

HNA-Hofgeismarer Allgemeine vom 11.11.2023

„Don't get used to hatred of Jews“

Commemorative events in Meimbressen and Hofgeismar

von Bernd Schünemann

Meimbressen/Hofgeismar - The victims of Nazi terror were also commemorated in the district of Hofgeismar on Thursday and Friday. Following the Hamas attacks on Israel and in view of renewed anti-Semitism in Germany, this day was of particular significance.

Meimbressen

For the first time, the association „Judaica in Meimbressen e.V.“ invited people to commemorate their former Jewish fellow citizens. Deputy Chairman Dr. Michael Dorhs welcomed around 50 participants to the Junkernhof on Thursday evening. He recalled that large sections of the population had supported the Nazis' extermination plans at the time.

„Jews have been part of Germany for 1700 years,“ said Dorhs, adding that they – like all people – had a right to live in Germany in peace and without danger to life and limb. It was intolerable that Jews no longer felt safe in our country and that house fronts were once again being graffitied. Germany must not tolerate Anti-Semitism, not from the left, not from the right and not from religious communities, emphasised Dorhs. „It is our duty as citizens to protect Jewish life.“

Where the Meimbress synagogue once stood, there is now a memorial stone in its memory. Members of the association lit candles there for the 45 Jewish Nazi victims from Meimbressen. The organisers placed more than 45 candles – also in memory of the victims of the Hamas attack on Israel on 7 October. Prior to this, Deborah Tal-Rüttger sang a Jewish prayer for the murdered Jews („El Male Rachamim“).

Hofgeismar

The Municipal Museum, the protestant and the catholic church jointly organised the memorial service at Petri-Platz. The Jewish victims from Hofgeismar were remembered there on Friday evening.

It is always necessary to remember these horrific days and nights, said Julia Drinnenberg. This is also shown by the reports of today's Anti-Semitic offences. The museum employee asked how it could be possible that shop windows of Jewish fellow citizens were smashed in front of everyone, houses were looted, one man was taken to a concentration camp and another was almost beaten to death - without onlookers raising any objections.

Civilians had become willing helpers of deportation and extermination. The hatred of Jews began with words, prejudices and stereotypes – „which we must not get used to“, demanded Julia Drinnenberg. She also recalled the victims of Hamas in Israel and pointed to Israelis who stand up for the universal rights of all people.

Dagmar and Lothar Jahn performed a song based on a poem by the poet Hannah Szenes. The Hungarian resistance fighter who saved Jews wrote this poem in 1942, two years before her execution by the SS.