

# History of the Anarchist Black Cross

Material from Wiki ABC and AD. Wiki on Libertarian Communism

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## Black Cross 1906-1917

On the eve of the Russian Revolution of 1905-1907. in tsarist Russia, all directions of the revolutionary movement, including the anarchist, were active. The response of the authorities was not slow to wait. During the suppression of revolutionary uprisings, thousands of anarchists and socialists ended up in prisons, in hard labor and in exile, where they continued their struggle and were able to achieve a special regime for political prisoners, including the ability to choose a headman from their midst, who was obliged to report complaints and complaints to the prison administration. receive help sent from the will. The very question of rendering assistance to political prisoners at that moment turned out to be extremely relevant. If at the end of the 19th century political prisoners came from the upper strata of society, now the bulk were low-income people whose relatives did not have enough money to help them. For this purpose, a non-partisan Political Red Cross was organized under the leadership of M. Gorky's ex-wife E.P. Peshkova. The PKK collected aid for all political people, regardless of their views. However, his help did not reach all the prisoners, since the elders, in most cases chosen from the Social Democrats, refused it to the anarchists. This circumstance served as the basis for the formation of an independent Anarchist Red Cross (AKC). The first ACC groups appeared in the western and southwestern provinces of Russia in 1906. Its members were engaged in helping imprisoned anarchists (for example, providing them with winter clothes) and organizing self-defense from the lawlessness of the Cossacks. In addition, they helped Jewish workers fight pogroms. Gorky E.P. Peshkova. The PKK collected aid for all political people, regardless of their views. However, his help did not reach all the prisoners, since the elders, in most cases chosen from the Social Democrats, refused it to the anarchists. This circumstance served as the basis for the formation of an independent Anarchist Red Cross (AKC). The first ACC groups appeared in the western and southwestern provinces of Russia in 1906. Its members were engaged in helping imprisoned anarchists (for example, providing them with winter clothes) and organizing self-defense from the lawlessness of the Cossacks. In addition, they helped Jewish workers fight pogroms. Gorky E.P. Peshkova. The PKK collected aid for all political people, regardless of their views. However, his help did not reach all the prisoners, since the elders, in most cases chosen from the Social Democrats, refused it to the anarchists. This circumstance served as the basis for the formation of an independent Anarchist Red Cross (AKC). The first ACC groups appeared in

## Anarchist Black Cross



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**Anarchic Black Cross Portal**

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In the period 1905-1910, emigrants poured from Russia to North America. Its reasons were mainly economic in nature. Most of the emigrants were poor, unmarried peasants from the overpopulated western provinces of Russia, who aspired to the United States and Canada to earn extra money, return to Russia, buy land and set up a farm. But in the stream of this emigration there were many Russian and Jewish anarchists who brought the news of the inhuman situation of their comrades in prisons. At that moment, a strong Jewish anarchist movement developed in the United States, which included immigrants from Eastern Europe. Jewish anarchists in North America, the largest national-linguistic group of the anarchist movement after the Italians, even before the 1905 revolution, engaged in helping the emerging anarchist movement in Russia. Since the Russian colony in Western Europe and the United States was practically poorly organized, the Jewish radicals took on the entire burden of creating the ACC. In 1907, on their initiative, departments of the ACC began to be organized in Europe and the USA. The activities of the ACC in Europe were concentrated in London, where the ACC committee was headed by P.A. Kropotkin (1842-1921), V.N. ). Donations flocked here from all over Europe, which were then distributed among the imprisoned anarchists in Russia. At his lectures and banquets, the ACC collected money and clothing, distributed petitions against the repressive policies of the tsarist government.

In the same year, 1907, a second ACC center was established in New York. Its founders were H. Weinstein and J. Katzenelenbogen, who escaped from Russian prisons. Until 1913, London and New York were the main centers of the work of the ACC. The money collected by all groups came here, information was concentrated here, and correspondence with prisoners was carried out from here, funds were sent to them and illegal work was carried out in prisons. In 1909 a department of the ABC was organized in Chicago, in 1911 in Philadelphia, in 1914 in Detroit and Baltimore. In 1914, the Chicago ACC, by agreement with New York, took over part of the work of this department, which sent some of the names of imprisoned anarchists to Chicago. After that, a correspondent committee was elected in Chicago to send out aid. The activity of Chicagoans took on unprecedented proportions, which led to a large influx of donations, some of which ACC in Chicago was even able to forward to New York and London. The success accompanying the activities of the ACC is largely due to the fact that the Cross acted independently of other anarchist organizations, was not an appendage of any separate group, which made it possible for not only anarchists, but also sympathetic people to enter the ACC. The members of the ACC were predominantly Russian and Jewish youth. Until 1917, the membership of the ACC in New York ranged from 60 to over 100 members, while the Chicago ACC had about 300 members, and the total number reached 500-600 members. but also to sympathetic people. The members of the ACC were predominantly Russian and Jewish youth. Until 1917, the membership of the ACC in New York ranged from 60 to over 100 members, while the Chicago ACC had about 300 members, and the total number reached 500-600 members. but also to sympathetic people. The members of the ACC were predominantly Russian and Jewish youth. Until 1917, the membership of the ACC in New York ranged from 60 to over 100 members, while the Chicago ACC had about 300 members, and the total number reached 500-600 members.

The activities of the ACC in the USA were concentrated mainly around such annual events as the "Prisoner's Ball" and "Boer's Ball". These meetings were so popular in immigrant circles that the hall usually could not accommodate everyone. In New York alone, 5-6 thousand people came to the "Prisoner's Ball", and each ball brought profits of several thousand dollars, the money went to help prisoners and exiled anarchists in Russia. Dances and theatrical performances, masquerade and jokes - not a single ball could do without it. At the "Prisoner's Ball" the hall was decorated in such a way as to remind the audience that in Russia thousands of people suffer for an idea; During the ball, people appeared in prison uniforms with handcuffed hands and feet, who were escorted by people in police uniforms.

Actors and those who simply wished to portray scenes from the life of political prisoners and the period of the 1905 revolution (demonstrations, barricade battles, arrests, a transfer to Siberia, etc.) The balls were costumed and at their end (and they lasted, as a rule, from 2 -3 p.m. to midnight) competitions were held for the best costume. "Boer Ball" was satirical, it ridiculed the institution of official marriage. Fruit depicting the "forbidden fruit" was hung around the halls, for an attempt to pick which the "soldiers" and "policemen" imposed a "fine" and the main characters - girls in peasant clothes, young men in the form of soldiers or policemen and the organizers of the ball in the robes of priests of different faiths . The girl had to offer the man with whom she danced to marry her, and if he refused her, she turned to the "guardians of order" for help. They grabbed the guy and dragged him to the "priest", who performed the marriage ceremony and charged him a fee. However, very soon the girl got tired of this, and she demanded a divorce, and the man was already sent to the "judge", who also asked for a bribe for the "divorce". All these "fines" and "payments" were the main proceeds of the ball. At midnight, the ball ended with a carnival procession and the distribution of prizes for the best costume. Both balls were the most significant cultural events in the life of the Russian-Jewish colony in the United States. They also stimulated the spread of a libertarian culture among Eastern Europeans. It should be noted that already during this period the ACC showed its international character. In 1911, Jewish anarchists protested against the execution of S.

However, the ACC was not only involved in legal mass events. More complex work was carried out by a special Correspondence Committee, whose duty it was to maintain correspondence with prisoners in Russia. The committee included people with experience in underground revolutionary work, who knew the Russian language well. Each member of the committee had from 10-12 to 20 prisoners for correspondence. In the letters, members of the committee were presented as relatives of prisoners: otherwise, the authorities refused to deliver letters and money to the addressee, and the prisoners could get into trouble because of this correspondence. The secretary of the committee was the Kievan anarchist I. Ginsburgsky, who escaped from hard labor with his wife. Sometimes members of the committee placed letters, false passports, and documents in the bindings of books sent to prisoners. Thanks to this work, it was possible to organize the escape of a number of prisoners: Morris Berezin (1888-1973) and Yakov Mont. But in 1916, the authorities in Irkutsk uncovered this communication scheme and sent 10 anarchists to trial. The AKK, which had good connections in Russia, hired the best lawyer to defend them, but before the trial, the February Revolution took place and all political prisoners were released. By that time, up to 700 anarchists were languishing in hard labor, and about 300 more were in exile in Siberia. After the February Revolution, the ACC began sending political emigrants to Russia. In May 1917, with the help of the ACC, the entire staff of the editorial board of the anarcho-syndicalist weekly Golos Truda sailed home, along with their printing house. In June 1917, the activities of the ACC in the USA ceased. None of its members thought that in the future there would be a need for such an organization more than once.

## **Red Cross during the Revolution**

During the years of the civil war, when the Red Cross helped the wounded, the anarchists decided to change the name to the Black Cross so that there would be no confusion. The ABC appeared in Moscow, Kharkov, Petrograd, Odessa (where a large group of ACC members from the United States settled) and in many small towns. In 1919, all groups united into the All-Russian AChK, the secretariat of which was headed by A.A. Karelin (1863-1926). This group operated until 1930. In the Ukraine and other places where it was relatively easy to get food, it was not difficult to help the prisoners. But in Moscow, where there was always a shortage of food and everything else, the work of the Aid Societies was difficult, although the anarchists who came from Ukraine always tried to bring food with them. Under the conditions of Russia's political isolation, hunger and shortages, the ABC and the Political Red Cross could not provide significant assistance to the prisoners. Only in 1920-1921 did the Black Cross break through the information blockade. In July 1921, a meeting of the anarcho-syndicalist delegates of the Profintern congress was organized with A. Shapiro, E. Goldman (1869-1940) and A. Berkman (1870-1936), who informed about the anarchist hunger strike in the Taganka prison. Under strong congressional pressure on the Central Committee of the RCP (b), it was possible to achieve the release of 10 anarchists, who were deported to Germany on January 5, 1922. Among them were: V.M. Maksimov (1893-1950), V.M. Volin (1882-1945), M. Gloomy (1892-1975), G.A. Gorelik (1890-1956). A little earlier, in December 1921, A. Berkman, E. Goldman, A. Shapiro left Russia. Upon arrival in Stockholm, Berkman wrote "A Cry for Help" - an appeal to the world proletariat to protect the persecuted anarchists in Russia. He called on the anarchists of Europe and America to reorganize the ACC and start raising funds for the persecuted anarchists. One of the first to respond to the appeal were the New York anarchists, who in August 1918 created the Committee for the Protection and Assistance of Political Prisoners in the United States, and with the help of A. Berkman's call, they restored the ACC. Before the arrival of the anarchist emigrants in Berlin, the Berlin anarcho-syndicalists already in 1921 began to raise funds for the "Russian Fund for Assistance".

# Aid organizations in the 1920s and 1930s

In 1922, the Berlin Committee for Assistance to Imprisoned and Exiled Anarchists and Anarcho-Syndicalists was organized - this is how the Black Cross is now called in Europe. The very name Black Cross was almost never used in the official names of the organization. But nevertheless, all anarchist aid committees that existed in the years 1921-1968 are generally called the Anarchist Black Cross. In June 1923, on its basis, the Joint Committee for the Protection of Imprisoned Revolutionaries in Russia was formed, which also included the Foreign Bureau for the Creation of the All-Russian Confederation of Anarcho-Syndicalists (G. Maksimov, M. Gloomy, E. Yarchuk (1982-1937)), a group of Russian anarchists in Germany (V. Volin, P. Arshinov) and the Foreign Bureau of Left Social Revolutionaries and Maximalists I. Z. Steinberg (1888-1957), I. Yu. Bakkal), M. Gloomy became the secretary of the committee.

In 1924, the Joint Committee, in close cooperation with the International Workers' Association, began a close campaign for a political amnesty in the USSR. At the call to the IWA in April-May 1924 in France, Germany, Holland, Norway, the USA, Latin American countries, rallies were held for an amnesty for anarchists, socialists, and non-party revolutionaries. In 1925, this campaign intensified, covering even more countries. Local communists prevented the organization of protest meetings. In Koenigsberg, where VM Volin spoke at the rally, the communists tried to disrupt the meeting, but Volin's speech was so convincing that they shut up.

The growing international reaction gave rise to organizations with which the ABC established close ties. In Berlin, to help Italian political prisoners, the ABC formed the Italian Fund for Assistance to the Victims of Fascism. In the United States, B. Elinsky (1889-1974) and the Chicago Aid Society were very active in raising funds for Italians. (According to the Italian Syndical Union, in 1922 more than 2,000 revolutionary syndicalists and anarchists were in prison. Their families were persecuted.) In France and Switzerland, the Anarchist Committee for the Protection of Political Prisoners of Italy and the Anarchist Committee for Helping the Children of Italy were formed. In the early 20s. in Paris and Brussels, an international anarchist defense committee was created to defend Sacco and Vanzetti, which soon engaged in extensive work to defend Russian, Italian and Spanish anarchists. In November 1926 in agreement with the MAT, the Joint Committee was liquidated and the Fund for Assistance with the MAT (as Russian anarchists preferred to call the MAT at that time) was formed for imprisoned and exiled anarchists and anarcho-syndicalists in Russia, which operated until 1936. The Fund was headed by A. Berkman and M. Gloomy, which became the head of the Paris and Berlin sections, respectively. In 1927, all members of the Paris section joined the French Committee of Mutual Aid to help anarchist emigrants from both Russia and Italy, Spain, Portugal, Bulgaria, who found themselves in a foreign land without money, documents and in constant fear of deportation, which sometimes meant a death sentence. operating until 1936. The Fund was headed by A. Berkman and M. Gloomy, who became the heads of the Paris and Berlin sections, respectively. In 1927, all members of the Paris section joined the French Committee of Mutual Aid to help anarchist emigrants from both Russia and Italy, Spain, Portugal, Bulgaria, who found themselves in a foreign land without money, documents and in constant fear of deportation, which sometimes meant a death sentence. operating until 1936. The Fund was headed by A. Berkman and M. Gloomy, who became the heads of the Paris and Berlin sections, respectively. In 1927, all members of the Paris section joined the French Committee of Mutual Aid to help anarchist emigrants from both Russia and Italy, Spain, Portugal, Bulgaria, who found themselves in a foreign land without money, documents and in constant fear of deportation, which sometimes meant a death sentence.

In 1925-1926. in the lists of the ABC there were 1,200-1,400 prisoners and exiles anarchists and 700 left SRs. In 1926-1936. The Fund's correspondents in the USSR were 60-70 anarchists. Based on their reports, a Bulletin was published in Berlin and Paris. Through its correspondents, the ABC kept in touch with all the prisoners. As a rule, in many places of exile, small colonies were formed, which distributed assistance among all members in accordance with need: the sick and women with children received a larger amount of assistance. The fund sent not only money, but also food, medicine, clothes, books, magazines, as well as foreign language dictionaries for self-education of political prisoners. Donations were collected from subscription lists, lecture tours, balls and picnics, sales of special postcards, and so on. 7.5% of all aid came from America, mostly from Chicago. Some trade unions of the Free Workers' Union of Germany (MAT section) took patronage over individual political prisoners, monthly transferring a certain amount for them. But in 1929, the flow of funds was reduced due to the economic depression, although the number of people in need of assistance increased.

# Help Fund. Berkman

With the seizure of power by Hitler in 1933, the MAT moved the Foundation first to Holland and then to Paris. In 1933, with the assistance of A. Deyonga, the secretariat of the IWA, the German Relief Fund was created to support German political immigrants, which in 1933-1938 launched an active work to raise funds for imprisoned anarcho-syndicalists to transfer illegal literature, to receive refugees. After the uprising of 1932-1934 was suppressed in Spain, as a result of which 25-30 thousand members of the SNT-FAI were imprisoned, the secretariat of the IWA in March 1935 called for the creation of an international fund in favor of the SNT.

At the 5th Congress of the IWA in 1935 in Paris, it was decided to organize a week of the Russian Foundation at the beginning of November each year. At the beginning of 1936, the Fund corresponded with 70 anarchists in the USSR, and in total there were 200 people on its lists. From the beginning of the 1930s the Soviet authorities made it increasingly difficult to communicate with political prisoners. Letters, parcels, money returned from the USSR. In 1936, the Soviet authorities refused to deliver any parcels to the prisoners from abroad. The last contacts with anarchists in the USSR were interrupted in 1939. On June 28, 1936, A. Berkman committed suicide, experiencing unbearable physical suffering caused by his illness. At the suggestion of Chicagoans, in recognition of the services of the deceased, the Foundation was named after him. During the Spanish Revolution, the Foundation became involved in raising funds for the struggling Spanish libertarians. He distributed leaflets and newspapers, held several effective protest rallies, organized meetings, lecture tours together with radical workers' organizations, sponsored the presentation of Spanish anti-fascist films in the USA. In total, 9,000 dollars were raised - a record amount in a short time. In addition, in 1936-1937. NCT and the Foundation. Berkman made several attempts to free Russian anarchists. In October-November 1936, the CNT delegation, which arrived in Moscow, presented a list of imprisoned anarchists. This list compiled by the Foundation was first presented by the Catalan Regional Committee of the CNT to Antonov-Ovseenko, who promised to do everything in his power to release the anarchists and their families to Spain, but all efforts proved fruitless. After the defeat of the republic in 1939, the Foundation sent its aid to the Spanish refugees. With the occupation of France in 1940, Russians and especially Jewish anarchists were in great danger. The evacuation work was led by the social democratic "Jewish Workers' Committee", despite its promise to help evacuate these anarchists, the ERC was engaged in outright sabotage. S. Fleshin (1884-1981) and M. Steimer (1897-1980) were able to leave for Mexico only under strong pressure from Alexander and Fanny Shapiro and the Jewish workers of the US trade unions. Several dozen Russian-Polish-Jewish anarchists living in France died in Nazi concentration camps. From 1943-1944 The Foundation directed its efforts to help the victims of fascism in Italy, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Poland and North Africa. The scope of the Foundation's activities in 1943-1950. compare with the 20s. The Jewish Anarchist Federation transformed Interaid into the Libertarian Refugee Fund, with sections in New York, Detroit, and Los Angeles. The two funds quickly found mutual understanding and complemented each other in the wide field of work that had opened up. In 1945, the survivors J. Dubinsky (1889-1959) and Eva Schwartz reorganized the Paris section of the Aid Fund. Berkman. The Foundation paid special attention to the Spanish anarchists who languished in sanitary institutions, hospitals and internment camps in France. Thousands of food and clothing parcels, as well as medicines and money were sent to France and other countries. Fund them. Berkman took patronage over the Spanish invalids in Massabi camp (France). surviving J. Dubinsky (1889-1959) and Eva Schwartz reorganized the Paris section of the Aid Fund. Berkman. The Foundation paid special attention to the Spanish anarchists who languished in sanitary institutions, hospitals and internment camps in France. Thousands of food and clothing parcels, as well as medicines and money were sent to France and other countries. Fund them. Berkman took patronage over the Spanish invalids in Massabi camp (France).

During the first two post-war years, thanks to the help of these two foundations and the International Anti-Fascist Solidarity, an organization of the CNT, the lives of many libertarians were saved. In 1947-1948, when the economic situation improved, the amount of financial income to the Fund also decreased: as soon as the beneficiaries got a job, they immediately reported this, asking to be removed from the list of assistance. After 1950, only organizations in Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles remained active. The Libertarian Refugee Fund decided to focus on helping the old and sick members of the movement. The activities of the Fund for Assistance to them. Berkman since 1948 has been associated with the care of political prisoners in Spain, Italy and Bulgaria. Boris Yelensky in the United States assumed the responsibility of representing the interests of the Bulgarian Anti-Fascist Aid Commission, created by Bulgarian anarchists. From the beginning of the 1950s The Foundation began to help prisoners in Spanish prisons. In fact, 70% of all aid in the 50s. The fund directed the Spanish political prisoners. In addition, in

the 1940-1950s. The Foundation, together with the United Federation of Russian Workers' Organizations of the USA and Canada, sent aid to Russian "di-pi" ("displaced persons") in Austria, Germany, Italy, England and Belgium. By the early 1960s, activities of the Foundation. Berkman is gradually fading away. This was due to the death of the anarchist movement in the United States. However, the Foundation Berkman lasted until the early 70s, and ceased to exist with the death of its main members. In the 1940s-1950s The Foundation, together with the United Federation of Russian Workers' Organizations of the USA and Canada, sent aid to Russian "di-pi" ("displaced persons") in Austria, Germany, Italy, England and Belgium. By the early 1960s, activities of the Foundation. Berkman is gradually fading away. This was due to the death of the anarchist movement in the United States. However, the Foundation Berkman lasted until the early 70s, and ceased to exist with the death of its main members. In the 1940s-1950s The Foundation, together with the United Federation of Russian Workers' Organizations of the USA and Canada, sent aid to Russian "di-pi" ("displaced persons") in Austria, Germany, Italy, England and Belgium. By the early 1960s, activities of the Foundation. Berkman is gradually fading away. This was due to the death of the anarchist movement in the United States. However, the Foundation Berkman lasted until the early 70s, and ceased to exist with the death of its main members. Berkman lasted until the early 70s, and ceased to exist with the death of its main members.

## **Anarchist Black Cross 1968-1997**

The 1960s were associated with the activation of anarchist guerrilla groups that fought against the Franco regime in Spain and beyond. In 1964, a young British anarchist, Stuart Christie, was arrested in Spain, accused of preparing an assassination attempt on Franco. A military tribunal sentenced him to 20 years in prison. The attention of anarchists all over the world turned out to be riveted to his cause. From many countries of the world, parcels began to be sent to him. In S. Christie's prison he met with a considerable number of imprisoned anarchists from the CNT. He was extremely impressed by the established system of mutual assistance between CNT prisoners and their families. In prison, Christie joined a kind of "commune" organized by imprisoned anarchists, distributing packages to them that came to his name from many countries of the world. Under pressure from an international company, in 1967 the Spanish authorities released Christie. After his return to London, Christie met Albert Meltzer (1920-1996), who in the 1930s-1950s, actively worked in the Committee for Mutual Assistance with Political Prisoners of Asia. Together with others, they decided at the beginning of 1968 to organize the ABC to help the Spanish political prisoners and the struggle of the Spanish Resistance groups, primarily the May 1st group and the Movement of International Revolutionary Solidarity. The mouthpiece of the ABC was its bulletin, the first issue of which appeared on July 19, 1968. On August 31 - September 5, 1968, an international anarchist congress was held in Carrara (Italy), during which S. Christi and Giuseppe Pinelli, a railway worker, member of the Resistance and the leader of the Milanese anarchists, organized a mini-congress on the outskirts of the city, at which they formed the International Black Cross. The new ABC did not consider itself a charitable organization. Its members believed that if the ABC managed to help or release at least one political prisoner, their work would be justified. During 1968-1969, ABC sections arose in Britain, Germany, Ireland, and Australia. The first serious action of the ABC was the campaign for the release of Miguel Garcia, who in 1968 was supposed to finish his 20-year term, but bitter experience has already taught that this does not mean mandatory release from prison. The expanded ABC campaign throughout Europe has yielded results. Miguel Garcia was released, emigrated to England and joined the Black Cross. Australia. The first serious action of the ABC was the campaign for the release of Miguel Garcia, who in 1968 was supposed to finish his 20-year term, but bitter experience has already taught that this does not mean mandatory release from prison. The expanded ABC campaign throughout Europe has yielded results. Miguel Garcia was released, emigrated to England and joined the Black Cross. Australia. The first serious action of the ABC was the campaign for the release of Miguel Garcia, who in 1968 was supposed to finish his 20-year term, but bitter experience has already taught that this does not mean mandatory release from prison. The expanded ABC campaign throughout Europe has yielded results. Miguel Garcia was released, emigrated to England and joined the Black Cross.

1969-1971 in the history of the ABC were not the best. The Black Cross was subjected to repression by the secret services. In England, a special department conducted constant surveillance of S. Christie, arranged searches. In Italy, as a result of the operation of the underground group Gladio, created by the CIA after World War II to fight communism, the libertarian movement suffered greatly. Many members of the Gladio were either neo-fascists or served in the army and state security. In 1969, the Italian Black Krest launched an investigation into acts of terrorism and illegal activities carried out by the fascists, they collected irrefutable evidence that neo-fascists and the Greek secret services were behind all the terrorist attacks in Italy, who, with a policy of destabilization, were preparing a coup d'état in order to establish a dictatorship of a military junta along the Greek or Spanish model. This was confirmed by journalists from the London Observer, who

obtained a secret document sent by the Greek government to their embassies. Among other things, the document expressed interest in the investigation of the Italian Black Cross. Shortly thereafter, on December 12, 1969, the Nazis detonated a bomb at the Agricultural Bank of Milan. The police, led by Calabresi, who appeared in the ABC investigation, blamed the anarchists for everything. On December 16, during an interrogation at the police department led by Calabresi, Du Pinelli was killed and then thrown out of a window. The explosion on December 12 and this assassination became the starting point for a policy of destabilization.

In England, in 1971, the secretary of the ABC, S. Christie, was again arrested in the case of the "Angry Brigade", but the court acquitted him and some of his accomplices. In West Berlin on December 4, 1971, Georg von Ruch, secretary of the ABC, was killed by the police. He was unarmed and had already raised his arms above his head when a policeman shot him in the head, and on March 2, 1972, another member of the ABC, Thomas Weissberkker, was killed by the police in Augsburg while checking documents, T. Weissbecker was armed, but did not even try take out the weapon. As it turned out later, the police were not following him and found out who he was only when he was already dead.

Несмотря на произвол спецслужб, АЧК осуществлял успешную работу по оказанию помощи. В 1971 г. была осуществлена реорганизация АЧК. Было решено, что АЧК станет международной сетью солидарности автономных групп. Цель АЧК можно охарактеризовать понятием "эффект трамплина", люди, выступающие в поддержку и за освобождение политзаключенных, своей деятельностью должны стимулировать продолжение борьбы за дело социальной революции и освобождение трудящихся. А работа в этой сфере может стать разнообразной: АЧК занимался сбором информации о политзаключенных, прежде всего в Испании, передавал ее другим правозащитным группам, которые включались в эту работу; посылал посылки с продуктами и одеждой или деньгами прямо в тюрьмы или родственникам заключенных. В последние годы франкистского режима в тюрьмы поступило огромное число продовольственных посылок. Они пришли ко всем заключенным, кому было запрещено работать (государство не финансировало содержание заключенных, те должны были работать в тюремных мастерских. Запрет на работу, если у человека не было родственников на воле или он не получал помощи – означал смерть) ввиду их участия в тюремных выступлениях или из-за опасения, что политзаключенные будут вести пропаганду среди обычных заключенных. После освобождения многие из них подтвердили, что эти посылки пробудили в них решимость выдержать все до конца.

17 февраля 1971 г. в Лондоне вышел первый номер газеты "Черный флаг". Она выпускалась коллективом, который тогда определял себя как связующее звено между анархистским движением и АЧК. Редакторами газеты были М.Гарсия и А.Мельтцер. Газета печаталась в "Сентро Иберико" – Международном либертарном центре, созданном для работы с испанской эмиграцией. "Сентро Иберико" организовывал вечерние киносеансы, компании солидарности, концерты в помощь Сопротивлению и нетрудоспособным инвалидам-участникам гражданской войны в Испании. Черный Крест в "Сентро Иберико" обучал своих испанских друзей и анархистов со всего мира мастерству офсетной печати. Совместно с "Мухерес либрес" ("Свободные женщины") АЧК направлял свою деятельность также на поддержку испанских женщин в их борьбе за эмансипацию. Многие молодые женщины нарушали католические традиции и рожали детей вне брака. Это вело к тому, что их подвергали общественному ostracism, от чего они очень страдали. Аборты и противозачаточные средства были запрещены. Многие женщины приезжали делать аборт в Лондон, где АЧК помогал им найти подходящих врачей и, если требовалось, поддерживал деньгами на проезд и проживание. За эту помощь медленно развивавшееся женское движение подвергло Черный Крест критике. В частности, их активистки отказывались от сотрудничества с АЧК с упреком, что тот поддерживает частную медицину вместо того, чтобы подождать, пока испанское государство разрешит аборт в клиниках, что произошло только в 1985 г.

Кроме того, АЧК принес в Британию международные связи с мировым анархо-синдикализмом, компания "Черный флаг", АЧК и группы 1 мая способствовала возрождению на Британских островах анархо-синдикалистских идей, что в 1979 г. выразилось в создании Движения прямого действия (секции МАТ, сейчас Федерация Солидарность), куда вошли многие члены АЧК. Большим успехом в работе АЧК было освобождение из Британской тюрьмы итальянского анархиста Голиардо Фиаски, арестованного в 1957 г. В 1975 г. он был освобожден, но на основании старого фашистского распоряжения его депортировали в Италию, где приговорили к 13,5 годам заключения. Благодаря немедленному вмешательству АЧК через неделю он был на свободе. В 1975 г. АЧК инициировал международную компанию защиты ирландских анархистов Ноэла и Мари Меррей, которых приговорили к смертной казни. Компания охватила почти весь мир. Письма и петиции в их защиту подписали известные интеллектуалы Ж.П. Сартр, Артур Кеслер, Генрих Бель, Кетлин Рейн и др. Компании удалось добиться отмены смертного приговора, который был заменен на 15 лет, и освобождения их подельника Р.Стенсона, которого 30 часов пытали в полицейском участке, избивая молотком и проч., после чего он провел 9 месяцев в больнице. Меррей должны

были быть освобождены в 1990 г., но этого не произошло. Потребовалось снова создавать, компанию "Свобода Мерреиям", к которой подключились даже либеральные круги, чтобы их освободили в 1992 г. Никто из политзаключенных не сидел дольше этих двух анархистов ни в Северной, ни в Южной Ирландии. В США анархисты, работавшие в группах защиты политзаключенных активно занимались черными американцами. Так, благодаря вмешательству этих групп был освобожден Мартин Состре, который в 1978 г. создал АЧК в Нью-Йорке. На протяжении 1970-х гг. АЧК защищал Лоренсо Комбоа Эрвина, члена "Черных пантер". Если бы не это вмешательство, то Комбоа Эрвин разделил участь многих активистов "Черных пантер", погибших от руки расистов и спецслужб. Слабость американского АЧК, однако, не позволяла сделать многое.

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See also Anarchist Black Cross in the USSR (<https://avtonom.org/news/anarhicheskiy-chernyy-krest-v-sssr>)

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