

Dear All,

As you might have heard, the self-goverend project and squat Ivi in Frankfurt/Main was sold to the Frankfurt investment firm Franconofort earlier this year. Prior to that the house belonged to the Goethe-University Frankfurt. Within the last couple of weeks the situation of the Ivi became more and more precarious. A new climax in this unfortunate development was the direct and unprecedented assault in the Ivi history in the early morning hours on Tuesday the 22nd of may. Around 9:30 a large group of rather intimidating employees of Franconofort forced their way into the building, breaking down the door in the process. They cut the Ivi off the electricity and water supply and started filming persons that were present at the time. A quickly organized sit-in was able to put a stop to a further advance onto the Ivi grounds. Franconofort reacted with threatening to call in the police. After 45 minutes the franconofort employees left, taking with them the doors of the Ivi.

The trespassers made it clear that they soon would return within the next two weeks to once again force their way into the Ivi. Even though the troops of franconofort had no legal claim for their actions, which makes it even more intimidating, we are well aware, that besides these attempts an official call for eviction is imminent.

A quick history of the project

Out of the student protests in 2003 several activists decided to squat an empty university building in the Kettenhofweg 130, close to the campus grounds. The project is the attempt to create a space for the networking and interlinking of different progressive activists group. Since then the ivi has housed exhibitions, reading circles, lectures, congresses and of course parties and concerts. Though it started as a student initiative and had many university-related politics on it's agenda, it soon became a more and more open space and platform for social and political exchange.

The different accesses to the Ivi as a place of academical exchange, arts, culture and politics, makes it possible for various groups and individuals from different backgrounds to participate in a discourse on a critical view on society. In a constant cooperation and coexistence of various initiatives and projects within the houseproject, the Ivi is a thriving and continuesly developing project of a genuine counterculture to the hegemonial discourse. Such an approach has only been and will be possible and imaginable in this kind of self-goverened structure.

The Ivi understands itself as a self-organized space in which people can participate no matter their geographical origin, social status, age, gender or sexuality. It is our aim that despite the divisions made in society due to those classifications that people might participate in the project as freely as possible from social oppression.

How you can help?

The imminent threat of eviction forces us to act! We desperately need support from the outside. Due to this we ask for your solidarity however you seem fit. We are glad about all actions and declarations of solidarity, however you find appropriate and possible.

You can directly address Franconofort – be it in a letter or in whatever form you seem fit. This real estate investment firm has made itself a reputation in buying property and apartment buildings and changing it to very expensive condos. The people renting are the ones who pay the price, because they are not able to purchase the expensive, high-priced condos. Franconfort is one of the major players when it comes to gentrification in the city of Frankfurt.

Feel free to start solidarity demonstrations, spread the word to you political groups and projects.

We especially are happy for anyone who cares to come and join us in our struggle right here in Frankfurt.

We would very much appreciate it if you would give us a short notice. On the one hand to confirm the actuality of your contact address, and on the other, if you are looking to come and support us in Frankfurt that we may tend to organizing places to sleep for you.

You will here from us again when we have news on the upcoming eviction. Be sure to check our website www.ivi.copyriot.com

Greetings from Frankfurt,

Networking activist-group from the Ivi