

This advertisement is the product of need rather than desire. We expose the symmetry between events in Germany today and what happened here many years ago. In so doing, we do not indulge in name calling. When today's behavior is reminiscent of the behavior of the Nazi era, it is not because a label has been affixed, but because the conduct has evoked the comparison. We are offering the facts for the world to judge.

PRACTICING SOCIAL OSTRACISM

GERMANY, 1833: *One of the major reasons why the old Prussian state was such a clean one was that the Jews were granted only a very limited access to the civil service.*

— Adolf Hitler, Letter to Hindenburg, 1933

GERMANY, 1896: *"The Bavarian State government is planning to no longer accept Scientologists in the public service... Applicants for public service... shall declare, in writing, that they are not connected to Scientology, starting in November."*

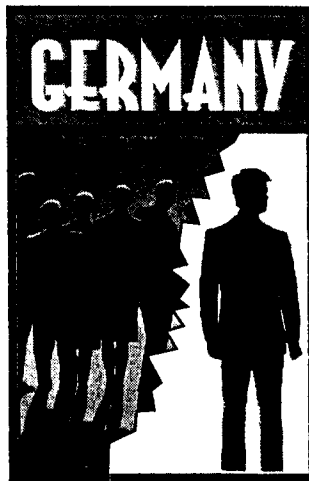
— Der Spiegel magazine, August 12, 1996

The persecution of the Jewish people in Germany began with their gradual elimination from the social life of the country. This was accomplished through false anti-Jewish propaganda portraying members of the Jewish community as undeserving of common rights and by legislation which excluded them from public service, the professions and deprived them of their citizenship. This process eventually brought about the "Final Solution."

Followers of the Jewish faith had other than Christian beliefs and a strong culture. Because their beliefs were different, they were a convenient scapegoat, leading in the end to their senseless destruction.

Today, German government leaders have called for exclusion of Scientologists from selected professions. They are denied access to Germany's major political parties. As of today, for the first time since the Third Reich, members of a religion are formally denied employment in the civil service in Bavaria. Political propaganda has depicted Scientologists and members of other minorities as animals or insects. Scientologists have been dismissed from their jobs solely because of their religious affiliation.

Since 1933, the United States State Department, the United Nations, the Helsinki Commission, U.S. Congressmen and senators, religious Scholars and



historians have cited Germany for human rights abuses against Scientologists.

Why are German officials discriminating against Scientologists? There is no legitimate reason, just as there was none for the persecution of the Jewish people. And, let us not forget, Germany has no tradition of religious freedom as in the United States.

To prevent a repetition of the events of the 1930s and 1940s, Germany's post-war Constitution guarantees the right to practice one's religion. Because the Constitution makes discrimination against the Church of Scientology illegal, German officials have bluntly asserted that Scientology is not a religion in order to make their assaults on Scientologists appear legitimate.

German officials simply ignore the dozens of court rulings, scholarly expertises and governmental acceptances that independently concluded that Scientology is beyond doubt a religion in the oldest sense of the word. Like all true religions, Scientology seeks to help man realize his inner divinity.

Sound impossible that a democratic government would deny the bona fides of a genuine religion in order to persecute it? It's precisely what the Nazis did to the Jewish people in the 1930s.

German officials have refused every request to engage in dialogue to resolve the discrimination occurring in their country.

"Never again" must not be an idle slogan, it must be a promise we keep. True, no one has been killed or hauled off to death camps. But history has taught us that we would be at fault if we stood by and did not point out the alarming similarities between the 1930s and today. German officials protesting these comparisons should stop recreating the past and they will remind no one of it.

Germany Then: As part of their propaganda campaign, the Nazis asserted repeatedly that the Jewish people were not a religious community, and that behind the religious facade they were seeking world supremacy. As a result, the Jewish people were systematically ostracized from society and stripped of their rights.

Germany Now: In the last five years, German officials have repeatedly asserted that Scientologists are not a religious community, and that behind the religious pretense they are seeking world supremacy. As a result, Scientologists have been increasingly ostracized and denied rights in Germany.

"What means would have been more useful, while less suspicious, than using the borrowed term of 'religious community.'"

— Adolf Hitler,
Mein Kampf

"... the Jew ... his ultimate goal: World supremacy, the destruction of the national States."

— Adolf Hitler
from the book My New Order

"Jews are denied the right to hold public office or civil service positions."

— Reichminister of Interior Frick, 1933
Reichsgesetzblatt, page 277

"The history of the Scientology organization reveals too that the religious or ideological character is only a pretense in order to be protected against control and criticism by the state."

— Bavarian Minister of Interior
Guenther Beckstein, January 1996

"Scientology wants this world supremacy."

— Federal Minister of Labor Norbert Blum
as reported in Der Spiegel, 27 November 1995

"Membership in the Scientology Organization is not compatible with service in the public sector."

— Johannes Gerster
CDU Party spokesman, June 1996

German Officials Respond:

Just like the Nazis before them, German officials brush off well-documented criticisms with denials and excuses. In the 1930s and 40s, those in charge ridiculed anyone who uttered a warning from abroad.

"[Goering] assured us there was no truth in what you fellows write about persecution of religion here."

— An American businessman relating his discussion with Nazi leader Hermann Goering to journalist William Shirer, August 16, 1936,
Berlin Diary

"[The] accusations are totally absurd."

— German Foreign Ministry spokesman
Martin Erdmann (referring to reports by Scientologists of discrimination by German officials)

If you don't agree with what is happening in Germany today, make your voice heard.
Write to: GERMANY ALERT — 6331 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90028

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For more information call 1-202-667-6404 — or write to: Office of Public Affairs, Church of Scientology, 1701 20th St. NW,

Washington, D.C. 20009. Also check the Internet site: <http://hatewatch.freedommag.org>