



To whom it may concern

As the state-approved community of faith for Muslims in the Republic of Austria, the Islamic Denomination in Austria (IGGiÖ) hereby informs all persons in Austria and abroad about ritual slaughter and its certification according to Islamic faith:

The theological term “halal/helal” describes everything that is considered “pure” and therefore “allowed” according to Islamic faith. Jewish faith refers to the same definition when using the term “kosher”.

In the Federal Act on the Protection of Animals of 2004 an important issue for both denominations is explicitly regulated: Since for Jews and Muslims meat is only considered “halal/helal” or “kosher” when it was slaughtered in accordance with the religious dietary laws, this issue was also addressed in the act.

The Federal Act on the Protection of Animals therefore defined the so called “post cut stunning”. Immediately following the cutting of the throat, the carotid artery, executed by professionals of the respective faith, a mechanical stunning, in addition to the anaesthesia caused by the haemorrhage, is carried out. As a matter which is clearly grounded in religion, supervision lies in the hands of the respective representation for the two approved communities of faith.

For Muslims and Jews in Austria thus exists guarantee for the meat being produced in accordance to the respective purity laws. As for the rating “halal/helal”, this guarantee has become increasingly relevant on the international market. The high quality of Austrian cattle and sheep is of great interest for export trade.

Given that a fundamental theological consensus on slaughter is not complied with by everyone, the labeling “halal/helal” at least on all meat products is incorrect and conflicts the standard of ritual slaughter with Jews and Muslims appointed in the Austrian Federal Act on the Protection of Animals.

The Halal-certification poses neither a profession nor a business, but an Islamic religious expertise “Fatwa”. Under Islamic comprehension, whoever issues such an expertise bears responsibility for it, for himself and for all Muslims, who make use of it until Judgement Day.

Only authorized supervisors of the IGGiÖ inspect the slaughtering and manufacturing processes according to code on the premises and based on that issue adequate Halal-certifications.

Sincerely

Dr. Fuat Sanaç
President of the IGGiÖ