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Message from Federal President Steinmeier to mark Eid ul-Fitr 2024

Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier has sent out a written message to the Muslims of Germany to mark Eid ul-Fitr, the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast:

"As you break your fast at the end of Ramadan this year, I send you, the Muslims of Germany, my heartfelt greetings. I wish you all the best for the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast, which you will once again celebrate together with your families, with neighbours and friends.

Just a few weeks ago, I celebrated the evening breaking of the fast with Muslims and non-Muslims during a visit to the small town of Espelkamp. Ramadan and the breaking of the fast form part of Germany's diverse spiritual life. The fact that today, as the month of fasting ends, Muslim communities across the country are extending invitations to those who hold other beliefs is an important sign of tolerance and respect, and of willingness to engage and connect with others. This attitude of openness to one another and respect for one another also constitutes the core of our Basic Law, whose seventy-fifth anniversary we are together celebrating this year. Among our most important democratic values is the fact that our constitution safeguards the dignity of each and every individual – regardless of where they come from and where they live, regardless of whether they believe or not.

While we can relax and take strength in the company of our family and friends, we nonetheless remain deeply concerned by the brutal attack on Ukraine, by terror, war, violence and the suffering of so many defenceless people in the Middle East. Let us not lose heart nor lose hope – hope for a more peaceful shared future in which compassion, reconciliation and togetherness prevail over hatred, violence and division.

I wish you all a peaceful and blessed Eid ul-Fitr!"

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