



Darmstadt, July, 6th 2009

Press release

**Homicide of Marwa E.
Bond and Solidarity with the Victim's Family
Make Islamophobia an Issue**

The Intercultural Council in Germany took notice of the killing of the Egyptian citizen Marwa E. with dismay. The 32-year old pharmacist who fell victim to an act of violence in a Dresden courtroom was pregnant, and is leaving a three year old son behind. Her husband was heavily injured in the police operation that followed.

“The offences, the victim had already been dubbed with, in the past, by the perpetrator, 28-year old Alex W., authorize the conclusion, that this bloody deed was motivated by hostility against Islam, stated the Intercultural Council's Chairman, Dr. Jürgen Micksch.

The Intercultural Council is warning since many years against the growth of anti-muslim racism in Germany, that – according to present knowledge – has led for the first time to homicide.

We declare our compassion to the relatives, to whom we express our bond and solidarity. We demand of the investigating authorities that this crime may be cleared comprehensively and charged as soon as possible.

When investigating the sequence of events the question must be answered, why, at the occasion of the police operation in the Regional Court (Landgericht) of Dresden, the victim's husband was injured so severely. We are moved by the question, why he – although in no way involved in the atrocity - was mistaken for the perpetrator by the accruing Police officer and shot.

The killing of Marwa E. is a solemn occasion to make an issue of Islamophobia in Germany. Urgent in addition is also a critical examination of anti-muslim blogs in the web. Within many posts of those blogs one can find hate-filled and dehumanizing statements that are not compatible with the Basic Constitutional Law of Germany.

At the same time must be affirmed that anti-muslim racism is rejected by the majority of people living in Germany. A sign of solidarity – especially by the politically accountable – is crucial now.

Dr. Jürgen Micksch,
Chairman