



## Selfintroduction of the UOKG

The „Union der Opferverbände kommunistischer Gewaltherrschaft“ (Union of the associations of the victims of communist tyranny), in the following *UOKG*, is the umbrella organization of more than 30 associations from East- and West- Germany. The common intent is to preserve the memory on the suffering of the victims of communist tyranny.

The injustice of the SED-State and soviet occupation left numerous victims. To clear the history of these crimes and to improve the actual situation of the victims is the mission of the UOKG.

The engagement of the UOKG is diversified. The UOKG regularly executes public events such as panel discussions and conventions about these issues. It is talking to politicians to sensitize them to the needs of the SED-Victims. Since 2007 the UOKG is providing advice and social assistance to victims of political persecution in the former GDR and the soviet occupied zone. Further the UOKG is running helpdesks for victims of forced adoptions and children abused inside children's homes. Moreover the UOKG has established a board in order to install a memorial for the victims of the communist crimes, which is intended to be sited in the centre of Berlin. Finally the UOKG is editing the journal "der-stacheldraht" (the barb-wire), which appears nine times a year and reaches in an edition of 9000 exemplars a huge number of receivers. In addition to this, the UOKG provides an E-Mail informaitonservice named "UOKG-Wochenrückblick" (UOKG's week in review)

The UOKG is criticising a careless public handling with these issues as soon as the problem of pensions and settlements for the victims, which is not solved in a satisfactory way.

The members of the UOKG cover a large spectrum of victim associations and organisations of reprocessing. Associations of prisoners of the soviet special camps and of the prisons in GDR are represented as well as persecuted pupils, students, victims of forced adoptions, victims of forced doping and victims of forced displacement at the former borders. Also there are human-rights organisations like the International Society for Human Rights and associations of memorials of the communist crimes in the UOKG.

The UOKG counters any kind of political extremism and assumes this also from its members. Especially racism and antisemitism have no room in the umbrella organisation.

Chairman of the UOKG is the 1951 born theologist Rainer Wagner, who himself was imprisoned in the GDR from 1967 till 1969.

Deputies are the advocate Roland Lange and Ernst-Otto Schönemann, member of the association of the vicitims of the forced displacement

The UOKG practises the exchange of experiences with victim-organisations on an international level. It is itself member of the "International Association", the umbrella organisation of the association of victims on European level.

The UOKG is based in "Haus 1" (house 1) of the former Headquarter of the East-German secret service in Normannenstraße in Berlin-Lichtenberg.

### **Union der Opferverbände Kommunistischer Gewaltherrschaft**

(Union of the Victims from communist rulership)

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