

Keeping memory alive

**and taking
on responsibility**

70TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE CONCENTRATION
CAMP BUCHENWALD

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**I. The former prisoners of the
Concentration Camp Buchenwald
address themselves to the representatives
of the City of Weimar:**

We have survived the Concentration Camp Buchenwald. We swore to build a new and free world of peace. During all of our lives we bore witness to the crimes of Nazi-Germany. We have disclosed the reasons for these crimes and we pointed out in all clarity those responsible for them. We have been active and we are still active today to prevent these crimes from being perpetrated again. But many of us have departed and with us the living memory of the barbarous reign of terror of the National Socialists is dwindling.

Today we come together again here, where the Nazis imprisoned Germans first, to where they later transported resistance fighters and opponents of Nazi-Germany from all occupied countries, and eventually also Jews, Sinti and Roma, who were to be exterminated. In this place, we cannot help but be troubled - more than ever - by these questions: Who will speak of the Nazi crimes, who will oppose the neo-Nazis and all enemies of democracy and human dignity? Who will speak and fight on our behalf, when we are no more?

II. The representatives of the City of Weimar declare to the former prisoners of the Concentration Camp Buchenwald:

We will never be silent about the crimes of the National Socialists. We are aware that the history of our city is intimately connected with the development of a humanist conception of man, with the establishment of democracy, but also with the utter destruction of all that is human. Parting with all those who today still can testify to the Nazi crimes is not going to end our critical dealing with the crimes of National Socialism. We are conscious of our responsibility to keep the memory alive, to pass it on from generation to generation.

We welcome you in the City of Weimar as citizens of equal rights. Your coming evinces that the vocal condemnation of the national-socialist world view and its current manifestations must be and must remain part of our democracy. Your fate, your courage, your will to resist will spur us on to ensure that the tragedy brought upon you, upon your home countries and also upon Germany by the National Socialists will never happen again.

The City of Weimar sends out a signal today. It commits itself to ensure that your legacy is and always remains central to the democratic identity and the political culture of the Federal Republic of Germany. We are going to fight national socialist thought, racism and anti-Semitism with all our strength. We are aware that human rights, freedom and democracy cannot be taken for granted, but need to be lived and defended anew every day.

Bertrand Herz

PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
BUCHENWALD-DORA AND COMMANDOS

Stefan Wolf

LORD-MAYOR
OF THE CITY OF WEIMAR

III. Signing of the declaration “Keeping memory alive and taking on responsibility” by the City Council of Weimar, July 2007:

WALTER BOURQUAIN

BRIGITTE BURCKHARDT

RAINER DÖNNECKE

DR. DIETER ECKARDT

DR. GERT EISENWINDER

HEINZ FISCHER

HARALD FREUDENBERG

MONIKA GLIMM

CORINA HARKE

DR. THOMAS HARTUNG

MICHAEL HASENBECK

HORST HASSELMANN

DR. HANS HEUZEROTH

PROF. DR. WOLFGANG HÖLZER

STEPHAN ILLERT

RUDOLF KESSNER

RALF KIRSTEN

ROBERTO KOBELT

KARL-HEINZ KRAASS

MARTIN KRANZ

DR. PETER KRAUSE

SIEGRUN LOPP

CARSTEN MEYER

DIRK MÖLLER

DR. BERND NOWAK

REGINA PEESS

HARTMUT POHLE

ANNETTE PROJAHN

KLAUS-PETER RUHLAND

KATJA SCHÄFER

MARTINA SCHENK

CLAUS SCHINNER

VRONI SCHMIEDEL

NORBERT SCHREMB

GERHARD SCHWARTZE

GÜNTER SEIFERT

PETRA STREIT

JOACHIM TROMMSDORF

JÜRGEN VENT

STEFFEN VOGEL

PROF. DR. FRANK WERNER

FRANK ZIEGLER

