

Verden Public Prosecutor's Office The Senior Public Prosecutor - Press Office -

Verden (Aller), 09/02/2024

Verden public prosecutor's office and Lower Saxony Land Criminal Police Office are asking members of the public for their assistance

Since 2015, the wanted persons **Ernst-Volker STAUB** (born on 30/10/1954), **Daniela Marie Luise KLETTE** (born on 05/11/1958) and **Burkhard GARWEG** (born on 01/09/1968) have been under investigation by the aforementioned public prosecutor's office for attempted murder and various (attempted and completed) aggravated robberies which were committed in Bochum-Wattenscheid (27/12/2006), in Essen (13/12/2015), Wolfsburg (28/12/2015), Cremlingen (25/06/2016) and Stuhr (06/06/2015), among other places, in the period from 1999 until 2016. Verden Local Court has issued arrest warrants ordering the wanted persons' pre-trial detention.

Starting in 2015, the Land Criminal Police Office has been actively searching for the wanted persons as specially targeted fugitives who are considered to belong to the "Dritte Generation der Rote Armee Fraktion" (RAF) ["Third Generation of the Red Army Faction"] and who have been living underground since the 90s. RAF itself was dissolved in 1998.

The public prosecutor's office assumes that the robberies are no longer politically motivated but that the wanted persons earn their living by committing these crimes, which is why further robberies appear to be possible.

It is still not clear where the wanted persons are staying, whether they are in Germany or abroad.

In 2020, the persons charged with the a/m crimes were put on Europe's Most Wanted list.

Investigations conducted over the past months (in particular extensive search measures and interviews) have produced further investigative leads, which is why the police and public prosecutor's office once more ask members of the public for their assistance.

There is evidence to show that one of the wanted persons still keeps close contact with Germany.

The wanted persons are believed to have stayed and lived in Germany at least in the period when the crimes were committed, namely from 1999 until 2016. It is the belief

of the public prosecutor's office and the police that the wanted persons were given assistance and help by third persons in this period and afterwards, too.

On 14/02/2024, 20:15, the television programme "Aktenzeichen xy- ungelöst" will address the series of robberies in a film once more. At the same time the TV programme will focus on the serious impact the crimes had on the victims.

The investigating authorities ask members of the public to come forward with any information they have in response to the questions listed below:

-Where did the wanted persons stay in the period from 1999 until 2016? Where are they now?

-Who is/was in touch with the wanted persons or one of them?

-Who knows persons who are supporting or supported the wanted persons or know where they are staying but do not contact police because they are frightened?

-Who has been aware of activities carried out in preparation of a crime but has not contacted police so far?

-Are there persons in your surroundings/social environment who resemble the wanted persons and whose behaviour is rather unusual?

-Who has pictures / film recordings showing the wanted persons?

Furthermore, **any** other information on the wanted persons is of interest to us, such as:

-Who were close friends of the wanted persons in the 80s/ 90s?

-With whom did they have contact (for example Rote Hilfe - Red Help, Autonome Szene - Autonomous Scene, Komitee gegen Folter - Comittee against Torture - or other political organisations) in Germany or abroad?

-What is/was the nature of the relationship the wanted persons have/had with their own families?

-What was the nature of the relationship among the wanted persons?

-Do the wanted persons use drugs, are they known to have illnesses?

-Where were they given medical treatment, especially dental treatment?

-Did/do they have mental health problems?

-What interests and preferences do the wanted persons have?

If you have any useful information, please call Lower Saxony Land Criminal Police Office (LKA Niedersachsen) on telephone number **+49-511-9873-7400**. Alternatively information can also be provided via e-mail to <u>vita@lka.polizei.niedersachsen</u>.

The investigating authorities also specifically ask the wanted persons' families, their friends and former RAF supporters to come forward with any information.

Therefore, we wish to point out the following:

Generally, information can also be provided confidentially in a particular case.

Germany's investigating authorities additionally have arranged for the use of the BKMS® system by members of the public to get in touch with the investigating authorities safely and securely and anonymously tip them off.

Please note that the BKMS® system is not a system run by the police. It has been successfully used for many years to provide anonymous information about corruption in the private sector.

The system is user-friendly and easy to use. It creates an anonymous space for members of the public to give information irrespective of who they are. If you wish, you can use the "Postkasten" (mailbox) button to enter into dialogue with the public prosecutor's office and the police and in this way receive a reply. You may ask questions and receive answers.

Your identity is absolutely safe; it is neither needed nor important for using the system. The system is technically designed to automatically anonymise the tips and information provided as well as the dialogues so there is no way of tracing data back.

The wanted persons, too, may use this secure way to contact the public prosecutor's office and discuss conditions of turning themselves in or the possibility of turning state's evidence by admitting guilt and testifying as a witness for the state ('Kronzeugenregelung').

A reward of at least **€150,000** is offered by various German offices and authorities for any information leading to the apprehension of the wanted persons.

Legal notice: The reward will be granted and allocated without the possibility of recourse to legal action. Only private individuals who are not involved in the crime are entitled to the reward. Office holders whose professional duties involve the investigation and prosecution of criminal acts are not entitled to it.

Do not approach the wanted persons yourself! The wanted persons are armed!

As part of search measures targeting the trio, pictures and images were secured in 2016 which show Ernst Volker STAUB and Burkhard GARWEG and can be viewed any time via the link <u>www.lka.polizei-nds.de/fahndung/personen/bekannte_straftaeter/</u>. There you will also find additional information on ongoing search measures and the link to BKMS.

Contact:

Koray Freudenberg Pressesprecher (Press officer) Staatsanwaltschaft Verden (Verden public prosecutor's office) Der Leitende Oberstaatsanwalt (The Senior Public Prosecutor) - Pressestelle – (Press Office) Am Allerufer 8 27283 Verden (Aller)

Telephone: +49-4231-9823-410 Fax: +49-4231-9823-490