



**Comité International de Mauthausen**

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*The Comité International de Mauthausen* CIM ([www.cim-info.org](http://www.cim-info.org)) is the umbrella governing body of the national survivors' organisations which was founded clandestinely in 1944 – when the war was still raging on - in the Mauthausen concentration camps. It currently comprises 23 member states (in Europe, USA, Israel). At its recent working meeting in Amsterdam on October 13, 2018 it received information from Mrs Barbara Glück, CEO of the *Bundesanstalt Mauthausen Memorial* (BAMM) pertaining to

- the closure of the *Todesstiege* (the *death-stair* in the *Wiener Graben*, the quarry of the Mauthausen concentration camp;
- the closure of [access to] the national monuments;
- the building of a concrete tower (housing an elevator) in the middle of the historic Mauthausen concentration camp;
- the sequence of events and decision processes.

This is the unanimous decision which the *Comité International de Mauthausen* (CIM) has sent on October 16th, 2018 to the *Burghauptmannschaft* (the Austrian Federal public body which is the owner of the *Gedenkstätte Mauthausen* and which had taken the above mentioned decisions and works **unilaterally and without any prior consultation**:

“The *Comité International de Mauthausen* welcomes every activity which render the former concentration camp accessible and barrier free to as many persons as possible. It is precisely the criminal behaviour of the Nazis against persons with disabilities, including mass murders in the framework of the *T-4 Aktion* which shows the importance of being particularly sensitive in order not to exclude or discriminate against these persons.

But we cannot accept the fact that this concrete tower was built into the heritage-listed substance of the Mauthausen Memorial, which is unique in all of Europe, without any previous information or dialogue with the victims' associations.

The main entrance into the former *Schutzhaftlager* [concentration camp] has always been accessible without any obstacles via the former *Lagerstraße*, even if this is a bit longer . We consider this particularly insensitive building history to be a violation of the dignity of the place itself and of the victims' associations.

We are certain that it would have been perfectly possible to identify different, better and more sensitive solutions for constructing such an elevator, other than building such a tower in the middle of the former garage court. We are well aware that the construction process has been completed and that the technical infrastructure has been put into place. We nonetheless demand that alternative solutions to this tower be elaborated and that the tower should be removed immediately.

The international indignation about this tower has reached an intensity that we can no longer control."