

FC⚡MC Press Release #3 - 15.7.2017: G20 in Hamburg - The media experiment has been taken down, the work goes on - The International Media Center FC⚡MC draws its conclusions

## Third press release by the FC⚡MC – International Media Center

Desks: Domestic, Politics, Media, Culture

++ Conclusions of the FC⚡MC ++

++ FC⚡MC will contribute to the evaluation of the events ++

A week after the end of the G20 summit in Hamburg, the International Media Center FC⚡MC draws its conclusions. The volunteer crew of the FC⚡MC self-organized a platform for over 1000 accredited media workers, non-commercially and professionally. Workers were almost equally spread between freelancers, employees and media activists. The journalists came out of two dozen countries from South Africa to Russia. All types of media were present: print, online, television and radio.

“At this G20 summit in Hamburg, we have experienced something that will keep us occupied for a long time. Our goal was to contribute to a differentiated perception of the G20 summit and the protests. This work wasn't something that we simply wanted to do - it was political necessity”, says Maren Grimm from the organizing team of the independent, international Media Center FC⚡MC, that for six days reported critically about the G20 from the FC St. Pauli stadium.

### Conclusions of the FC⚡MC

The FC⚡MC offered space to work, produced a live stream with reports from the streets, daily press conferences, facilitated interviews with representatives of social movements and NGOs, and integrated local and international media workers into the production process: Anybody who wanted to, could edit the materials there or work with the editorial team. New cooperations and a productive, temporary community developed, which resulted in diverse content, in many formats - from documentaries to satire to video essays. Multilingual twitter accounts of the FC⚡MC showed (and still show) not only the diverse produced materials, but also delivered timely reports of the protests with checked and verified facts. The video ticker continuously showed the current situation.

Oliver Leistert from the organizing team said: “Our starting point and slogan was simply an monumental endeavour: Re-invent critical journalism in times of affective populism. This still continues to be our task. The FC⚡MC has at least given an impetus, it has offered a proposal and

has shown that the way out of the journalistic crisis needs to be taken by the media workers themselves.” The FC&MC looked critically at the 'battle for the pictures in a fight about who has the power to interpret the events': “The FC&MC editorial teams repeatedly discussed whether also to focus on the images that other channels such as n-tv and NDR streamed for hours. We decided against the 'riot porn', against focusing on the display of violence.”

Without a broad support it would have been impossible to set up the FC&MC in such a short time from scratch - Solidarity came in the form of work time, materials and donations. We want to thank everybody who helped us: the members of the Chaos Computer Club and everyone from radical tech collectives who kept network, servers and streams up and running; the many local companies that lent equipment and brought their expertise; the security crews who were available around the clock; the Mecklenbörger who fed us, as well as the coffee collectives Aroma Zapatista and El Rojito; and the numerous people who gave the FC&MC their power and their sweat. Last but not least: 'You'll never walk alone' is real. About our cooperation with the FC St. Pauli we can only say one thing: “St. Pauli is the only option!”

And now?

The work of the FC&MC did not finished with the summit. There is still a lot of material that needs to be analysed, processed and presented to the public. Also the editorial work continues:

“It is now important to analyse the so-called 'display of modern police work' in the broader context of the events. We also set up the FC&MC because it was already obvious before the summit, that it would be used to move the discourse about security to set new standards for police operations in Germany. It now needs to be assessed in detail how far this procedure created the desired reality. The violations of fundamental rights, and the breaches of the law, by the Police, must have consequences. We want to contribute to this with the material available at the FC&MC,” said Maren Grimm at the closing press conference of the FC&MC on 9 July.

Our future work aims at documenting events, as well as rejecting the hegemonic discourse and its diffusion through the mass media, countering it with an insistence on the essential legitimacy of protest, its urgency and its foundational importance. Beside the diverse protests and the violent clashes, there was police violence, attacks against lawyers, disregard for the freedom of the press and the freedom of assembly, and last but not least massive restrictions on the daily lives of people living in Hamburg. The G20 summit in Hamburg, its side effects, the political decisions and the police operation needs to be investigated and resolved.

Press contact: Paul Ratzel, phone +49-176-358 743 98, email: [press@fcmc.tv](mailto:press@fcmc.tv)

FC&MC: <https://fcmc.tv/>

Recordings: <https://media.ccc.de/c/fcmc17>

YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHDTjtjyMFJqAhE4DxjAg9Q>

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