

WITH CYMBALS AND CHIMES – DISARM RHEINMETALL !
LEBENSLAUTE.NET, 2020 AUGUST 12 TO 18, UNTERLUESS (LOWER SAXONY)

< Information about Corona follows at the end of this article >

The "Rheinmetall" Company is Germany's largest manufacturer of weapons and armaments. Its Defence Division has an annual sales volume of 3.5 billion Euros. This armament company operates a weapons and ammunition factory in the town of Unterlüß (in Niedersachsen) located north of Celle, as well as one manufacturing armoured transport vehicles such as tanks. And there it also has Europe's largest private weapons testing site. Seventy five years after the end of World War II Rheinmetall is known for its inappropriate restitution of its WWII forced laborers and for the promotion policies of military expansion of Germany and the European Union. Furthermore its products are sold to repressive nationalist governments and are employed in wars violating international law.

Profiteering From Suffering and Death

Since 1889, Rheinmetall profited from the death and destruction of life itself. During WWII the company exploited thousands of forced laborers and prisoners of war. As one example, hundreds of Polish and Hungarian Jewish women were mistreated and murdered while producing artillery shells for Rheinmetall in Tannenberg, a branch site of the concentration camp Bergen-Belsen. Up to the present day the company has refused public commemoration or individual compensation of any sort. As a matter of fact the management and stockholders of Rheinmetall AG, long a publicly traded company, have laid aside even the mere appearance of moral scruples. They have purposefully circumvented the rather lax German armament export restrictions by founding company affiliates abroad and exporting weapons into war zones worldwide, including exporting to countries involved in wars which are illegal according to international law. The company also exports tanks to countries such as Jordan or Algeria and contributes thereby to the murderous sealing off of Europe.

Confronting Militarization

The arms buildup of the German armed forces and further foreign military deployments such as those now being propagated by the German „defense“ minister Kramp-Karrenbauer are false signals. War brings not peace, but destroys all conditions for life and forces all humankind into modernised systems of subjugation and violence. Furthermore, wars and the military fuel the climate catastrophe. Recent studies show that the US military produces more destructive climate emissions than whole countries such as Norway, Sweden or Hungary. Europe should not strive to do the same! After both World Wars the manufacture of arms was prohibited. So the Rheinmetall Company changed its focal point to the production of civilian articles such as office equipment, locomotives and transportation. But such first steps in the area of armament conversion were reversed with the foundation of the new German Federal Army (BRD-Bundeswehr) in 1956. Once again Rheinmetall began producing machine guns and canons.

And today Germany is once again a warring nation. With the production of weapons and the worldwide export thereof, we can see that war also begins here at Rheinmetall in Unterlüsse. Our musical blockade at this weapons factory intends to be sand in the gearbox of this killing machine.

ELIMINATE THE PRODUCTION OF WEAPONS, MUNITIONS AND OTHER ARMAMENTS!

ELIMINATE THE MILITARY AND ALL WARS! REMOVE BORDERS AND ADMIT THOSE FLEEING!

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION THROUGH DISARMAMENT! DISARM RHEINMETALL !

Going by the name of "LEBENSLAUTE" (Life Sounds)

Amateur and professional musicians from all over Germany, singers and instrumentalists, have been gathering annually since 1986 to form a full chorus and symphonic orchestra. They are joined by action supporters and active audiences. On a regional basis there have been smaller but more frequent projects. We are an open group combining music with social action and perform mainly classical music in places where this is not usually expected: on the grounds of military training areas, inside the halls of airports to prevent deportations, at nuclear production plants and rocket depositories as well as in the "Departments of Alien Residency" and other places where human life is threatened.

In our choice of concert locations and forms of action we are not influenced by official regulations. On the contrary: LEBENSLAUTE designs actions of Civil Disobedience which seek political confrontation and controversy. They are previously announced and they consciously disregard legal regulations as doing: blockades, sit-ins, fence-openings, walk and stay where it is forbidden... Whenever possible we strive to strengthen and support local protest movements with our projects.

Once again this year we will meet starting six days before our action event. We will prepare ourselves cooperatively and intensely for our concert action and will act in a united fashion. Our decisions are made on the basis of mutual consent (grassroots democracy), the needs and concerns of all participants are to be taken into account. Each participant is responsible for himself/herself and decides to what degree he/she is willing to actively disobey the laws and regulations involved. We support those who are faced with possible legal ramifications with the mutual solidarity of the LEBENSLAUTE network. (<https://www.lebenslaute.net>)

LEBENSLAUTE Action 2020

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JUNE 19 to 21: Rehearsal and Action Preparatory Weekend in WALTERSHAUSEN (Thuringia)

We become acquainted, begin rehearsals and discuss political aspects. We plan our action project. Also our participants with experience in publicity/media work and internal organisation will begin their work in this area. Room and Board (vegetarian/vegan) is with cost sharing according to one's own financial assessment.

AUGUST 12 to 18: Week of Preparation and Action in LOWER SAXONY

Here we will rehearse our concert music and finally prepare ourselves for our action and give a concert ahead of time. Room and Board (vegetarian/vegan) is with cost sharing according to one's own financial assessment.

Concert Music 2020

We prepare: Excerpts from Benjamin Britten's "War Requiem" and from George Frederic Handel's "Ode for the Birthday of Queen Anne" (german text, alternative title "Friedensode"),
2nd Movement of Ludwig van Beethoven's 7th Symphony, Bob Dylan's "Masters of War", "Darthulas Grabesgesang" by Johannes Brahms and a few other works.
We cordially welcome additional creative contributions you might have, such as folk music, jazz, dance, chamber music, improvisation, theater sketches etc. This also goes for contributions from other action groups and for artistic contributions (if these are coordinated with us in advance) at the public concert action.

Registration

Would you like to join us? LEBENSLAUTE is open for all instrumentalists and singers and for all persons who wish to support our action in an administrative or technical way.

It is necessary to register ahead of time. We ask those who join us with their instrument(s) and/or voice to prepare adequately beforehand. The notes will be available well ahead of time.

Please let us know a.s.a.p.: What do you need to be able to join: Child supervision, special help, ...? How would you like to participate: Your voice range, instrument(s), support task capabilities?

CONTACT / INFORMATION / JOIN US!

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COST SHARING (needed) / DONATIONS (wanted)

Purpose to be named on the bank transfer "Action 2020", Bank account: Lebenslaute,
IBAN: de40 4306 0967 1115 4515 01 (no spaces in the IBAN, please),
BIC: GENODEM1GLS (for GLS-Bank),

Preventing the spread of Corona

For us it is clear that even in these times of Corona, there will be a LEBENSLAUTE Action in August as "normal" as possible. Of course we hope that the situation will be more relaxed by the time we have our Week of Action and that larger assemblies are once again possible. If this is not the case we have no intention of endangering the health of ourselves or others and will do everything necessary to help slow down the spread of the virus.

It may become necessary to act with a shortened period of preparation and we may have to develop new alternate forms of action. But in spite of this we are determined to let our message be heard and seen:

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