

GZ April 30, 2018

## remembering. honoring. reconciling.

**History** 350 people show their colors against anti-Semitism and xenophobia and march in remembrance of the horror in the Geislingen concentration satellite camp. There a memorial was dedicated.

by Claudia Burst



350 citizens show their colors marching silently to the former concentration satellite camp and demonstrating against anti-Semitism and xenophobia. Foto: Claudia Burst

**Anti-Semitism** also exists in Geislingen. "Shit Jews, shit Jews," scream two women wearing a headscarf and a boy yesterday in a hateful voice, as the silent march of 350 people with the Israeli banner and a corresponding flag pass their house in Hohenstaufenstraße. It is thanks to the accompanying security that the verbal attack does not erupt into a quarrel.

This is a depressing proof of the legitimacy of the remembrance event "Remembering. Honoring. Reconciling." of which this march is a part of.

With their participation in the event initiated by the Evangelical Alliance, the participants demonstrate how important it is for them to remember the crime of the Nazis in the Third Reich. Especially in Geislingen. And here is why: to oppose racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia right now and in today's world. The silent march leads from the WMF gate to where the satellite camp used to be in 1944 and 1945 - the route that 800 shorn, silenced forced laborers had to walk every day in wooden clogs.

As in the past, many people watched the march inconspicuously from the closed windows.

The fence of the former concentration satellite camp was located where the new bike path runs to the Eybacher valley today. Right there the organizers dedicate a memorial at the end of their march. It consists of three elements: a piece of replica fence with barbed wire, two commemorative plaques and the inmates' wooden shoes - made of metal as a donation from Heidelberger Druckmaschinen. Rabbi Yehuda Pushkin speaks a prayer.

GZ April 30, 2018

### **Commemoration ceremony at WMF**

Before the silent march, a commemoration ceremony had taken place at WMF communication center. All 200 guests were searched before entry. In addition to main initiator Matthias Lotz, Jan Steinert from the management of WMF, Senior Mayor Frank Dehmer, the Israeli Consul General Sandra Simovich, it was especially the Israeli ambassador to Finland and Estonia, Segev-Steinberg, whose personal memories filled the eyes of many of the audience with tears: "My aunt and my grandmother were in the concentration camp here in Geislingen." Even the translator's voice failed again and again while describing these events.

### **CONTRIBUTORS AND ORGANIZERS OF THE EVENT**

The organizers are: Evangelical Alliance, City of Geislingen, SPD, CDU, Alliance 90 / The Greens, Free Voters, School of Economics and Environment, culture club Rätsche, IG Metall, Friends of Nature, Youth Council, Catholic and Protestant Church, Protestant Adult Education, New Apostolic Church.

**Segev-Steinberg** came as a member of the former camp inmates Regina Kaufmann (his grandmother) and Miriam Sobol (aunt). Varda and Haim Sobol came from Israel as relatives of Miriam Sobol. Malka Zissmann, Gizella Mann and Tsely Mann are related to Helen Jeckel.

**Members of the youth council** read out loud all the names of the 800 camp inmates.