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## Press Release No. 26/2011

Washington, 02 May 2011

### German Chancellor Merkel and Interior Minister Friedrich on Death of bin Laden

In welcoming the death of al-Quaeda leader Osama bin Laden through a US operation, Chancellor Angela Merkel said it was quite simply good news that the man responsible for the attacks of September 11, 2001, has been stopped once and for all. German Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich, speaking before his trip to the United States today, also recalled the 2001 attacks and called bin Laden's death a victory of freedom and justice.

“With the killing of Osama bin Laden tonight our American friends have accomplished an important strike against international terrorism,” Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Monday in Berlin. “I conveyed to the American President Obama my and our respect for this achievement and for the successful commando action.”

In welcoming the death of the terrorist leader, Chancellor Merkel recalled the destruction and horrific images of September 11, 2001, the day on which thousands of innocent people lost their lives in the attacks in New York, Washington, DC, and Pennsylvania. Bin Laden, head of the al-Quaeda terrorist network and “the symbolic figure for international terrorism” acted then, Merkel said, and it all originated in Afghanistan.

“Still today, our soldiers fight together with many others within the framework of ISAF so that al-Quaeda and terrorism can never again find a home in Afghanistan,” she said. “The message that is sent out from this day is, acts of terrorism will not remain unavenged. Today, on this day, that should become clear to all followers of terrorism.”

Even with the relief that bin Laden is dead, Merkel said, the threat of terrorism is not nearly banished. “We will continue to remain vigilant. We will continue to cooperate internationally.”

### Interior Minister Friedrich

German Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich, who is on his way to Washington, DC, to meet with his American colleagues on the fight against terrorism, among other topics, welcomed

the death of Osama bin Laden in a US operation and emphasized the need to stay vigilant in the fight against terrorism.

“I believe that everyone who still has the images of September 11, 2001, in mind can understand the joy that the entire western world, but especially our American friends, feels,” Friedrich said in Munich on Monday before boarding a flight to the United States. “The death of Osama bin Laden shows that in the end freedom and justice win.” He continued: “We hope that now also those who have until now felt connected to his ideology realize that in the end freedom and justice will win the day.”

While the hope is that the al-Quaeda network is now critically weakened, Friedrich said, the threat of terrorism remains. Freedom requires vigilance. It is important to defend our freedom exactly against those who act inhumanely in the way that the terrorists of al-Quaeda do, he said.

“The international cooperation against terrorism is very important. That is why I am now on the way to the United States, where I will meet with my counterparts on the US side, the Attorney General as well the Secretary of Homeland Security, who are responsible for the area of counter-terrorism. We have close cooperation with our American friends, and I believe that this international network against dangerous criminals and terrorists will continue to be of major importance.”