

German court rules for terrorists

by Lena Mletzko

On May 3, the local court in Wiesbaden, West Germany was the scene of an absurd drama with serious implications. Three persons who looked like terrorists and talked like terrorists appeared there as plaintiffs in a criminal suit against the security newsletter *Spuren und Motive* (*SUM*), published by *EIR*. *SUM* had claimed that the three actually are, if not terrorists, then something very close. The three persons are Felix Kurz, who writes for the pro-terrorist daily *tageszeitung* (*TAZ*), plus two journalists of the similarly oriented paper *Karlsruher Rundschau*, Wolfgang Knapp, who in 1978 was investigated by the state attorney general for suspicion of support for a terrorist association, and his wife Ursula Knapp.

The three were represented by the lawyer Stephan Baier of the Hans Heinz Heldmann law firm in Frankfurt, well-known for defending the RAF (Baader-Meinhof gang). His last spectacular case was his defense of Brigitte Heinrich (now journalist of *TAZ*), who was convicted for illegal smuggling of weapons and explosives.

Climate for terrorism

As *Spuren und Motive's* responsible editor explained during the court procedure, the disputed article of July 1983 exposed the background of sabotage and harassment against the founding conference of the German Club of Life in Karlsruhe on May 28, 1983. On May 26, 1983, the *Karlsruher Rundschau* ran a front-page slander that could have developed into a serious security problem for Mrs. Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the founder of the international Club of Life:

"Karlsruhe is looking forward to another meeting of right-wing radicals. This time, an enormously rich American comes with his front organization" the *Rundschau* article started off, libelously accusing Helga Zepp-LaRouche's husband Lyndon LaRouche of contacts with the Ku Klux Klan and the American Nazi Party.

It would not have been the first time that green-terrorist stormtroopers had tried to crash into meetings with Helga Zepp-LaRouche after these meetings had received the "right-wing radical" label by the press. Although in Karlsruhe the "demonstration" against the Club of Life turned out to be absurdly small, there was intensive surveillance of conference attendees and speakers, and the profiling of security precautions by suspicious representatives of the pro-terrorist scene.

Felix Kurz was the source of the *Karlsruher Rundschau*

slanders against the LaRouches, a fact that remained uncontested during the whole trial. Nor did Kurz deny that he had in March 1982 visited a pro-nuclear energy meeting where Helga Zepp-LaRouche was a scheduled speaker. Shortly thereafter, *TAZ* published a slander article on the event, zeroing in on the security measures, and written by Kurz under the pen name Luca Brasi—a professional assassin in the novel *The Godfather*.

In 1982, Kurz was arrested during a terrorist trial in Stuttgart-Stammheim and jailed for three days after disrupting the trial by applauding the defendants. Testifying before the Wiesbaden court, he described this fact as more or less accidental. And he could not quite remember how the 1982 slander made it into *TAZ*. Although vague on those issues, he was clear that it does not benefit his "journalistic" work at the Karlsruhe court if certain facts of his background are publicized.

Even State Attorney Greth, "known as a LaRouche hater," was not convinced that there was any basis for Wolfgang and Ursula Knapp to feel libeled. But after pressure from inventive lawyers like those at Heldmann & Co., Greth issued the indictment against *Spuren und Motive* in November 1983. As of October, the state attorney had still been convinced that the description of the Knapps given in *SUM* "had been proven to be true."

In a letter to the Heldmann office at the time, he cited the fact that Wolfgang Knapp had been under investigation for terrorist activities. According to a report by the state attorney general, Knapp in 1977-78 was observed on several occasions photographing the state attorney general and others who qualify for security protection as targets of terrorists. When Knapp's flat was searched by police, photos were found that showed State Attorney General Rebmann leaving his office—right opposite Knapp's flat—surrounded by security. Yet Knapp succeeded in persuading the authorities that he took these photos out of "private interest," and the case was dismissed.

The Wiesbaden judge ruled that there is no proof that Kurz has anything to do with the "legal" RAF network, nor did he ever do any spying on security measures, not to speak of Knapp, who never did any photo dossier. He handed down a harsh judgment against *SUM's* responsible editor, who appealed the decision at once.

Some political observers think there was possible heavy Soviet/East German input. Lawyer Hans Heinz Heldmann and his colleagues belong to networks associated with the International Association of Democratic Lawyers—described by the West German state security agency as a "Soviet-directed organization." A March 1982 conference of "Lawyers Against the War Danger in Europe" featured former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark as a prominent speaker together with numerous Soviet and East German representatives. Clark did not forego this opportunity to boast about the fact that in 1975 he tried to help defend the Baader-Meinhof gang.