

On behalf of the AK Distomo, I bring you warm, solidarity greetings from Hamburg this year as well. Some of our friends are in Crete to commemorate the massacre of September 14, 1943 with you, for which none of the German murderers of the 22nd Infantry Division were ever held responsible, and for none of the victims or their families have ever been compensated.

The AK Distomo is engaged for the compensation of victims of Nazi crimes in Greece for many years. We also support the demand for reparation and repayment of the forced loan that Nazi Germany squeezed from the Greek state during the German occupation. There have been many beautiful words of sadness and shame from the official representatives of Germany in the recent years. But these words remain pure rhetoric as long as almost nothing is paid to Greece and its victims for the German crimes.

We observe with great concern that today inhumanity is once again the basis of politics across Europe. The objects of this inhumanity are men, women and children who have fled war and civil war and are seeking protection in Europe. Thousands of refugees have drowned in the Mediterranean. 20,000 have vegetated in Moria in a camp built for 2,800 people. We are shocked by the images of the burning refugee camp and the suffering of the people who are deprived of their dignity because they are presented not as people, but as a means of a European policy of deterrence.

Dealing with those who suffer from today's wars is a new form of barbarism that promotes nationalism, racism, hatred and fascist ideologies and leaves those in need to their fate.

Today AK Distomo commemorate the victims of Viannos with you and demand that all victims of National Socialism be finally compensated. Germany's position of wanting to get rid of the "annoying legacy" of the past by refusing to pay is important for the present and the future. It is an attitude that is irresponsible. It is the attitude that turns political calculation into inhumanity and deterrence into the guideline of European politics.

Let us not get tired of fighting for the enforcement of compensation claims and reparations payments. This is not just a natural act of justice for the past, but part of the necessary struggle against today's right-wing radical developments and fascist activities in Europe. It is a warning to today's warmongers and war profiteers that they will be held responsible for crimes against humanity and international law - no matter how much they play for time.

Gabriele Heinecke, AK Distomo, September 16, 2020