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NACHRICHTEN

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## Investigation proceedings against Cardinal Woelki abandoned

Cologne. The investigation against Archbishop Rainer Maria Cardinal Woelki for possible false statements has been archived. This has now been decided by the public prosecutor's office in Cologne. Cardinal Woelki is innocent and has not lied. He has not committed any offences, in particular perjury.

'I am happy and grateful that we have now come to a conclusion here. We can now devote all our energy to the challenging tasks of the future. Together with the many committed people throughout the archdiocese, I would now like to create new places to experience faith and win more people back to Christ and the Gospel,' emphasised Cardinal Woelki.

In the course of the proceedings, the public prosecutor's office also investigated whether Cardinal Woelki unintentionally made false statements in court **when testifying**. It came to the conclusion that he might have been able to give more informed and complete testimony if he had studied the **extensive** documentation better. However, it also notes that a more comprehensive knowledge of the files would not have led to different judgments against the BILD newspaper. Cardinal Woelki accepts the final termination of the proceedings with a condition and thus waives his right to have these allegations clarified in court.

With the approval of the court, the public prosecutor's office finally discontinues the proceedings against a condition, which in this case consists of the payment of two months' salary to a charitable organisation. This is explicitly not a punishment. The cardinal is and remains innocent.  
(pek250506)

*A non-prosecution subject to imposition of conditions, i.e. the discontinuation of investigative proceedings under a condition, is an instrument of German criminal procedural law that is intended to protect the courts from a flood of bagatelle cases and to end proceedings permanently. An uncondi-*

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*tional dismissal, on the other hand, can be appealed to reopen the investigation proceedings at the request of an interested person who asks for a re-evaluation of the original unconditional dismissal decision.*

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