

The Minister of State

SAXON MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR  
01095 Dresden

President of the Saxon State Parliament  
Dr. Matthias Rößler  
Bernhard von Lindenau Square 1  
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Reference  
(please specify when  
responding) 16-  
1053/152/84

Dresden, October 12, 2023

Small question by Juliane Nagel (DIE LINKE) Drs.-Nr.:  
7/14411

Subject: Mention of the collective "ABC" in the monthly report of  
the Lan- desamt für Verfassungsschutz February 2023.

Dear Mr. President,

the questions are preceded by the following statements:

"In the monthly report of the State Office for the Protection of the  
Constitution of February 2023, the collective 'ABC Dresden' in the  
context of solidarity acts with Ukrainians\* affected by the Russian war  
of aggression is described as a left-wing extremist  
grouping titled. (cf. [https://www.  
verfassungsschutz.sachsen.de/download/Monatsbericht Februar\\_  
2023.pdf](https://www.verfassungsschutz.sachsen.de/download/Monatsbericht_Februar_2023.pdf))"

In the name of and on behalf of the Saxon State Government, I am  
answering the minor question as follows:

Question 1:

What knowledge does the LfV have about the collective "ABC Dresden"  
and is "ABC Dresden" subject to observation by the LfV?

Question 2:

Which concrete efforts and activities lead to the classification of the  
"ABC Dresden" as "left-wing extremist" and, if applicable, to observation  
by the LfV?

Summary answer to questions 1 and 2:

The Anarchist Black Cross Dresden (ABC Dresden) has been monitored by  
the Saxony State Office for the Protection of the Constitution (LfV) since  
February 2023.

ABC is a global phenomenon in the sense of an international support  
network for primarily anarchist prisoners, which, according to the  
organization, has been in existence since the early  
20th century was active.

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About 40 ABC groups are said to operate worldwide in this collective, including ABC Dresden. According to the policy paper "Founding an ABC Group: An Introduction," there is a consensus among ABC groups regarding the importance of the anarchist struggle against state repression. According to their own account, their goal statement is as follows: "We want to support struggles that pose a threat to the state, capitalism, white domination, patriarchy, and other forms of oppression." The "Defending movements and communities" could include many things in this regard: "ABC has been active in a wide variety of forms of resistance in recent decades - from legal defense campaigns and committees, [...] [to] engagement in armed defense struggles."

The group ABC Dresden sees itself and its members as anarchists (cf. quote: "They explain their rejection of the democratic constitutional state with the help of the "anti-pres- sion" narrative often used by left-wing extremists, focusing on the justice system. The group declared: "We fundamentally reject the punishment and justice system that characterizes our society and fight for a society without prisons. [...] Those who are to be disciplined by punishment and prison are those people who are already oppressed by governments, institutions and society because of their class, political beliefs, ethnicity, religion, external characteristics (e.g. skin color) or gender. This makes the prison complex a political issue in itself. [...] Thus, our critique of prisons is directed against the system itself and we hold the opinion that any forced institutions -all prisons, deportation prisons, forced psychiatric institutions- should better be construction gaps [...] So we are dealing with a system that oppresses, exploits and humiliates people, this is politically motivated and must therefore be rejected as a whole."

In the profile posted on their website, the group characterizes their work as follows: "Anarchist Black Cross Dresden is a collective of people that aims to spread ideas about anarchism and solidarity. [...] By spreading information about prisoners and repression against social movements, we hope to show people in Dresden mechanisms of repression in order to fight them better [...]. ABC Dresden supports anarchist and anti-authoritarian activists whose ideas do not reflect anarchist principles. We also support people who become anarchists during their time in prison." <sup>1</sup>.

Since the beginning of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the Dresden group has opened up a main field of action. This was reflected in the initiation of fundraising and information events. In articles on its website, the group provides detailed information about the alleged amount of donations received and their intended use. In September 2022, for example, 315,500 euros in donations had already been received, which were used for protective and logistical equipment (vehicles, gasoline, vehicle documents, medical items, etc.) for anti-authoritarian units. It is said to be primarily for the support of anarchists fighting with weapons against the Russian armed forces in Ukraine. This suggests that building a territory characterized by anarchy is the final goal after the end of the war.

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<sup>1</sup> Spelling of all quotations as in the original

In the spirit of this concern ABC Dresden was also at the anarchist book fair "Radical Bookfair" 2022 in Leipzig with an exhibitor booth and a lecture announced. This series of events regularly offers a platform for anarchist groups from all over Germany.

Because of its commitment to anarchism and its regular activities, ABC Dresden is classified as an anti-constitutional effort. Anarchist ideas of society contradict the central principles of democracy and the rule of law of the free democratic basic order. Anarchists negate the right of the people to exercise state power in elections and votes and through special legislative, executive and judicial bodies and to elect the people's representatives in general, direct, free and secret elections (cf. § 3 para. 2 no. 1 Saxon Constitution Protection Act [SächsVSG]).

The right to form and exercise a parliamentary opposition is also ignored (§ 3 para. 2 no. 3 SächsVSG). Anarchists strive to overcome the current social system. This negates any form of a rule-of-law monopoly on the use of force that could guarantee the preservation of elementary human rights through the possibility of sanctions under the rule of law and excludes the establishment of a rule of force and arbitrariness (§ 3 Para. 2 No. 6 SächsVSG). In this respect, anarchist endeavors, like ABC Dresden, are directed against the human rights concretized in the Basic Law (§ 3 para. 2 no. 7 SächsVSG). Anarchists see the democratic constitutional state and its security and judicial authorities as illegitimate instruments of repression of a "violent" state that must be abolished. They generally deny that legislation is bound by the constitutional order and that executive power and the judiciary are bound by law and justice (§ 3 Para. 2 No. 2 SächsVSG).

In addition, the state government has information whose disclosure would be contrary to overriding concerns for the protection of secrets (Article 51(2) of the Constitution of the Free State of Saxony [SächsVerf]). The information in question has been classified in accordance with No. 8 in conjunction with No. 3.2 of the Administrative Regulation of the Saxon State Government on the Handling of Classified Information of January 4, 2008 (SächsABl. Sonderdruck Jg. 2008). The classification is necessary to ensure the functionality of the LfV Saxony and to protect intelligence access. The information was obtained by intelligence means (Section 5 (1) SächsVSG). Disclosure of this information would reveal the methods used to obtain intelligence or allow conclusions to be drawn about the nature of intelligence access and thus jeopardize the ability of the LfV Saxony to function.

In the case of the deployment of persons pursuant to Section 5 (1) SächsVSG, rights of third parties within the meaning of Article 51 (2) SächsVerf are also opposed. These persons would be endangered in their fundamental rights to life, physical integrity or freedom of the person in the event of notification. The state government has a duty to protect these persons, which is why it must refrain from any actions that could lead to their exposure.

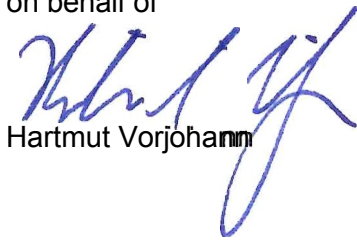
Furthermore, confidence in the ability of an intelligence service to protect the identity of the persons working for it is essential for its ability to function. The communication of information that allows conclusions to be drawn about intelligence access would have a lasting negative impact on the ability of the LfV Saxony to gain such access in the future or to continue such contacts.

Such a possible permanent impairment of legal interests had to be weighed against the MPs' interest in information. The weighing of interests showed that the protection of secrecy in particular was the more important legal interest compared to the MP's right to information. The state government took into account whether other forms of information transmission were possible that would satisfy the parliament's interest in information while safeguarding the state government's legitimate interests in secrecy. With regard to the group of persons to be involved in the answer, the state government came to the conclusion that the necessary protection of secrecy as well as the protection of third parties can only be adequately ensured if the transmission of information is omitted.

It should be noted that the Parliamentary Control Commission may be provided with further information at its request.

With kind regards

on behalf of



Hartmut Vorjohann