IHR UPDATE

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Freedom for Europe's Prisoners of Conscience!

Irving, Zundel, Rudolf Still in Prison

David Irving

Ernst Zundel

Germar Rudolf

EUROPEANS ARE PROUD of their record of support for freedom of speech, and tolerance of dissident views. But there is a glaring exception to this record.

In Germany, France, Austria, Belgium, Switzerland and several other European countries, as well as in Israel, it is a crime to publicly dispute the official version of Holocaust history. Those who express dissident views about this chapter of history are routinely imprisoned, fined or forced into exile.

Currently three prominent "Holocaust deniers" are being held behind bars in Europe.

In This Issue...

Freedom for Irving, Zundel and Rudolf 1
Robust Media Outreach 5
IHR Website: Sustained Impact 5
Weber, Fromm Address Meeting 6
Familiar Lies for a New War 7

David Irving

Europe's best known "thought criminal" is David Irving, an author of numerous books on military history and World War II, including several international bestsellers. The 68-year-old British historian has been held since November 11, 2005, when he was arrested during a visit in Austria for the "crime" – committed 16 (!) years earlier – of having referred to "mythical" gas chambers in Auschwitz during talks in the country. Denied bail, he was held until his trial on February 20, 2006, when a court in Vienna sentenced him to three years in prison for his "denial" remarks.

Newspapers, political leaders and intellectuals around the world immediately denounced the surprisingly harsh sentence, as well as the laws under which he and other "deniers" have been imprisoned and fined. (The only voices of approval were the

predictable Zionist ones.)

During his months behind bars, Irving has been devoting time to history writing, to reading, to his correspondence, and to a memoir of his prison ordeal. He has appealed his sentence, and hopes for an early release.

His prison address is:

David Irving
Gef. Nr. 70306
Justizanstalt Josefstadt
Wickenburggasse 18-20
1082 Vienna
Austria

Ernst Zundel

Ernst Zundel – a German-born publicist, graphic artist and publisher – was arrested on February 5, 2003, at the home in rural eastern Tennessee where he had been living quietly with his wife, Ingrid Rimland. He was seized on the pretext that he had missed an interview date with US immigration authorities, even though he had entered the US legally, was married to a US citizen, had no criminal record, and was acting diligently, and in full accord with the law, to secure status as a permanent legal resident.

After being held for two weeks, he was deported to Canada. For two years – from mid-February 2003 to March 2005 – he was held in solitary confinement as a supposed threat to "national security." His arrest and detention generated wide media attention. A few Canadian newspapers, including Toronto's prestigious *Globe and Mail*, and several independent analysts, acknowledged the injustice of his incarceration on an empty pretext. On March 1, 2005, Zundel was deported to Germany, and since then has been held in the Mannheim prison.

He was charged with inciting "hatred" by having written or distributed texts that "approve, deny or play down" genocidal actions carried out by Germany's wartime regime, and which "denigrate the memory of the [Jewish] dead." The first and foremost of the writings cited in the indictment are texts posted on the "Zundelsite" website, which is registered and maintained by his wife in the United States, where all such writings are entirely legal. The indictment warned that he could be punished with four years imprisonment.

Zundel's trial in Germany began on November 8, 2005, with a dramatic clash between his attorneys and the presiding judge. In the months since then, the drawn-out proceedings have sometimes been contentious, but more often have bogged down in disputes over evidentiary and procedural issues.

For some time the many Zundel supporters who routinely appeared in the courtroom showed their respect for the defendant at the start of each session by rising when he entered the chamber. But the judge eventually prohibited this and all other expressions of sympathy.

The trial is set to continue at least into early December.

The 67-year-old Zundel has been held behind bars for nearly three years now – without ever having been found guilty of any crime! In his prison cell, he closely follows international news and trends, writes letters, and reads. His diet and living conditions, he reports, are at least better than they were during his incarceration in Canada.

Letters reach him at:

Ernst Zündel
JVA Mannheim
Herzogenrieder Str. 111
D - 68169 Mannheim
Germany

Germar Rudolf

Born in Germany in 1964, Germar Rudolf began a serious investigation of the "gas chamber" issue while enrolled in a doctoral program at the prestigious Max Planck Institute for Solid State Physics. The youthful chemist carried out a forensic examination of the alleged gas chambers at Auschwitz-Birkenau and concluded for a variety of technical reasons that they could not have been used for executions.

After the publication in 1993 of his findings, he was dismissed from the institute, and a court in Stuttgart ruled that his report "denies the systematic mass murder of the Jewish population in gas chambers," and therefore constitutes "popular incitement," "incitement to racial hatred," and "defamation."

In 1996 he was sentenced to 14 months in prison. Rather than serve the sentence, he fled the country, first to England and then to the United States. While

in the US he ran a publishing firm that issued an impressive array of scholarly revisionist titles, and he oversaw the publication of two revisionist periodicals, one in German and one in English.

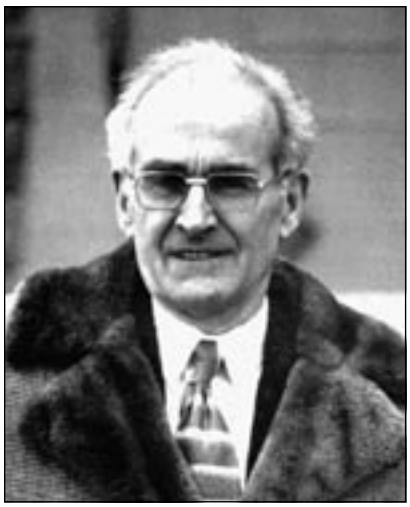
In October 2005 he was arrested in Chicago, and a few weeks later was deported to Germany, even though he and his American wife (a US citizen) were parents of a young daughter. Since then he has been serving his "original" 1996 sentence in German prisons. His trial on more recent "denial" crimes began in Mannheim on November 14, 2006, with a verdict expected in late January.

Letters reach him at:

Germar Rudolf
JVA Heidelberg
Oberer Fauler Pelz 1
69117 Heidelberg
Germany

Other Victims

The Irving, Zundel and Rudolf cases are by no means unique. Among the many other victims of Europe's "Holocaust denial" laws have been Gaston-Armand Amaudruz and Jürgen Graf in Switzerland, Jean Plantin and Georges Theil in France, Günter Deckert, Hans Schmidt and Fredrick Toben in Germany, Pedro Varela in Spain, and Siegfried Verbeke in Belgium.



Robert Faurisson

Europe's leading revisionist scholar is Robert Faurisson. Over the years this professor of literature (now retired) has been obliged to defend himself many times in French courts for his forthright writings and statements on the Holocaust issue. He has also endured several attacks by Jewish thugs, including at least one nearly fatal assault.

In his most recent legal battle, a Paris court on October 3, 2006, found him guilty of "Holocaust denial" for having said, during an interview with Iranian television, that "there was never" a single execution gas chamber used by the Germans during World War II. That remark, the court found, constituted "complicity in contesting the existence of a crime against humanity," as determined by the Nuremberg inter-Allied tribunal of 1945-46. The court gave Dr. Faurisson a suspended prison sentence of three months, and fined him 7,500 euros (about $9,500).

One of the highest-profile "denial" cases has been that of Roger Garaudy, a French scholar who had joined the anti-German Resistance during World War II, and for some years sat in the French National Assembly as a Communist Party deputy. He later broke with Communism, and converted to Islam. Following the publication in 1995 of his book, *The Founding Myths of Modern Israel*, he was charged under France's Gayssot law against denial of crimes against humanity as defined by the Nuremberg Tribunal. (A US edition of the book is published by the IHR.) After a trial that generated wide international attention, in February 1998 the French court found Garaudy guilty and fined him the equivalent of $40,000.

Perhaps the most bizarre "denial" case is that of Robert Hepp, a University of Osnabrück sociology professor. In 1998 a German court found that Dr. Hepp had broken the law by writing a sentence, which had appeared in Latin in a footnote of a 544-page book, that referred to the claims of systematic extermination of Jews by poison gas in World War II camps as a "fabula" (fable). The court ruled that this sentence constituted "popular incitement," that it "libeled and denigrated the memory of the [Jewish] dead," and that it could "shake the trust in legal security of Jews who live in the [German] Federal Republic, and considerably diminish their mental-emotional ability to live in peace and freedom." The court further ordered all unsold copies of the book destroyed.

Unjust and One-Sided

Europe's "Holocaust denial" laws violate ancient and universal standards of justice. They make a mockery of European pretensions of tolerance and support for freedom of speech and opinion.

These censorship laws are a giant step backwards in the history of Western civilization. They manifest and foster a witch hunt mentality. On the basis of these laws, many dozens of book titles have been banned,

and thousands of books and other writings have been removed from libraries, confiscated from publishers, and destroyed.

"Denial" statutes inhibit historical inquiry and restrict free speech. They have created a new class of "thought criminals" and prisoners of conscience. For the victims of these Orwellian laws, truth is no defense. They criminalize even indisputably factual statements if they "play down" or "whitewash" the Holocaust, or "demean the memory" of Jewish wartime dead.

"Denial" laws are selective and one-sided. They uphold a blatant double standard that criminalizes writings and statements that Jews regard as offensive, while permitting writings that offend Christians, Muslims and others. They sanction a privileged status for Jews and Jewish concerns.

It was this status that moved Alain Finkielkraut, a prominent French-Jewish intellectual, to write, in an essay published in 1998 in the leading French daily *Le Monde*:

"Ah, how sweet it is to be Jewish at the end of this 20th century! We are no longer History's accused, but its darlings. The spirit of the times loves, honors, and defends us, watches over our interests; it even needs our imprimatur. Journalists draw up ruthless indictments against all that Europe still has in the way of Nazi collaborators or those nostalgic for the Nazi era. Churches repent, states do penance..."

A Well-Organized Campaign

Europe's "Holocaust denial" laws are by no means spontaneous expressions of righteous indignation. They are, instead, the result of a well-organized campaign by powerful Jewish-Zionist groups, including the World Jewish Congress and the Simon Wiesenthal Center – a campaign that has been supported by compliant non-Jewish politicians.

In March 1982 the London-based Institute of Jewish Affairs, together with the World Jewish Congress, issued a report, "Making the Denial of the Holocaust a Crime in Law," that laid out a detailed plan for "Holocaust denial" legislation in countries around the world. "It is, therefore, essential to introduce special legal provisions against denial of the Holocaust," the paper concluded.

In 1991 the main Jewish association in Australia, the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, called for the introduction of "Holocaust denial" laws in that country. In June 1998, the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists declared that the "denial" statutes already on the books in some countries were too lenient, and resolved to work for new and more severe laws in more than 20 countries outlawing dissident views on the treatment of Jews in Europe during World War II.

Growing Opposition

In recent years, ever more Europeans have come to acknowledge the manifestly unjust and shamefully hypocritical character of the "denial" laws.

In December 2005 French intellectuals issued a public appeal for freedom of historical inquiry and expression that included a call for the repeal of the country's "Holocaust denial" law. It was signed by hundreds of scholars, including some of the country's most prominent intellectual figures. "Historiography must not be the object of the courts," the appeal declared. "In a free country, neither the parliament nor the courts should determine historical truth. The method of operation of the state, even when motivated by the best of intentions, is not that of historiography. We demand the repeal of these legal restrictions that are unworthy of a democratic regime."

In Switzerland, Justice Minister Christoph Blocher recently called for the repeal of his country's "Holocaust denial" statute. Swiss law, he said, should be a beacon for other nations.

In Britain, historian Timothy Garton Ash recently issued a similar appeal. In an essay published in the British daily paper, *The Guardian*, and in the *Los Angeles Times*, the influential Oxford University scholar declared:

"No one can legislate historical truth. In so far as historical truth can be established at all, it must be found by unfettered historical research, with historians arguing over the evidence and the facts, testing and disputing each other's claims without fear of prosecution or persecution… Far from creating new legally enforced taboos about history, national identity and religion, we should be dismantling those that still remain on our statute books. Those European countries that have them should repeal not only their blasphemy laws but also their laws on Holocaust denial. Otherwise the charge of double standards is impossible to refute."

Robust Media Outreach

Throughout the past year the IHR has kept up its important media outreach work, including many radio and television interviews with director Mark Weber that reached hundreds of thousands of people on regular and short wave stations in the US and overseas, as well as through the internet.

Some Highlights:

• In the aftermath of the Feb. 20 sentencing in Austria of British historian David Irving, the IHR director was contacted by media in Europe and across the US for information and perspective on the ruling. In numerous interviews – including with the BBC in London, Radio Netherlands, and IRIB in Iran – Weber stressed the injustice of Irving's imprisonment, the hypocritical character of the "Holocaust denial" laws, and the harmful impact of the pseudo-religious "Holocaust remembrance" campaign.

• Weber expanded on these points as a guest on several radio shows in the US, including a one-hour appearance the next day on the nationally broadcast Jeff Rense radio program. (This interview can be heard through the IHR website's "Audio Archive" section.)

• On April 7, Weber took part in a half-hour discussion about the breakthrough "Israel Lobby" paper by professors Walt and Mearsheimer that was broadcast on Iran's Sahar television. The IHR director "appeared" as a guest along with a Brown University professor of anthropology.

• A lengthy, lively interview with Weber, "Thin Ice: Jewish Power in a Changing World," was broadcast in three parts on "American Dissident Voices," March 19, March 26, and April 2. He dealt with a range of issues in his appearance with host Kevin Strom. Weber reported on the background and impact of the prison sentence given to historian David Irving for years-old remarks about "mythical" gas chambers at Auschwitz, and he highlighted the Jewish-Zionist role in enacting the "denial" laws. Weber also spoke about President Bush's disastrously wrongheaded "war on terror," and the deceitful neo-con push for a new war against Iran. An important expression of the growing awareness about Jewish-Zionist power, Weber noted, is the recent "Israel Lobby" paper by professors Walt and Mearsheimer, which Weber also quoted. (All three segments of this wide-ranging interview can be heard through the IHR website's "Audio Archive" section.)

• Weber was a guest for a half-hour program broadcast in August on WMEL radio in Melbourne, Florida. He handled provocative questions put to him by the host, including queries about the IHR's work and goals.

• The text of an interview with Weber on the motive behind Israel's recent assault on Lebanon, and its consequences, was published in a leading Iran daily paper, the *Tehran Times*, August 1. It was distributed by Iran's Mehr news agency, broadcast on Iran state radio, and was widely distributed through the internet.

• On November 5, Weber was a guest of Jim Condit, Jr., on a half-hour segment broadcast on WKRC, a major radio station serving the Cincinnati (Ohio) area. In the broadcast, which was also heard through the internet, Weber provided an update on the prison and legal ordeals of Irving, Zundel and Rudolf, and the origins of the "denial" laws under which they and others have been fined, imprisoned and forced into exile. (This interview can be heard through the IHR website's "Audio Archive" section.)

Other Outreach

• Young activists have been distributing IHR flyers on college campuses. At the University of Arizona, two men have been passing out different IHR flyers. The one that proved most popular with students and faculty members, they found, is the IHR's "Iraq: A War for Israel" leaflet. At Harvard University distribution of IHR flyers prompted a report in *The Harvard Crimson*, the student newspaper.

• The online version of "Iraq: A War For Israel" continues to be widely circulated by e-mail. The text has also been posted on additional websites, including translations in Czech and Swedish on sites in Europe.

• The text of Weber's July 8 address in Arlington, Virginia, "Familiar Lies for a New War: Fighting for Truth in an Age of Deceit," has been posted on several websites and distributed to numerous e-mail lists.

IHR Website: Sustained Impact

Viewership of the IHR website – www.ihr.org – has remained strong throughout the year, averaging some 2.7 million "hits" per month, or about 114,000 a day. About 5,800 persons visit the site each day – many more than visit the sites of more prominent and better funded organizations.

The IHR's website attracts more visitors than the sites of more prominent and better funded organizations, including the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the Washington Report

on Middle East Affairs, the World Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and the David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies.

The IHR website's eye-catching home page features a round-up of current news and commentary items, updated several times a week, and periodic reports on the IHR's work and impact.

It's also a gateway to an immense library of articles, essays and reviews on history and current affairs.

With its tremendous library and archives, the site also serves as a great learning center, informing and educating people – around the clock and around the world. New material is continually being added to the site. Through its "Audio Archive" section many thousands of visitors listen to talks at IHR meetings and conferences.

Articles, reviews and essays from the IHR website are regularly sent through the internet to many thousands around the world, and are downloaded and printed out for reading and distribution to others. IHR items are also regularly translated into foreign languages for even wider circulation.

Each day articles and reviews posted on the IHR website are read by many more people than ever saw them in their original, printed form, such as in the IHR's *Journal of Historical Review*.

The Institute's "IHR News & Comment" e-mail service continues to grow. Roundups of news, analysis and commentary items are now issued at least twice weekly, and the number of subscribers continues to steadily increase.

Weber, Fromm Address Spirited Meeting in Arlington

Mark Weber and Paul Fromm tackled headline-making current issues in spirited talks at an IHR meeting on Saturday evening, July 8. Among the 30 or so persons who filled the restaurant meeting room in Arlington, Virginia, were men and women who had driven from as far away as Canada and New York City. Among the attendees were several younger people, as well as several professional writers. More than 200 persons listened to the talks as they were broadcast through a live internet feed.

Mark Weber and Paul Fromm

Weber, director of the IHR, spoke about the looming danger of a new war in the Middle East, the Jewish-Zionist role in determining American foreign policy, and the pressing task of reaching more people. (The full text of Weber's address is posted on the IHR website.)

He detailed the campaign for war against Iran, citing recent remarks by high-level US officials. The so-called Iran crisis is bogus, he said, and "every bit as phony as the one manufactured to provide a pretext for war against Iraq."

"Once again," said Weber, "we are told that another country that Israel regards as an adversary is a grave threat to the peace of the world. Once again we are told lies so similar to those we heard in 2002 and 2003, and from the same people, that it's amazing that anyone can take them seriously." A war against Iran, he stressed, "would serve only Israeli and Zionist interests. For everyone else, war against Iran would be a catastrophe."

US policy in the Middle East, Weber said, is based on a "blatant double standard." "While Washington threatens war against Iran for developing a nuclear program, it sanctions Israel's vast arsenal of nuclear weapons, and seemingly has no problem with a nuclear-armed China, Pakistan, Russia and India."

Weber spoke positively about the recently-issued

"Israel Lobby" paper of professors Stephen Walt and John Mearsheimer. This important publication, said Weber, "is much more than an effective analysis or persuasive critique of a particular lobby. It is implicitly a damning indictment of the American social-political system."

As he has in other talks and interviews in recent years, Weber emphasized the dangerous impact of Jewish-Zionist power. "The Jewish-Zionist grip on our nation," he said, "is an expression of a profound and deeply rooted problem… Such a lobby or power – particularly one that represents the interests of a self-absorbed community that makes up no more than three or four percent of the population – could only gain such a hold on the governmental machinery of a society that is fundamentally sick and corrupt."

Now, said Weber, "we are engaged in a great, global struggle – in which two distinct and irreconcilable sides confront each other. It is a struggle for the welfare and future not merely of the Middle East, or of America, but a great historical battle for the soul and future of humanity itself. A struggle that calls all of us – across the country and around the world – who share a sense of responsibility for the future of our nation, of the world, and of humankind."

At the conclusion of his address, the audience gave Weber a standing ovation. During the question and answer session that followed, he touched on a range of issues, including the "exceptional" character of American history.

Paul Fromm, director of the Canadian Association for Free Expression (CAFE), spoke with humor, verve and first-hand knowledge about the battle for free speech in Canada and western Europe, with emphasis on the legal persecution of British historian David Irving, and German-Canadian publisher Ernst Zundel, whom he referred to as "political prisoners."

Irving is currently serving a three-year prison sentence in Austria for "Holocaust denial" remarks he had made in 1989. Zundel has been held behind bars in Germany for more than a year for "Holocaust denial" statements made in Canada and the United States. He was seized at his home in Tennessee in February 2003, and then held for two years in Canada in solitary confinement before being deported to Europe. His trial has been dragging on for more than seven months now, with no end in sight.

"They're putting these people in jail because they're blind scared," said Fromm, who stressed the importance of the internet reaching the public with factual information about the struggle for free expression.

Familiar Lies for a New War: Behind the Push for War Against Iran

Excerpts from the address by Mark Weber given at an IHR meeting in Arlington, Virginia, on July 8, 2006.

Now the world is anxiously following the so-called crisis over Iran, or as the Zionist ADL prefers to call it "The Iranian Threat." This crisis is artificial. It is every bit as phony as the one manufactured to provide a pretext for war against Iraq.

Once again our leaders prepare Americans for a new war. Once again we are told that another country that Israel regards as an adversary is a grave threat to the peace of the world. Once again we are told lies so similar to those we heard in 2002 and 2003, and from the same people, that it's amazing that anyone takes them seriously.

Investigative journalist Seymour Hersh reports that the US is planning military action against Iran, and that President Bush is already intent on "regime change" there. Hersh wrote that the Bush administration is stepping up clandestine activities inside Iran, and has intensified planning for a possible major air attack. He also concluded that the White House is considering the use of tactical nuclear weapons against Iran.

With regard to Iran, professors Stephen Walt and John Mearsheimer wrote in their "Israel Lobby" paper:

"Israelis tend to describe every threat in the starkest terms, but Iran is widely seen as their most dangerous enemy because it is the most likely to acquire nuclear weapons. Virtually all Israelis regard an Islamic country in the Middle East with nuclear weapons as a threat to their existence… In late April 2003, [the Israeli daily] *Ha'aretz* reported that the Israeli ambassador in Washington was calling for regime change in Iran. The overthrow of Saddam, he noted, was 'not enough'. In his words, America 'has to follow through. We still have great threats of that magnitude coming from Syria, coming from Iran.' The neo-conservatives, too, lost no time in making the case for regime change in Tehran… As usual, a bevy of articles by prominent neo-conservatives made the case for going after Iran…"

An attack against Iran by the United States, or Israel, would be, in the absence of an imminent threat, an illegal, unilateral act of war. If undertaken by the US without a formal congressional declaration of war, such an attack would be unconstitutional. A war against Iran would serve

only Israeli and Zionist interests. For everyone else, war against Iran would be a catastrophe.

For many years now, American political leaders of both parties have been staunchly committed to Israel and its security. This singular devotion to Israel – which is an expression of the Jewish-Zionist grip on America's political and cultural life – seems to have reached a new apex in the current administration.

President Bush himself, in talking about the possibility of war against Iran, has sometimes "slipped" by citing Israel as the sole reason or rationale for taking military action against Iran.

In an interview last February, President Bush was asked about his reaction to anti-Israel remarks by Iran's president. Bush replied "We will rise to Israel's defense, if need be." And he added, "You bet we'll defend Israel." In a speech on March 20, Bush said: "Now that I'm on Iran… the threat from Iran is, of course, their stated objective to destroy our strong ally Israel. It's a threat to world peace; it's a threat, in essence, to a strong alliance. I made it clear, I'll make it clear again, that we will use military might to protect our ally, Israel."

Such remarks have worried Jewish leaders – not because they do not agree with them, or because they doubt Bush's sincerity, but because they believe that the President has been too candid, too open, in acknowledging Israel's importance in determining American war policy.

George W. Bush, and others in his administration, have often lectured Iran about democracy. Well, that's pretty rich coming from a man who became president after an election in November 2000 in which he received fewer votes than his opponent.

To put this Iran "crisis" into some perspective, it's worth noting that although Iran has not attacked another country in 200 years, it has itself repeatedly been a victim of aggression. A look at the historical record shows that Iran has at least some valid reason to be skeptical of Washington's policies and intentions.

In the current US-Iran showdown, most of the world is very mindful of the blatant double standard of US policy. While Washington threatens war against Iran for developing a nuclear program, it sanctions Israel's vast arsenal of nuclear weapons, and seemingly has no problem with a nuclear-armed China, Pakistan, Russia and India.

In fact, given its geo-political position, Iran would be foolish if it did not try to develop the most effective military force possible. On its eastern border is Pakistan, which now has nuclear weapons, and Afghanistan, which is currently under the control of the military forces of a nuclear-armed United States. On Iran's western border is Iraq, which likewise is occupied by the armed forces of a nuclear US.

In the region, the only country that currently has a nuclear weapons arsenal, that occupies territory of its neighbors, and which is in violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions – is Israel, a state that is hostile to militantly Islamic Iran. If the United States held Israel to the same standards that it has applied to Iraq and now Iran, American bombers and missiles would be blasting Tel Aviv, and American troops would seize Israel's leaders and put them behind bars for war crimes and crimes against humanity.