

EVICCTIONS KILL

What happened in Spandau, Brunsbüttler Damm, on Tuesday, July 24, is not an isolated incident but one of the many moments in which the capitalist system reveals itself in its murderous consequence. A system in which the right to property is valued more highly and protected by the state than a person's need to have a roof over their head.

We know little about the fatal circumstances or what his ideas were, indeed who the 62-year-old tenant was who resisted his eviction with a firearm and appears to have shot himself during the ensuing SEK operation. And what we do know has previously passed through the hands of the media and cops, rather than coming from direct communication. But even without this information, we can see the systematics behind these moments. Namely, that while housing companies and private owners of thousands of apartments are raking in fat profits, rents in Berlin are skyrocketing, the supply of rental housing is extremely scarce, and current crises and inflation are driving tenants into an extremely precarious situation where monthly money is barely enough to cover all costs.

Evictions are an everyday expression of a steadily growing gap between rich and poor. In 2021, around 1,668 evictions - alone by official statistics - took place in Berlin, more than 4 per day. The responsibility for this lies with homeowners, politicians, judges and the cops, because they are all on the side of injustice. The fact that their decisions have consequences for the lives of tenants, can drive them into despair and out of their usual neighborhoods into isolation, homelessness and a spiral of poverty, is a deliberate consequence that is considered secondary. By putting increasing profit as a priority, with the political backup from the side of the state and with the help of their loyal servants (cops) speculators are attacking the lower social class. Again and again, evictions end deadly, such as:

- * on 03.08.2022 in Cologne, when cops shot Lousef B. during his eviction
- * on 31.05.2021 in Berlin, when Peter H. took his own life before his eviction
- * on 11.04.2013 in Berlin, when Rosemarie F. died two days after her forced eviction in a cold aid facility

Poverty and precariousness are often seen as an individual problem. Most of the affected people are ashamed and do not dare to talk about it. This is part of the system in which social grievances are marked as individual fate or personal responsibility and thus their logic is reversed. The injustices that the system of exploitation and oppression produces are being transferred on the shoulders of the people creating even more exclusions.

As a house collective including tenants and squatters we see ourselves as part of this social war/fight. Standing next to the excluded, the ones who face repression and oppression we are trying to create collective spaces to fight back, solidarity neighborhoods that create communities that overcome and attack neoliberal capitalism.

Against the city of the rich! Investors, politicians, cops hand off our homes!

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