

**Country Visit: Germany**  
**Report of Personal Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office**  
**on Tolerance Issues**  
**Berlin, 21-22 July 2010**

Ambassador Adil Akhmetov, Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims

Rabbi Andrew Baker, Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism

Accompanied by

Mr. Norbert Hinterleitner, Adviser on Anti-Semitism Issues, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Ms. Aida Yermekaliyeva, Associate Programme Officer, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

**I. Background and Purpose of the Visit**

Upon the initiative of the CiO, two out of the three Personal Representatives on Tolerance Issues, Ambassador Akhmetov and Rabbi Baker, visited Berlin, Germany on 21 and 22 July 2010 to discuss measures taken by the Government of Germany to promote an inclusive and non-discriminatory policy towards persons belonging to religious and ethnic minority communities. The Personal Representative held meetings with a range of institutional and religious representatives, as well as with various Non-Governmental Organizations.

The main issues that arose during the discussions included the special role of governmental organizations and non-governmental institutions, in particular the Ministry of Interior, the Chancellery / the Federal Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Senate of the City of Berlin. Further discussions were devoted to considering potential areas of co-operation between the Personal Representatives, ODIHR, the German Government and Civil Society institutions.

**II. Summary of Main Findings**

**a. Meeting with Ole Schröder, Parliamentary State Secretary in the Ministry of Interior and**

**Maria Böhmer, Minister of State in the Federal Chancellery and Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration**

Mr. Schröder explained that during the previous legislation period the German Islam Conference was established in order to foster the relationship between the German State and Muslims in Germany and to improve the latter's integration in Germany.<sup>1</sup> The German Islam Conference is a dialogue platform which brings together an equal number of representatives of the German State and of the Muslim community in Germany. Ms. Böhmer added that the Federal Chancellery is organizing so-called Integration Summits, of which the first one took place four (4) years ago, and the 4th summit is currently being prepared. Ms. Böhmer is also responsible for the Federal Integration Plan. The Integration Summits and the Integration plan follow the principle of direct dialogue with immigrants.<sup>2</sup>

Rabbi Baker referred to right wing aggression against Jews in Germany. He stressed that these hate crimes have to be tackled and pointed out the importance of data collection and police training.

Mr. Schröder replied that Germany had a highly differentiated system for collecting data on hate crimes.<sup>3</sup> In the light of current developments it was also reviewed at regular intervals to see if it needed updating. Right now discussions were under way with the federal states, the authorities responsible for data collection, on introducing a new sub-category for the hate crime "Islamophobia", so that data on such crimes could be separately recorded and at a later date also evaluated.

Mr. Schröder reported a decrease of 8% in hate crime statistics in 2009 compared to 2008. Many governmental projects, which fight hatred and promote mutual respect, are carried out at all political levels (at the federal level, in the federal States and in municipalities) and that the Ministry of Interior served as a co-ordination point for these projects. Many of these projects aim to increase efficiency in responses to right-wing motivated offences. Mr. Schröder explained that manifestations of anti-Semitism are mainly coming from right-wing extremist circles. Among the general public there was a widespread view, he added, that a good many anti-Semitic crimes were committed by people from a Muslim background, but for Germany at least this was not borne out by the facts. Even various developments in the Middle East – most recently the Gaza war, for example – had had **no significant effect** on the figures for **anti-Semitic** crimes in Germany. The most likely reason for this was that most members of Germany's Muslim community have Turkish roots and the number of people with Arab roots in Germany is relatively small. As in the past, in the vast majority of cases (2009: around 90%) anti-Semitic crimes are committed by persons holding politically right-wing or right-wing

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<sup>1</sup> See for further information <http://www.deutsche-islam-konferenz.de/> (English version)

<sup>2</sup> See also [www.integrationsbeauftragte.de/ThemenNeu/themen](http://www.integrationsbeauftragte.de/ThemenNeu/themen)

<sup>3</sup> Germany is participating in OSCE/ODIHRs activities on hate crimes through the National Point of Contact on Combating Hate Crimes in the Federal Ministry of the Interior. Germany has regularly contributed to the ODIHRs annual reports on Hate Crime, see for further information: <http://tandis.odihr.pl/index.php?p=country.deu>.

extremist views. For historical reasons, Germany is fighting right wing violence consequently. Mr. Schröder pointed out that also the Ministry of Family is supporting projects to promote tolerance.<sup>4</sup> These projects shall further promote mutual understanding among different communities, and fight anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination. Another target of these projects is to address the mainstream society in order to respond to manifestations of right-wing extremism and hatred.

Ms. Böhmer added that in the last four to five years the German government initiated activities for integration which also address intolerance and hatred. Nearly each resort has its task in the Government's fight for full participation of migrants in social, economic and cultural terms and its efforts to further integration. The Federal Chancellery is the coordination point for policy-making in this regard and Chancellor Angelika Merkel herself takes the issue up regularly. Ms. Böhmer explained that this policy manifests itself in three pillars: 1. The Integration Summits, 2. The German Islam Conference and 3. The National Integration Plan. The latter is a concept for co-operation on integration issues of the federal Government, the federal States, municipalities, stakeholders of civil society, trade unions and representatives of migrant communities. In this context she reported that currently legislation is being prepared, which will regulate the acceptance of foreign degrees in Germany. This measure will make the integration of immigrants into the labor market easier.

Ms. Böhmer stressed that civil courage in the society must be increased. The fact that the government does not tolerate hate-motivated violence should be increasingly communicated to the outside world, as was done after the murder of an Egyptian woman in a court room in Dresden. One example is the government's campaign on Television and other public media "Vielfalt als Chance" (diversity as chance), which shows migrants in their daily life, on whom the society relies upon.

Ms. Böhmer recognized that anti-Semitism among Muslim youth is a problem that has to be tackled. She further stressed that German authorities encourage Muslim communities to act upon this.

Mr. Schröder added that Germany understands that immigration and integration must go hand-in-hand. Most challenges are seen in Berlin, since integration policy was neglected in the last few decades. This has led to the situation that in some of Berlin's boroughs live some migrants of Turkish origin who do not feel integrated.

Ms. Böhmer explained that in Frankfurt am Main for example, sixty-five percent (65%) of all children under six years are of immigrant background, compared to twenty-five percent (25%) total for the rest of Germany. Children from immigrant backgrounds need to have equal chances for the sake of the entire country. In this regard she pointed out that a high percentage of immigrant kids under 3 years old do not go to kindergartens, whereas the percentage of kids with migration background between 3 and 6 years old

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<sup>4</sup> See also [www.zusammenhalt-durch-teilhabe.de](http://www.zusammenhalt-durch-teilhabe.de) and [www.toleranz-foerdern.de](http://www.toleranz-foerdern.de)

who go to kindergartens is almost as high as kids without migration background of the same age. Children who do not go to kindergartens might have greater disadvantages compared to their fellow students, as they do not have the chance to learn German at an early age and may barely speak the language when they enter school in the age of six. Consequently, the German government and the States are reaching out to immigrant's communities, especially the parents. The policy of several states to not ask for participation fees also helps to attract children with migrant background.

Mr. Schröder explained that in order to prevent stereotyping and exclusion of Muslim youth in school(s), Islam religion classes shall be introduced in public schools in Germany. Furthermore, German Universities are currently establishing chairs at different universities for Islam theology. The effect of this effort will be that both Imams and religion teachers in schools will increasingly be people that were born and raised in Germany, speak German and know the German society. This measure is expected to increase understanding and integration of Muslim youth in schools and elsewhere in society. He stresses that the measure is not meant to control mosques but to bring a better understanding for Islam into the mainstream society.

He added that integration courses are now compulsory for new immigrants but that also immigrants, who have been in Germany for many years, voluntarily join these courses with greater frequency than was originally expected.

#### **b. Meeting with Markus Löning, Commissioner for Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid, Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Mr. Löning explained that his task was to advise the German foreign policy with regards to Human Rights issues, including those effecting International Tribunals, OSCE, CoE, EU and the UN. He reported about lively debates on Islamophobia in the UN HRC after years of ignorance of this issue. In this regard, he stressed the fundamental right to choose and change a religion, the latter of which is not possible in many Muslim countries.

Rabbi Baker called on Germany to advocate for having the issue of anti-Semitism on the agenda of the upcoming OSCE Summit. Regarding the upcoming OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Malta he noted that a Civil Society Meeting before the conference would be beneficial. He also noted that Germany missed an opportunity to react on a high political level against Holocaust denial, when an Iranian Delegation that visited the German city of Weimar in June rejected an invitation to visit the former concentration camp Buchenwald.

Mr. Löning recognized that the public and political discourse about Israel's role in the Middle-East conflict is not always led or conducted sensitively, especially then when the

criticism stops being constructive and becomes illegitimate anti-Semitism. This has effects on Germany's relation with Israel, the Arab world and Turkey.

Mr. Löning said that he will support a Civil Society meeting before the Mediterranean Conference in Malta. He added that Germany should discuss the issue of hate speech on satellite TV channels at this conference, since a number of such channels are broadcast from some Mediterranean countries. He will also make efforts to have Combating Anti-Semitism and Combating Discrimination against Muslims on the agenda of the upcoming OSCE Summit.

### **c. Meeting with Günter Piening, Commissioner for Integration and Migration of the Berlin Senate, and Robin Schneider, Head of Department for General Issues**

The State of Berlin is co-operating with the local Muslim population through the "Islam Forum", which was founded five years ago. The Forum involves the Senate Administration of Interior of Berlin and 16 representatives of Islamic communities (among which five are umbrella organizations) and to identify ways of living together and of fighting discrimination. Additionally, the role of women in Muslim communities is discussed there. Many people in Berlin have no contact with local Muslim communities and knowledge about Muslims is limited to information from the media. The Islam Forum is meant to give Muslims a voice.

According to the office of the Commissioner, hate crimes mainly affect people with dark skin and Jews (or Jewish institutions and Memorials). Anti-Semitism is manifested in two main forms in Berlin: firstly, in the form of old-fashioned "classical" anti-Semitism as it has appeared for many years and secondly, as new anti-Semitism, which is triggered by the Middle East conflict and is expressed amongst others by some Muslim migrants. Official figures show six violent manifestations of anti-Semitism in Berlin in 2009. Most cases are recorded in Eastern parts of Berlin, suggesting that anti-Semitic incidents happen more often in the new German states. The word "Jew" is often used as a pejorative among teenagers. Anti-Semitic graffiti can be found. Two strategies can be successful in countering anti-Semitism: political education including Holocaust education and discussing the Middle East conflict.

Mr. Piening explained that anti-Semitism in public discourse triggered by the Middle East conflict does not play a big role in Berlin. Some months ago there were only 100 people protesting against Israel although about 20.000 Palestinians live in Berlin. He stressed that the Jewish and Arab communities in Berlin communicated with each other, as for example, through project initiatives of the House of the Wannsee Conference (Haus der Wannsee-Konferenz).

"Hate Crime" is not a legal term in Germany. Currently, discussions with the Federal government to introduce hate crime legislation are taking place. For the time being,

Berlin tries to improve the legislation and undertakes efforts to prevent hate crimes. In Berlin schools “Ethics” are taught for two hours per weeks in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, where topics like discrimination based on gender, skin colour, religion etc. are discussed. In addition to this, a number of NGOs run activities in schools.

Some NGOs publish reports on hate crimes and incidents and the Commissioner will provide ODIHR with relevant reports. According to Mr. Piening, 15% of the Berlin population hold anti-Semitic views and this number, apparently, has remained constant for decades.

According to the office of the Commissioner, for almost 40 years there was no systematic integration policy in Germany. During the 1960s it was believed that the immigrants (“guest workers”) would go back to their home country, which did not happen. Most immigrants in Germany today are from Turkish or Arab origin. Until recently, dialogue between the State and religious groups has actually meant dialogue between the State and Christian communities. Therefore structures for a dialogue with Muslim communities are lacking.

The Commissioner and his team have regular meetings with NGOs and the Islam Forum in order to prevent violence. Berlin is the first State in Germany to implement an Action Plan against racism, which is scheduled to be launched in October 2010.

Some political parties that are active in Berlin have strong anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant views. The National Democratic Party (NPD) is also anti-Semitic. The movement “Pro Deutschland” [Pro Germany] is a new movement which strongly opposes Islam. The movement was set up in Cologne as “Pro Köln” when the construction of a new mosque was discussed there. To date, the party has not participated in any elections yet, so the number of supporters can only be estimated. A recent event of the Berlin branch, “Pro Berlin”, attracted many potential supporters. An MP of the Berlin State Parliament, René Stadtkewitz, a former member of the Christian Democratic Party CDU, is a member of “Pax Europa”, an NGO that is described as a softer version of “Pro Deutschland”. In Berlin, anti-Islam sentiments are still a taboo in the political discourse. However, Mr. Stadtkewitz is currently breaking this taboo.

#### **d. Meeting with Wolf Kaiser, Deputy Director and Head of the Educational Division, House of the Wannsee Conference (Haus der Wannsee-Konferenz)**

The House of the Wannsee Conference is very experienced in educating youth from non-German background in German history, especially the history of the Holocaust. Mr. Kaiser stressed the importance of including all youths into this program, German and non-German, since separating the youths with immigrant background from the others would reinforce the feeling of exclusion. He explained that programmes for groups that include many participants with an immigrant background often start with giving them the

opportunity to mention historical events of contemporary history that are particularly meaningful for them. A photo collage showing not only images of the Holocaust, but also other events of the 20es and 21<sup>st</sup> such as “9/11”, the end of apartheid in South Africa, the fall of the Berlin Wall, RAF terrorism in Germany, etc. is used as a tool for this brief introductory discussion. Muslim youth often react to this approach by expressing their feelings when being discriminated or labeled as terrorists. They usually are ready to deal with Holocaust history when they experience that their concerns are acknowledged.

The House is visited by approximately 110,000 visitors each year, 50-60% of which are secondary school students. Mr. Kaiser explained that some groups come to the House for 2-3 hours, others for full day programs. An educational package “Geschichte teilen” (Sharing HistorieS) is spread all over the country, 700 copies have been sold since the launch of this tool one year ago.

These materials which refer in various ways to the history of the countries of origin of many participants are also used in educational programmes at the House of the Wannsee Conference together with sources which show attitudes and behaviour of Germans.

#### **e. Meeting with Civil Society (CS) Representatives**

##### **- CS meeting in the Foreign Office**

Ralf Possekkel, Stiftung Erinnerung, Verantwortung, Zukunft - EVZ (Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future")

Arnold Roßberg, Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma (Central Council of German Sinti and Roma)

Markus Priesterath, Bündnis für Demokratie und Toleranz gegen Extremismus und Gewalt (Alliance for democracy and tolerance - against extremism and violence)

Bekir Alboğa, DITIB - Türkisch Islamische Union der Anstalt für Religion e.V. (DITIB)

The EVZ stressed that when fighting hate crimes, it is not only important to bring perpetrators to justice but also to support victims. Therefore EVZ highly appreciates relevant projects, especially in former East Germany. In this context the organization reaches out to NGOs in other countries, such as in the Czech Republic, in Poland, in Russia and in the Ukraine and provides capacity-building to them. The EVZ expressed the wish to co-operate with ODIHR in this regard, suggesting that whilst the EVZ could motivate victims to seek help, ODIHR could train governmental and law enforcement institutions, judges and prosecutors in order to prepare them in responding to and combating hate crime cases. They pointed out that monitoring work of NGOs is an important contribution to getting a full picture of the situation and that it seeks co-operation with ODIHR for training NGOs in this regard.

The EVZ also raised concern regarding the German funding policy, since long term projects cannot be carried out due to federal law. Public funding is available only for a limited period. Good projects and successful practices have to stop after the pilot phase has been set up and concepts have been tried out. Then projects have to be relabeled for

the sake of receiving more funding. The EVZ is worried that particularly the quality of support for hate crime victims will suffer from the lack of institutional funding and the transfer of competence from the Federal Government to the Federal States.

The Central Council of German Sinti and Roma expressed its concern regarding hate propaganda from right-wing parties against Sinti and Roma during recent elections. It reported that no steps are taken against this defamation, and that not a single court case was launched. Even more disturbing is hate speech against Sinti and Roma on the internet: On some web pages Sinti and Roma are threatened with violent attacks and murder. Violent music videos are distributed, and an example of this type of material, a song called “Zigeunerpack” (Gypsy pack) from a group called “Landser”, was handed over to Rabbi Baker on a DVD. The video of the song shows violence against Roma. The song and the video are banned by court decisions and the popular internet platform “You Tube” removed it two years ago. Nevertheless, the video can be downloaded from neo-Nazi websites. According to the Central Council films like this influence the thinking of potential murderers. They also reported an attack against a Roma family in Saxony in December 2009. Video messages in the internet call for similar acts to be perpetrated.

The Central Council called for a follow up conference to the OSCE conference on hate in the internet in Paris in 2004. In this context it stressed that it does not support regulations to control the internet and reported about recent talks with the German representatives of Google.

According to the Central Council police does not collect data and statistics on crimes *against* Sinti and Roma but in some cases does collect data on crimes committed *by* Sinti and Roma. Media do receive information about these data and publish their content. Since this is a contribution to the growth of racism this practice should be consequently forbidden.

DITIB is a member of the German Islam Conference and is the largest association of Muslims in Germany. It pointed out that since the establishment of the German Islam Conference, Muslims are seen as part of the German society. However, the Muslim is not yet officially acknowledged as a religious community in Germany. DITIB reported that it co-operates with the German Government to fight the growth of Islamism (which according to DITIB means abusing Islam for political reasons) in the country. At the same time they also fight manifestations of Islamophobia.

DITIB reported that discrimination against Muslims is manifested mostly in the labour market or when members of the community are looking for apartments. Women wearing headscarves are especially affected. DITIB called on politicians to urgently deal with the issue of Muslim youth, who feel discriminated both in schools and on the labour market, since affected teenagers feel frustrated and may end up in radical Islamic groups. It also reported about qualified people that have difficulties finding jobs in Germany and



subsequently accept job offers in Turkey instead. For DITIB, Germany should avoid losing these qualified workers.

According to DITIB Germany has a strict immigration law since 2002, which should be changed, especially regarding double citizenship of Germans with Turkish background. The change is necessary since German citizenship is a precondition for voting. Having to decide between two citizenships presents a dilemma to Turkish immigrants. Chances for integration could be increased by giving these people the possibility of keeping their Turkish passports whilst receiving the German one.

DITIB called the mass media to pay its contribution to improve the situation for Turks in Germany. In this context it also informed about anti-Islam news sites such as [www.pi-news.net](http://www.pi-news.net), which should be observed by the Federal Office for Protection of the Constitution (Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz).

The “Alliance for democracy and tolerance - against extremism and violence” was founded 10 years ago by the Ministry of Interior after a wave of right extreme violence, which included murders, in the late 1990s in order to stimulate and co-ordinate co-operation against right wing extremism between Civil Society and the Government. The alliance co-operates for example with the German Football Association, which tries to combat racism on all levels of football – from the first league to the lowest regional league for hobby footballers. The Alliance is currently seeking co-operation with partners outside of Germany (for example a project on “fairness in sports” is planned in co-operation with Poland and the UK).

The Alliance pointed out that municipalities of small towns need to be capacitated how to fight right wing extremism and how to react to rallies of right extreme parties like the NPD. These rallies are often visited by right wing extremists from different regions and even from abroad, for example from Hungary and Russia. Extremists travel through Europe to support each others rallies, the local population is often hardly involved.

#### **- Meeting of Ambassador Akhmetov with Civil Society representatives**

Ahmad Friedrich Gross, European Muslim Union (EMU).

EMU is an umbrella organization of various Muslim organizations and has several offices across Europe. It targets to serve the Muslim community in Europe to promote and facilitate the dialogue between Muslims and non-Muslims and to improve the relations between the mainstream society and Muslim communities. It stressed the positive, beneficial and constructive role of the Muslim communities and Muslim entities in Europe. It provides material, legal, social and spiritual support to Muslim immigrants and establishes and runs Muslim schools and other educational institutions.

EMU explained that after “9/11” discrimination against Muslims has become very strong but that now a decrease could be seen. However, it happens that Muslims are treated as extremists. It reported that it will organize a conference entitled the “European Muslim Summit” in Russia in autumn 2010 or in the spring of 2011.

EMU expressed concern about the fact that its activities are observed by the Federal Office for Protection of the Constitution. A letter to the Minister of Interior in this regard remains unanswered.

#### **- Meeting of Rabbi Andrew Baker with Civil Society representatives**

Patrick Siegele, Anne Frank Zentrum (AFZ)  
Andrés Nader, Amadeu Antonio Stiftung (Amadeu Antonio Foundation)  
Andreas Koch, Kreuzberger Initiative Gegen Antisemitismus (Kreuzberg Initiative Against Antisemitism)

Mr. Sascha Stawski, President of the Non-Governmental Organization Honestly Concerned could not participate in the meeting. Upon request of Rabbi Baker his statement is attached to this report.

The Anne Frank Zentrum (AFZ) is an organization that focuses on education against anti-Semitism, homophobia, racism and hate crimes. It develops and tests educational materials for use in schools and it increases the knowledge of teachers in these fields. According to the AFZ, educators have scarce knowledge of these issues and have difficulties reacting to and addressing anti-Semitism when it appears in classrooms. Mainstream teaching materials limit themselves on portraying the Holocaust and anti-Semitism in the middle ages. The AFZ is a steady partner of ODIHR in the implementation project of the German country version of ODIHR’s teaching materials to combat anti-Semitism where they provide relevant teacher training seminars all over Germany and offer seminars for students as well.

All three Civil Society representatives reported that the problems of public funding explained above also affects them. They explained that since promoting tolerance is a long term endeavour that develops slowly, many projects need three years until they function well and are forced to stop at the moment when they start becoming beneficial. In this context they explained that the budget line “Vielfalt tut gut” (Diversity does good) of the Ministry of Family stopped during 2010. A new budget line will open in early 2011, but the criteria for projects that can be submitted are not yet published. All three representatives said that it would be essential that the new budget line has a strong focus on combating anti-Semitism.

The Anne Frank Zentrum pointed out that the federal education system is another challenge in its daily work. Each federal State has its own curriculum, textbooks, and

procedures. This situation makes it very difficult for Non-Governmental Organizations that deal with education against intolerance to conduct their work.

The Kreuzberg Initiative Against Antisemitism added that only fifty per-cent (50%) of project budgets are funded by governmental institutions. This is a hurdle for small NGOs, which do not have the possibility for matching funds. With the exception of Berlin, municipalities hardly like to provide co-funding, since this could be seen as they would admit having a problem with anti-Semitism or racism. Companies hesitate to provide funding for such projects as well, since anti-Semitism and racism “do not sell”.

All three Civil Society representatives informed that the expert group on anti-Semitism of the German Bundestag (Parliament) works quietly and did not yet reach out to civil society. Their report is expected in 2011.

The Kreuzberg Initiative Against Antisemitism expressed the opinion that anti-Semitism from the extreme right is not tolerated in Germany, but that after the Gaza war in 2009, anti-Semitic statements which came from the mainstream society, were not condemned with the same degree of concern. The Amadeu Antonio Foundation added that these more subtle manifestations of anti-Semitism in the mainstream are even more problematic, since they are hard to measure and therefore difficult to tackle. The University in Bielefeld annually provides an attitude survey, which shows that youths are not the only source of anti-Semitic manifestations. The results of these studies suggest that it is essential to not only focus on right-wing extremists and Muslim immigrants when combating anti-Semitism. The Anne Frank Zentrum added that it faces a lot of so-called secondary anti-Semitism during its teacher training seminars. For example, when teachers would say that they “have heard enough about anti-Semitism and the Holocaust” and that “Germans have suffered enough from what had happened”.

The three Civil Society representatives reported that a resolution of the German Bundestag on the flotilla incident<sup>5</sup> was more or less unnoticed by the broader public, but surprised many specialists and organizations, especially because it was taken by unanimous vote. One representative said that negative media reporting about Israel has a strong impact on the mainstream society.

The Kreuzberg Initiative Against Antisemitism reported that in its fight against anti-Semitism it worked a lot with Muslim youth. Exchange programs with Israel are essential in this regard, but there is hardly any funding available for trips to Israel. The organization “Connect” is appointed and funded by the Government to arrange such exchange programs. Since it has to support all kinds of youth groups that are going to

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<sup>5</sup> German Bundestag: Motion 17/2328, which amongst others supports the call of the Secretary General of the United Nations for an international investigation of the actions on both sides and supports the call of the European Union to end the blockade of Gaza and to introduce a list of goods that may not be imported into Gaza, such as weapons, instead.

Israel, there are too little funds left for seriously tackling anti-Semitism among Muslim immigrant youth this way. Extra budget lines should be opened.

The Amadeu Antonio Foundation added that public discourse about anti-Semitism in the Muslim society makes the problem even worse. Discussions with the Muslim community are needed instead.

### **III. Recommendations**

The Personal Representatives offer the following recommendations to the government of Germany, based on main findings of their visit:

The German Government should draft hate crime legislation and should increase its efforts in training police, prosecutors and judges how to effectively respond to hate crimes. The Government may consult with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in this regard.

The German Government should report hate crime statistics to ODIHR, which are distinguishing different target groups of hate crimes, such as Jews, Sinti and Roma, Muslims, Christians and members of other religions, victims of other racist and xenophobic crimes and of crimes based on the sexual orientation or gender identity of the victim.

The German Government should increase the possibilities for Civil Society to find funding for projects to combat anti-Semitism and discrimination against Muslims. Relevant legislation, which limits the running time of effective projects, should be reconsidered.

The German Government should increase its co-operation with intergovernmental institutions, such as the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, in its efforts to combat anti-Semitism, discrimination against Muslims, racism and xenophobia.

The Government should take effective measures against the spreading of hatred via the Internet, especially the one targeting Jews, Sinti and Roma, Muslims, Christians and members of other religions.

### **IV. List of Annexes**

- a. Agenda of the visit
- b. List of participants in meetings with the Personal Representative of the CiO
- c. NGO Statement on the state of anti-Semitism in Germany



**Visit of OSCE CiO Personal Representatives to promote tolerance and combat racism,  
xenophobia and discrimination**

**Berlin, 21/22 July 2010**

**Programme**

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|----------------|----------------------|---|
| <b>20 July</b> | <u>Evening</u>       | Arrival of the OSCE Delegation:<br>Mr Andrew Baker, Ambassador Adil Akhmetov, Ms Aida Yermekkalievva, Mr Norbert Hinterleitner<br><br>Address: Hotel Maritim Berlin, Stauffenbergstr. 26,<br>10785 Berlin; Tel.: 030 2065 - 0<br><br>Driver mobile: 0172 3901 166                     |
| <b>21 July</b> | <u>12.00 – 13.00</u> | Meeting with Mr Günter Piening, Commissioner for Integration and Migration of the Berlin Senate<br><br>Address: Potsdamer Straße 65, 10785 Berlin<br>Contact: Sekretariat; Tel.: 030 9017 - 2363  |
|                | <u>13.30 – 14.30</u> | Meeting with Dr. Ole Schröder, Parliamentary State Secretary in the Ministry of Interior<br><br>Address: BMI, Alt-Moabit 101 D, 10559 Berlin<br>Contact: Ms Woeste; Tel.: 030 18681 - 1386  |
|                | <u>14.45 – 15.15</u> | Meeting with Prof. Dr. Maria Böhmer, Minister of State in the Federal Chancellery and Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration<br><br>Address: Bundeskanzleramt, Willy-Brandt-Straße 1,<br>10587 Berlin<br>Contact: Ms Sembritzki; Tel.: 030 4000 2031 |

15.30 – 16.15

Meeting with Mr Markus Löning, Federal Government  
Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and  
Humanitarian Aid at the Federal Foreign Office

Address: Auswärtiges Amt, Kurstrasse 36, 10117 Berlin  
Contact: Ms Schäfer; Tel.: 030 1817 - 4765

17.00 – 18.00

Meeting with Dr. Wolf Kaiser, Deputy Director and  
Head of Education Department, House of the Wannsee  
Conference – Memorial and Educational Site

Address: Am Großen Wannsee 56-58, 14109 Berlin  
Contact: Ms Schröder; Tel.: 030 8050 01 - 26

19.00

Dinner on invitation of KAZ Embassy

**22 July**

10.00 – 12.00

Roundtable meeting with civil society  
representatives, NGOs etc. at the Federal Foreign Office  
on invitation of ODIHR/PRs

Address: Werderscher Markt 1, 10117 Berlin  
Contact: Ms Fleischhauer; 030 1817 2823

Evening

Departure Ambassador Adil Akhmetov

**23 July**

Morning

Departure Mr Andrew Baker

## **List of participants in meetings with the Personal Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office CiO Ambassador A.Akhmetov and Rabbi Andrew Baker**

### Berlin Senate:

- Mr Günter Piening, Commissioner for Integration and Migration of the Berlin Senate
- Ms Doris Nahawandi
- Mr Lorenz Korgel
- Mr Robin Schneider

Contact: Integrationsbeauftragter@intmig.berlin.de

### Federal Chancellery:

- Prof. Dr. Maria Böhmer, Minister of State in the Federal Chancellery and Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration
- Dr. Ralf Gebel
- Ms Margit Gottstein

Contact: Margit.Gottstein@bk.bund.de

### Federal Ministry of Interior:

- Dr. Ole Schröder, Parliamentary State Secretary in the Ministry of Interior
- Dr. Cordula Woeste
- Ms Gabriele Hauser
- Ms Maria Luise Haferkamp
- Ms Alexandra Kuczynski

Contact: Cordula.Woeste@bmi.bund.de

### Federal Foreign Office:

- Mr Markus Löning, Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid at the Federal Foreign Office
- Mr Peter Kettner
- Ms Gabriela Guellil

Contact: mrhh-b-pr@auswaertiges-amt.de

### House of the Wannsee Conference:

- Dr. Wolf Kaiser, Deputy Director and Head of Education Department, House of the Wannsee Conference – Memorial and Educational Site

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### Roundtable with representatives of civil society

- Mr Bekir Alboga, Turkish-Islamic Union DITIB; alboga@ditib.de
- Mr Markus Priesterath, Bündnis für Demokratie und Toleranz; priesterath@bfdt.de
- Mr A. Rossberg, Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma
- Mr R. Possek, Stiftung „Erinnerung, Verantwortung, Zukunft“

**Short statement on the state of anti-Semitism in Germany by Sacha Stawski,**  
*President of Honestly Concerned e.V., ILI – I LIKE ISRAEL e.V. and of the “Dachverband  
gegen Antisemitismus” / “Umbrella organization against anti-Semitism” (which represents  
14 member organizations (NGOs), with a combined membership of some 30.000 people)*

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In 2002, when Honestly Concerned was founded, we considered the right-wing-vote hunting by the then deputy head of the Liberal Democratic Party (FDP), Jürgen Möllemann, to be one of the worst anti-Semitism scandals since the Second World War. Sadly, what was then considered to be a great outrage, has since then become virtual accepted practice. Today anti-Semitism is more “salonfähig”, “out of the closet”, than ever.

The “National Democratic Party of Germany” (NPD) has succeeded at bringing Holocaust denial and anti-Semitic smear speeches into regional governments, into which they were elected. The Left party (DIE LINKE), former ruling party of East Germany, has even succeeded at bringing anti-Semitism onto the floor of the Bundestag. By denying respect to the Jewish guest of honour, Shimon Peres, whose father was killed by Nazis, and who is now President of another country, by not rising from their seats on Holocaust Memorial day (January 27, 2010), some members of DIE LINKE gave a taste of what can be expected from them in the future. The “Marvi Marmara” flotilla incident and a unanimous anti-Israel motion, passed by all members of the Bundestag, took things one step further still.

While many Bundestag motions get passed every day, there are rarely, if ever, motions passed, when terrorists murder Israeli citizens, or when Israeli officers get killed by Lebanese snipers on Israeli soil, or when radicals murder thousands in Darfur or elsewhere for "ethnic" reasons. Similarly, no motion was passed after members of parliament (from DIE LINKE) were on board a ship financed by a known extremist organization, the IHH.

Such double standard is applied only, when it comes to Israel. According to the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (formerly EUMC) and its definition of anti-Semitism, the Bundestag has an anti-Semitism problem when all factions unanimously single out Israel. Stephan Kramer, General Secretary of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, warned, that the "German solidarity tide" may be turning. That must be taken seriously and should be seen as a warning siren, not only by all the members of the Bundestag, but also by all Jews.

Today it has become “fashionable” to mitigate the Holocaust by comparing it to all sorts of other things. The word “Jew” is commonly equated with the word “Israeli” and has become a common curse, especially by Muslim immigrants. Calls for Jews to be sent to the gas chambers have been tolerated chants at anti-Israel demonstrations across the country.

Likewise, it has become “hip” to be an outspoken anti-Zionist, even among the “mainstream”, while denying the existence of anti-Semitism simultaneously. Today Neo-Nazi skinheads do not present a real danger. Today the real threat comes from hate preachers, their followers, from those who cannot differentiate between the individual Jew and the Jewish State, and those who cross over the line from legitimate criticism of Israel to a virulent anti-Zionism, denying the mere existence of the Jewish state. Even worse - and increasingly more dangerous still are the virulent anti-Israel voices of extreme leftwing Israeli or Jewish intellectuals, like Felicia Langer, Hajo Meyer, Uri Avnery, Evelyn Hecht-Galinski, Rolf Verleger, or Moshe Zimmermann.

Based on the assumption that “if a Jew criticizes Israel, it must be correct”, these “expert witnesses” are frequently called upon by the mainstream media as alleged representatives of the “silent majority” in Israel or among Jews in Germany, thereby becoming a serious force in terms of spreading anti-Semitic libels and Palestinian propaganda.