



**Wolf Gruner.** *Widerstand in der Rosenstrasse: Die Fabrik-Aktion und die Verfolgung der "Mischehen" 1943.* Frankfurt am Main: Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag, 2005. 224 S. (broschiert), ISBN 978-3-596-16883-5.



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## W. Gruner: Widerstand in der Rosenstrasse

On February 27, 1943, the Gestapo launched a nationwide "De-Judaization of the Reich" raid, in Berlin better known as "Fabrik-Aktion". Roughly 2,000 Jewish "Mischlinge" and partners of "racially mixed" marriages were separately rounded up in an office building of the Jewish Community on Rosenstrasse 2-4. The same day, "Aryan" relatives of the arrested – for the most part wives and mothers – gathered before this building and publicly gave vent to their anger about the arrests. The street protests lasted for a whole week, until March 6, 1943, when nearly all Rosenstrasse internees had been released.

Just after the end of World War II, first reports about those events appeared, portraying the street protests as the cause of release. Since then, the Rosenstrasse women's public protest has passed for a prime example of successful non-violent resistance in Nazi Germany. From the many publications sharing this view, Nathan Stoltzfus's "Resistance of the Heart" (1996; German version 1999) stands out as the most thoroughly researched scholarly work. Stoltzfus, Nathan, *Resistance of the Heart. Intermarriage and the Rosenstrasse Protest in Nazi Germany*, New York 1996; German edition: *Wider-*

*stand des Herzens. Der Aufstand der Berliner Frauen in der Rosenstraße* 1943, Munich 1999. Wolf Gruner, in his dissertation published in 1997, already questioned this point of view Gruner, Wolf, *Der Geschlossene Arbeitseinsatz deutscher Juden. Zur Zwangsarbeit als Element der Verfolgung 1938-1943*, Berlin 1997. , and firmly rejected it since 2002 in several publications. Historians such as Wolfgang Benz and Claudia Schoppmann, Berlin, Beate Meyer, Hamburg, or Rainer Decker, Paderborn, have sided with Gruner on this issue.

In the beginning, the discussion took place predominantly in scholarly journals. But when, in autumn 2003, Margarethe von Trotta's award winning feature film "Rosenstrasse" appeared on German cinema screens, a little "Historikerstreit" erupted. As coined by "Die Zeit", No. 45, October 30, 2003, in an editorial. In print and electronic media the opponents – not always professional historians – fought a fierce battle of words. To a large degree, both sides concur in their views of the course of events. The opinions about the background, however, widely diverge: Why were "Mischlinge" and partners from "mixed marriages" arrested at all, why were they