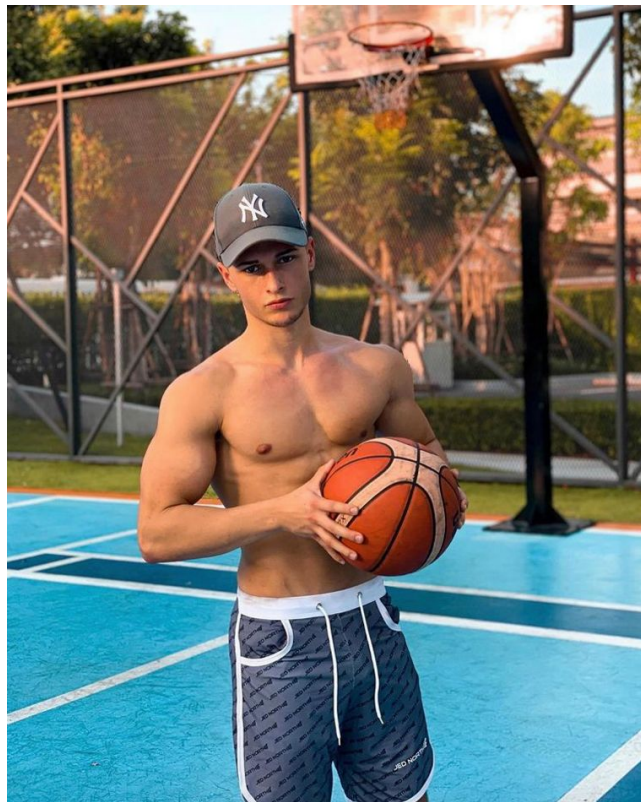


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Parents of shot German influencer file complaint against police chief Paauw

Maud Effting and Mark Misérus, 7 May 2021, 11:40



The National Investigative Service investigation shows that the police vest in question is undamaged, says attorney **Richard Korver**, who is assisting the parents. According to Korver, who has the investigation file, forensic scientists have examined the officer's vest twice on behalf of the National Investigative Service, but so far no damage has been found. As a result, the parents want Paauw to retract his words.

Sammy Baker, 23, a student, fitness influencer and model, was chased in a confused state in his underwear and T-shirt in the bushes in an Amsterdam courtyard on August 13 last year. Three days earlier, he had come to Amsterdam with friends for his birthday. Together with them he smoked cannabis and ate a space cake, which probably put him into a psychosis. After that, his friends lost him.

In the yard in Amsterdam-West, Baker was found to be carrying a knife. Five police officers stood in the courtyard. At first they tried to calm him down and get him to throw the knife away. But as Baker began to walk calmly with the knife at his throat, a handler with a police dog ran up to him from behind. The dog passed him, however, and the handler then tried to pull him to the ground.

In the ensuing struggle, Sammy Baker was shot with at least three bullets. In all, **police fired four times**. Baker died on the spot. A video was made of the incident, which can be seen on YouTube.

Speaking out of turn

Korver, the attorney, believes Paauw spoke out of turn in claiming an officer was stabbed in the vest. He argues that **the police chief's comment may have influenced the investigation**. These officers fall under Paauw. They won't have the heart to tell the National Bureau of Investigation, "It was different after all. It would be better if Paauw apologizes for that.

It is possible that during the struggle the officers felt threatened by the confused Baker and the knife he was carrying. During the struggle with the officer, who attacked him from behind, he waved his arms. The knife had a blade of 7 centimeters, according to attorney Korver. The prosecutor told Korver that the fact that no damage was found on the stab vest should not mean that the vest was not hit, as she said.

Police Chief Paauw cannot respond at the moment because the police itself is the subject of the investigation and does not have the investigation file. **The prosecutor's office also has not yet decided whether or not to prosecute the officers involved. According to the prosecutor's office, this decision will be made "in the very short term."**

Psycholance

In documents seen by the Volkskrant, **the prosecutor states that in recordings of the incident Sammy Baker asks for a doctor in German**. Sammy Baker's parents this week asked the court to hear an additional witness and two expert witnesses. They say they have **strong evidence that a psycholance was present during the incident**, a psychiatric outpatient clinic that specializes in bringing people with confused behavior under control and. The parents asked to hear from the psycholance driver, a psychiatrist, and a police scientist.

The psycholance staff wanted to help Baker, but were unable to act, according to the parents. **They were not allowed to get to our son until he was already shot**," says mother Justine Seewald. To keep the investigation "pure," the parents and lawyer won't say more about the circumstances. The Amsterdam Rescue Service says it cannot comment on the use of the psycholance for privacy reasons.



In Het Parool, crisis psychiatrist Elnathan Prinsen, chairman of the Dutch Association for Psychiatry, subsequently sharply criticized police actions. He stated that the officers had not acted in a de-escalating manner. There are many officers who shout instructions at each other in an aggressive tone. The drawn guns escalated the situation. Then one of the officers unexpectedly attacks the man from the back. According to Prinsen, police officers are hardly trained to defuse threatening situations with confused people.

Korver notes that the National Bureau of Investigation's investigation (**Rijksrecherche**) is too limited. In fact, it is only investigating whether these officers should have used their weapon. Nothing else is being investigated.

So it's not:

Why did you send someone in with a police dog?

Why didn't two officers subdue him immediately when they used pepper spray?

Why wasn't it said to the officers: Put down your weapons?

Was there proper communication with the control room?

"Our sympathies go out to the family and their grief. For all involved, this is a violent and emotional event," Amsterdam police said. Police said they would be "happy to answer" any unanswered questions once the investigation is complete "and all facts and circumstances are known."