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House of Representatives Washington D.C. 20515 U.S.A (German Translation)

Open Letter concerning: Religious Freedom in Europe (H.R. 588)

Munich, Germany, Wednesday, 25 October 2000

My name is Bernd Luebeck. I am President of the Free Zone Association.

The Free Zone Association is an international association, registered in Germany. Its goals and purposes are explained in the Statutes, which can be found on the Internet. Today we represent members in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, England, the U.S.A., Brasil, Argentina, Russia, and Poland, to name a few.

The Free Zone formed itself in the beginning of the 80's in the days when the RTC (Religious Technology Center) took over the Church of Scientology. This was in 1982, when thousands of members left the Scientology Church or were expelled by the RTC.

We believe in, use and disseminate the spiritual teachings of L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of Scientology. Although we are not associated with the Church of Scientology, we consider ourselves to be Scientologists. It is not true that our members have been subject to pervasive civil, political, and economic discrimination, harassment, surveillance, and orchestrated boycotts in Germany, France, or Austria.

The only harrassment to which we are subjected comes from the Scientology Church itself, which tries to eradicate all application of the teachings of L. Ron Hubbard outside the monopoly of the Scientology Church. According to our experience over the years "religious freedom" is used by the Scientology Church just as only as it serves them. It is a documented fact that there is no tolerance of us.

Respectfully submitted

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