Press release from 02.02.2024
of the international human rights organisation UNITED FOR FREEDOM
on the danger to human rights defenders in Poland in particular

Freelance journalist & human rights defender charged with waging a war of aggression!

The battle for the sovereignty of opinion has taken on a new dimension in Poland, a country of censorship, where every critical opinion on the internet is censored and no research is possible without a Virtual Private Network (VPN).

Udo Leibmann, a human rights defender and freelance journalist working for UFF, has been charged in Poland with **starting and waging a war of aggression** under Article 117 § 1 of the Polish Criminal Code. **He faces a prison sentence of at least 12 years, 25 years or life imprisonment**. His commitment to peace and his critical voice on Poland's behaviour and involvement in the Ukraine conflict already led to a preliminary investigation about a year ago for "approval and encouragement of a war of aggression"! After the sources and evidence of his statements clearly refuted the accusation, it was not pursued further. This changed directly after the change of government in Poland, as the case was immediately "re-evaluated" and charges were brought in record time:

- The evidence and sources presented by Udo Leibmann, including from Jacques Baud, the person responsible for combating the proliferation of small arms at NATO, who was involved in the NATO missions in Ukraine, or retired General Harald Kujat, the former Chairman of the NATO Military Committee and therefore NATO's highest representative, suddenly no longer play a role for the public prosecutor.
- Instead, the public prosecutor's office relies on a questionable expert opinion by Prof. Michał Urbanczyk from the University of Adam Mickiewicz in Poznan, who is a political hawk, on his Facebook profile, strongly advocates for a war of aggression against Russia, strongly criticises the peace efforts of Scholz & Macron and

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UNITED FOR FREEDOM is an international Human Rights Organisation that also fights for Consumer Rights as well as Animal & Nature Welfare.
UNITED FOR CHILDREN of UFF is an independent Department for Children's Rights. The CHILDREN'S RESCUE TASK FORCE is part of this Department.
BACK TO NATURE is an independent Animal & Nature Welfare Department of UFF. The slogan of BACK TO NATURE is Just Science, No Ideology!
UFF•TV is the Department for independent Media in relation to Human Rights as well as Animal & Nature Welfare.

questions the killings of Ukrainians in the Donbas in the years 2014-2022 ("alleged killings").
- The accusation was raised to "starting and waging a war of aggression".

Udo Leibmann has already been the victim of arbitrary police violence in Poland several times, twice with almost fatal results. Afterwards, attempts were made to turn the victim into the perpetrator, but were unsuccessful thanks to video recordings and many witness statements. The many successes in the fight for children's and human rights in three countries and the resulting investigations against judges, public prosecutors and police officers also led to repeated arbitrary charges and attempts to frame him for a criminal offence.

As the European Parliament's Research Service noted in March 2023 in document PE739.386, 358 human rights defenders were killed for their work in 2021 alone. "The most frequent include: arbitrary detention, sometimes for extended periods, torture, false accusations and conviction on criminal charges, defamation, policies and legislation restricting their work on 'security' grounds,"*.

For further questions please contact Lawyer Mr. Matuschczyk:

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*https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2023/739386/EPRS_ATA(2023)739386_EN.pdf

Attention!

Please note that this is only a translation of the press release from German. The original press release was issued in German.