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## Court decision throws shadows on right-wing extremists

*Peter Stäuber, London / 11 June 2015* – The German state ignores right-wing phenomena. That was proven by the Zwickau terrorist cell – and now by the story with LaRouche.

For the British examining magistrate there was no doubt: the theory that the German authorities have been maintaining for twelve years is wrong. After a three-day court investigation in London, Andrew Walker judged on 21 May that the death of *Jeremiah Duggan* was not a suicide.

Early on the morning of 27 March 2003, the 22-year old Jewish Briton lay dead on a motorway in Wiesbaden.



Before this, he took part in an event held by the LaRouche organisation, a right-wing political sect with branches in a number of countries. The German police quickly committed themselves to the theory that Duggan must have intentionally jumped in front of the cars. The investigations were soon discontinued; many witnesses were interviewed only superficially, and others not at all.

In his decision, Andrew Walker categorically repudiated the suicide theory. Duggan was killed by a collision with two cars, but he did not intentionally throw himself in front of the cars as the police in Wiesbaden claim. Possibly he fled from members of the LaRouche organisation in a state of desperation; in addition, he sustained unexplained injuries that hint at a dispute before his death.

### **Victim's mother remained tenacious – successfully**

That the judicial enquiry took place at all is due solely to the tenaciousness of Jeremiah's parents, Erica and Hugo Duggan. From the onset, they considered suicide out of the question. Erica urged the police and the public prosecutor's office in Hesse to investigate the milieu around the LaRouche organisation, but they did not seem to be interested in this at all.

So Erica Duggan began gathering evidence herself: she collected information, tracked down witnesses, sought support from politicians, anti-racism organisations and experts in sects. In December 2012 the Higher Regional Court Frankfurt judged that there were no indications for the hypothesis of suicide, and instructed the public prosecutor's office to take up investigations – such an enforced investigation is extremely rare in the German legal system.

### **Casts a poor light on the Wiesbaden authorities**

The British judge Andrew Walker has now confirmed Erica Duggan's doubts. His judgement not only casts an extremely unfavourable light on the work of the authorities in Wiesbaden, but also indicates the dangers of the right-wing political sect, which is hardly known in Germany. A look at the history of the strange LaRouche organisation and its many branches shows how a right-wing political group can succeed in concealing their true identity – and how they can even make themselves useful to western intelligence services.

The scatterbrain and right-wing conspiracy theorist Lyndon LaRouche, born in New Hampshire in 1922, built up an organisation that comprises numerous organisations, parties and publications in various countries, including their own news service, the Executive Intelligence Review (EIR). He at first described himself as a Trotskyist, but already in the early 1970s he swung sharply to the right. He surrounded himself with individuals who were completely devoted to him, underpinned his ideology with absurd conspiracy theories (main enemy: Queen Elizabeth II, whom he suspects of, among other things, drug dealing), thus forming a movement rather like a cult. According to the LaRouche expert Dennis King, who has been observing the organisation for decades, he saw his acolytes as the vanguard of an elite who in the long run would take over power. He submitted them to so-called ego-stripping, a kind of de-personalising through psychological terror, as practiced by sects.(1)

In Germany the LaRouche organisation first appeared under the name *European Workers' Party* (EAP), then as *Patriots for Germany*, and since the early 1990s as Civil Rights Movement Solidarity (BüSo). The chairman of all these organisations was and is the German *Helga Zepp-LaRouche*,



who has been married to the American party founder since 1977. The German Federal Agency for Civic Education writes about the BüSo that individual statements can be attributed to the left-wing spectrum, that, however, “*the concrete manifestation is conceived more using right-wing ideologies*”. The expert in right-wing extremism *Matthew Feldman*, professor at the Teesside University in Great Britain, goes even further: the BüSo and the LaRouchians may behave in a left-wing manner rhetorically, but they should be classed at the extreme right – he calls the party *post-Fascist*.

In his view LaRouche does represent left-wing ideas to some extent – such as the campaign against the Iraq War, with which Jeremiah Duggan sympathised in 2003, or anti-TTIP activism these days. “But equally he propagates a veiled anti-Semitism and demonises his enemies in a bizarre manner,” Feldman says. He assumes that Duggan, due to his pacifist convictions, was persuaded to take part in the conference in the Schiller Institute, but that he discovered the true ideology of the organisation there. “*LaRouche’s rhetoric is race-baiting and infused with abstruse conspiracy theories and politics that perceives the Last Judgment everywhere*”, Professor Feldman says. One example: In an article by Helga Zepp-LaRouche dated 29 May, one can read that the impending collapse of the global finance system “is the key dynamic behind the growing risk of world war, which the international financial oligarchy is behind.”

This apocalyptic mood, says Feldman, is necessary for a “renaissance” – fascism experts speak of palingenesis – which will be led by the elite of the cultists. “*Given these characteristics, the overwhelming majority of governments, academics and non-profit organisations who have occupied themselves with this movement see the LaRouche organisation as part of revolutionary right-wing extremism*”, says Feldman.

After the Second World War, the right-wing movements rid themselves of the established and obvious characteristics of fascism – the swastika, anti-Semitic rhetoric, the cult around the Führer – and tried to portray themselves towards the outside world as normal parties. Only insiders

understand what is meant with certain allusions. Thus, for instance, the reference to the “international financial elite”, fits into anti-Semitic conspiracy theories about the power of Jewish bankers. Feldman calls this “dog-whistle politics”: just as human beings cannot hear dog whistles, the right-wing extremists send political signals that average citizens consider innocuous but that convey a different message to members.

*Yves Messer*, member of LaRouche in France from 1983 to 1994, noticed only gradually that he had landed in a right-wing organisation. “When I became a member, the LaRouche organisation was very anti-Communist, which suited me very well,” Messer says, who now lives as an artist in Great Britain and who has become a forthright critic of LaRouche. “*Towards the outside world it seemed to be concentrating on human rights, but in reality it follows a clearly right-wing programme. I needed years until I noticed I was a member in a right-wing cult.*”

### **Fundamental apocalyptic mood**

The apocalyptic mood that LaRouche is constantly disseminating, he goes on, is an important means of control with which adherents are intended to be intimidated and prevented from leaving the organisation. “According to LaRouche it is always just before midnight: when he warns about a thermonuclear Third World War, his adherents believe him.” The propaganda within the organisation forces an ideology down the throats of the LaRouchians that they can escape only with difficulty. That’s why Messer calls the movement more a cult than a political organisation: “Emotional control is exerted. If you want to leave LaRouche, you’re considered a traitor to humanity.”

Elitist thinking plays an important role here: the LaRouchians are the only ones in possession of the truth, and all outsiders are perceived as enemies, or as people who have undergone brainwashing. He considers it possible that the LaRouche members in Wiesbaden may have seen Jeremiah Duggan as such an enemy, as he is supposed to have struggled against the indoctrination during the conference and in discussion with the leaders.

What is astonishing is that LaRouche managed, despite the dark character of his organisation, to become a prominent political figure in the 1980s – he campaigned for president eight times. In addition, he succeeded during Ronald Reagan’s presidency in obtaining access to various government authorities. The employees of his information service produced detailed reports, namely on the basis of hundreds of interviews with influential politicians, telephone conversations with informants that lasted hours, and the meticulous study of the international press.

The work of the conscientious LaRouche spies was so thorough that even secret services in the US and Europe were impressed. The conspiracy theorist offered them his services: according to research by the Washington Post, at the beginning of the 1980s LaRouche met several times with high-ranking representatives of the “National Security Council” and other government authorities who called his analyses and reports “useful”. The deputy director of the CIA also reported about a visit from LaRouche and his German wife Frau Helga when they returned from Europe. They had provided him with interesting information on the West German Greens.

Paul-Albert Scherer, head of the Military Counterintelligence Service (MAD) from 1972-77, who became a personal friend of LaRouche, wrote in 1987 that LaRouche’s news service gathered reliable and valuable information, and that experts were bowled over about LaRouche’s confidential contacts and his access to credible information about terrorism and developments in the Eastern bloc.

According to Dennis King, the news centre in Wiesbaden was particularly important in the LaRouchians’ international information network. Here was also the headquarters of the EAP and

the Schiller Institute, founded in 1984, also part of the LaRouche network. The EAP was observed in the early years by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV), but in 1978 the authority stopped their surveillance activities – at the time when the LaRouche organisations gave up their previously left-wing rhetoric and clearly settled on the right-hand side of the political spectrum.

As late as 1976, the BfV pointed out the agitation of the EAP, in the course of which they “denigrated leading democratic representatives of the Federal Republic”. Der Spiegel spoke in 1984 to the then president of the BfV Heribert Hellenbroich (1937-2014) about ceasing the surveillance; he answered in turn that the group was lacking in the “ultra-nationalism” typical of right-wing extremist groups. It is interesting that the second deputy chairman of the EAP and the managing director of the news agency EIR was none other than Heribert’s younger brother, Anno Hellenbroich.

This personal connection was also addressed in 1985 by the Green faction in the Bundestag. In their minor interpellation to the federal government, the authors also pointed out the “unusually good state of information” of the EAP, which “also includes detailed knowledge of unpublished facts”, and asked whether this could be ascribed to the contacts the EAP had to state surveillance services. The federal government answered that it was not aware of any such contacts.

Yet the fact remains that LaRouche activists in Germany expended a lot of energy not only on warning against actual and alleged left-wing terrorists and compiling dossiers on this, but also on denigrating left-wing politicians, critics of US politics and advocates of detente with the Soviet bloc.

In particular they targeted Petra Kelly, the most prominent representative of the Greens. In an extremely personal smear campaign she was compared with the Nazis and called a whore; she was subjected to outright psycho-terror in the federal election campaign in 1983. Once she was handed a package by a smiling woman in which she found a black bra soaked in a blood-red liquid.(2)

These days the BüSo deploys a more harmless guise – they are primarily characterised by the fact that at local elections their candidates have nothing to say about relevant topics. What role the LaRouche organisation played in the death of Jeremiah Duggan will possibly never be completely clarified. But that they had nothing to do with it, as the German authorities have been claiming since 2003, is doubtful – the organisation is more dangerous than commonly assumed.

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1) King, Dennis. Lyndon LaRouche and the New American Fascism. Doubleday, New York 1989, p. 20.

2) Lorscheid, Helmut und Müller, Leo. Deckname: Schiller. Die Deutschen Patrioten des Lyndon LaRouche. Rowohlt, Reinbek 1986, p. 95.

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