

Opening Ceremony of the Historical Site Adlerwerke

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Greeting note by Prof. Dr. Jens-Christian Wagner

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me congratulate you very much for the opening of the historical site Adlerwerke. All involved I thank for the unwavering dedication, without which the launch of this important memorial and educational site would not have been possible. The history of the KZ subcamp Katzbach, which formally was controlled by KZ-Natzweiler, is tightly linked to that of KZ-Buchenwald. The very first transfer of prisoners in August of 1944 came from KZ-Buchenwald and later more transfers followed. The KZ-Katzbach und the Adlerwerke therefore belonged to this network, to the net of terror of KZ Buchenwald, to the net, that stretched over big parts of Germany.

Katzbach shows that the atrocities of the KZ crimes were not hidden in some vague east or hidden behind mountains and woods, but rather in the middle of German society. They were public crimes. Nearly all Germans could see them and many were involved, as likewise in the Adlerwerke.

The new historical site Adlerwerke narrates, how distinctly graded the system of enforced labour was, to which not only the KZ prisoners belonged, how much it shaped the NS society und who profited from it, and how after the war nobody would have known anything about it.

I wish for the historical site many visitors and a successful educational activity for one world, in which the dignity of mankind is focused on.

Thank you