

Statement of the American Student Union: In Memory of Sophie Scholl



Today is the 80th Anniversary of the execution of Sophie Scholl, a resistance member, student, and Christian anti-fascist activist. Sophie Scholl was born in 1921 in the Weimar Republic and would die under the regime of German fascism. Sophie Scholl and her brother Hans Scholl were dedicated to the anti-fascist struggle based on their Christian faiths. In 1942, they founded the “White Rose” a group dedicated to uniting German students against Nazism and militarism. The White Rose’s pamphlets denounced Prussian militarism, Nazism, and imperialism expressing a belief that a new Germany could and would arise from the depravity and horror of the Nazi regime. Sophie and her brother appealed to young veterans of the Eastern Front who came back from the war broken, disillusioned, and ready to fight against fascism. Many German youth and students from all political and religious backgrounds actively opposed the brutality of Nazi Germany and the forces of fascism that tore apart Europe and murdered tens of millions.

In 1943, after the defeat of Nazi Germany at the Battle of Stalingrad, the Red Army began the long process of freeing the Soviet Union and the rest of Europe from fascism. Not long after this victory, the Hitlerite regime arrested Sophie Scholl and her compatriots. Sophie was condemned to death by the infamous Ronald Freisler who would condemn Sophie, her brother Hans and their comrades to death. Sophie Scholl would be executed on February 22nd, 1943. Her last words were “the sun still shines”. We must remember Sophie and all other brave dedicated German anti-fascists who bravely fought and gave their lives for a free, democratic, and anti-fascist Germany. Let us also remember Hans Schulze Boysen, Franz Jacob, Hans Beimler, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Helmuth, Hubener, Ernst Thalmann, and the many others who died at the hands of the criminal Nazi Regime. Let us remember the German organizations that fought fascism; The National Committee for a Free Germany, Red Orchestra, The Thalmann Battalion, White Rose, and Bavaria Freedom Action among many others. We the American Student Union honor the students and youth who died not only in Germany but across Europe in the struggle against fascism. We the American youth and students salute and honor all those who wish to build a freer, more prosperous and more democratic world.

For Peace and Freedom!
For a Peaceful World!
For the American Student and Youth!

National Committee of the American Student Union

