

GHS Timeline – not complete of course

January 2018

2012 Refugee march from Würzburg to Berlin; Oranienplatz Camp

Set up of the protest encampment

Winter 2012/13 Former Gerhart-Hauptmann-Schule in Ohlauer Straße squatted; at first “tolerated” by district mayor Schulz as temporary winter accommodation until spring 2013

Numerous projects in the GHS organised by refugees and activists, development of projects for the pavilion building as a Social Centre with people’s kitchen (Küfa), parties, language classes, clothes swap space, bicycle workshop, silkscreen printing workshop, bands (Antinational Embassy)

More refugees and Roma families moved in; International Womenspace set up on the women’s floor in the school

07.04.2014 Eviction of Oranienplatz Camp

May and June Refugee March for Freedom from Strasbourg to Brussels, also with O-Platz refugee activists

19.06.2014 Meeting tent on O-Platz set on fire

24.6. 2014 “Voluntary departure” – mostly referred to as eviction – of 380 of the 400 people living in the GHS; 10-day siege-like state with police blocking the streets around the school and police on roofs and balconies around the school; 40 squatters continue protest on the roof. Massive demonstrations round the clock outside the GHS to express support for the GHS protesters. Many incidents of police violence against protesters during the siege.

Founding of neighbourhood initiative Ohlauer Straße (NIO), their first interventions try to show the absurdity of the police siege. Regular NIO meetings and correspondence with politicians starting in August 2014.

03.07.2014 10 Point Paper / July Agreement (<https://ohlauerinfopoint.wordpress.com/2014/07/03/vereinbarung-zwischen-den-refugees-und-dem-bezirksamt/>); security guards permanently at school control access. People still living in GHS given written assurances that they can continue to live there.

04.07.2014 Press release on the situation of the Roma families who left the GHS and complain bitterly that they have been moved to the outskirts of the city, and have lost their familiar environment, their family. Their children also have to travel a long way to go to their schools.

13.7.2014 Open meeting in Jockel in support of the Refugee Strike

23.7.2014 “Fortress Europe on My Doorstep” – discussion with local neighbourhood in SO 36 on the police operation in the Ohlauerstr; beforehand action in front of GHS with people from the school and supporters.

19.09.2014

Statement from the school addressing neighbours, district government and Berlin senate. The activists declare their wish to proceed with their self-organized projects (Social Centre, screen printing workshop, music meetings, theatre, International Women's Space) without police repression. Attempts to counter press coverage stigmatizing the school as an especially crime-ridden place

27. 9. 2014 “United Neighbours” rally

early October 2014 Meeting in Regenbogenfabrik, Come together: networking meeting for solidarity in cooperating with GHS and other refugee activists

4.10. 2014 District bans visitors to the GHS; previously anyone living in the school could take two to three visitors into the school with them.

11.10. 2014 Instead of the planned Open Day in the GHS, demonstration outside the locked gates at the school; the district prohibited the Open Day, arguing that there was a insufficient fire safety, noise protection and toilets in the GHS.

12.10.2014 Court hearing on planned eviction from school ends positively for the GHS activists; speeches and assembly outside the court (Amtsgericht Tiergarten)

28.10.2014 Written question to district: What will happen now for the people in the Gerhart-Hauptmann-Schule and plans for an International Refugee Centre? Statement from NIO on prospects for the Gerhardt-Hauptmann-Schule

30.10.2014 Press conference outside the school. Call for solidarity with refugees by a coalition of Berlin based institutions and organizations (among them Maxim Gorki Theater, Bündnis gegen Rassismus, Asyl in der Kirche Berlin)

01.11.2014 Statement to all from the people of the school with plans for a self-organised International Refugee Centre

04.11. 2014 Open letter from students at the Alice Salomon Hochschule to the Diakonie (church-based charitable organisation), responding to the announcement that the Diakonie intends to support the eviction of the GHS in cooperation with the district government and to develop its own refugee centre on the premises.

05.11.2014 Demonstration against announced eviction plans

06.11.2014 Protest vigil in front of the school in the Ohlauer Straße

November 2014 Benefit party organised by the GHS refugees at Freies Neukölln to raise money for the school (food, lawyer's costs etc).

09.12.2014 District begins inspection of fire safety measures in the school at 6 a.m., announcing beforehand that it is not an eviction. Huge police operation in the GHS, according to police Twitter account “protecting the district politicians during inspection

of fire safety and emergency exits”; police detain two people from the GHS on the basis of allegations related to the June protest.

10.12. 2014 Sista Mimi dies

11.12.2014 Another person from GHS is arrested during the memorial event for Sista Mimi

18.12.2014 Infopoint on Oranienplatz destroyed

23.01.2015 Local neighbourhood assembly

22.02.2015 District letter to people in GHS hints at eviction plans; ongoing discussions with Diakonie on plans to establish an International Refugee Centre, but the Diakonie’s plans leave little scope for the people currently living in the school to keep on living in the GHS.

18.03.2015 Reaction to letter from NIO, which called for promises to be kept by politicians and for negotiations with the Diakonie to continue

19.03. 2015 'Silent eviction' of three inhabitants that are prohibited from entering the school, supposedly because they don't have the "GHS access card“ issued by the district

21.03.2015 „My Right is Your Right“ demonstration, Global Day against Racism

31.03. 2015 Arson attack destroys House of 28 Doors on Oranienplatz

from April 2015 Sunday meetings of supporters in New York discuss idea of buying the school together

23.04.2015 Benefit concert in SO 36 with Dota with Jan Rohrbach; Francesco Wilking and Moritz Kraemer (Die höchste Eisenbahn); Antinational Embassy; Danny Dziuk - in support of the people in the GHS and the Sleeping Places Group, organised by NIO and KuB e.V.

16.5.2015 District refuses to allow civil rights activists Angela Davis and Gina Dent access to GHS; questionable comments from District Spokesman Sascha Langenbach cited in press (taz)

18.5.2015 Event with Angela Davis in Jockel, followed by walk to GHS

22.05.2015 District loses court case in Administrative Court (Verwaltungsgericht) against the group from the school

June 2015 Letter from NIO to district with demands after court decision, in particular on ending visitor ban, relaunch of discussions on alternative and better use for resources being spent on the security service at the GHS; discussions on the 'silently evicted' former inhabitants

Autumn 2015 Talks about the International Refugee Centre between Diakonie, professionals from the cultural sector and activists from the school were suspended, as it was impossible to clarify how much living space and scope to participate was envisaged for people from the GHS in the Diakonie’s planned concept for the building

October 2015 Higher Administrative Court confirms ruling against the district from May at appeal; notes that owner's rights would need to be addressed in a civil court.

Summer 2015 to March 2016 Wednesday meetings in the school; various activists and association develop a concept for an International Refugee Centre together with the people from the GHS; however, the people from the GHS decide to stop these discussions when the rental costs proposed by the district are much higher than the 10,000 € rent per month (for the south wing and central part of the building) on which calculations were based; the concept is not submitted to the district

May 2016 District government starts a call for expressions of interest: Applicants are intended to cooperate with the inhabitants of the school and to operate the International Refugee Centre starting in September 2016. DESI Stadtkultur GmbH meets with the people living in the GHS and launches discussions on developing a concept for this project.

30.05.2016 DESI.Stadtkultur gGmbH expressed its interest in developing a concept for this project, emphasised that the 12-day deadline for concept submission was too short and on 28.11.2016 submitted a phased model for the IRC, which could have begun in early 2017. Repeated enquiries to district concerning this expression of interest; informed in March 2017 that the conditions for the call had changed.

August 2016 Individual civil law actions for eviction filed by the district against all 24 people in the GHS at the Tempelhof Kreuzberg District Court

03.08.2016 Confusing statements made by the district mayor in a taz and Tagesspiegel article, in which she claimed that all talks had failed "they were given far-reaching promises and they rejected everything" – and this despite the fact that DESI gGmbH had received oral agreement in the call for expressions of interest by the district government and continues to plan to develop an International Refugee Centre with the people living in the GHS within the next three years.

05.08.2016 Letter from NIO to the district mayor criticizing these articles and requesting that these statements be corrected.

21.08. 2016 After eight months when this part of the building stood empty, emergency accommodation for refugees opens in the north wing of the GHS, and families previously housed in a sports hall in the Geibelstraße move in; the emergency accommodation is run by the Johanniter Unfallhilfe

October 2016 Men from the emergency accommodation and from the squatted part of the GHS build baby changing tables for the emergency accommodation and other young refugee families as part of KuB e.V.'s Wortmalerprojekt

07.11.2016 Benefit party at Möbel Olfe, organised by NIO and Case Pentru Toti, Roma support group

From summer 2016 to summer 2017 Language courses run by volunteers in former GHS, volunteer medical support team provides ongoing support to GHS refugee activists

January 2017 Letter from NIO to district, asking again which politicians are responsible for dealing with the GHS and asking about state of play concerning International Refugee Centre

25.01.2017 At court hearing on district's application for eviction of people squatting GHS, district is unable to provide information about the rooms locked up by the district. Court proceedings suspended, date to inspect GHS premises to clarify this question fixed; new date set for court proceedings

30.01.2017 Fire on 2nd floor of GHS

12.07. 2017 Regional Court (Landgericht) rules against people living in GHS, and states that district is authorised to evict them.

01.08.2017 Press conference organised by NIO and O-Platz Media Group at Community Theater Metropolis; a number of broken promises were addressed, including the district's refusal to put their oral agreement to the project with Desi GmbH into writing. This refusal stood in the way of implementation of the plans to develop an International Refugee Centre together with the refugees from the GHS.

September 2017 Announcement of eviction of GHS

16.11.17 Official notice of eviction of GHS

15.12. 2017 Interview with people living in the school (taz)

16.12. 2017 Demonstration "Grasping things at the root" organized by supporters from the Medical Group, which provided medical support throughout to the GHS, by activists from NIO and in cooperation with Black Lives Matter

Responsible for Chronik, Kim Archipova, a.o. NIO

contact: email@leseglueck-berlin.de