

Speech from Syndikat

Hello everyone,

solidarity greetings from Syndikat. They may have taken our space, but they have not taken our ideals, dreams and resistance.

We are here today because H48 is about to be sold to a private investor (of course) – even though the people who actually use and live in the house wanted to buy it themselves. Once more a house is to be sold against the will of its residents, like so many here in Schillerkiez, in Neukölln and the whole city. Hermannstrasse 225/6 has just lost their space after a tough struggle and was immediately announced to be converted into condominiums. Anzengruber 24 is to be auctioned by a church foundation and sold to the highest bidder. Donaustraße 5 is fighting against its sale. All over the city, businesses like Heimstaden are on a shopping spree and have bought at least 140 homes in the last year. We no longer want to see more and more houses around us being sold, capitalized on for profit or see their residents evicted. Let's stop this madness! The popular initiative “Deutsche Wohnen & Co – expropriate!” can and should be only a first step.

Let's fight together so that living space can no longer be up for speculation. Housing is a human right! Let's make sure that small and medium-sized businesses finally get reasonable rent rights. Let's end the real estate hunt for profits once and for all.

I must also mention here the Projektraum. With the possible sale of H48, yet another another autonomous space – a place for organization, for networking, for communication – is threatened. If yet another place should disappear in Schillerkiez (besides Syndikat) where it was uncomplicated to meet with larger groups, exchange ideas, etc. – then our neighbourhood will lose another important space of exchange. A space that has thwarted capitalist logic. Let's create more autonomous spaces and houses, more anti-fascist spaces – simply more free spaces in general.

Let us fight together for our houses, our neighborhoods, our city.

To lead this fight in a more effective way, good organization and networking are essential. Let's organize ourselves as house communities, in neighbourhood groups, in city-wide alliances. Get together, whether through the Schillerkiez initiative, the Kiezversammlung 44, the Deutsche Wohnen Co – expropriate!, the Bündnis Mietenwahnsinn, the soon-to-be Tenants' Union (Mietergewerkschaft) or other collective initiatives.

Let us fight together and with determination against the rent madness in this city and this society. Let's fight the sell-out of the city! For a city as we want it. A city from below, in which we can all live, work and exist as we want. Let us stand together (although keeping distance) and together we will overcome this totally capitalist shit.

The houses to those who need them!