

PRESS RELEASE

Angela Merkel indicted

The Tribunal 'Resolving the NSU-complex' presented it's indictment on Saturday evening in Cologne.

Cologne, May 20th 2017 – Among the indicted are networks of militant neo-Nazis and intelligence agents they are enmeshed with, renown politicians, high-ranking members of authorities as well as officers and journalists are being charged by the Tribunal.

Guided by nine categories the Tribunal names just short of 90 individuals who are responsible for:

- the climate of impunity for neo-Nazis in the 1990's, into which the National-Socialist-Underground (NSU) was born;
- the planning, execution and support of NSU murders and attacks;
- the indirect promotion of the NSU by the Office for the Protection of the Institution;
- the state's denial of neo-Nazi terror structures over several decades;
- the one-sided investigations of the police against victims;
- stigmatisation of those affected and hurt by the media;
- the obstruction of resolving the crimes completely and destruction of evidence;
- the obstruction of comprehensive reappraisal according to criminal law by the Federal Persecutor;
- denial of justice.

The work of those indicted is why the NSU was able to walk abroad for ten years and why the blame could be shifted onto the victims. Angela Merkel, for instance, propagated the concept of accepting youth work as Federal Minister for Women and Youth in the early 1990's, which led to a majority of youth clubs in the East of Germany knowingly becoming part of the infrastructure surrounding militant neo-Nazis. Winzerclub, where Beate Zschäpe, Ralf Wohlleben, Uwe Böhnhardt and Uwe Mundlos met and started organising, is one of them.

Ralf Marschner is another person who stands indicted. He is a Nazi prepared to commit violence and works as informant for the Office for the Protection of the Constitution. He also ran a construction company in Zwickau which operated construction sites in direct vicinity of some of the crime scenes. Members of the NSU who had gone underground found employment here.

Another indicted individual is the Head of the Department for Right-Wing Extremism of the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, known under the pseudonym Lothar Lingen. He ordered all files to do with the entourage of the NSU to be shred.

Journalists stand indicted, among them Gisela Friedrichs who accompanied the NSU-trial at the Higher Regional Court in Munich for the magazine SPIEGEL. She routinely slandered victims who were fighting for the resolving of the crimes, and questioned their rights as ancillary suitors.

The Tribunal names these and many further actors within the NSU-complex in the specially printed brochure 'We Indict!', which will be distributed to the audience of the Schauspiel Cologne at 10.30pm Saturday night.

The charge is not to be strictly understood as a legal paper, even though some of its content could well be followed up by criminal proceedings. First and foremost the Tribunal wants to strengthen the debate on living together in a non-racist, supportive society. "That is why we will not pass judgement, but hand our indictment to society at large", says Tim Klodzko from the action alliance 'NSU-Komplex auflösen' (Resolving the NSU-complex), which initiated the Tribunal. "Everyone has the possibility and is required to draw their own conclusions from our well researched material."

The indictment will take place at 8pm on Saturday night in Depot 1 and 2 of the Schauspiel Cologne. The text itself will be published on the Tribunal's website www.nsu-tribunal.de at 10.30pm.

The Tribunal 'Resolving the NSU-complex' is taking place from May 17th-21st in the Depot of the Schauspiel Cologne. Together with many people and initiatives standing in solidarity, those affected and hurt will raise their voices, portray their experiences and indict.

Press contact

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Further infos: www.nsu-tribunal.de/newsroom

Accreditation and Information during the Tribunal:

Media centre in Café Offenbach (1st Floor), beside the Depot of the Schauspiel Cologne