

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY IN GERMANY

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The right to freedom of assembly is a fundamental right protected by the German constitution. Art. 8 of the Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany (“GG”) protects the right to assemble peacefully and only allows restrictions for “outdoor assemblies.” The Basic Law’s Art. 8 and its protections by the government is regulated by federal statutory law in the Federal Act on Assemblies of 1953 (“**Versammlungsgesetz**” or “**VersG**”). Historically, the power to adopt laws relating to the freedom of association was a federal matter. Consequently, VersVG regulated the enforcement of the freedom of assemblies for Germany’s entire territory. Its provisions were last amended by law of Dec. 8, 2008, which brought some changes to the Law on Pacified Districts for Federal Constitutional Bodies following which the Federal Act on Assemblies had to be adapted accordingly.

Since the federalism reform in 2006, however, the states have the possibility to substitute the federal law on the freedom of assembly with their own statutes (Art. 74 Section 1 Nr. 3 GG). The states which choose not to amend the law on assemblies with their own state law are still applying the Federal Act on Assemblies (Art. 125a Section 1 GG).

Under both the VersVG and the relevant laws of the states, all legal persons, including civil society associations, corporations, and children, are protected by the constitutional right to freedom of association.

Police forces are bound by federal and state law and are allowed to apply force only under strict circumstances. For instance, Art. 80 Section 2 No. 2 of the Federal Code of Administrative Court Procedure (Verwaltungsgerichtsordnung “VwGO”) provides that, given the relevant circumstances are met, the police can enforce the immediate dissolution of an assembly.

DEFINITION: The Federal Act on Assemblies does not specifically define “assembly.” Article 1 distinguishes between public assemblies in closed areas on the one hand and assemblies in the open air or parades (i.e. a moving assembly) on the other hand. Moreover both the federal law and the state laws emphasize that only assemblies with a peaceful character, i.e. assemblies without weapons, are protected. However, following the jurisprudence of the Federal Constitutional Court Art. 8 GG also protects assemblies involving a limited amount of physical force.

Article 8 GG

(1) All Germans shall have the right to assemble peacefully and unarmed without prior notification or permission.

(2) In the case of outdoor assemblies, this right may be restricted by or pursuant to a law.

Following the jurisprudence of German courts, the German constitution protects assemblies as joint expression of more than one person which can manifest in any kind of joint behavior including silent assemblies (*cf.* Federal Constitutional Court Decision of May 14, 1985, BVerfGE 69, 315, para 61 (Brokdorf)). Also the joint expression in the form of a sit-down strike is protected by the constitutional right to assembly (*cf.* Federal Constitutional Court Decision of October 24, 2001, BVerfGE 104, 92, para 37). However, the love parade whose primary purpose was entertainment or mass partying was not qualified as protected assembly even though the organizers argued that the participants were exercising and promoting their right to freedom of speech.

In legal literature an assembly is defined as “gathering of a plurality of individuals not defined in numbers at a common location for the common purpose of discussing, of advising or of making known certain matters” (Ott/Wächtler, *Gesetz über Versammlungen und Aufzüge*, (6th ed. 1996), §1 Rz. 12).

NOTIFICATION: The organizer needs to notify the assembly to the competent authority at least 48 hours prior to an assembly in the open air. The notification to the authority needs to include the name of the person responsible for leading the assembly.¹ Assemblies in closed rooms, even if they are open to the public, do not need to be notified to the police under the Federal Act on Assemblies.

The government office that needs to be notified of assemblies varies from state to state. The competent authority is appointed by state law provisions in specific ordinances or by virtue of the relevant state act on assemblies (see also below in the appendix). The authority is not required to respond, but will contact the organizer if certain restrictions or requirements are imposed on the assembly or if an assembly is not allowed. In practice, if the assembly can be held as notified the authority will issue an informal registration confirmation.² The interdiction of an assembly can be appealed under the rules for administrative court proceedings.

Public assemblies in closed rooms do not need to be notified or permitted by the authorities.³ However, also assemblies in closed rooms are forbidden if:

- *the organizer is legally not allowed to organize an assembly;*
- *the organizer allows protestors to enter the room with weapons or other forbidden objects;*
- *there is proof that the organizer or his followers intend to create an insurgent or violent course of events;*
- *there is proof that the organizer or his followers hold a view or tolerate statements which would constitute a crime to be prosecuted by the authorities.*⁴

SPONTANEOUS ASSEMBLIES: Even though the letters of the law in the Federal Act on Assemblies, require a previous notification to the competent authority, the Federal Constitutional Court held that spontaneous assemblies were protected by the constitution (May 14, 1985, BVerfGE 69, 315 (351, no. 75)). Hence, there is no explicit provision in the Federal Act on Assemblies which would allow spontaneous demonstrations. However, following the Federal Constitutional Court, immediate assemblies which are formed in an instant reaction “in the light of current events” do not need to be registered with the authorities if the assembly

¹ Art. 14 VersG.

² Dietel/Gintzel/Kniesel, *Demonstrations- und Versammlungsfreiheit* (14th ed. 2005), §14 Rz. 16.

³ Art. 8 s. 1 GG.

⁴ Art. 5 VersG.

could not reach its purpose otherwise. This also applies to flash mobs or smart mobs as long as they convey a political message and do not merely serve the protestors' entertainment.

ORGANIZERS: All public assemblies need to have a leader, who usually is the same person as the assembly's organizer. Any legal subject that is capable of disposing of its constitutional rights ("grundrechtsmündig") is entitled to organize an assembly.

Art. 1 Section 2 VersG defines who definitely cannot organize or participate in an assembly:

- *Nr. 1: A person who forfeited the right to freedom of assembly, because the Federal Constitutional Court suspended this right (Art. 18 GG).*
- *Nr. 2: A person who, by attending an assembly, intends to support an unconstitutional political party. A prerequisite is a decision of the Federal Constitutional Court to declare a party unconstitutional, which in history only has occurred in the 1950s for the "Sozialistische Reichspartei" and the "Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands." Currently, a proceeding to declare the "Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands (NPD)" unconstitutional is pending in the Federal Constitutional Court.*
- *Nr. 3: A party which was declared unconstitutional (see above Nr. 2).*
- *Nr. 4: an association of people which is forbidden by Art. 9 Section 2 GG. Such associations have the purpose or conduct activity which is contrary to criminal law (e.g. terrorist organizations), or intend to disturb the constitutional order or the peaceful understanding amongst nations.*

All other people, including foreigners, minors or members of other minorities are allowed to organize and lead an assembly. Moreover, also counter-assemblies are permissible, even though there is no explicit regulation in VersG. Art. 2 section 2 VersG merely states that nobody must disturb an orderly demonstration. The Federal Constitutional Court clarified that an organizer of an assembly can freely choose the venue and the time for a demonstration, also if it is a counter-assembly. If there is a conflict with opposite interests of other protestors or generally of the public the authorities can impose restrictions on the counter-assembly accordingly.

FURTHER RIGHTS OF THE ORGANIZER AND THE LEADER: The organizer may, with approval of the authorities, appoint stewards who need to be of age and who need to wear white ribbons with the word "steward" (in German: "Ordner"). The authorities can limit or impose a certain number of stewards.⁵ All demonstrators have to follow the leaders' or the stewards' instructions⁶ and those who grossly disturb the assembly can be banned from the assembly.⁷

If police forces are sent to supervise a public assembly in a closed room, they need to register with the assembly's leader. The assembly's leader is obliged to provide for accommodation for the police forces in a designated area.⁸

Under Art. 17a VersG, organizers, leaders, stewards and protestors in general are not allowed to bear any weapon or "protective weapon" or to bring any other means or clothes

⁵ Art. 9 VersG, Art. 18 VersG.

⁶ Art. 10 VersG, Art. 18 VersG.

⁷ Art. 11 VersG, Art. 18 VersG.

⁸ Art. 12 VersG, Art. 18 VersG.

which are intended to help the protestor in the defense against, or hide the protestor's identity from the authorities.

Representatives of the press need to be granted access to any public assembly by its leader even if the assembly is held in a closed room. The journalists only need to show their press ID to the leader of the assembly.⁹

LIABILITY OF THE ORGANIZER AND LEADER: Articles 21 to 30 VersG provide for criminal and administrative violations that can be sanctioned with imprisonment of up to three years or with monetary penalties. An organizer or leader can be sanctioned for organizing an assembly against the authorities' explicit interdiction, for allowing weapons at the assembly, for not complying with restrictions imposed by the authorities or for not notifying the authorities adequately. In Stuttgart one of the organizers of the demonstrations against the construction of a train station ("Stuttgart 21") was sanctioned with a fine, because he did not employ a sufficient number of stewards (as ordered by the authority). The fine in the amount of around 2,500 EUR was initially imposed in 2011 and since then has been challenged in various court proceedings.

Apart from these sanctions the Federal Act on Assemblies does not contain provisions on costs and liabilities. Therefore, general provisions of police or tort law apply. The application of these provisions may not, however, impose an undue burden on the exercise of the freedom of assembly. As a matter of principle, civil or criminal liability shall not deter people from organizing and attending assemblies.

Occasionally, the police requests payment of "enforcement cost." These costs are charged on the basis of ordinances issued by the states and vary from state to state. In Baden-Württemberg, for instance, the police sometimes charges EUR 45 per policeman per hour for the "application of immediate force" (i.e. application of force without prior formal administrative procedure). As this charge was first applied to sit-down protestors who were removed by police force, this charge is often referred to as "carry-away tax" (in German: "Wegtragegebühr"). Generally, these costs are charged only to the person which needs to be carried away. This can, but does not have to be the organizer or leader of an assembly (*cf.* section 7 Baden-Württemberg ordinance on the enforcement of administrative costs "Vollstreckungskostenordnung – LVwVGKO", of Jul 29, 2004).

In addition to these regulations, various articles of the Criminal Code may be applicable to an organizer's conduct in connection with assemblies, e.g. Art. 130 of the Criminal Code, which punishes activity regarded as "incitement to hatred." Moreover, the Act on Regulatory Offences provides for punishable behavior not covered by the Federal Act on Assemblies, e.g. Section 130 ("Unauthorized Gatherings) and Section 136 ("Public Instigation to Regulatory Offences").

RESTRICTIONS ON ASSEMBLY: The authorities may submit demonstrations in the open air and parades to certain requirements, e.g. as to the route of the parade or the timing of the assembly. At certain places, which are dedicated to commemorate victims of the inhuman treatment under the national-socialistic terror-regime, assemblies can be interdicted, if there is reason to believe that the assembly would impair the victims' dignity.¹⁰ The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin is such a no-protest zone. Some other zones are covered by the Federal Statute on Pacified Areas for Federal Constitutional Bodies, or state law acts,

⁹ Art. 6 section 2 VersG.

¹⁰ Art. 15 VersG

which create no-protest zones where assemblies are entirely interdicted. These zones mainly encompass areas around the federal and state parliaments, locations to commemorate the victims of the Nazi-regime, or locations of historic significance. See a list of relevant laws below.

During an assembly nobody is allowed to bear weapons or other tools which could be used to cause damage to another persons' personal wellbeing, or public or private property.¹¹ Moreover, nobody is allowed to wear uniforms or similar garments to express a common political attitude.¹²

The police is allowed to take pictures, film and record voices and sounds during an assembly only if there are indications for a real threat to public safety. In this case this measure might affect also third parties. If there are no counter-indicators, such as the need to persecute criminal acts or to protect future assemblies from illegitimate behavior of some protestors, the pictures and other recordings need to be destroyed immediately after the assembly.¹³ In Bavaria and recently also in Berlin laws have been passed which allow the police to take panorama pictures of assemblies preventively, i.e. without an imminent threat for the public. These provisions are criticized by various NGO's for various data protection implications; complaints against these provisions have been filed with constitutional law courts on the federal and state level. Another data protection issue regarding assemblies is that in Berlin the authorities maintain a detailed register on who notified an assembly at which point in time.

Moreover, there are examples of bans by the authorities which have been lifted by court. For instance, in 2012 the competent authority did not allow an assembly of the NPD, a right-wing party, on the Holocaust Remembrance Day in Leipzig. The court lifted this ban, because the assembly was intended to be held in context of the financial crisis which cannot be seen as "provocation for the moral perceptions of the population."¹⁴

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATES: The first state to replace the provisions of the VersG with state law was the Free-State of Bavaria by virtue of the Bavarian Act on Assemblies which went into force on October 1, 2008. Initially this act allowed the production of precautionary "overview photographs and recordings," which the Federal Constitutional Court found to be overly broad and therefore suspended some of the provisions. The Bavarian legislature amended the articles of its Act accordingly (last amendment of Apr. 12, 2013) and now allows films and pictures of assemblies by the police only where it is necessary in view of the size and the unclear situation of an assembly and identification of individual protestors on the produced pictures is only permissible if the person constitutes a danger to public safety.

Besides, Saxony-Anhalt (VersammIG LSA entered into force Dec. 12, 2009), Lower Saxony (NversG dated Oct. 7, 2010), the Free-State of Saxony (Sächs. VersammIG which went into force on Feb. 2, 2012) and Berlin (law dated Apr. 23, 2013) amended the Federal Act on Assemblies or at least parts of it by releasing state law regulations. In Schleswig-Holstein the state legislature is currently assessing a proposal to implement a state law regulating assemblies.¹⁵

¹¹ Art. 2 section 3 VersG.

¹² Art. 3 VersG (does not apply to youth organizations under certain circumstances).

¹³ Art. 12a VersG, Art. 19a VersG.

¹⁴ <http://www.freies-netz-sued.net/index.php/2014/03/03/gericht-kippt-demo-verbot-zum-holocaust-gedenktag/>

¹⁵ (Landtagsinformationssystem Schleswig-Holstein, <http://lissh.lvn.parlanet.de/cgi-bin/starfinder/0?path=lisshfl.txt&id=fastlink&pass=&search=%28%28%28FASTW%2cDARTS%2c1DES2%3d%28%28%22VERSAMMLUNGSGESETZ%22%29%29%29+NOT+TYP%3dPSEUDOVOORGANG%29+AND+WP%3d18&format=WEBKURZFL> (last visited May 26, 2014)).

In all other states no state law has been adopted at the moment and the federal act is still fully applicable. The state laws regulate the right to freedom of assembly in a widely similar way as the Federal Act on Assemblies (VersG); in the following this note concentrates on the federal regulation.

IMPLEMENTATION PRACTICE: The majority of assemblies is organized in Berlin, due to its position as Germany's capital. In 1999, 2,440 public demonstrations were held in Berlin of which only 10 were accompanied by non-peaceful side effects. The penalties established by assembly provisions are statistically not very relevant. There is hardly any specific jurisprudence.¹⁶

Stuttgart 21: In Stuttgart, a group of people has been demonstrating against the rebuilding of the city train station and the destruction of an old park in the city center for years ("Stuttgart 21"). In the course of these protests many assemblies have been held and negotiations took place on various levels (mainly on the political level). A round of public negotiations took place, after on Sep 30, 2010 the police used water guns to dissolve a protest and injured more than 100 people. During this protest, a policeman was stopped by a protestor who wanted to talk to him. As the policeman suspected that the protestor wanted to attack him he beat him with his baton and injured the protestor's arm and chest. The competent criminal court convicted the police man to a 5,400 EUR fine three years after the event for physical injury resulting from negligence.¹⁷

Hamburg 21.12.2013: An established meeting spot and cultural center for the left-wing community, the "Rote Flora", should be transformed into a commercially more attractive building. To set a sign of dissatisfaction with this development, some supporters of "Rote Flora" organized a parade and notified to the competent authority for Dec. 21, 2013. After only a few meters the police stopped the march and tried to dissolve the demonstration. In a press note the police stated that around 7,300 people had gathered in the march, of which around 4,700 were "willing to resort to violence." When the protestors started to shoot with artificial fireworks, bottles and other objects, the police responded with water guns and apprehended some of the protestors. The confrontations between protestors and police went on for several hours.¹⁸

Magdeburg 18.01.2014: On Jan. 16, 1945, the inner city of Magdeburg was heavily bombarded and almost entirely devastated. Some neo-fascist movements take this day as an opportunity to advertise their motives and each year organize demonstrations in Magdeburg around this date. This year, on Jan. 18, 2014, around 700 neo-Nazis gathered for a march in the city center. In a counter-demonstration around 10,000 persons gathered for a "mile of democracy." Around 3,300 police men were deployed to maintain security during these assemblies. The police blocked several streets to prevent the two groups from confronting each other, carried out identity checks on certain check-points, confiscated "action maps" of certain groups, and forcefully intervened where the police regarded it to be necessary.

On Nov. 2, 2013, the police allegedly confiscated a sound system because the organizers of a demonstration had used it for slogans hostile to the state.¹⁹

¹⁶ Available at: Dietel/Gintzel/Kniesel, Demonstrations- und Versammlungsfreiheit, (14th ed. 2005), vor§21 Rz. 5.

¹⁷ Available at: <http://www.stuttgarter-zeitung.de/inhalt.stuttgart-21-polizist-scheitert-mit-revision-gegen-strafe-zu-s21-einsatz.d57c365e-378c-42e3-b319-0b60ee9979fa.html>

¹⁸ Available at: <http://www.publikative.org/2013/12/23/hh2112-die-polizei-die-medien-und-die-gewalt/> and <https://twitter.com/hamburg2112> (twitter account of the protestors, in German)

¹⁹ Available at: <https://linksunten.indymedia.org/de/node/98594>

If an assembly is held even though a ban has been issued the police will dissolve the assembly. In Frankfurt in 2012 the police issued a ban on assemblies against the financial system and austerity measures. The police arrested hundreds of protestors who gathered in student areas despite the ban.²⁰

In another case, a police man hit a demonstrator with his knee in the stomach area which resulted in the loss of his left testicle. The case is currently pending in the criminal court of Hesse.²¹

Organizers and participants of assemblies regularly use social media. The Blockupy movement used Facebook.²² In Hamburg (see above) the organizers used twitter (#HH2112). In Magdeburg (see above) some protestors created a live ticker in English.²³

In 2007 a court in Berlin (KG Berlin 4. Strafsenat of Jul. 2, 2007,(4) 1 Ss 427/06 (24/07)) imposed a fine on the leader of an assembly, because some of the protestors did not comply with the restrictions ordered by the authority prior to the beginning of the parade. These restrictions did not allow any banners longer than 150 cm or banners carried laterally. During the parade some protestors carried banners laterally which were longer than 150 cm and the parade's leader knowingly decided to continue the parade. The fine amounted to 1,000 EUR.

NATIONAL LAWS AFFECTING THE SECTOR:

- Art. 8 (Grundgesetz für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland, „GG“) *Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany* in the revised version published in the Federal Law Gazette Part III, classification number 100-1, as last amended by the Act of 21 July 2010 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 944).
- Art. 11 and 16 of the *Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms* of November 11, 1950 (BGBl. 1952 II, S. 686), as amended by Protocols No. 11 and No. 14.
- Art. 130 of the *Criminal Code* (Incitement to Hatred) in the version promulgated on November 13, 1998 (BGBl I 3322), last amended by Article 3 of the Law of 2 October 2009 (BGBl I 3214).
- Section 130 (“Unauthorized Gatherings”) and Section 136 (“Public Instigation to Regulatory Offences”) of the *Act on Regulatory Offences* in the version promulgated on February 19, 1987 (BGBl. I 602), last amended by Article 4 para. 58 of the Act of August 7, 2013 (BGBl. I 3154).
- *Federal Act on Police* in the version promulgated on Jan. 13, 1992 (Polizeigesetz, “PolG”, BGBl. 1992 ber. S. 596, 1993 S. 155) last amended by the law of Feb. 25, 2014 (BGBl. 2014 S. 77).
- *Federal Act on Assemblies* (Versammlungsgesetz or “VersG”) of July 24, 1953 (Federal Law Gazette “BGBl.” I S. 684) in the version promulgated on November 15, 1978 (BGBl. I S. 1790); last amended by Art. 2 of the Law of December 8, 2008 (BGBl. I S. 2366).

²⁰ Available at: <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303879604577412330389145656>

²¹ Available at: <http://www.mz-web.de/halle-saalekreis/demonstration-eskaliert-polizist-wegen-koerperverletzung-vor-gericht,20640778,26234132.html>

²² Available at: (<https://www.facebook.com/events/114778091979660/>)

²³ Available at: (<https://linksunten.indymedia.org/en/ticker/md14>)

- *Bavarian Act on Assemblies* of Jul. 22, 2008 (Bayerisches Versammlungsgesetz („BayVersG“) (GVBl 2008, S. 421)), last amended on Apr. 12, 2013 (GVBl 2013, S. 174).
- *Saxony-Anhalt Act on Assemblies* of Dec. 3, 2009 (Gesetz des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt über Versammlungen und Aufzüge („VersammlG LSA“) (GVBl. LSA 2009, S. 558)).
- *Lower-Saxon Act on Assemblies* (Niedersächsisches Versammlungsgesetz of Oct. 7, 2010, Nds. GVBl. 2010, S. 465, 532).
- *Free-State of Saxony Act on Assemblies* of Jan. 25, 2012 (Gesetz über Versammlungen und Aufzüge im Freistaat Sachsen (Sächsisches Versammlungsgesetz („SächsVersG“) (Sächs. GVBl. 2012, S. 54)).
- *Berlin Act on Assemblies* of Apr. 23, 2013 (Gesetz über Aufnahmen und Aufzeichnungen von Bild und Ton bei Versammlungen unter freiem Himmel und Aufzügen, GVBl. 2013, S. 103, amending only Art. 19a of the Federal Act; challenge pending in the Constitutional Court of Berlin, a verdict is expected for Apr. 11, 2014, <http://www.rbb-online.de/politik/beitrag/2014/02/videoueberwachung-vor-dem-berliner-verfassungsgericht.html> (last seen on Mar. 12, 2014).
- *Law on Pacified Districts for Federal Constitutional Bodies* (Gesetz über befriedete Bezirke für Verfassungsorgane des Bundes, „BefBezG“), (BGBl. I 1818, Aug. 11, 1999, last amended on Dec. 8, 2008 (BGBl. I S. 2366)).
- Similar *No-Protest Laws* exist for areas protected by state law: for *Hessen* Law on the No-Protest Zone around the Parliament in Hessen (Gesetz über die Bannmeile des Hessischen Landtags, „HBannMG“, GVBl. I 1990, 173, May 25, 1990, last amended on 27. Sep. 27, 2012 (GVBl. S. 290)); for *Nordrhein-Westfalen* Law on the No-Protest Zone around the Parliament in Nordrhein-Westfalen (Bannmeilengesetz des Landtags Nordrhein-Westfalen of Feb. 25, 1969, GV. NW. 1969 S. 142, as amended by law of Jun. 14, 1988 (GV. NW. S. 246)); for *Baden-Württemberg* (Bannmeilengesetz des Landes Baden-Württemberg of Nov. 12, 1963, GBl. S. 175, amended on Jul. 28, 1970 (GBl. S. 421)); for the *Free-State of Bayern* (Art 17 to 19 of the Bavarian Act on Assemblies, BayVersG); for *Berlin* (Berliner Bannmeilengesetz of Mar. 13, 1983 (GVBl. S. 482), last amended by law of Feb. 16, 1998 (GVBl. S. 18)); for the *Hanseatic City of Hamburg* (Bannkreisgesetz der Hansestadt Hamburg of Feb. 5, 1985 (GVBl. S. 61), amended by law of Oct. 8, 1986 (GVBl. S. 326); for *Niedersachsen* (Art. 18-19 of the Lower-Saxon Act on Assemblies); for *Rheinland-Pfalz* (Bannmeilengesetz of Feb. 23, 1966 (GVBl. S. 60), last amended Art. 2 of the Law of Sep. 28, 2010 (GVBl. S. 280); for *Saarland* (Art. 81-82 of Gesetz über den Landtag des Saarlandes of Jun. 20, 1973 (Amtsbl. S. 517 [528])); for *Saxony-Anhalt* (Art. 13-14 and Appendix of the Saxony-Anhalt Act on Assemblies); for the *Free-State of Saxony* (Art. 14-16 and Appendix of the Free-State of Saxony Act on Assemblies); none for *Thüringen* (in 2010 the relevant law was suspended by the Thüringen parliament, before a law established no-protest zone around the parliament in Erfurt, see Gesetz über die Bannmeile des Thüringer Landtags of May 14, 1991 (GVBl. S. 82), last amended by law of Sep. 23, 2003 (GVBl. S. 437).
- Competent Authority, examples: *Hamburg* (Behörde für Inneres und Sport, Anordnung über Zuständigkeiten im Versammlungsrecht und öffentlichen Vereinsrecht Vom 10. Dezember 1968 (Amtl. Anz. 1968, S. 1513), last amended by ordinance of Oct. 26, 2010 (Amtl. Anz. S. 2129, 2132); *Lower Saxony* (untere Versammlungsbehörde before the commencement of the assembly and the police after commencement of the assembly, Art. 24 Lower-Saxon Act on Assemblies); *Free-State of Bavaria* (Kreisverwaltungsbehörde, Art. 24

Bavarian Act on Assemblies); *Free-State of Saxony* (Kreispolizeibehörde, Polizeivollzugsdienst, Art. 32-33 Free-State of Saxony Act on Assemblies).

ASSEMBLY RELEVANT NEWS:

- Legal news monitor: <http://www.jurablogs.com/thema/versammlungsfreiheit>
- Association monitoring and publishing regarding freedom of assembly <http://www.grundrechtskomitee.de/taxonomy/term/20>
- Blog regarding Stuttgart 21 <http://www.schaeferweltweit.de/tag/versammlungsfreiheit/>