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Press Release - August 20, 2016

Manipulative Fire Test

Technical Measurements and Time Line Control while Ignoring the Facts of the Case

Dr. Kurt Zollinger from Zurich, Switzerland, hired by the Dessau-Rosslau prosecutors' office, announced that they wanted to "start again at point zero". This statement is in obvious contradiction to the assertions of State Prosecutor Olaf Braun, who said, he wanted to include the co-plaintiff, and other competent experts familiar with the case of Oury Jalloh, in the re-enactment of the fire (fire test) which burned Oury Jalloh to death in Cell No 5. Dessau Police Station, and to make information about the test plans available to the experts hired by the Jalloh family.

While watching the preparation of the test set-up, it became obvious why the State Prosecutor, experts and technical manager of the fire test, were so vehemently opposed to announcing the test parameters ahead of time. The test set-up varied drastically in important respects, from the "few" facts which were actually documented about Oury Jalloh's fire-death on January 7, 2005:

- The cell was heated so much that on-lookers started to sweat, after requests, the "room temperature" was set at 23° C [73.4° F] and the hot air heater was removed.
- The walls of the replica [of Cell No. 5] were not tiled. The flimsy replica of Cell No. 5, was constructed on the sixth floor of an abandoned GDR management yard at the southern exit road from the City of Schmiedeberg. The walls of the replica were made of some sort of plasterboard covered with imitation tiles about 1 meter high off the ground. On top of that, appear to be plasterboard (gypsum) walls and ceiling and a concrete floor with traces of soot from previous fire tests - not even the platform was tiled. But, there was an attached scale built-in under the podium that was supposed to help determine the weight loss of the "fire material".
- The mattress much smaller than the 2005 mattress (which was no longer available). There was considerable space between the mattress and the wall, which didn't even reach to the outer edge of the podium. According to photos of the original fire scene and the witness testimony, the original mattress Oury Jalloh was chained to, was much larger.
 - + a hole in the bottom of the mattress, was supposedly explained by the fact that a sample of the foam mattress was removed for analytical measurements.
 - + an extensive section on the top of the mattress near the right handcuff was cut open for the fire test, so the firemen could easily ignite the fire at the time "zero".
- The dummy was supposedly made out of some kind of cement, but it is completely wrapped in aluminum foil, which inhibited inspection. The heat-conducting properties of aluminum did not matter, they said ...
 - ... It was explained that the dummy was supposed to simulate the contact pressure of Oury Jalloh's body. It had a torso section with head and 2 long narrow imitation legs. Around the pelvis, the natural human anatomy of the victim was replaced with "inflammable" that is, inflated rock wool [used for building insulation]... after igniting the fire, the lack of pressure (which a real human body would have made on the mattress) allowed the fire to move right side of the mattress to the left, thus resulting in severe fire damage to the abdominal area of the dummy.
- Last but not least, strips of pigskin were attached to the dummy. This was used "for observing the effects of fire on the skin of the dummy, by attaching subcutaneous fatty tissue around on the back trunk and legs of the dummy. This is viewed as manipulation in expert circles, particularly because of the burning characteristics of melted fat ...

“If there was a cigarette lighter or not, makes no difference here!”

“Impartial” that’s what the District Attorney said was the intention the fire test which was performed on August 18, 2016, in the presence of numerous media representatives, more than eleven years after the unexplained burning to death of Oury Jalloh in a Dessau police cell.

For the prosecution, it was *never* about the central question of the long un-explained *cause* of the fire. One is supposed to consciously start at “point zero” but the whole set-up of the test was organized to support the *old hypothesis* that has since been *refuted by experts*: despite intensive body search, Oury Jalloh was supposedly able to smuggle a lighter into the cell, and, while shackled hands and feet, *he set fire* to a fire-resistant mattress.

Even before the fire test, questions were raised about the usefulness of this public "Fire Show" since two analyzes of a charred residue of the cigarette lighter (which didn’t appear until three days after the Oury Jalloh burned to death), made *absolutely clear* that this so-called *"evidence" could not have come from the ashes of the fire in Cell No. 5*. The lighter had none of Oury Jalloh’s DNA, nor were there traces of the mattress or Oury Jalloh’s clothing to be found on the lighter. But, there were numerous other fibers and even animal hair melted into the plastic of the cigarette lighter which were/was partially not even affected by fire at all.

Up to now the prosecution has not even commented on this, let alone seriously tried to solve this contradiction.

Fire test engineer, Thorsten Prein, was forced to answer intensive questioning by members of the press and independent experts who had witnessed the fire test. They wanted to know why the questions about the cigarette lighter did not play any role in the fire test. Prein said: *“... It is not the objective of this task to, somehow, determine if Mr. Jalloh had a cigarette lighter or if it came from someone else – we can’t do that. At this point in the investigation that we have been commissioned to carry out, it is impossible.”*

See <https://youtu.be/IPMXN8dQ13M> (German)

The previous Fire Expert, Mr. Steinbach, of the Fire Department of Sachsen-Anhalt, had already testified before the Magdeburg District Court that “he would have done far more tests,” but the formulation of the question didn’t allow it.

So, ask the wrong question and you get the no answers -- and this sort of expensive and time consuming test was useless from the beginning to end.

Initiative in Remembrance of Oury Jalloh

NO LIGHTER – NO SELF-IMMOLATION – NO SUICIDE

!!! OURY JALLOH – THAT WAS MURDER !!!

!!! CLARIFICATION instead of COVER-UP!!!

AGAINST

#BURNING #COVERING-UP #SECRETS #IMPEDING #MOCKING #REFUSING