



PRESS RELEASE

Colonia Dignidad: Decision of the District Court of Krefeld on the enforcement of judgments against Hartmut Hopp

Berlin, 14 August 2017 – ECCHR welcomes today’s overdue decision by the second main criminal section of the District Court of Krefeld to enforce the judgment of Chilean courts against Hartmut Hopp in Germany. The German judiciary thereby lends for the first time a minimal support to the Chilean judiciary in prosecuting the crimes committed by Colonia Dignidad, particularly rape and sexual abuse of minors.

ECCHR’s General Secretary Wolfgang Kaleck reacts, “The prosecutors in Krefeld have to continue and intensify the separate investigations against Hartmut Hopp. In addition to the acts committed within Colonia Dignidad, it also concerns his role as a contact person to the Chilean secret police DINA during the military dictatorship.” Members of the opposition were also tortured and “disappeared” on the premises of Colonia Dignidad.

ECCHR-partner lawyer Petra Isabel Schlagenhauf comments, “I very much welcome the decision of the District Court of Krefeld against Hartmut Hopp for aiding and abetting child abuse in Colonia Dignidad. It generates some hope that there will be justice for the victims of at least this part of the crimes committed in Colonia Dignidad. It also confirms that the sentencing of Hartmut Hopp in Chile was fully in line with the due process of law.”

Hartmut Hopp has already fled from the Chilean judiciary. Considering the fact that he is now threatened with a prison sentence of five years, it is the responsibility of the Public Prosecutor’s Office to prevent a potential escape by him.

More information on the criminal proceedings against Hartmut Hopp can be found at [ECCHR/Colonia Dignidad](#)

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