

Friedenskette der Religionen  
2, February, 2015  
Munich, Germany  
[www.friedenskette.de](http://www.friedenskette.de)  
[www.facebook.com/friedenskette](http://www.facebook.com/friedenskette)

### The Event:

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, 2015 at 7 PM, the “Friedenskette der Religionen” took place in the old town centre of Munich, Germany.

Concerned by the daily media coverage of atrocities committed in the name of religion, the long-term friends, Gisela Jahn and Dr. Beatrix Jakubicka, decided spontaneously to overcome passivity and to start the „Chain of Peace“ initiative. Organizing the initiative as a private endeavour, without any financial- or official support, they managed to connect 15.000 people in a human chain of light, between the houses of worship of the 5 Abrahamic Religions. etting a sign for tolerance between the religions and a statement for peace in

### The Idea of the” Friedenskette der Religionen”:

Members of many religious communities live in Munich. To join five houses of worship of the Abrahamic religions in the city – the Greek Orthodox Salvator Church, the Catholic St.Michael’s Church, the Munich Islam Forum, the Ohel Jakob Synagogue, the evang.-Lutherian St.Matthäus Church – with a Chain of Peace seemed to be a good opportunity to create a symbol for peace, tolerance and reconciliation between religions. The importance of an engaging dialogue based on the common fundamental religious commandments, sharing a common message of peace and tolerance, are key aspects of every thriving society and requests to be defended and realized in a continuous process. For the organizers, these values needed to engage as many people as possible, addressing all people of the society in a holistic manner, making a joint statement for peace and tolerance.

Consequently, the organizers utilized their network in inviting and convincing participants for the manifestation using the following statement;

*We ask all people – religious or not – to mark a sign of community, „not to look away“ (Carolin Emcke) from need, to „show outrage“ (Stéphane Hessel) against false arguments and to take seriously the messages of peace of our religions.*

*The Chain of Peace is intended to be a quiet manifestation of our sympathy and of our longing for peace.*

*Everybody will bring a source of light of his / her choice: a candle, a flashlight, the mobile phone...*

In the progress of preparing the event they managed, to get the support of all Abrahamic religions in the city and over 50 organizations, including all major religious communities, a great spectrum of religious and nonreligious NGOs as well as political parties and prominent figures from the cultural establishment, such as the world renowned conductor Zubin Mehta.

With over 15.000 participants, a human chain was created, connecting the houses of worship from all participating religions in the centre of Munich.

#### About the initiators:

Gisela Jahn: an expert and author for Japanese ceramics lives in Munich.

Born 1944, ceramics studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich. Married to a gallery owner for modern art she has two grown up sons. Since 1979 she does research and publish on japanese ceramics of the 19th and 20th century. She is visiting lecturer at the institute for Art History, in the East Asia Department at the Free University of Berlin. She is not a member of any association or political party, so far she has not been an activist for religious, social or environmental causes.

Beatrix Jakubicka-Frühwald: lives in Munich where she practices family medicine and homeopathy

Born 1953 as 3rd of 4 children in Bratislava in former Czechoslovakia. For political reasons the family fled to Vienna, Austria in 1966. She studied medicine at the University of Vienna and received her doctor's degree in 1977. In 1976 she married an architect, together they have 3 grown up children. Since 1981 she lives in Munich where she practices family medicine and homeopathy.

An excerpt of the media coverage:

#### Videos:

- <http://www.sueddeutsche.de/muenchen/lichterkette-in-muenchen-in-drei-reihen-fuer-das-miteinander-1.2333275>
- <http://www.tagesschau.de/multimedia/video/video-59655.html>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubHWXpQwejk>

#### Images:

- <http://www.sueddeutsche.de/muenchen/lichterkette-in-muenchen-ein-stilles-zeichen-des-zusammenhalts-1.2333205>
- <http://www.br.de/nachrichten/oberbayern/inhalt/friedenskette-lichterkette-muenchen-104.html>