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Sammy's case: Further witness testifies

Employee of the psychoambulance remembers chaotic scene / Questions for expert opinion are fixed

By Tanja Freudenmann

WETZLAR/AMSTERDAM. In the case of influencer Sammy Baker from Wetzlar who was shot in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, another witness was heard last week. According to Richard Korver, lawyer for Sammy Baker's family, he was part of the outreach team of the psychoambulance on August 13, 2020. Korver also reported that the District Court of Amsterdam has decided which questions are admissible for the expert opinion in the civil case. The witness was the driver of the ambulance of the psychoambulance, a paramedic with additional psychological training. The psychoambulance is a unit with particularly trained personnel which cares for people with remarkable or disturbed behavior during duty, so Korver in the discussion with this newspaper. The witness had stated to have been very quickly at the scene of an operation, a backyard in the "Honselersdijkstraat", because he had already been in the area with the ambulance.

Witness does not remember details of an e-mail

He had found a chaotic atmosphere at the scene, a lot of police, there had been no briefing, as is usually the case, Korver reported. The witness had stated that he had asked at the fence who was responsible from the police, he had not received an answer. He had wanted to drive the ambulance to the other side. While he was in the ambulance, the shots were fired. His colleague and he had then tried to resuscitate Sammy. Attorney Korver described as "strange" the fact that the witness could not remember details of an e-mail he had written to Sammy's mother a year ago.

Among other things, he had stated in the letter that Sammy had asked for help and asked for a doctor. The witness had now stated that he had not heard it himself and could not remember where he got this information. However, he confirmed that it had been clear to him that Sammy was obviously mentally confused at that moment and that this should have been clear to everyone, Korver said.

The result of the witness interview will now be passed on to the experts who are to prepare expert reports for the civil trial, he said. After the Dutch public prosecutor's office announced in May that no charges would be brought against the two police officers who allegedly killed the 23-year-old fitness influencer with three shots, the family of the killed man wants to go to civil court. For expert opinions two experts a

police expert and a psychiatrist were assigned, which are to illuminate the case again from all perspectives.

Mother speaks of "disastrous misconduct"

"In general, you can say that we want to have clarified whether the work of the police was flawed or not," explains the Amsterdam lawyer. When a result will be available, he can not say at this time.

Sammy's parents, Justine Seewald-Krieger and Kai Baker, complain that according to the decision of the Amsterdam District Court, some questions were not allowed. These were questions that were supposed to shed light on the extent to which the use of force by the dog handler and the two shooters was justified. This had been rejected with the reason that both experts were ultimately no lawyers to clarify legal questions. "We believe that the omission of the questions ultimately serves to circumvent clear evidence of misconduct by the police officers in question," Seewald-Krieger said. "Nevertheless, we assume that the experts will come to an unequivocal conclusion based on the available facts and will show the disastrous misconduct as well as the failure to respect and uphold human rights.