



HUNTED AS A TERRORIST — The face of Gabriele Kroecher-Tiedemann looks out from the TV screen as she tells West German viewers in 1975 she doesn't want to be released from prison in exchange for a kidnap victim. She's now one of the more notorious of the women fugitives being sought in West Germany for terrorist crimes. West German official estimates are that over half the country's hard core revolutionaries, and two-thirds of those sought for terrorist crimes, are women. (AP Newsfeatures Photo)

Women Terrorist Groups Flourish In Germany

FRANKFURT, West Germany (AP) — A new generation of deadly young women, many of them daughters of prosperous lawyers, businessmen and pastors, has written a bloody record in the radical underground's war against the government.

Nearly two thirds of those now sought for political murders, robberies and kidnappings are women. To many Germans, this remarkable proportion seems the dark side of women's liberation.

"The German woman of today is totally emancipated," says a Bonn criminologist, Lothar von Balluseck. "She can play any role that a man can play."

In the tiny and ruthless urban guerrilla army, she may play it more effectively than men. No mere camp followers, the women revolutionaries frequently are leaders of their underground cell.

For the most part, according to sociologist Erwin Scheuch, they are tougher and more intelligent than their male comrades, and often cooler, more resourceful.

Alongside their male companions, women have taken part in such chilling attacks as the slaying of Banker Juergen Ponto last July, the abduction of Arab oil ministers in Vienna last year, and the assassination of West Germany's chief prosecutor, Siegfried Buback, in April.

Women have appeared in terrorist ranks elsewhere — in Northern Ireland, the Middle East and Latin America. But their number and influence appears greatest in West Germany. No one quite knows why.

There's a theory that women, docile housewives for so long in German society, burst forth with special energies when the old bonds frayed.

However, they're not really threatening to replace the men in terrorist ranks, Dr. Helga Einsele, who runs Frankfurt's women's prison, said in a recent magazine interview. "They don't see themselves as striving for a particular position, but as warriors in behalf of society's victims."

Prominent women fugitives include Gabriele Kroecher-Tiedemann, 26, who was released from prison in 1974 in exchange for kidnaped Berlin politician Peter Lorenz; bank robber Ingrid Siepmann, 33, freed in the same swap, and Angela Luther, a former teacher wanted in the killing of a West Berlin judge in 1974.

The list also includes Susanne Albrecht, 26, daughter of a wealthy Hamburg attorney and chief suspect in the killing of banker Ponto, a close friend of her father's. Four other women are sought in that case.

Women first emerged as leaders of the underground in the late 1960s, when Ulrike Meinhof became co-leader with Andreas Baader of the country's most notorious urban guerrilla band.

The group called itself the Red Army Faction but became known as the Baader-Meinhof gang. Its exploits included the 1972 bombings of the U.S. Army's European headquarters at Heidelberg and the Army's Fifth Corps command center in Frankfurt.

Four American soldiers were killed in the bombings.

Miss Meinhof committed suicide during her trial this spring, while three comrades — Baader, Jan Carl Raspe and Gudrun Ensslin — drew life sentences. West Germany has no death penalty.

According to sociologists who study the terrorist scene, West

Germany's guerrillas, women and men, come from strikingly similar backgrounds. Most are products of the prosperous middle class. According to von Balluseck, the future terrorists in many cases grew up under the influence of domineering mothers. Their fathers often were described as either dictatorial or weak and distant.

As children, the terrorists usually are remembered by former playmates and relatives as quiet, studious and retiring. Sometimes a bit odd and cranky.

"My Gabi was always a loving, well-behaved girl," Miss Kroecher-Tiedemann's mother, Ingeborg, told a West German magazine. "She was a child who caused no problems."

Mrs. Tiedemann, a schoolteacher in Dortmund, blames her daughter's swing to radicalism on the influence of her son-in-law, Norbert Kroecher, who married her daughter in 1971. In 1973 Gabriele was sentenced to eight years in prison for attempted murder and robbery.

Kroecher was arrested last April while trying to enter Sweden, allegedly as part of a plot to kidnap a former Swedish cabinet minister.

For others, the path to the terrorist underground starts at one of West Germany's leftist-dominated universities, where the pro-Moscow Communist Party, the Maoist Communist Party, and even more extremist elements compete for followers.

In student taverns and coffee shops near the universities, many students speak sympathetically of the terrorists and bitterly about the United States — often while listening to American pop music on the juke box.

"Who are the terrorists?" said one student at a Frankfurt pub. "Perhaps the United States and the business tycoons. This country is no more than a colony of American imperialism."

After the slaying of prosecutor Buback, the student newspaper at the University of Giessen commented that many students were "unable to suppress a surreptitious feeling of delight."

Miss Albrecht, sought in the Ponto killing, was graduated from a strict religious high school and apparently was first exposed to the radical left when

she entered the University of Hamburg in 1971.

She began looking for alternatives to what she called her family's "caviar class," was arrested during sit-ins to protest city housing policies in Hamburg, and within a year moved into a shabby downtown apartment with Karl Heinz Dellwo, now serving life for the bloody attack on the West German Embassy in Stockholm two years ago.

"My parents are crummy middle class," she told a friend when she left home. "You can't breathe there."

Now Miss Albrecht has joined dozens of her sisters in a life on the run, playing hide and seek with West Germany's strict security system which requires citizens to register with police and carry identity cards. It's a life of forged papers and frequent moves from apartment to apartment, city to city, helped by a network of underground hideouts and an intelligence system that penetrates even maximum security prisons.

PERMANENT HAIR REMOVAL

with the new "feather-touch"

bissettron

Bisette Electrolysis
1008 Washington Place
By Appointment Only
583-0680 Spartanburg

RECYCLE

Southern

BUYIN

DELIVERED TO T

Telephone 576-2440

GEISS &

is pleased to
the opening of t

1864 E.

across from Hillcree

Tuesday, Sept. 27

Public is con