

AKTION AUFSCHREI – STOPPT DEN WAFFENHANDEL

Pressrelease

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District court in Kiel convicts managers of arms manufacturer Sig Sauer for illegal arms exports to Colombia Positive confiscation of company profits – Suspended sentences too mild

The German Campaign to Stop the Arms Trade "Aktion Aufschrei – Stoppt den Waffenhandel!" welcomes the high sum that will be confiscated from Sig Sauer. However, the suspended sentences that were granted in a plea agreement, taste more than foul. The campaign believes a general export embargo on small arms is overdue.

Today, the District Court in Kiel has sentenced managers of the arms manufacturer Sig Sauer for the illegal export of arms to Colombia. The suspended sentences ranged between 10 and 18 months, with probation charges between 60,000 and 600,000 Euros. The company group must pay 11 million Euros.

This significant trial against further prominent representatives of the arms industry was initiated by a criminal complaint filed by the „Aktion Aufschrei – Stoppt den Waffenhandel“. "This verdict is another important mile stone towards criminal accountability for the greed-driven export of small arms, these weapons of mass destruction, into war zones," said Rothbauer.

After the Heckler & Koch trial, this verdict is another victory for the Campaign to Stop the Arms trade and the peace movement. Three top Sig Sauer top managers could be convicted of illegally trading weapons. However, the plea deal under which the district attorney agreed to suspended sentences for the perpetrators is a slap in the face of countless victims in South America," says Jürgen Grässlin, who filed the criminal complaint for the Campaign to Stop the Arms Trade in 2014.

A dossier commissioned by terre des hommes, a sponsor of the "Aktion Aufschrei – Stoppt den Waffenhandel!" shows that Sig Sauer guns such as the SP2022 are widely disseminated in Columbia. They have been sold illegally and have ended up in the hands of illegal armed groups. Paramilitary and guerilla groups, drug cartels, criminals and army personel have used them for crimes involving minors.

„As in the trial against Heckler & Koch I welcome the high sum of more than 11million Euros, which is to be confiscated from Sig Sauer. This should serve as a warning to other arms companies in Germany that illegal exports to regions of conflict have consequences. However, the suspended sentences that have been granted under the plea agreement leave us with a foul aftertaste," commented Christine Hoffmann, secretary general of pax Christi and spokesperson of the "Aktion Aufschrei – Stoppt den Waffenhandel!".

Kommentiert [RR1]: Im Deutschen steht da „bei denen auch Minderjährige eingesetzt wurden.“ Du meinst sie waren an den verbrechen beteiligt oder Opfer der Verbrechen?

“Both the Heckler & Koch case as well as the trial against Sig Sauer officials show that the end-use of small arms cannot be controlled. The government must act on the conclusions from these cases,” adds Charlotte Kehne, advisor on armsexport control for “Ohne Rüstung Leben” and spokesperson for the “Aktion Aufschrei – Stoppt den Waffenhandel!”. “An export prohibition for small and light weapons as well as ammunition is overdue.”

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Organisations supporting the campaign: Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden e.V. (AGDF) • aktion hoffnung Rottenburg-Stuttgart e.V. • Bischöfliches Hilfswerk MISEREOR • Brot für die Welt • Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend (BDKJ) • Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft – Vereinigte KriegsdienstgegnerInnen (DFG-VK) • Deutsche Sektion der Internationalen Ärzte für die Verhütung des Atomkrieges e. V. (IPPNW) Deutschland • NaturFreunde Deutschlands • Internationale katholische Friedensbewegung pax christi - Deutsche Sektion • JuristInnen gegen atomare, biologische und chemische Waffen (IALANA) Deutsche Sektion • Ohne Rüstung Leben (ORL) • Provinzleitung der Deutschen Franziskaner und Kommission Gerechtigkeit – Frieden – Bewahrung der Schöpfung • RüstungsInformationsBüro (RIB e.V.) • terre des hommes – Hilfe für Kinder in Not • Werkstatt für Gewaltfreie Aktion, Baden (WfG)

Many more organisations and peace initiatives work with the campaign. For more information c.f. www.aufschrei-waffenhandel.de