



Consulate General
of the Federal Republic of Germany
San Francisco

The Honorable
Steve Bullock
Governor of the State of Montana
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Peter Rothen

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**Shooting of German national Diren Dede, aged 17, on April 27, 2014
in Missoula/Montana**

San Francisco, April 30, 2014

Dear Governor Bullock,

Please allow me to introduce myself as the official representative of the German government in the Pacific Northwest, including the State of Montana.

I am writing to you in the matter of the tragic death of a juvenile German exchange student, Diren Dede, on April 27 in Missoula/Montana. I see it as my duty to inform you, as head of Montana's executive, that the particular circumstances of this 17-year old student's death have deeply shocked and dismayed my government and the German people who are very hard put to understand that an unarmed young man who apparently had trespassed into a Missoula resident's garage, was shot to death by the resident pretending to exercise a right to self defense.

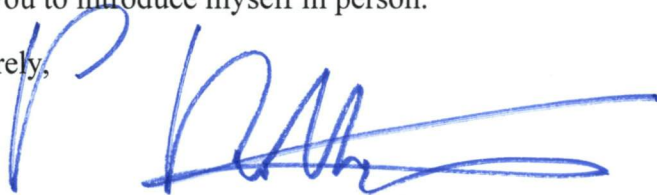
After learning of the shooting, I have immediately dispatched a member of my staff to Missoula and I would like to express to you, Mr. Governor, my gratitude and appreciation for the excellent cooperation that we have received from the competent Missoula authorities, in particular the police and the district attorney's office. From the talks that my staff member has had in the last two days with the authorities in Missoula, it is my clear impression that the case is given the appropriate attention, and I would like to thank you very much for that.

Allow me also to state clearly that the German government fully respects the people of Montana's right to set its laws as the people of Montana see fit. Furthermore, I would like to stress that the Missoula authorities' conduct over the past days leads me to believe that the investigations will be conducted with the utmost impartiality and that eventually justice will be done by not letting go unpunished the shooting of an unarmed juvenile through what appears to be the exercise of grossly disproportionate violence.

It will come to you as no surprise that these are also the expectations of my government and I trust that we can count on your support in ensuring that the rule of law is seen to be fully applied in this case. I am sure that this is also in your and the people of Montana's fullest interest. In this respect, you might find it useful to know that German penal law also applies for crimes committed against German nationals abroad, enabling German state prosecutors to open investigations in such cases.

I intend to come to Montana to attend the trial on the shooting of Mr. Diren Dede. Once a date has been set for the trial, I will get in touch with your office in order to make an appointment with you to introduce myself in person.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Rothen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Rothen
Consul General

P.S.: I have informed accordingly the President of the Montana State Senate and the Speaker of the Montana House of Representatives.