



International Workshop for general staff officers

on dealing with the past of Auschwitz burdened by violence

A cooperation between the Maximilian Kolbe Foundation and the Zentrum für ethische Bildung in den Streitkräften (zebis) [Centre for ethics education in the armed forces]

*27 November – 01 December 2013,
Oswiecim, Poland, Centre for Dialogue and Prayer*

Idea for the project

Within the framework of the workshop, 30 general staff officers from Poland, France and Germany are invited to enter a joint process of learning on dealing with the experience of violence and its consequences in the analysis of the present significance of Auschwitz, and to express their willingness to reflect on the subject matter in a way which is appropriate to the ethical seriousness of the use of violence.

Analyzing Auschwitz and its consequences – beyond the concrete case – gets an exemplary meaning for dealing with violence experience and its after-effects in general. Auschwitz stands for experiences having a lasting effect on the identity of our societies and on the identity of Europe. The different ways Auschwitz is remembered in the different contexts reflects the complexity of violent incidents.

At the same time the tensions created by the severe violence experience continue to exist in the different forms, contents, functions and ways Auschwitz is remembered by the various European societies. People must learn to understand this disposition to violence which has considerable explosive force. Only then it can be overcome and

the prerequisites for a common European identity can be created which assimilates the differences without abolishing them.

The workshop wants to invite the participants to jointly visualize the experiences made in connection with Auschwitz and to reflect on the different perspectives and contexts of experience and interpretation contributed by the participants.

Special attention is to be turned to the specific challenge of a military remembrance culture when dealing with violence experience. Soldiers in particular bear responsibility for dealing with means of violence. In addition, they are especially exposed to the effects of violence. The joint workshop of general staff officers from Germany and Poland is to be a sign of the endeavours to find a common military identity.

Programme

Wednesday 27 November

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| 03:30 p.m. | Introduction into the subject matter and the workshop
<i>Dr. Jörg Lüer, Maximilian-Kolbe-Foundation</i>
<i>Dr. Veronika Bock, zebis</i>
<i>Dr. Rafal Zytyniec, Historic museum of Lyck</i> |
| | Greetings
<i>Rev. Jan Nowak, CDiM</i>
<i>Rev. Dr. Manfred Deselaers, CDiM</i> |
| | Introduction of the participants |
| 06:00 p.m. | Dinner |
| 07:00 p.m. | Remembering Auschwitz as an international challenge
<i>Dr. Piotr Cywinski, Director of Auschwitz - Birkenau Memorial Site</i> |

Thursday 28 November **The camp**

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| 07:30 a.m. | Holy Eucharist |
| 08:00 a.m. | Breakfast |
| 08:45 a.m. | Walk to basic camp Auschwitz I |
| 09:00 a.m. | Guided tour through the basic camp Auschwitz I |
| 01:00 p.m. | Lunch |

01:45 p.m.	Bustransfer to Birkenau
02:00 p.m.	Guided tour through Birkenau
06:00 p.m.	Dinner
07:00 p.m.	Exchange in small groups and plenary session

Friday 29 November

Violence experience: Survivors and offenders

07:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
08:00 a.m.	Breakfast
09:30 a.m.	Meeting with survivors <i>Jacek Zieliniewicz</i> <i>Prof. Dr. Waclaw Dlugoborski</i> <i>Karol Tendera</i> <i>Jerzy Witkowski</i>
11:00 a.m.	Coffee and Tea
12:00	Meeting in the plenary
01:00 p.m.	Lunch
02:00 p.m.	Visit of Marian Kolodziej exhibition <i>Rev. Dr. Piotr Cuber</i>
03:30 p.m.	Coffee and Tea
03:45 p.m.	The lasting impact of traumatisation Psycho-social dealing with severe violent experiences <i>Dr. Gerd Willmund, Centre for Psychiatry and</i> <i>Psychotraumatology of the Bundeswehr</i> Discussion in plenary
06:00 p.m.	Dinner
07:00 p.m.	Becoming an offender – being an offender. Experiences with stories of offenders <i>Dr. Felix Römer, German Historical Institute London</i>

Saturday 30 November **Dealing with history as a challenge**

- 07:30 a.m. Celebration of the Eucharist
- 08:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 09:00 a.m. Remembrance and the present time.
On dealing with the tension-filled diversity of remembrance.
- Remembering Auschwitz and World War II in France, Germany and Poland
Dr. Robert Zurek, Institute for National Memory Poland
Dr. Jörg Lüer, Maximilian-Kolbe-Foundation
Prof. em. Dr. Etienne Francois, Free University Berlin
- Discussion
- 11:00 p.m. Coffee and Tea
- 01:00 p.m. Lunch
- 03:00 p.m. Military remembrance cultures between cults of sacrifice
and glorification of violence.
Perspectives of a joint European culture of remembrance
*Dr. Jörg Echternkamp, Centre for Military History and Social Science (Potsdam)/ Martin-Luther University
Halle/ Wittenberg*
- Discussion in plenary
- 06:00 p.m. Act of commemoration at Auschwitz Memorial
- 08:00 p.m. Festive dinner

Sunday 01 December

- 07:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 07:30 a.m. Breakfast
- Departure

Conference languages: Polish, French, German in plenary.
English in working groups.

Address of the 2nd. International Workshop:

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