Women leading W.German terror

By WELLINGTON LONG BONN, WEst Germany (UPI) — Seven years ago, a woman fired a shot in German guerrilla warfare for the first time.

Now half of the urban guerrillas wanted by Federal Criminal Police on suspicion of murder, bombings, bank robberies and associated crime are women.

Writers and psychologists puzzle over the leading and violent role women play in the urban guerrilla movement, and the fact that most of them come from upper middle class

families.

Suggested explanations range from sexual dependency on male guerrillas to revolt against the family. But even the authors of these suggestions admit they are only guesses. The women themselves say they are in political revolt against a system they consider

repressive.

In the most recent case, Susanne Albrecht, daughter of a wealthy Hamburg lawyer, led a man and another woman into the home of banker Juergen Ponto, her father's close friend and a man who always had considered her as a goddaughter.

She handed him a bouquet of red roses just before the man with her opened fire on Ponto. Police say one of the two women, perhaps Miss Albrecht, also fired at Ponto. Ponto was killed.

Ulrike Meinhof, a left-wing journalist who abandoned husband and two children when she turned to violence, opened the terrorist era on May 14, 1970, when, assisted by the two other women, she shot a guard in West Berlin to free Andreas Baader, then in jail for arson.

Mrs. Meinhof acted because of disappointment with the lack of results achieved by the leftist "Antiparliamentary Opposition" which set out during the late 1960's to reform West German society.

Early in 1968, Mrs. Meinhof told an interviewer that fellow leftwing intellectuals "have gone far enough in their theory to know that armed action is necessary for the revolution but they are afraid to take the step."

She broke the impasse by forming the "Red Army Faction" and by personally leading the shooting raid that freed Baader.

Germany's urban guerrillas then became known as the Baader-Meinhof gang.

The women on the federal criminal police's wanted list now include Ingeborg Baz, for bank robbery; Gabriele Kroecher-Tiedemann, convicted in 1973 of the attempted murder of a policeman, suspected of one or two killings during an attack on OPEC headquarters in Vienna in 1975; and Angelika Liuther, suspected of bank robberies.