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Dear Prof Dr Beisiegel (President of the George August Göttingen University),  
Dear Mr. Hald (Chair of the Göttingen Sparkasse Bank),  
Dear Mr. Mayor Köhler (Mayor),  
Dear Prof Dr Neuneck (Professor of Peace Studies),  
Dear Dr Roehl (The Göttingen Peace Prize benefactors),

I am a Jewess, who grew up in Great Britain. I moved to Germany as an artist in the early 90ties to reprocess the Holocaust and family history, but also to observe how Germany was developping in the years after Auschwitz and following the fall of the Wall. I have even gained English German dual nationality, and after so many years, feel myself to be a German.

It is because of the many family members, who were dispossessed and made to suffer in Nazi Germany that I - who am part of the second generation - came to reflect on peace and human rights, not only with art in mind but also with articles and actively as a speaker, when I am invited.

I have also been a member of the Jewish Voice for Peace in the Middle East, Germany for many years and support the Palestinians in Israel, as well as I can. When BDS groups invite me to speak in North Rhine Westphalia, I do it gladly, because BDS also stands for peaceful and non-violent demonstration.

The fact that the Jewish Voice is to be granted a Peace Prize at Göttingen University on the 9th March, 2019 is admirable. But the most recent fact that others in Germany are trying to hinder this is devastating.

We are after all living in a democracy in Germany, where one may and should express oneself on matters of human rights. Supporting the Palestinians - whose houses are being destroyed, their land grabbed, who are not treated as equals in Israel, who have no right of return to their own land - is the only possible, moral way to act, for myself and the Jewish Voice.

The fact that in Germany - where my parents experienced similar treatment – one is now trying to gag a voice for freedom, causes me great concern. I regard it as a defilement of the memory of my grandmother Hedwig Ury, who was murdered in Auschwitz, when I am labelled as anti-Semite, because I wish to speak out for the rights of dispossessed Palestinians in Israel.

I ask you to rethink these latest decisions – which I regard as an abuse of the memory of my grandparents and many other family members, who were murdered under the Nazi Regime – so that the Jewish Voice may be distinguished on the 9th March, for its peaceful work for the Palestinian people.

With kind regards

Tanya Ury