

**AKTIONSBÜNDNIS gegen RASSISMUS und für MEINUNGS-
und WISSENSCHAFTSFREIHEIT
in Erlangen**

**[ALLIANCE against RACISM and for FREEDOM OF SPEECH
AND SCHOLARSHIP]**

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Dear Sir or Madam:

When the summary penalty order was issued against Dr. Sabine Schiffer, we organised a solidarity action as an alliance against racism and for freedom of speech and scholarship that met with broad resonance worldwide. These efforts were rewarded with an acquittal by the Amtsgericht [Municipal Court] in Erlangen. The opinion states:

“Applying this standard [...due to the fundamental significance of freedom of speech for the democratic order (BverfG [Federal Constitutional Court] AktZ. 1 BvR 2272/04)], the Defendant’s statement was protected by the fundamental right of freedom of speech. The Defendant did not utter her words to the police officer or his colleagues, friends, or acquaintances; she uttered them in an interview, as part of political discourse. Nor did she even mention the officer by name; she spoke only of “a police officer”. The recurring (whether rightly or not) issue of whether and to what extent the actions of police officers may be influenced by xenophobic attitudes is without a doubt a subject of great significance for the public.”

The Erlangen/Nuremberg Office of Public Prosecutions has appealed this ruling.

We refer to our solidarity appeal on the homepage of www.solidaritaet-mit-dr-sabine-schiffer.de, in which we put it as follows:

„Science and the media must help to cultivate a heightened consciousness of the existence of problems, thus increasing the possibilities for improving the situation. In order for this to happen, there must be people, who need not be particularly courageous, but simply exercise their fundamental right to free speech in order to think about these things and push for change. People who fulfill their – and

our! - responsibility have a right to the support of the legal system and solidarity from the society at large.”

As part of our commitment to fight racism and protect freedom of speech and scholarship, we appeal to the public to renew – and even to increase – their solidarity with Dr. Schiffer!

Erlangen, 19.04.2010
Manfred Kirscher