

Beyond Black and White

Statement, published in the *Frankfurter Rundschau* on 25 November 2023, on the occasion of the critical response 'Human Dignity for All', Guardian online, 22 November, which refers to the statement 'Principles of Solidarity' by Nicole Deitelhoff, Klaus Günther, Jürgen Habermas and myself of 13 November 2023 (published on normativeorders.net):

The criticism directed at us suffers from the one-sidedness of which it accuses us. In our statement, we clearly express our concern for the Palestinian population in the light of the principles we mentioned, including proportionality and the avoidance of civilian casualties. In particular, the response directed at us is mistaken in failing to regard these principles as principles of international humanitarian law.

It is equally wrong to apply the fatal logic that anyone who criticises anti-Semitism thereby ignores or condones hostility towards Muslims. We make it clear that the right to freedom from discrimination applies to everyone, and we certainly do not attribute anti-Semitism to Muslims in general. I refer to the opening speeches given by Nicole Deitelhoff and myself on 13 November at the conference on hostility towards Muslims, organised in cooperation with the Anne Frank Educational Centre, which can be read on normativeorders.net.

We are even in agreement with a number of critics that the strict criteria for a genocide have not been met. No one has called for putting an authoritarian end to this debate.

Addendum: To conclude on a dialectical note, we should be aware of the danger that the criticism of partiality is sometimes itself based on one-sidedness and projects it onto its object. To quote Adorno: 'Freedom would be not to choose between black and white but to abjure such prescribed choices.'

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