

Presseberichte – Press Reports

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Germany seeks suspect's extradition

The China Post staff and agencies

Germany is seeking the extradition of the chief suspect in the famous 1981 "wooden box" kidnapping, who is serving time in Taiwan for drug trafficking, a newspaper said yesterday.

In the first case of judicial assistance between Taiwan and Germany, Taiwan has agreed to assist Germany in investigating Rxxxx., the United Daily News (UDN) reported.

In 1981, an 11-year-old girl in Augsburg, Bavaria, was kidnapped by two men on her way home from school. The kidnapers demanded 70 million German marks in

ransom from the family.

The kidnapers kept the girl in a wooden box buried underground. The box had a ventilation hole and there was food and water inside, but the girl died from suffocation a few days later after her family did not pay the ransom and the ventilation hole was covered up.

Police named Rxxxx., 47, a suspect as he was seen loitering near the scene of the crime, but Rxxxx. suddenly vanished. Police arrested Rxxxx.'s accomplice.

Rxxxx. was caught with 2.1 kilograms of heroin in 2002 when he flew into Taipei from Bangkok.

He received a life sentence last year.

German police recently notified Taiwan that Rxxxx. is wanted in Germany for the 1981 kidnapping and murder. Authorities are seeking his extradition to face trial in Germany.

Taiwan police have collected Rxxxx's DNA sample and handed it over to German authorities via Germany's trade office in Taipei.

If the DNA comparison confirms Rxxxx's link to the 1981 murder, German police will file charges against Rxxxx and move forward with his extradition.

the paper said.

Bavarian police suspect Rxxxx. kidnapped the wrong girl, as the victim's family was poor and could not afford the ransom, while another girl in the neighborhood had rich parents.

Cooperation between Taiwan and Germany was hampered by a lack of diplomatic ties, a Ministry of Justice official said.

When asked about the UDN report, MOJ Department of Prosecutorial Affairs director Tsai Chin-hsiang said Taipei hoped to sign an agreement with Germany and other countries on criminal investigation and judicial assis-

tance.

Tsai said that Germany had asked his ministry to help probe the case via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs last September.

However, as Taiwan and Germany had not signed an agreement on judicial assistance, the ministry requested that Germany give a statement and pledge for future reciprocal assistance before turning the case to the Supreme Prosecutor's Office.

The request for judicial assistance was stalled because the two countries had not signed an agree-

ment, he said.

He said that Taiwan and the United States have signed such an agreement, which has helped to facilitate judicial investigations.

Tsai also pointed out Germany had requested further judicial assistance for a fraud case.

The Supreme Prosecutor Office questioned Rxxxx. in June under the witness of diplomatic personnel from both countries.

Media reports said that Rxxxx. can only ask for a parole after serving 20 years in Taiwan and that if a parole is granted, he will be expelled from the country.

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Germany seeks extradition of kidnap-murder suspect

WANTED: A man serving time in Taiwan for trafficking heroin is suspected of murdering an 11-year-old girl in 1981 in Germany, in an apparent bungled kidnapping

By Rich Chang

STAFF REPORTER , WITH DPA, TAIPEI

Tuesday, Jul 04, 2006, Page 1

Germany is seeking the extradition of the chief suspect in a 1981 kidnapping who is serving time in Taiwan for drug trafficking.

In the first case of judicial assistance between Taiwan and Germany, Taiwan has agreed to assist Germany in investigating Rxxx., a kidnap and murder suspect who has been in prison after being caught transporting heroin into the country in 2002.

"Germany agrees both countries could enhance judicial cooperation as the Ministry of Justice agreed to assist the country to probe the criminal case, but the ministry hopes both countries can also sign a mutual judicial assistance agreement through this opportunity for cooperation," said Tsai Ching-hsiang (è◆◆清祥), director of the ministry's Department of Prosecutorial Affairs, at a press conference yesterday.

In 1981, an 11-year-old girl was kidnapped by two men on her way home from school in Augsburg, Bavaria. The kidnapers demanded 2 million German marks (US\$1.3 million) in ransom from the family.

The kidnapers kept the girl in a wooden box buried underground. The box had a ventilation hole and there was food and water inside, but the girl died from suffocation a few days later after her family did not pay the ransom and the ventilation hole was covered up.

Police named Rxxxx., 47, as a suspect after he was seen loitering near the scene of the crime, but he suddenly vanished. Police arrested Rxxxx.'s accomplice.

Tsai said that last year, German authorities had learned that Rxxxx. was serving time in a Taiwanese prison, and requested judicial cooperation through its diplomats stationed here.

Tsai said that on June 28 Rxxxx. was taken to the Taiwan High Court's Prosecutors Office where a DNA test was administered. The test was witnessed by Taiwanese and German diplomats.

A sample of Rxxxx.'s saliva was taken and placed in a sealed in a container, which German diplomats then delivered to Germany, the official added.

He said German authorities had originally asked the ministry to allow German prosecutors and police to question Rxxxx. in Taiwan, but because the two countries have no judicial cooperation agreement and because it involved issues of judicial sovereignty, the German authorities agreed to conduct the DNA test first.

Rxxxx. entered Taiwan from Thailand in 2002 December, arriving by plane and staying in a hotel in Taipei. Police later raided his room, seized more than 2.1kg of heroin and arrested him.

Last year Rxxxx. was given a final sentence of life imprisonment for bringing heroin into the country.

Rxxxx. must serve at least 20 years before he can request parole.

Tsai said that Germany may request Rxxxx.'s deportation once he is granted parole.

The Chinese-language daily *United Daily News* yesterday reported that Taiwanese prosecutors had summoned Rxxxx. for questioning on behalf of German investigators, and Rxxxx. had denied committing the murder.

Rxxxx. told the prosecutors he would cooperate with German prosecutors only after they showed him more evidence, the paper said.

Taiwan signed a judicial mutual assistance agreement with the US in March 2002, the only such agreement the nation has with a country that is not a diplomatic ally.

Bavarian police suspect that Rxxxx. kidnapped the wrong girl, as the victim's family was poor and could not afford the ransom, while another girl in the neighborhood had rich parents.