

The mysterious death of Jeremiah Duggan

By HOLGER SCHMALE



Supporters of Lyndon LaRouche demonstrating in Washington, D.C. prior to the 2004 presidential election. Photo: REUTERS

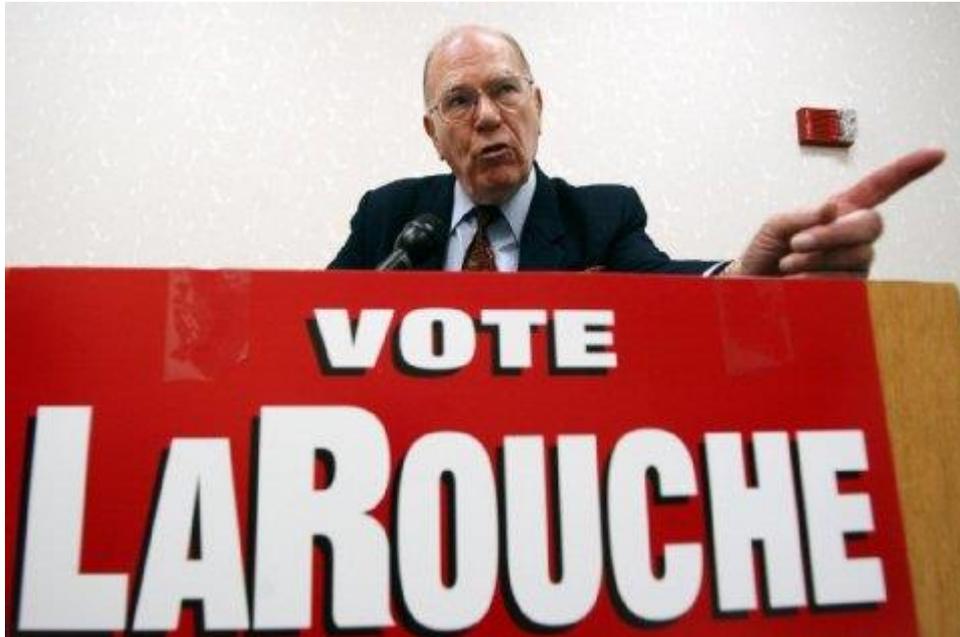
For years, the investigations into the death of Jeremiah Duggan, who possibly became a victim of the LaRouche cult, have been stalled. The lawyers have now filed a disciplinary complaint.

One of the parties running in Sunday's European elections is the Bürgerrechtsbewegung Solidarität, abbreviated BüSo. It is a front organization of the LaRouche movement, a political cult of conspiracy theorists and anti-Semites. Frenchwoman Elodie Viennot is number 16 on the list of candidates. She is an important witness in the investigations into the death of the young British man Jeremiah Duggan in Wiesbaden, which have been ongoing for eleven years and by now display all the signs of a judicial scandal. In addition, this witness has not been interviewed to this day, one reason being that the German police allegedly could not find out her current address. One phone call to the Federal Returning Officer could help.

This is just one detail on a long list of unbelievable goings-on in the investigative activities of the Wiesbaden Public Prosecutor's Office, which according to the lawyers involved "are without compare in terms of their sloppiness and are disgraceful, in particular as these are investigations into a death". These words are almost mild in light of a story that could also lead one to believe in politically desired cover-ups and conspiracies.

In December 2012, the lawyers of Erica Duggan, Jeremiah's mother, achieved an important legal victory. They obtained an extremely rare decision from the Oberlandesgericht (OLG, Higher Regional Court) Frankfurt am Main against the Public Prosecutor's Office to force proceedings. According to the judges, the Public Prosecutor's Office had "conduct[ed] initial investigations but base[d] the closing of the case on an objectively and factually incorrect factual basis, thus blocking from its view any other possible criminally relevant ways in which the crime was committed, and refrain[ed] from the appropriate investigations in this regard." The judges had carefully examined all the documents, evidence, and statements provided by the lawyers, most of the documents having been compiled painstakingly Erica Duggan over many years, before concluding: "If one assumes the facts as outlined in the petition, for which numerous pieces of evidence are available, then it is imperative to take up investigations again and to conduct them with particular urgency."

With such a decision, there can actually be no doubt as to what the relevant Public Prosecutor's Office is to do. Yet since then, little has been done, as the lawyers stated. Except that the same police officer was commissioned with solving the crime who brought the investigations to nothing in 2003. So he is now to prove that he drew false conclusions back then. Among other things, up until today there is no application for mutual assistance to France for interviewing witnesses who live there and who presumably spent Jeremiah Duggan's last hours with him – including Elodie Viennot, the BüSo candidate in the European elections.



Head of the political cult: Lyndon LaRouche even wants to become President of the US – here campaigning on 14 May 2014. Are members of his cult responsible for Jeremia Duggan's death? Photo: dpa

The lawyers are now trying to apply pressure on the investigators with a disciplinary complaint against the prosecutors. After all, the behavior of the authorities in Wiesbaden is also responsible for the fact that an Inquest into the case in the UK, which was ordered by the court four years ago, is not moving forward because the German authorities are withholding the information necessary for it. On 28 May, a hearing on the status of the investigations will take place in London before a Coroner.

Jeremiah Duggan, who was 22 years old at the time, would presumably still be alive if he had not gotten caught in the clutches of the LaRouche cult during a semester abroad at the Sorbonne in Paris; they took him and other young people to a conference in Wiesbaden in March, 2003. The head of the cult was also to speak at the conference of the “Schiller Institute” – the fanatic US millionaire, conspiracy theorist, and convicted fraudster Lyndon LaRouche, whose wife Helga Zepp-LaRouche heads the German division of the cult. The cult has about 300 members in Germany and uses different names, sometimes Europäische Arbeiterpartei (European Labor Party), sometimes BüSo, sometimes Schiller Institute.

Following Lyndon LaRouche's lecture, Jeremiah stayed in Wiesbaden, as did most of the roughly fifty participants, to take part in a “cadre meeting of the militants,” a training seminar which a person who left the cult called massive brainwashing. Two days later, in the middle of the night, Jeremiah phoned his mother in London. “I'm in big trouble, please help me.” He was just able to mention that he was in Wiesbaden when the phone call was interrupted, as was a second brief call shortly thereafter. In Jeremiah's voice, Erica Duggan said, there was the fear of

death. That was on 27 March 2003 at 5:30 a.m. 40 minutes later, Jeremiah lay dead on the B 455, a dual carriageway near Wiesbaden-Erbenheim, very close to the cult's headquarters.

Even though evidence pointed to the cult even back then, the German police apparently took no interest in it. Three drivers had stated that Jeremiah had wandered around on the dual carriageway and had run toward cars. One had then hit him with his car, another had run over him. Just three hours after Jeremiah's death, the police decided it was suicide. There were neither detailed witness interviews nor a forensic medical examination, nor interviews of members of the LaRouche cult. "What had to be done back then was done," said Wiesbaden Senior Prosecutor Hartmut Ferse. "There were no indications at all for external influencing. We have nothing to reproach ourselves for."

But Erica Duggan never believed that her son wanted to take his life: "He was a young man full of life, had just fallen in love, and had no psychological problems. Why should he have done that?" But what happened to Jeremiah in the five days he spent in Wiesbaden? And how did he get to the dual carriageway outside town on the morning of 27 March? These questions have not been answered to this day.

When the Wiesbaden Public Prosecutor's Office closed the case for the first time two months after her son's death, Erica Duggan intensified her investigations. She found evidence and got hold of witnesses – likely as not, a real inspector could not have done a better job. She interviewed former members of the LaRouche Organization and learned about indoctrination and mind control. She also found participants of the cadre seminar and spoke with them. It turned out that Jeremiah had stood out because of two circumstances: As a seven-year-old, he had participated in psychotherapy with his parents at the renowned Tavistock Clinic in London because of their divorce; in the LaRouche Organization's system of delusion, this clinic is considered a brainwashing establishment of the British intelligence services. And when hatred was stirred up during the seminar against the alleged Jewish world conspiracy, which according to the teachings of the cult was responsible for the attacks of September 11, 2001, Jeremiah stood up and said, "I'm Jewish." One participant reported that "Jeremiah was really put through the wringer" then.



Jeremiah Duggan.

The decisive question is where Jeremiah spent the night before his death. The police believed Sebastian Drochon, a LaRouche cult member. He stated that, together with Jeremiah, he had been in the apartment of the married couple Rainer and Ursula Apel in Wiesbaden's Hallgartenstrasse. The couple has also belonged to the cult for a long time. According to Drochon, following the phone call to his mother, Jeremiah had run into the street in a state of anxiety and had disappeared. With regard to this version, the OLG stated coolly: "Jeremiah Duggan was objectively not able to travel the approx. 5 km from Hallgartenstrasse in Wiesbaden to the scene of the accident at the entrance to Wiesbaden-Erbenheim in the possible timeframe between the telephone call with his mother and the time of his death." A contradiction in which the police and the Public Prosecutor's Office have not been interested.

A different course of events, reconstructed by Erica Duggan and her lawyers, is much more likely. According to it, Jeremiah probably was not in the apartment of the Apel couple that night, but in the offices of the Schiller Institut, for whom the EIR GmbH was a front, and which are only a few hundred meters away from the scene of the accident. "A pedestrian wanting to flee from the offices of the EIR GmbH along Bahnstrasse in the direction of Wiesbaden would reach precisely this junction at the end of his escape and would see himself confronted with the situation that he could not continue, but would have to cross the four-lane road if he could not or did not wish to turn back," the court stated.

That fits with the statements made by Ingrid Meyer, the mother of Lyndon LaRouche's bodyguard Niels Meyer – which, however, she has denied in the meantime. He is the main suspect, for bodily harm resulting in death. He is said to have told his mother at the time that "they had chased Jeremiah, verbally abused him, made fun of him, fought with him." According to this, Duggan would have been chased to his death by members of the cult; the theory of suicide assumed by the police and the Public Prosecutor's Office would be a legend. The question remains: Who in the authorities could be interested in protecting the cult?