

# Red Army guerrillas waging German 'battle'

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BONN, West Germany — Spawned in Germany's affluent middle class and the turmoil of the 1960s, a small band of deadly urban guerrillas is waging an ever-bloodier war against "imperialism" and "capitalism."

Although its founders are dead or jailed, the Red Army Faction has declared that "the battle has just begun."

Some observers say there is evidence the Germans have become part of an international terror network led by a Palestinian physician and including such notorious terrorists as the Japanese "Red Army" and Ilyich Ramirez Sanchez, known as Carlos.

The Japanese group has been involved in a least a half-dozen major terrorist incidents since 1970, including the hijacking of a Japan Air Lines jet over India on Sept. 28 with 156 persons aboard. Those hijackers freed all their hostages unharmed after receiving \$6 million ransom.

Carlos, believed to be Venezuelan-born, is sought by French police in connection with the killing of two security men and was believed involved in the December 1975 raid that killed three persons at the headquarters of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Vienna.

The persistence of the West German terror underground, known popularly as the Baader-Meinhof gang, was sharply highlighted in a burst of violence this week that began with the German commando raid to rescue 86 hostages from a hijacked Lufthansa jet in Somalia.

The raid was followed by the government claim that three jailed Baader-Meinhof veterans killed themselves in high-security cells. Two days later, a Red Army Faction communique said that kidnaped West German industrialist Hanns-Martin Schleyer had been killed in retaliation and his body was found in a French border town.

The prison deaths of Andreas Baader, 34, his 37-year-old mistress Gudrun Ensslin and Jan-Carl Raspe, 32, wiped out the original leadership of the Baader-Meinhof gang. Ulrike Meinhof, Baader's 41-year-old accomplice, was found hanged in her cell last year. About 100 other terrorists are in German jails.

But German security

sources believe that after lying low awhile, terrorists still at large will resume their campaign of assassinations and kidnappings against business and political leaders.

Security sources estimate the Red Army Faction has three or four active cells in West Germany with some 15 hard-core members each.

Behind these stand several hundred active sympathizers, and beyond Germany's borders there appear to be allied bands across Europe, in Japan, Latin America and the Middle East.

The Baader-Meinhof gang was spawned in the student revolution of the '60s. Studies have shown that most members come from middle-class backgrounds and many got their taste of radical ideology in college.

Nearly two-thirds of the terrorists now sought by police are women.

The emergence of a fanatical minority from West Germany's comfortable middle class, and the predominance of women, has baffled analysts. Some see the terrorists as

evidence of a lack of cohesion and purpose in West German society, and the women have been described as the "dark side of women's emancipation."

The gang's first recorded terror act was a store fire set by Baader and Miss Ensslin in 1968. They were jailed, and Mrs. Meinhof — abandoning a journalism career and family — aided Baader's escape.

Their subsequent terror career escalated from arson through bombing, shootings, kidnappings and murder. The leaders were captured in mid-1972 and eventually sentenced to life imprisonment for attacks on U.S. Army installations that killed four American GIs.

As the sophistication and brutality of the guerrillas escalated, their political goals became increasingly murky beyond general calls for an end to "imperialism" and "capitalism."

But while their precise goals have become obscure, observers have found increasing evidence that the Germans are at least loosely

connected to an international terror network, possibly coordinated by a Palestinian guerrilla leader called Dr. Wadi Haddad.

One indication of the global connection was the firebombing of German-owned facilities in France and the rash of ultraleftist demonstrations in Britain, Holland, Italy, Austria and Greece that followed the deaths of the Baader-Meinhof prisoners.

Observers cite these other pieces of evidence:

—The hijackers of the Lufthansa jetliner who were overpowered by German commandos in Somalia on Monday were described as Arabs, but their major demand was the release of 11 Baader-Meinhof members.

—The hijackers' demands were first made public in Beirut, and they claimed to be members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the radical Palestine guerrilla group in which Haddad is chief of foreign operations.

Design by Lyndal Warren  
Composition by Paul Sill