
New Year Message of AK Distomo

2011 – The Year of the Decision for the compensation of Nazi-Crimes?

The AK Distomo expects that in the year 2011 the International Court of Justice in The Hague will come to its decision in the case Germany./ Italy. It is about the question whether the relatives of the victims and the survivors of Nazi-Crimes have the right to go to court in their respective home countries for achieving compensation against the Federal Republic of Germany. Greek and Italian courts have recognized this right and confirmed it several times. One of the negotiated cases in The Hague is the procedure about the compensation in the case of Distomo. In the Greek village Distomo German troops on the 10th of June 1944 committed a massacre and killed 218 people.

The Greek Minister of Justice Kastanidis recently explained in a parliamentary question time that the Greek government is considering seriously to take part in the proceedings in The Hague. AK Distomo welcomes these considerations and wishes good luck in making the decision. Participation of Greece would clearly improve the chances for a dismissal of the German action in The Hague and would be also an enforcement of the legal rights for the claimants of Distomo. The deadline for a possible participation runs until mid-January 2011.

Germany for many years has ignored the jurisdiction of other EU states on this issue and also ignores any final judgements. In the case of Distomo final claims exist in the amount of currently € 50.000.000,- in favor of 300 plaintiffs.

The German government has recently called the International Court of Justice to circumvent the independence of the judiciary in other EU countries and to thwart the legal rights of the plaintiffs with the dummy argument of sovereign immunity. The German action against Italy is a misuse of the International Court of Justice. In fact, it's about simple refusal to pay the outstanding debt. With their action in The Hague Germany also wants to keep clear for the present and the future warfare. It wants to avoid to be sued for crimes their soldiers commit abroad – for example such as the air attack on a road tanker in Afghanistan's Kunduz.

AK Distomo demands

- the immediate fulfillment of the claims for compensation in the case of Distomo
- the withdrawal of the action before the International Court of Justice in The Hague
- the prompt compensation for all victims of the Nazi-Crimes by the German government

Hamburg, 2nd of January 2011

AK Distomo

For more information, see <http://keine-ruhe.org/>
