



Discussion in Courtroom 600 on 25 April, 1800h 'Transitional Justice in Germany after 1945 and after 1990'

On 25 April, 1800h, the International Nuremberg Principles Academy will launch its publication: 'Transitional Justice in Germany after 1945 and after 1990' in the historic Courtroom 600 of the Nuremberg Palace of Justice, Fürther Str. 110. The discussion will take place in English.

The study introduces the German experience in dealing with the past after World War II in 1945 and the end of the East German communist dictatorship in 1990. The study was written by the German historian Sanya Romeike on behalf of the Academy.

Dr. Anna Kaminsky, Director of the Bundesstiftung Aufarbeitung, and Prof. Dr. Werner Konitzer, Director of the Fritz Bauer Institute, will discuss these German experiences and assess whether the German dealing with the past is a success story. Further, they will elaborate on what we can learn from the post-1945 experiences for further dealing with this past and with the 2nd German dictatorship. Can other countries which emerge from conflicts or dictatorships draw conclusions from the German experiences? The author will also attend the event.

The publication wishes to give its readers – especially those from countries that are facing the task of dealing with past dictatorships and wars – an overview of Germany's experience spanning the last 70 years of German history. The study opens a vista for the reader and facilitates their access to these German experiences. Furthermore, it wishes to support its readers in acquiring more in-depth knowledge about single subtopics and instruments of transitional justice.

Furthermore, the publication provides insight into what kinds of opposition had to be overcome and how much time was needed for Germany to become an internationally recognized example of a country that intensely and successfully confronted its own past. At the same time, criticism on the part of the author shows how much still needs to be done in Germany. In one instance, the author remarks that:

"The fact that German society was able to shift from suppression and silence to an active engagement with crimes and guilt is often considered a central factor in its democratization. Nevertheless, engaging with the Nazi past was and still is no easy and unanimous process, but instead, one shaped by heated debates. To this day, it leads to controversies about the appropriate way to handle and interpret the past; this, however, is part of coming to terms with it, too."

This passage taken from the study by Ms. Romeike emphasizes the paradigmatic focus of this publication:

- On the one hand, this publication wishes to contribute to discussions in conflict and post-conflict states and hopes that these discussions are conducive to addressing the past.
- On the other hand, it wishes to contribute to discussions about our own past in Germany, too, since these are by no means completed.

The International Nuremberg Principles Academy (Nuremberg Academy) is a foundation dedicated to the advancement of international criminal law. It is located in Nuremberg, the birthplace of modern international criminal law, and is conceived as a forum for the discussion of contemporary issues in the field. The mission of the Nuremberg Academy is to promote the universality, legality and acceptance of the international criminal law. The foundation's main fields of activity include interdisciplinary research, trainings and consultant services specially tailored to target groups, and human rights education. The Nuremberg Academy places a special focus on the cooperation with countries and societies currently facing challenges related to international criminal law. The Nuremberg Academy was founded by the German Foreign Office, the Free State of Bavaria and the City of Nuremberg.