



For a culture of commemoration of victims of right-wing & racist violence

Open letter for a symbol of remembrance of Eugeniu Botnari in Lichtenberg

The remembrance and commemoration of the more than 180 victims of racist, anti-Semitic and right-wing violence since 1990 still can't be taken for granted. This also applies to the district of Lichtenberg.

The deadly attacks in Hanau (2020), Halle (2019) or the murder of Walter Lübcke show us in a frightening way how commonplace right-wing and racist attacks are. Remembering the victims and showing solidarity with their relatives is an important step on the way to countering right-wing violence.

In Lichtenberg there have been two victims of right-wing and social-chauvinist violence: Kurt Schneider (1999) and Eugeniu Botnari (2016). As a result of civil society engagement, Kurt Schneider will soon have an official memorial plaque – his heavy fate will thus be made visible.

Now, we demand a visible symbol of remembrance in the public space for Eugeniu Botnari, too.

On September 17, 2016, Eugeniu Botnari was beaten with quartz gloves and injured in the head by the then store manager in a back room of the EDEKA supermarket at the S- and U-Bahn station Lichtenberg. The perpetrator suspected him of theft. The store manager then sent pictures of the crime including racist comments through a messaging app to other employees. Three days later, Eugeniu Botnari died of a cerebral hemorrhage that had been a direct result of the beating. Store manager André S. was sentenced to prison for assault and battery resulting in death.

Eugeniu Botnari had come to Germany from Moldova in 2015 at the age of 33. He did not have a permanent residence in Berlin and instead had to stay with friends and relatives. He is survived by his wife in Moldova.

We demand that the currently nameless square in front of the Southern entrance of the S- and U-Bahn station Lichtenberg be named after Eugeniu Botnari. In this way a victim of racist violence can be given a place in public consciousness.

By actively commemorating the victims of right-wing violence we want to set a clear signal against racism and misanthropy. We are happy about every person who would like to support us in this.

Signatories:

Andreas Wächter (managing director of pad gGmbH)
Claudia Engelmann (faction of DIE LINKE Lichtenberg in the local council)
Hendrikje Klein (member of the Berlin House of Representatives)
Humanistischer Verband-Berlin Brandenburg KdÖR
Fach- und Netzwerkstelle Licht-Blicke
Stadtteilkoordination Lichtenberg Mitte
Stadtteilkoordination Alt-Lichtenberg (Kiezspinne FAS e.V.)

I also want to sign! Send a Mail to mail@licht-blick.org with your name, Postal code & City