

The rent madness goes on, but so does the resistance against it. 100 Akelius tenants in Berlin have started to organize protest.

Yesterday a hundred Akelius tenants from all over Berlin answered the call to meet at the Kreuzberg Aquarium, with the common goal of building a solidarity network and platform to share experiences. Two lawyers specializing in tenancy law were present during the gathering, which lasted two hours and provided legal counsel.

Tenants reported a variety of shady dealings from Akelius such as:

- Listing apartments for an extremely high rent compared to average rental prices (eg. up to 30,- €/m² in Reichenberger Str.)
- High vacancy rate on listed apartments.
- Constant renovation of apartments after the former tenants departure, regardless of the previous tenancy duration.
- Noise pollution and debris in shared entryways due to previously mentioned construction.
- Spying on tenants via the construction workers by order of Akelius.

The lawyers shared their common experiences with unscrupulous landlords such as:

- Not doing the necessary repairs that they are contractually responsible for.
- Charging high rates with fake auxiliary cost statements [...]
- Relentless termination of leases.

Under these conditions, the tenants have to organized in order to address Akelius objectionable business practices. They already started working groups, identifying special topics. The next meeting will be take place in 6 weeks.

Speculators like Akelius place profit over people. They don't care about the needs of tenants, merchants, or the harm to social infrastructure. Housing is a **human right**. Deliberately fuelling the Berlin housing crisis with vacancies and extremely high rents is not just unscrupulous it is also dangerous for social peace in the city.

The Akelius Tenants Union therefore has the following demands:

- Transparent communication on planned repairs and renovations.
- A halt on further renovations for 20 years following completed renovations.
- Adherence to the rent index of Berlin.
- Immediate leasing of all vacant apartments according to a reasonable rent.

The Berlin tenants do not stand alone. Their criticism of Akelius is shared by others, such as the New York Akelius tenants group, who sent the following greeting: "The Crown Heights Tenant Union and the Akelius tenants of Brooklyn rejoice that Berlin tenants are organizing to stop Akelius' attacks on working-class communities. One struggle, one fight! International tenant solidarity will break the power of the landlords -- and win another world, without landlord or boss control over our lives."

Additional information: <https://www.mieterforum-berlin.de/forumdisplay.php?fid=39>

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