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**Protection of human dignity in relation to a satire and a caricature as  
an element of the freedom of art – considerations on the basis of the Polish  
and German criminal law**

**SUMMARY**

Human dignity as a personal interest particularly threatened with the infringement deserves the protection under the criminal law. Nevertheless, each person is given a freedom of speech, including the artistic one, which may have a form of a satire or a caricature. The question arises where the boundary should be set so that such freedom is executed without damage to human dignity. German criminal law – § 193 of StGB – stipulates “the preservation of legal interests”. When complying with several conditions, this regulation provides for a justification which allows for not bearing the criminal liability by a person voicing a statement that may breach human dignity. The above – according to the German doctrine – also concerns the actions within the artistic sphere.

**KEYWORDS:** artistic freedom, honor of a human, satire, caricature