Europe pays tribute to Sophie Scholl. A EU Parliament building will bear her name

The sacrifice of Sophie Scholl and the White Rose youths, courageous resistance fighters against Nazism, who paid for their generous and resolute commitment against dictatorship with their lives, will now be remembered in the heart of the European quarter in Brussels. On the occasion of International Women's Day, the European Parliament's Bureau adopted the proposal to name two of its buildings in Brussels after prominent European women. The first is the German student and anti-Nazi political activist who, the European Parliament states in a note, was the member of "a pacifist resistance group led by students from the University of Munich." The EU Parliament building that will bear her name is located at 30-50 Rue Wiertz in Brussels. The White Rose group comprised Hans Scholl and his younger sister Sophie, Christoph Probst, Alexander Schmorell and Willi Graf. It was a small ecumenical community inspired by the writings of many Christian authors, including Romano Guardini and Jacques Maritain, joined by Professor Kurt Huber.



Between mid-1942 and February 1943 the White Rose activists distributed hundreds of leaflets against the Nazi regime, in an effort to stir critical thinking among their fellow citizens, urging them to distance themselves from Hitler's brutality. Sophia Magdalena Scholl (born 9 May 1921 in Forchtenberg) was arrested while distributing leaflets at Munich University. After a short time in prison, she was tried summarily on 22 February 1943 along with her brother Hans and Christoph Probst, and found guilty of treason. The three youths were guillotined on the same day. Other members of the group were subsequently targeted by the Nazi regime.