

German cop appears on cannibalism charges

DRESDEN, GERMANY: The trial of a German police officer accused of murdering a willing victim to satisfy his cannibalism fetichists started in Dresden on 22 August.



The Dresden court where a former German policeman, Detlef Guenzel, is being tried for killing and dismembering a 'willing victim'. Image [Borgelt](#)

In a macabre case that captured global attention, prosecutors say the 56-year-old defendant, Detlef Guenzel, killed the man at his home last November, then cut his body into small pieces and buried them in his garden.

The dead man, 59-year-old Polish-born Wojciech Stempniewicz, had met Guenzel the month before on a website where users share slaughter and cannibalism fantasies.

A click on a dialogue box allows participants to say if they would like to take their experiences beyond the realm of the imagination.

The indictment against Guenzel cites "satisfaction of sexual lust" as a motive for the killing but there is no evidence that the suspect ate any part of the victim.

"He wanted to kill the man and cut him to pieces," Lorenz Haase from the prosecutor's office spoke said.

Guenzel is a three-decade veteran of the police force, the father of an adult daughter, and had been married to his male partner in a civil union for a decade at the time of the killing.

His partner, neighbours and colleagues have told investigators they were shocked to learn of his double life.

Guenzel could face 15 years in prison if convicted on charges of murder and "disturbing the peace of the dead" by the Dresden Regional Court.

His defence team says Guenzel has retracted part of an initial confession in which he said he killed Stempniewicz with a knife stabbed into his throat.

Graphic video footage is evidence

A graphic 50-minute video showing the dismemberment is to be presented during the trial, which is scheduled to last at least until November and hear evidence from about 20 witnesses including Guenzel's now estranged life partner.

One investigator called the images "pure horror".

But Guenzel's defence attorney Endrik Wilhelm says the recording proves that the dead man committed suicide by hanging himself.

A pathology report indicates he died from asphyxiation.

The men came across each other in October 2013 in an Internet chatroom for cannibalism fetichists billed as "the #1 site for exotic meat" and boasting more than 3,000 registered members.

Stempniewicz, a business consultant living in the northern city of Hanover, and Guenzel had extensive contact via email,



A lengthy jail term is likely to be handed down to Detlef Guenzel who dismembered a man who agreed to be killed. Image: [Sheffield](#)

text message and telephone before finally arranging to meet on the fatal date of 4 November.

Guenzel picked him up at Dresden's main railway station and drove him back to his house in the mountain town of Hartmannsdorf-Reichenau, which he ran as a bed and breakfast.

Met via website specialising in fetishes

A video Guenzel made a few hours later reportedly shows a man in boxer shorts dismembering the naked body of a man suspended from a hook whose mouth was taped shut, his hands bound behind his back.

At one point, the man with the knife stops to listen for a heartbeat before continuing to butcher him.

Wilhelm says that Guenzel is haunted by the events of that afternoon.

"In the last scene of the video, he says something like 'I cannot believe what just happened,'" adding that while Guenzel harboured extreme fantasies, he couldn't kill someone.

Guenzel pointed investigators to the sites where he buried the remains. The genitals, however, are still missing, according to local media.

The case has revived memories of German cannibal Armin Meiwes who admitted to killing, mutilating and eating the flesh of a lover in 2001 whom he had met on the Internet via an advertisement looking for a "slaughter victim".

He was sentenced to life imprisonment in 2006.

The case exposed a murky underworld of violent fetish websites in which volunteers find partners to share dismemberment and cannibalism fantasies and, in extremely rare cases, act them out in real life.

Source: AFP via I-Net Bridge

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