



Centre for Urban and Community Studies

University of Toronto

5 September, 2007.

Der Generalbudesanwalt beim Bundesgerichtshof
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Sir/Madam,

I represent the Urban Section of the American Political Science Association, an organization with a worldwide membership of over 15,000. The Urban Section, which has a membership of 400, met on 30 August, 2007 in Chicago. At this meeting, the Section had a lengthy discussion of the situation of Dr. Andrej Holm and other German scholars and researchers recently charged under section 129a of the German penal code.

We are very distressed by this situation. The meeting passed the following resolution, which I hope you will seriously consider:

"The Urban Politics Section of the American Political Science Association categorically rejects the use by governments or their agents of scholarly concepts, writings, or field research contacts as the basis upon which to monitor, detain, or incarcerate social science scholars and researchers. It condemns the use of social science scholarship, concepts, and research contacts to generate criminal suspicion or accusation as a gross violation of the principle of academic freedom and the integrity of scientific practice."

After passing this resolution, we were assured by the larger Association that they are going to discuss the matter and take further action.

Yours very truly,

Richard E. Stren, Ph.D (Emeritus Professor of Political Science)
President, Urban Section, American Political Science Association