

The «Dringender Aufruf» Committee adamantly rejects the anti-human rights initiative submitted by the SVP on August 12, 2016. The Committee urgently calls for support in opposing the initiative.



**Abolish human rights?  
No way!**

The SVP initiative against «foreign judges» opens the way to a possible rejection of the European Convention on Human Rights. This questions the very principles of human coexistence established since the Second World War. The SVP's anti-human rights initiative, in stressing the supremacy of «home rule» over international law, would remove a necessary protection provided by transnational treaties. The initiative threatens the Swiss constitutional state and could scale back Swiss democracy. The initiative must fail! Please join us in helping to prevent a social injustice that would sadly damage Switzerland's standing in the world.

**Forsake pivotal achievements?** No. Human rights are a fundamental achievement of the democratic state as we know it today. Human rights are counted among the most important of democratic rights, rights that we cannot do without. They concern all areas of life, fought for during centuries in Switzerland and throughout the world.

**Annul universal human principles?** No. Since their first formulations in Philadelphia in 1776 and 1789 in Paris, human rights have, despite numerous setbacks and defeats, steadily advanced. In 1948, the UN adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and declared them binding for all human beings, while in 1950, The Council of Europe instituted the European Declaration of Human Rights, so creating the European Human Rights Court in order to protect the fundamental freedom of Europe's peoples. This historic and humanitarian process is how the UN and the Council of Europe reacted empirically to the threat of national socialist and fascist arbitrary rule.

**Scale back the state of law?** No. Switzerland, in 1848, established itself as the first constitutional state within Europe. For a long time, however, human rights applied only to part of the population, as not before 1866 – as a result of foreign pressure – were Swiss Jews considered equitable before the law. It took more than 120 years until the implementation of women's suffrage, and not until 1974 had Switzerland sufficiently fulfilled the constitutional requirements to enter into the European Convention on Human Rights. Through the struggle for human rights, Swiss law has been vitally improved.

**Get rid of the highest court?** No. The European Tribunal for Human Rights in Strasbourg is not a tribunal of «foreign judges», but a court nominated mutually by its member states, in which each state is equally represented. It stands as the last recourse for all people struggling against the violation of their human rights in a European country, and provides protection from abuse of power and despotism.

**Support right-wing extremists' goals?** No. Under the pretext of the «home rule», the SVP's anti-human rights initiative is set to overturn the human rights rules of international cohabitation. As such, the SVP falls in-line with authoritarian and undemocratic regimes within and beyond Europe, and their initiative corresponds with the politics of the extreme right-wing parties and their global condemnation of democracy. It opens the doors to despotism.

The anti-human rights initiative of the SVP, submitted on August 12, 2016, must be defeated.

- Taking part in the discussion and subscribing to our newsletter
- Sharing our short video on social media
- Wearing our button in German, French, Italian or English

We achieved the rejection of the Durchsetzungsinitiative in February 2016, and we'll stand up for our individual and collective rights again.



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