

EHRI Online Course in Holocaust Studies

Ghetto Fighters House, 5989

Ghettos under Nazi Rule – Dissolution and Resistance

EHRI Ghettos E05

[On 1 September 1943 a manifesto of the FPO (Fareynikte Partizaner Organizatsie, United Partisans Organization) Jewish underground in the Vilnius (Vilna) ghetto calls for armed resistance against the Germans]

### **The Fareynikte Partizaner Organizatsie calls for resistance**

*Jews join the armed resistance!*

The German and Lithuanian hangmen have arrived at the gate of the ghetto. They are going to murder us all, one will soon lead us in groups from the gate.

It was thus that one led hundreds [out] on Yom-Kippur.

It was thus that one led out those with white, yellow and pink slips.

It was thus that one led away our brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, our children.

It was thus that one led out all the thousands of our people to their death.

*But we will not go!*

We will not let us be led like cattle to the slaughter.

*Jews join the armed resistance!*

Do not believe seductive assurances by the murderers, do not believe the talk of traitors, he who is led out of the ghetto gate, his path is but one – Ponar. *And Ponar means death.*

*Jews, we do not have anything to lose!*

Death will surely come. Who still believes he will stay alive when the murderer is systematically exterminating us.

The hand of the hangman will reach everyone. The hidden and the cowards will not save their lives.

*Only with armed resistance can we save our lives and honour.*

*Brothers, let's rather fall while fighting in the ghetto than be led like sheep to Ponar.*

And know: In the ghetto there is an organised Jewish force, which will oppose them with guns in their hands.

*Stand up and join the armed resistance.*

Don't hide in the "hiding places [on the 'Aryan' side]". You will surely fall into the murderers' hands like maize [?].

Jewish masses,

*Out into the street!*

For those who will lack a gun, they should take an axe.

He who lacks an axe, shall take a stick of iron.

- *For our murdered children,*

- *for our parents,*

- *for Ponar.*

*Hit the murderers!*

In every street, in every courtyard, in every room, in the ghetto and from the outer ghetto.

Hit the dogs!

Jews, we have nothing to lose. *We can only save our lives by waiting for the murderers.*

Long live freedom! Long live the armed resistance!

[Death to] the murderers!

The Staff

of the Jewish United

Partisans Organisation (FPO)

in the Vilner Ghetto.

1 September 1943

Translated by Giles Bennett