

Bishop Dr. Wolfgang Huber

Council Chairman of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD)

Words of Greeting

For the Sudan exhibition at the Jewish Museum Berlin

When people are dying and being slaughtered by the thousands, when human dignity is disregarded, Christians cannot be silent. With the Stuttgart Confession of Guilt in 1945, the German Evangelical churches confronted their own history and involvement in injustice. They lamented the fact that they had not taken a more courageous stand, had not prayed more faithfully, believed more joyfully and loved more ardently.

From this the German churches have learned that they must commit themselves without reservation to respecting human dignity and offering protection against all kinds of unlawful violence. The Jewish Museum's Darfur project "Crimes Against Humanity" draws attention to the situation of the people in Darfur. People in Darfur are subjected to violence and persecution, robbed of their human dignity. The world cannot remain silent. The situation in Darfur is the expression of a profound social and political crisis as well as an admonition to the international community to fulfill its responsibility to protect. The underlying political and social causes as well as the external influences and interests that abet lawless violence must be addressed.

In many parts of the world, church organizations assist victims of lawless violence, often in cooperation with other organizations. They do so without regard to ethnicity, political convictions or religion. At the same time, churches and religious communities are committed to over-

coming structures of violence and creating conditions that enable all people on this earth to live in dignity and security.

Many people from different religious communities see human dignity as an indestructible, God-given good. They oppose every form of persecution, discrimination and the violent expulsion of people from their homeland. The Evangelical Church in Germany encourages citizens to protest tirelessly against injustice and to counter escalating violence with the will to justice and reconciliation.

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Translation: Jewish Museum Berlin