer be used for the function of the concrete industry and the role of CEMEX in Israeli settlement construction.

Welleslau, 27.12: Unknown persons drive around with an excavator in an open-cast mine and then set it on fire.

Heraldik (GR), 29.12: Attack on Starbucks shop with hammers and paint – against the war in Gaza.

Rome (ITA), 31.1: On New Year’s Eve, we carried out two actions: one in Via Forcella in Rome (PLENITUDE: Italian oil and energy company) in Rome, one in Viale Somalia and one in Via Togliatti. The action was carried out by placing three incendiary devices (consisting of fireworks and gas cartridges) between the windows and shutters of the offices. We attacked Eni for its responsibilities for the exploitation and pollution of the earth and the militarisation of the so-called “developing countries”. (...) Eni is interested in exploring oil fields off the Gaza Strip and is closely linked to Italian geopolitical interests. This action is a contribution to the campaign SWITCH OFF!

Chaste (FR), 1.1: Two cop cars torched.

Brittany (FR), 3.1: In the four Breton districts there is no more internet and telephone after a large fibre optic cable was destroyed on the tracks, which also connects radio masts.

Brusselsbliit, 4.1: Investigators have already discovered eight holes drilled in an LNG pipeline under construction in Schleswig-Holstein and assume sabotage. According to preliminary estimates, the suspected sabotage caused damage totalling at least 1.6 million euros. Apparently there have already been attempts to sabotage the new pipeline construction in the past: In April, a saw-off pipe element was discovered in Groß Wende and is closely linked to Italian geopolitical interests. This action is a contribution to the campaign SWITCH OFF!

Marseille (FR), 22.12: A major event organised by right-wing politicians in a restaurant is disrupted and the windows are smashed.

Athens GR), 22.12: Hostel and AirBnB lockers are torched inside a forest.

Montfort (FR), 20.12: The technical room of a solar park is torched.

Berlin, 27.12: Five lorries, the conveyor line for bulk goods and parts of a concrete manufacturer’s technical building go up in flames. “Against environmental destruction, oppression and fire for CEMEX concrete plant.” The community explains the environmentally destructive, oppressive and genocidal actions of the concrete industry and the role of CEMEX in Israeli settlement construction.

Houdaïf (BE), 18.12: A hangar of the customs office is burnt down. Weapons had previously been stolen.

Athens, 18.12: The “Armed Proletarian Justice” claims responsibility for an unexploded bomb attack on the headquarters of the MAT anti-riot cops.

Munich, 18.12: Two harvester forestry machines are torched inside a forest.

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involved in deportations are smeared with the slogans „Down with the borders“ and „Fire to the deportation prisons“.

Berlin, 18.1: „We [have] decided to set fire to a police van on the occasion of the Rondenburg trial in Hamburg.“

Hannover, 18.1: „Switch off the highway. In the night after the evacuation of Tümpel Town, we set out and dedicated a car belonging to Autobahn GmbH to the fire. Autobahn GmbH is a target that is responsible for so many ecocides, evictions of forest occupations and industrial destruction."

Berlin, 19.1: „We [have] paralysed 2 excavators on the 16th construction section of the A100 (Kiefholzstraße - Treptow) with time-delayed incendiary devices. Many pinpricks like this can bring down the system in the long term. It is also a joyful response to the „Switch-Off“ call, which is now also being echoed vigorously at international level."

Berlin, 30 January: Anarchists torched a Greek diplomatic car. „We want to show once again that mass migration has its origins in the system and that those who try to control it are the same people who live off our labour and our resources. The thousands of murders at the borders are murders of our brothers and sisters."

...FIRES OF JOY

Sosai (FR), 31.12: The attempt to set fire to a bulldozer at the AfD construction site fails.

Besançon, 2.2: Internet goes down in several municipalities due to a severed cable.

Langen, 3.2: „Last Saturday, 3.2.24, dozens of climate activists sabotaged the gravel works at Langen near Frankfurt. With their action, they are actively opposing the ongoing climate destruction of the operator Sektor. The construction and building industry is responsible for 38% of all global greenhouse gas emissions, particularly from the climate-damaging building material concrete. This means that the gravel mined in Langen, the main component of concrete, is the driving force behind a construction industry without moderation and without a social or ecological conscience.“

Berlin, 4.2: „It is therefore obvious for us to call the police union to account for its policies in a very practical way. That’s why we (...) sprayed two GdP cars with slogans, smashed the windows and emptied fire extinguishers inside.“

Bremen, 5.2: „Switch Off Tren Maya / Disrupt Deutsche Bahn. We had an appointment last night to set fire to two Deutsche Bahn vehicles with incendiary devices. The company not only stands for overpriced train connections and dilapidated infrastructure, but is also deeply involved in armaments, exploitation and neo-colonialism. Specifically, we attacked DB to make the struggles for Tren Maya in Mexico visible.“

Kirschseeon, 5.2: A fire caused extensive damage at a gravel works in Kirschseeon on Monday morning. The fire damaged or destroyed a hall, an outbuilding, two wheel loaders and several conveyor belts. The police currently estimate the damage to be in the high six-figure euro range.

Berlin, 8.2: Two Teslas and two Tesla charging stations set on fire. „Several armies use Tesla’s Starlink satellite system in their wars. Also Israel in Gaza. Also Ukraine. Tesla’s Starlink infrastructure is an important military player and attacks on Tesla can be a sign everywhere: against any war! (...) “Green capitalism” stands for colonialism and land theft!“