

## **To the World Federation of Democratic Youth On the so-called "World Youth Festival 2024" in Sochi**

What we and others feared after the 2017 World Festival of Youth and Students has come true: The state of the Russian oligarchs, the counter-revolution, is trying to permanently hijack the WFDY World Youth Festival for its own purposes and is organizing a so-called "World Youth Festival" in Sochi this March. They are not only using the history of the World Festival of Youth and Students, which has been organized by the WFDY since 1947 in order to unite the youth of the world in peace and friendship. At the same time, the robbing and murdering oligarchs are trying to portray themselves and their "order" as peace-loving, progressive and anti-imperialist. This was not the case in 2017 and is even less the case in 2024.

Even in 2017, when the festival could still have had a certain progressive influence, it was a festival of reactionary forces. While some WFDY member organizations were not allowed to participate and progressive symbols were not allowed to be displayed, fascists from the Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ) and the "Identitarian Movement", for example, were courted as invited guests.

We stated in a declaration at the time:

"We betray our history, our goals and ourselves if we think that these World Festivals can be prepared and carried out hand in hand with the counter-revolution, if we go hand in hand with the same counter-revolution that calls the October Revolution a civil war and Lenin a criminal, although it is themselves who are waging a war against the people, when we dance and eat in Sochi's hotels while the people have nothing to eat because they have been robbed of everything by those who pay for our dancing and our food. If the World Federation of Democratic Youth, if the members of the World Federation of Democratic Youth do not want to say goodbye to the struggle for the new and become the old, then we must react and openly take up the struggle against war and counter-revolution! Instead of 'celebrating' our own defeats staged by the rulers in Sochi, let us prepare our next victories! We owe it to ourselves, to the victims of past struggles and to the future."

The RKSM(b) is right in its statement of 29. November 2023 that the 2017 World Festival in Sochi created the international connections for the new bourgeoisie of Russia and its state that enable them today to hold this so-called "World Youth Festival" and compromise the traditional meeting of world youth.

It is all the more necessary now to defend the history of our world movement, to strengthen the common struggle against imperialism and war and to refuse to shake hands with the reactionary forces. Because one thing is clear to us: we are on the side of the people, in Ukraine, as well as in Russia, as well as everywhere else in the world, and not on the side of any of the rulers. The wars of the imperialists can only be counteracted and ended by the peoples themselves through revolution. The peoples of the former socialist countries, of these two countries in particular, have proven a long time ago that peace can only really be achieved and secured when they are united as socialist Soviet republics. This makes it all the more necessary to schedule our World Festival now in order to enable our member organizations to engage in the much-needed exchange, debate and joint struggle under anti-imperialist principles.

What we need are not the festivals of reaction - the peoples know enough about the self-glorification of the rulers! What the peoples need is a festival of young people who have fought together since 1945 for a world of peace and progress - and will continue to do so!

Friendship!

Free German Youth, Central Council

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