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# STATEMENT BY BÜRGERBEWEGUNG PAX EUROPA

## OSCE supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

### Working Session 1 Freedom of Assembly and Association

Vienna, November 8, 2012

### Intervention

BPE refers to an [event](#) in Munich organized by the German political party DIE FREIHEIT in September 2012. The topic was “Is Euro-Islam possible?”. The owner of the local restaurant, the chosen venue, was intimidated by massive telephone threats. The owner of the restaurant was forced to cancel the discussion, citing pressure from political authorities in Munich.

The organizers were forced to find a new venue within hours; however, this new location was again surrounded by so-called antifascists who disturbed the peace by shouting slogans like “There is no right to Nazi propaganda.”

Ladies and gentlemen, these are the methods of a totalitarian society. Police did show up, but did not interfere or remove the crowd intent on disturbing the meeting.

### Recommendation to OSCE participating States

That public events properly registered with the authorities are always granted sufficient and neutral police protection to ensure that the events can proceed according to plan, without the organizers or participants having to fear violence prior, during or after the event.

## Recommendations

Recalling and reinforcing BPE's statement made at HDIM in 2009 in this regard and remind participating States that [they] "... are accountable to their citizens and responsible to each other for their implementation of their OSCE commitments", BPE thus

- calls on the OSCE participating States to ensure that OSCE guidelines to freedom of assembly as well as its human dimension commitments are followed and implemented by governments in all instances of legal assemblies, thereby ensuring the continued legal right to the very freedoms that should be inherent in liberal democracies.
- Recommends that ODIHR reaffirm the right to peaceful assembly **for everyone** regardless of whether one agrees or disagrees with the views of the demonstrators.