

DECLARATION ON THE RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT OF PARENTS TO EDUCATE THEIR CHILDREN ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN CONVICTIONS

PETITION TO GOVERNMENTS AND PARLIAMENTS

In Salzkotten (Paderbor, North Renania, Germany) a mother has been sentenced to 43 days in jail for refusing to enroll three of her children in the sex education program in a local elementary school.

Such an attitude on the part of a public administration in a democratic country of the European Union and member of the Council of Europe is inadmissible from any point of view and requires a joint response of rejection and solidarity towards the mentioned family.

Accordingly, we, the individuals and entities signing this declaration would like to remind the Governments and our fellow citizens that:

- Article 26.3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children."
- Article 2 of Protocol 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights which provides: "No person shall be denied the right to education. In the exercise of any functions which it assumes in relation to education and to teaching, the State shall respect the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching in conformity with their own religions and philosophical convictions."
- Article 18.4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states: "The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions."
- Article 14.3 of the Charter of the Fundamental Rights of the European Union states that "the respect to (...) as well as the right of parents to guarantee the teaching and educations of their children according to their own religious, philosophical and pedagogical convictions".

Therefore, we request:

1. That the Federal Republic of Germany immediately releases and compensates all parents accused, arrested or imprisoned because they wanted to educate their children according to their own convictions.
2. That all other EU Member States respect parents' rights under the international legislation and abrogate any rules that may stand in contradiction to those rights.
3. That all European Institutions guarantee that both those rights and the international legislation are respected in all EU Member States.

February 28, 2011.