

WEST BERLIN 'BORDER PROVACATEUR' SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS

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[ADN report: "West Berlin Border Provacateur Sentenced; Grave Attacks on the GDR State Border Organized by the Springer Press"]

[Text] Berlin (ADN)--On 18 April the Berlin city court sentenced West Berlin resident Andreas Niederhausen to 15 years detention in accordance with Sections 102 and 106 of the Penal Code for serious crimes against the GDR. Together with other criminal elements Niederhausen, who has had several previous convictions for criminal offenses, repeatedly committed forcible attempts against the GDR state border from West Berlin territory. Through these attempts the life and health of GDR border troops were brutally endangered, and border safety installations were deliberately destroyed.

At the main trial it was again proved that the journalist Lutz-Peter Naumann, who works for the Springer publishing house and who is known as an accomplice of the secret service controlled Mierendorff gang, has been acting as inspirer and organizer of terrorist attempts against the GDR. Together with Niederhausen and other criminals, Naumann repeatedly organized meetings at his apartment in West Berlin where he outlined plans and gave out instructions for future and even more effective attempts against the GDR state border. Accomplices in the crimes were West Berliners Uwe Rathmann, Thomas Steinberger, Olaf Oehms, Detlep Grund, Hartmut Zack and Ingo Schramm. In the months July-August 1979 Niederhausen attacked members of the GDR border troops in various state border sectors, threatening to murder them, and throwing stones and Molotov cocktails.

On 28 August 1979, together with other provocateurs, he committed a serious attempt against the GDR state border by hurling a Molotov cocktail at members of the GDR security forces near the Oberbaum Bruecke GDR border checkpoint in the GDR capital, Berlin.

A member of the GDR border troops suffered injuries and considerable damage was caused by the explosion. At the trial, moreover, it was revealed that the provocateurs were observed during their criminal acts by members of the West Berlin Police without being hindered in their dangerous activities.