WHY HAS A GERMAN TOWN STOPPED NEW MEMORIALS FOR NAZI VICTIMS?



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

A town in Germany has voted to stop the installation of new Stolpersteine, or stumbling stones, which remember people persecuted and murdered by the Nazis. These small brass plaques are placed in pavements outside the homes or workplaces of victims. Each one gives a name and brief details about what happened to that person. More than 128,000 Stolpersteine have been installed across Europe, making the project one of the world's largest grassroots memorial schemes. In Heidenau, councillors from the far-right Alternative for Germany party joined members of the conservative Christian Democratic Union to approve the halt. Supporters say the plaques are walked on and should be replaced by one larger memorial. Opponents argue that the stones make victims part of everyday life and help people remember that they were neighbours, workers and families. A legal challenge is now being planned.

WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

The debate shows that remembering the past can become a political argument. The Holocaust happened more than 80 years ago, but people still disagree about how it should be remembered. The Stolpersteine also make history personal by linking huge events such as Nazi persecution to ordinary homes and individual lives.

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

“Should memorials remember individual victims or focus on the whole event?”

Source: The Guardian

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/oct/01/the-german-town-where-the-right-has-banned-new-stumbling-stones-for-nazi-victims