Public Information Department

Jehovas Zeugen Öffentlichkeitsarbeit

PRESSEMITTEILUNG

Amicable Agreement Reached in Annemarie Kusserow Archive Case

Settlement marks an important step toward honoring Annemarie Kusserow's wishes and preserving her family's historical legacy

BERLIN, November 19, 2026 — Jehovah's Witnesses welcome the amicable agreement reached in the longstanding proceedings concerning the Annemarie Kusserow Archive, currently held by the Militärhistorisches Museum der Bundeswehr in Dresden. Both parties have agreed that the entire archive, which contains substantial historical documents, will be transferred to Jehovah's Witnesses.

The archive contains documents recording the persecution of the Kusserow family under the Nazi regime. "Jehovah's Witnesses, guided by their religious convictions, resisted the Nazi regime consistently, sincerely and courageously," said Petra Pau, a former vice president of the German federal parliament. She added: "This archive is a unique testament to the history of persecution. It preserves personal documents and memories that must not be lost. I fully understand why Jehovah's Witnesses place great importance on safeguarding this legacy."

Two of Annemarie's brothers, Wilhelm and Wolfgang, were executed for refusing military service on religious grounds. Annemarie dedicated decades to preserving her family's history and expressed in her will that the collection should be entrusted to Jehovah's Witnesses. Despite this, a relative of Annemarie sold her archive to the Militärhistorisches Museum der Bundeswehr in Dresden.

"We are very pleased that an amicable resolution has been reached. From the very beginning, our primary concern has been to respect Annemarie Kusserow's final wishes and preserve her unique life's work," said Martin Epp, a spokesman for Jehovah's Witnesses in Germany. "The agreement that has been reached honors Annemarie Kusserow's will. Our aim is to safeguard this unique historical heritage."

Jehovah's Witnesses look forward to preserving this unique historical legacy which displays the Kusserow family's story of faith and courage.

To learn more about the history of the Kusserow family, visit jw.org.

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