

# EuroProLife e.V.

European Voice of the Unborn children:  
„Protect our Life“

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Universal Periodic Review  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Palais des Nations

CH-1211 Geneva 10

## **Complaint against Germany for Consideration during the UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW submitted to [uprsubmissions@ohchr.org](mailto:uprsubmissions@ohchr.org) and postal**

### **Limitation of Freedom of Assembly and Freedom of Expression in Germany Negative Stereotyping of Pro-Life Activists in the German Media**

Munich, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012

#### **1. Who we are and what we do**

The aims of the association “EuroProLife e.V.” you see in the seven points of our charter:

- To concentrate our energies in order to organize and support public prayer events for Life in Europe.
- To stop the flood of destruction by peaceful means: We intend to give testimony to the public by devout prayer.
- To express our pain, by our prayer in the processions and mourning ceremonies, for the innocent children that were killed and their wounded parents.
- We pray in the same loving attitude as did Mother Mary and the apostle John under the cross.
- We do not pray against anybody or anything. We pray for love, light and life.
- We pray for all the persons involved in the abortion process (doctors, politicians etc.) in order to flash the light of love in their hearts for the innocent defenceless babies.
- Euro Pro Life is a Christian interdenominational network, which unites the different pro life organisations of European countries in common prayer for life.

#### **2. Violent acts at ProLife-Demonstrations in Münster, Munich and Salzburg and Infringments on Freedom of Assembly and Expressions**

In March 2009 around 170 participants of an unannounced counter-demonstration partially blocked the so called pro-life procession “1000 Crosses for Life” in Münster. The chairman of the organizer *EuroProLife e.V.*, Wolfgang Hering, responsible for the public event, had been surrounded by a large number of troublemakers. Only under threat of coercive measures by the police, he was released by the attackers. The Police took 133 counter-demonstrators temporarily in custody so that the authorized demonstration of ProLifers could continue. A preliminary investigation was initiated against 129 persons on infringement, disguise and suspicion of coercion. The anti-demonstrators snatched away crosses from the peaceful praying Christians, especially from old ladies. Sometimes they destroyed the crosses or threw them into the river.

Very loud they cried slogans like “No God, no state, no fatherland” or “If Mary had aborted, we

would have been spared dealing with you” etc. and hurted our religious feelings also with their banners, f.e. “Eat a queer fetus for Jesus”.

In spite of all that, the members of the prayer processions remained always peaceful. EuroProLife and partners organized more than 2500 prayer processions in 28 german and 6 foreign cities and there is no breach of a Christian noted in any police station or agency of public order in thirteen years.

The atrocities continue every year, even though there are no blockades anymore which lead to arrests.

### **3. Negative Stereotyping of Pro-Life Activists in the Media**

In the public channel ARD, which is a state sponsored television channel, a short film about our peaceful public procession in Münster was aired. Several indicators prove that this was a slamming attack to make our work impossible:

- There were no images or any other information of the violent counter-protests.
- Also the sound was manipulated and the noises caused by screaming counter protestors were partially erased.
- The official police report was totally ignored.
- The peaceful praying people were declared as “radical anti-abortionists” doing a “bizarre spectacle” and “threatening women” in conflict.

As an attachment we add 13 photos from events in Münster (6), Munich (5) and Salzburg (2).

### **4. Our problems and complaints**

We were surprised and shocked that a state sponsored TV station is able to produce such a one-sided report in which there was not a single piece of positive information about the pro-lifers. It was an obviously manipulated rendering of the actual events, how the troublemakers were protected and law-abiding Christians were calumniated by a television station under public law (ARD Berlin-Brandenburg). We could not imagine, that our constitution and the German Broadcasting Law, which were installed after World War II also to prevent media from ideological abuse, was so much ignored. We experienced similar things with newspapers. As an attachment (by letter) we add the DVD (“Programmauftrag Desinformation?” (“Program-Order Desinformation?”) by an experienced film producer from Berlin who investigated this ARD report critically.

We suffer from this kind of negative stereotyping professionally and personally and do not find sufficient help or attention in the government, which seems not to be able to stop such a discrimination of a law-abiding minority of peaceful citizens. Several policemen of Berlin told us, that they feel forsaken by state and city-government in fighting against left radical violence. A penal report against ARD at the public prosecutor in Berlin came to nothing. The Broadcasting Council did not react.

Our concern regarding our own work and our country is: If our government does not show interest to stop ideological abuse of media under public law, the violent anti-demonstrators feel invited to go on.

Georg Fleischmann - Secretary General

Attachments: 13 photos from Münster, Munich and Salzburg