

***Opening of the
17th German Congress on Crime Prevention 2012***

by

Erich Marks

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Erich Marks

“The only thing that is safe is that nothing is safe, that is why I am skeptical, to be on the safe side”¹

- Opening of the 17th German Congress on Crime Prevention 2012 -

The main topic of the 17th German Congress on Crime Prevention is „Safe living in the city and the state“. And if, according to Karl Valentin, nothing is really safe, it is even more important for us not only to be skeptical in general but also to critically discuss in an open and free society what type of security we would like to achieve, what is supposed to keep the society together and how we want to live tomorrow.

1. A very warm welcome to the German Congress on Crime Prevention 2012

I would like to welcome all participants and guests of the 17th German Congress on Crime Prevention at the International Congress Center Munich. I am glad that so many people have come and would like to particularly thank already now at the beginning of the congress all the people making this congress possible by their active participation as speakers, in the moderation and organization.

As in the previous years, many honorary guests have agreed to participate in the Munich congress. I would like to particularly welcome the representatives of this year’s hosting organizer and also express deepest gratitude for the financial support of the 17th German Congress on Crime Prevention as well as for the pleasant joint preparation as regards the content and the organization of this year’s congress

- Joachim **Herrmann**, Bavarian Minister of State of the Interior, at the same time representing the patron of the congress Minister-President Horst **Seehofer**
- Dr. Beate **Merk**, Bavarian Minister of State of Justice and Consumer Protection
- Christian **Ude**, Mayor of the state capital Munich and patron of the 17th German Congress on Crime Prevention
- Dr. Wilfried **Blume-Beyerle**, local government of the state capital Munich.

I would like to welcome the members of the Deutsche Bundestag

- Gabriele **Fograscher**, SPD fraction,
- Jerzy **Montag**, speaker for legal politics of the fraction Bündnis 90/Die Grünen,
- Hartfried **Wolff**, FDP fraction,

¹ A quotation assigned to Karl Valentin (1882-1948) according to <http://www.karl-valentin.de/zitate/zitate-datenbank.htm> (last searched for on 6.4.2012)

the members of the Bayerische Landtag

- Prof. Dr. Winfried **Bausback**, member of the CSU fraction,
- Prof. Dr. Peter Paul **Gantzer**, member of the SPD fraction,
- Petra L. **Guttenberger**, member of the CSU fraction,
- Angelika **Schorer**, member of the CSU fraction,
- Bernhard **Seidenath**, member of the CSU fraction,

the state ministers

- Ralf **Jäger**, Minister of the Interior and Municipal Matters of the state North-Rhine Westphalia,
- Thomas **Kutschaty**, Minister of Justice of the state North-Rhine Westphalia,
- Uwe **Schünemann**, Minister of the Interior and Sports of the state Lower Saxony,

the other speakers of the two plenary meetings

- Prof. Dr. Axel **Groenemeyer**, University of Dortmund,
- Prof. Dr. Hans-Jürgen **Kerner**, President of the foundation for crime prevention and help for misdemeanants,
- Dr. Wiebke **Steffen**, German Congress on Crime Prevention expert,
- Guilherme **Pinto**, President of the European Forum for Urban Security,
- Prof. Gerd **Neubeck**, head of company security of the Deutschen Bahn AG,
- Prof. Dr. Irvin **Waller**, University Ottawa,

the directors and presidents of central authorities and organizations operating nationwide and internationally

- Prof. Dr. Ilsu **Kim**, President of the Korean Institute for Criminology,
- Prof. Dr. Christian **Pfeiffer**, Director of the Criminological Research Institute Lower Saxony,
- Prof. Dr. Elisabeth **Pott**, Director of the Federal Agency for Health Education,
- Harald **Range**, Federal Public Prosecutor at the Federal Supreme Court,
- Johannes-Wilhelm **Rörig**, independent representative for questions of sexual child abuse,
- Prof. Dr. Dr. Armin **Schmidtke**, Chairman of the National Suicide Prevention Program for Germany,
- Jörg **Ziercke**, President of the Federal Office of Criminal Investigation and

the representatives of diplomatic agencies in the Federal Republic of Germany

- Envoy Dr. Corneliu **Alexandru**, Romania,
- Consul Aleksei **Semiletnikov**, Republic of Belarus,
- Ambassador Hassan **Tchonai Elimi**, Chad,
- First Counselor Ali Ramezan **Zadeh**, Islamic Republic of Iran.

I would like to cordially welcome the numerous municipal elected and leading representatives of public authorities and non-governmental organizations at the local, the state, the federal and the international level. I also would like to welcome by name from the large number of the national and international honorary guests Juma **Assiango**, Heike **Bartesch**, Jörg **Baumbach**, Dr. Paul **Beinhofer**, Dr. Karl-Heinz **Blümel**, Prof. Dr. Reinhard **Böttcher**, Peter **Dathe**, Johannes **De Haan**, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang **Eisenmenger**, Olga **Fleischmann**, Horst **Fleischmann**, Prof. Knut **Foeckler**, Dr. Isabell **Götz**, Prof. Dr. Christian **Grafl**, Prof. Dr. Wolf **Hammann**, Robert **Heimberger**, Christoph **Hillenbrand**, Mitchell **Jacobs**, Walter **Kimmelzwinger**, Waldemar **Kindler**, Marianne **Kölbin**, Robert **Kopp**, Rudolf **Kraus**, Dr. Martin **Kuhlmann**, Reinhard **Kunkel**, Gerold **Mahlmeister**, Alois **Mannichl**, Liliane **Matthes**, Hans-Jürgen **Memel**, Natalia **Mendler**, Johann **Rast**, Anton **Scherl**, Gerhard **Schlögl**, Mario **Schmidbauer**, Prof. Dr. Wilhelm **Schmidbauer**, Dr. Tina **Silbernagl**, Elisabeth **Schossner**, Wolfgang **Sommer**, Hubert **Steiger**, Harald **Strötgen**, Katrin **Stüllenberger**, Hermann **Vogelgsang**, Hans-Werner **Wargel**, Rolf **Werlitz**, Franz-Josef **Wilfling** and Prof. Siegfried **Willutzki**.

I would like to particularly welcome the present representatives of the sponsors of the 17th German Congress on Crime Prevention. Furthermore, I would like to welcome in particular all accredited journalists. Thank you very much in advance for your reporting in various media on the debates of the 17th German Congress on Crime Prevention and particularly on the wide range of prevention programs, practice initiatives and research projects.

2. Short supplement to the 16th German Congress on Crime Prevention 2011 in Oldenburg

The debates of the main topic of the German Congress on Crime Prevention 2011 in Oldenburg – “New Media Worlds – challenges for crime prevention” – showed the requirement and the prime qualitative and quantitative importance of crime-preventive discussions with and in the new media worlds. The Oldenburg statement, the impressive students’ demonstration during the 16th German Congress on Crime Prevention and the published proposals and presentations were often picked up by the press and were frequently retrieved from the Internet documentation of the German Congress on Crime Prevention. And the topics as regards crime on the Internet and particularly suitable possibilities of crime prevention will certainly play an important role in

the debates of the future German Congresses on Crime Prevention for some time. The German Congress on Crime Prevention itself consciously decided by means of various initiatives to make better use of the communication opportunities of the new media and to particularly develop better possibilities of provided information in the area of knowledge management:

The „small prevention search engine dpt-map“

The webpage „dpt-map“ (www.dpt-map.de and www.pre-search.org), which has existed since the end of 2010, specifically searches for projects, measurements, institutions and persons from the field of work crime prevention. The sources for the search for key words and key terms are thematic data bases of accounted specialized organizations having already been published on the Internet.

At the beginning of „dpt-map“ in October 2010, you could initially do research within 2,462 data records based on the webpages of the German Congress on Crime Prevention and the state prevention council Lower Saxony. Currently there are more than 3,800 records available. Further specialized organizations will be continuously included as partners. Any institution being interested in a partnership and linking of its data basis is expressly welcome.

The daily prevention news

Since July 2011 the German Congress on Crime Prevention has been publishing the current news particularly for the field of work of crime prevention and connected fields of prevention on a daily basis on its webpage www.praeventionstag.de. The daily prevention news informs on prevention events and relevant documents in the fields of prevention practice, prevention research and prevention politics. You may subscribe for or respectively make use of the daily prevention news in many ways: directly on the webpage of the German Congress on Crime Prevention, by way of a daily, weekly or monthly email, as RSS feed, via Twitter or on Facebook.

Presence with Facebook and Twitter

The presences of the German Congress on Crime Prevention with the online services Twitter and Facebook mainly providing and publishing the daily prevention news so far are still in the process of development.

The new App of the German Congress on Crime Prevention

Our new own app now also supports mobile retrieval of the knowledge documented on the Internet from the past sixteen German Congresses on Crime Prevention. This app of the German Congress on Crime Prevention, which was created by the company nanodesign, has been available for free download in the “iTunes App Store” under the keyword “prevention” since April 7, 2012. Some of the features of the German Congress on Crime Prevention app are:

- Offline research in the documentation archive of all congresses,
- Advanced search for persons and specialized organizations and
- Short information on the German Congress on Crime Prevention.

Updates for the app and content extensions will follow shortly.

Opening and closing plenum of the 17th German Congress on Crime Prevention live on the Internet

For several years the German Congress on Crime Prevention has also been publishing recordings from the opening and closing plenum of the annual congresses on its webpage. This offered additional information becomes more and more popular and is frequently used. The offered download of the opening speech of the 15th German Congress on Crime Prevention (2010) by Prof. Dr. Gerald Hüther in Berlin, for example, has already been used 20,000 times. For the first time the opening and the closing plenum of the 17th German Congress on Crime Prevention in Munich may also be watched live on the Internet. Due to the offered simultaneous interpreting the events may be watched in both languages German and English.

3. An overview of the congress

The 17th German Congress on Crime Prevention is organized as follows:

- Plenum at the beginning and the end of the congress
- 49 lectures about the main topic and further prevention topics
- 14 lectures in the 6. Annual International Forum AIF, each half in German and in English
- German Congress on Crime Prevention students university
- 54 short lectures (project spots)
- Exhibition including information stands, information trucks and special exhibitions with more than 200 participating organizations
- Poster session with 33 posters
- German Congress on Crime Prevention stage program with 10 activities
- Movie forum with 8 contributions
- Open special event „Security in public transportation and traffic“
- Special event by the Munich Initiative against Confidence Tricks (M.I.T.)
- 12 side events

In the run up for the congress more than 3,500 people were registered in total as congress participants and guests including more than 170 foreign participants from 34 countries.

4. The partners of the 17th German Congress on Crime Prevention

For the Munich congress the same is true once again: the German Congress on Crime Prevention lives on the excellent cooperation between many people and institutions! I would like to thank all partners and sponsors and their employees for their material and ideational support! In this connection I would like to point the detailed explanations of the respective working focus of the German Congress on Crime Prevention partners, printed in this year's congress catalogue, page 11 et. seq.

The 17th German Congress on Crime Prevention is supported by the Federal Ministry of Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ).

The partners of the congress 2012 are

as hosting event partners:

- State capital Munich
- Free state of Bavaria

as regular event partners:

- DBH-Bildungswerk (educational institute of the professional association for social work, criminal law and crime politics)
- Polizeiliche Kriminalprävention der Länder und des Bundes (Police crime prevention of the States and the Federal Government) (ProPK)
- Stiftung Deutsches Forum für Kriminalprävention (Foundation German Forum for Crime Prevention) (DFK)
- WEISSER RING e.V.

as main sponsor:

- Deutsche Bahn AG

as cooperation partners:

- Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung (Federal Agency for Health Education) (BzgA)
- Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (Federal Agency for Civic Education) (bpb)
- Bündnis für Demokratie und Toleranz (Alliance for democracy and tolerance)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Association for International Collaboration) (giz)
- Deutsche Sportjugend (German Youth Sport) (dsj)

- Deutscher Familiengerichtstag (German Family Court Day) (DFGT)
- Deutscher Jugendgerichtstag der DVJJ (German Youth Court Day of the DVJJ)
- Deutsches Jugendinstitut (German Youth Institute) (dji)
- Freiwillige Selbstkontrolle Multimedia-Diensteanbieter (voluntary self-control of multimedia service providers) (fsm)
- Kriminologisches Forschungsinstitut Niedersachsen (criminological research institute Lower Saxony) (KFN)
- proVal – Gesellschaft für sozialwissenschaftliche Analyse – Beratung – Evaluation (association for social-scientific analysis – advice – evaluation)
- Stiftung Kriminalprävention (Foundation Crime Prevention)

as international partners

- European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS)
- International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC)
- International Organization for Victim Assistance (IOVA)
- Korean Institute for Criminology (KIC)
- Violence Prevention Alliance of the World Health Organization (WHO)
- UN-HABITAT

as sponsors

- Deutsche Post DHL
- METRO GROUP
- Munich Re

as cooperating partners of the hosting event partners:

- Kreissparkasse
- MSF
- Münchener Verkehrsbetriebe MVG
- Stadtparkasse München

5. The 6th Annual International Forum for Crime Prevention (AIF)

Within the framework of the 17th German Congress on Crime Prevention, the German Congress on Crime Prevention also organizes the 6th Annual International Forum for Crime Prevention (AIF). The 14 lectures will each be given half in German and half in English.

Lectures in English:

- „Sustaining and Mainstreaming Pre-crime Prevention: Glasgow, Bogotá and Alberta“, Prof. Dr. Irvin Waller, University of Ottawa, Canada
- “Engaging young people in designing against crime”, Dr. Caroline L. Davey & Andrew B. Wootton, University of Salford, United Kingdom
- Presentation of the International Report on Crime Prevention and Community Safety 2012, Dr. Paula Miraglia, International Centre for the Prevention of Crime ICPC, Montreal, Canada
- “Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault and Women’s Right to the City: Lessons from the Gender Inclusive Cities Programme”, Dr. Sohail Husain, Analytica Consulting, Hampshire, United Kingdom
- “Building Safer and Inclusive Cities: The Experience of Delhi”, Kalpana Viswanath, Delhi, India
- “Violence Prevention: Experiences from South Africa”, Dr. Tina Silbernagl, GIZ South Africa and Partner from South Africa
- “Preventing violence: an overview”, Dr. Alexander Butchart, World Health Organization (WHO), Genf, Switzerland.

Lectures in German:

- „Sicherheitsmanagement im öffentlichen Grund: Luzern auf dem Weg – ein Werkstattbericht!“, Ursula Stämmer-Horst, Stadt Luzern, Schweiz
- „Trotz alledem: die Geschichte der Kriminalprävention in Kanada am Beispiel einer Gemeinde“, Christiane Sadeler, Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council (WRCPC), Canada
- „Lokale Gegebenheiten und Kriminalitätsgelegenheiten: Koreanische Perspektive der Haushaltsviktimisierung“, Hark-Mo Daniel PARK & Dr. Seong-Hoon PARK, Korean Institute of Criminology (KIC), Seoul, Korea
- „Prävention und Gesundheitsförderung in der Partyszene: Mut oder Zumutung?“, Dr. Katia Duscherer & Dr. Carlos Paulos, Centre de prévention des toxicomanies, Luxemburg, Angelika Kraus (Saarbrücken)
- „Sicherheitshaus - die Methodik des erweiterten Casemanagement und mehr“, Julia Mölck, Kommune Alkmaar, Niederlande
- „Systemische Gewaltprävention – Methodischer Ansatz und praktische Erfahrungen“, Anna Rau & Dr. Tina Silbernagl, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Eschborn und Südafrika
- „Urbane Sicherheit 2025: Wie sich Schweizer Städte auf die Zukunft vorbereiten“, Sybille Oetliker, Schweizerischer Städteverband & Dr. Tillmann Schulze, Ernst Basler + Partner AG, Schweiz.
- Violence Prevention Alliance der WHO zu Gast beim 17. DPT in München

Annual conference of the Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) of the WHO

The annual conference 2012 of the Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) of the WHO will take place as special event within the framework of the international forum of the 17th German Congress on Crime Prevention. Along with internal meetings of the members and delegates of the VPA, which the German Congress on Crime Prevention has been a member of for several years, information and a lecture are planned being open for all participants of the congress. The Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) is a network of member states of the World Health Organization (WHO), international authorities and citizen organizations and has been operating since 2004. It has an evidence-based approach of public health care being focused on risk factors potentially leading to violence. In this context a broad range of cooperation of all concerned fields is intended. The members of the VPA work on spreading and realizing the recommendations of the “World report on violence and health” by the WHO (download of a German summary).

First publication of the “International Report on Crime Prevention and Community Safety 2012” by the ICPC

The International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC) is the only globally-operating non-governmental organization exclusively focusing on crime prevention and social security. Since its foundation in the year 1994, the ICPC has been working with the UN Organizations UN HABITAT and UNODC in a close partnership. Supporting the exchange of knowledge and experiences in international crime prevention and implementing relevant international research and counseling projects are part of its main tasks. From the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Congress on Crime Prevention has been a member of the ICPC since 2004 and has been actively participating in the leading committee since 2005. Since 2008 the ICPC has been publishing an International Report on Crime Prevention and Community Safety every two years. The first publication of this year’s global report “International Report on Crime Prevention and Community Safety 2012” will take place within the framework of the forum of the 17th German Congress on Crime Prevention.

6. Sicherheit – Security – Safety

“Safe living in the city and the state” is naturally not just a matter of crime prevention in the narrower sense. More than ever urban security is a complex task involving several fields of work and departments with different goals and methodical procedures. And more than ever interdisciplinary discussion and department overlapping cooperation and coordination are essential conditions for the success of crime prevention strategies, of the employment of programs and projects.

The patrons of the 17th German Congress on Crime Prevention have already spoken hereto in their invitation greetings: For the Bavarian Minister-President Horst Seehofer “the security of the citizens is the duty of the government” and for the Munich

Mayor Christian Ude “safe living in the city and in the state is not a matter of course but the result of diverse efforts and endeavors by politics, authorities, institutions, facilities, associations and societies. The commitment and the dedication of every single citizen are required hereto.”

In her – again – very impressive statement on the main topic of the 17th German Congress on Crime Prevention Dr. Wiebke Steffen writes summarized:

“Safe living in the city and the state” means much more than a life in external and internal security. Security also refers to – especially – the social and economic security and is thus both a complex social central theme and a fundamental human need.

Pledge and duty to provide security of the government

In the modern world governmental order is first of all and mainly responsible for ensuring the security of its citizens. The government is in charge of creating, maintaining and improving such conditions thus making physical, social and economic security, quality of life, foreseeability and planning possible for the citizens in the first place.

Crisis of the social state?

However, modern times are uncertain times. Fundamental social changes and current developments involve opportunities but also risks, and do not only “produce” winners but also losers. The social and welfare state belongs to the most important tools in order to reduce the consequences of disintegration, to balance social imbalances, to create social justice and to ensure the inner cohesion of society.

But this pledge and duty of the government to provide social security for its citizens seems to have become fragile; the social state seems to be in a crisis. Politics in Germany, however, still generally adheres to the principle of the social state as an essential guarantor of individual freedom, social justice and solidly living together.

Social justice – where is Germany’s position?

Due to the welfare concerns, widely-spread insecurity as to the future and with satisfaction with life having been stagnating for years, this policy also corresponds to the expectations of the people, since the life situations and opportunities in Germany have further deteriorated during the last years: increasing social injustice, hardening of poverty, lack of equal opportunity in the educational system, clear integration deficits as to people with migration background, sub-

stantial regional differences as to the justice factors income, education and integration – without doubt Germany has a high backlog demand when it comes to social security.

Fair societies are better for everyone – conclusions for social prevention

Prevention of poverty plays a key role, if increased social justice is to be achieved: social participation and an autonomous life are difficult to realize in poverty. Therefore, politics must tackle the root of all problems, social injustice. Therewith the **social state** is required again: examples of success could be the welfare states of Northern Europe apparently being able to provide equal realization opportunities in their societies.

Additionally, the **cities and municipalities** must become the center of attention due to the substantial regional disparities and must be financially supported: effective prevention must be locally “made to measure” for each location.

Citizen engagement is an essential part of the creation of social justice, the living part of the social state. Citizen engagement is not only a part of the social capital of our society but also creates social capital and social cohesion and makes social participation possible.

Crime – a risk of modernization?

Social security and inner security are connected: on the one hand the perception of inner security embedded in social security, on the other hand increasing social inequality and injustice may lead to an increase of criminality and fear of crime.

However, this is surprisingly not the case in Germany: the total number of criminality registered by the police has been continuously declining for years and in the meantime also violent crimes. The load of criminality is declining for all age groups, and fear of crime is also not increasing but rather declining – even though fear of crime may be a metaphor for everything in connection with experiences and fear in the context of social changes.

Crime politics instead of social politics – from a social state to a punishment state?

The – positive – evaluations of the development of crime, fear of crime and prisoner rates and the question of increasing punishment within the justice system and among the people lead to the conclusion that in Germany shifting from a social-political to a crime-political processing of insecurity, poverty and exclusion has not occurred yet.

In Germany the social imbalances, insecurity and fear triggered by the reduction of the social state do not seem to have been leading to a security state substituting the lack of or fragile social services with crime politics.

Germany on the way to a prevention state – conclusions for crime prevention

Germany is on the way to become a prevention state – and crime politics is required to counteract. Risky aspects of crime prevention need to be avoided, which could advance further development of the prevention state, and instead its contributions as to reduction of social insecurity, its contribution to more social participation, integration and solidarity need to be focused on.“

I hope that we will all have an informative, stimulating and creatively discursive 17th German Congress on Crime Prevention. Apparently we are even more required to communicate on our understanding, attitude and measurability of effective preventive acting, since an autonomous, happy life of the next generations is the overall goal of all preventive acting.

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