

I am ashamed

Remembering. Honoring. Reconciling; 4/30/2018.

I was a participant in the commemorative march on April 29. As with many public events, security measures at the beginning of the event are now part of the everyday picture in Germany. The participants of the commemorative hour in the communication center of the WMF had to register in writing in advance of the event, were searched upon entry and experienced a deeply moving hour through the descriptions of the relatives of the victims. I would like to thank all the participants and those responsible for their commitment. The memorial march then set off. The security measures, which at first seemed excessive, very quickly became necessary. In Hohenstaufenstraße, a woman wearing a headscarf insulted the march in the worst possible way with anti-Semitic remarks. In the further course of the memorial march, the participants were filmed or photographed with cell phones in front of the mosque in Heidenheimer Straße.

I try to educate my own children to be open-minded, tolerant and decent when dealing with other people's opinions and religions. I am grateful for the fact that they were sufficiently informed about the misconduct of the Nazi regime during their school years, that they had the opportunity to visit the concentration camp in Dachau and to get an idea of the crimes committed during that time. In my opinion, Germany is one of the few countries that faces up to its responsibility and continues to come to terms with its past.

This makes the events that took place in Geislingen last Sunday all the more shocking for me. I am ashamed that relatives of the victims and representatives of the Israeli state have to put up with insults and threats from members of the Muslim faith in our city. It would be desirable for the mosques to speak out clearly against anti-Semitism.

Incidentally, this is not the only incident at a memorial march. Already in 2015, the silence of the memorial march at the height of the Talgraben was disturbed by loud music, laughter and raucous conversation.

Dr. Dagmar Hascher, Geislingen

Too stupid to learn from history

Remembering. Honoring. Reconciling; 4/30/2018 and editorial: that's just not the way to do it; May 2. 2018

I was born in 1947 and therefore had nothing to do with the terrible events of the Third Reich in the years 1933 to 1945 and therefore I do not feel at all guilty or responsible for any recourse claims. But is that all there is to it?
- It is our history!



The silent march down to the site of the former concentration camp. Hateful shouts of a woman wearing a head-scarf disrupted this sign of reconciliation on Sunday.
photo: Claudia Burst

The history of mankind knows programs against the most different population groups not only since the crusades, which began over 1000 years ago. Also the persecution of Jews was not an invention of Hitler, Eichmann and their accomplices. But it was the Nazis' seizure of power in 1933 that made possible what took place in our country and in Europe in the years that followed. To this day, I cannot understand why there was no resistance worth mentioning against this inhumane system. Everyone closed their windows and invoked the oath they had taken for the fatherland, everyone was a powerless recipient of orders - from the judiciary, the military, business, the civil service - and all counter-activities were doomed to failure, because civil courage was punished by death at that time - as the examples of Georg Elser, the Scholl siblings and the people around Count Stauffenberg showed. Many of our German ancestors enthusiastically voted for Hitler in 1933 and thus helped him to achieve his despicable power, the consequences of which we all still have to bear today. Now the Turks have it in their hands to help Recep Erdogan to the same power. Will they learn from our history? - I have to doubt it.

The history of the Geislingen concentration camp was a taboo subject in our town for decades.

Now, finally, it has come into the focus of remembrance - thanks to the initiative of a few. The commemorative event at WMF, the symbolic procession of prisoners from here to their camp in Heidenheimer Strasse, these are all things that should remind us how such atrocities could have occurred.

The shouts from the roadside "Shit Jews" testify to the fact that these shouters are too stupid to learn from history. If Erdogan achieves in Turkey what he is now promoting, he will achieve what Hitler achieved in Germany in 1933, and then these people on the roadside will probably soon be shouting "Shit Kurds."

In his editorial in the GZ, Mr. Rahnefeld really spoke from my heart on all points. I would like to emphasize one sentence again: "...whoever does not want to play by the rules of our society and our basic law has the freedom to leave Germany". Such behavior would be the lowest measure of civil courage - but even that is no longer possible in Turkey, for example, because criticism there is classified as terrorism and threatens arrest. I am grateful that I can live in this country of ours - with all its shortcomings at a high level. But we must be vigilant and speak out publicly for this democracy of ours. Otherwise, we leave the action to the pied pipers, as has been seen with the Brexit.

Defending our democracy requires civil courage. But it also requires remembering our history. Let us speak our minds aloud in decency, wherever and whenever, but not behind closed windows.

Dr. Rainer Welte, Geislingen