

Parents of Sammy Baker file charges against officers who shot their son to death

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Sammy Baker's parents have filed charges against the police officers involved in their son's death. The 23-year-old German was shot dead by police officers in New West in August 2020. The public prosecutor decided not to prosecute the officers, but after new investigation, the family believes there is enough evidence that the officers did not act in self-defense, the family tells AT5. The prosecutor's office has confirmed receiving the report.



Sammy Baker on Honselerdijkstraat in New West - AT5

We did the investigation that the public prosecutor's office and the national criminal investigation department did not do. Assisted by

our lawyers and research from various experts, we have a very solid foundation," Kai Baker told AT5 from Germany.

Additional research

A total of three investigations were conducted, two as part of a civil case between the parents and the police. In addition, the British research firm Forensic Architecture, commissioned by the family, produced a reconstruction of the afternoon that ended fatal for Sammy Baker.

The parents want the officers involved to be held criminally accountable for shooting Sammy to death. In addition, they say they want to prevent people in mental distress from dying again in the future because of police action. They hope to accomplish this in part by filing this report. They say they still suffer every day from the loss of their son.

The death of Sammy Baker

Three years ago, 23-year-old Sammy Baker, a German fitness influencer, was shot dead by police officers in Amsterdam.

Sammy is in town that day to celebrate his birthday and visits a coffee shop in the Red Light District, where he shares several joints with friends and eats space cake. Moments later, he begins to show confused behavior and goes missing. His mother is worried and travels to Amsterdam where she finds him in Nieuw-West.

Meanwhile, the police are also looking for Baker who is reported missing. When an officer tries to approach him on foot, Sammy runs away barefoot, pursued by several officers. The chase ends in a fenced-in courtyard on Honselersdijk Street, about a three-minute walk from Poeldijk Street. With his mother and the friend a few hundred yards away, he walks around with a knife at his throat and wrists.

Several officers ask him in English, German and Dutch to let go of his knife. But he doesn't respond. "We are here to help you," an officer can be heard shouting on video footage. To protect the officers from Sammy and his knife, a dog handler is deployed. But against instructions from his supervisor, he decides to approach the German from behind.

The officer grabs Sammy by his neck and brings him to the ground. Once on the ground, Baker panics as officers try to get him under control. During the struggle, two agents decide to shoot; the German does not survive the police bullets.

"This shows, first of all, that certain statements made by officers are not true if you look at the video evidence," argues Frederieke Dölle as attorney for the relatives. "Secondly, it shows that just before Sammy was shot, he was lying on his back, with his legs up and his shoulders on the ground, and thus he did not pose a danger to the officers. Third, it also appears that because Sammy was lying in that position the officers could also have stepped backwards and there was no need to shoot Sammy."



"We put a lot of energy into it. And when you put a lot of energy into something, eventually it comes out"

KAI BAKER - FATHER OF SAMMY

According to the family, there is reason enough to ask the prosecutor's office to take another look at the case. "In a way, it feels like we achieved a goal. We put a lot of energy into it. And when you put a lot of energy into something, it comes back. We feel confident about it. The ball is now in the prosecutor's office's court so it's going to be very interesting what they're going to do with it and how they're going to respond."

The family is asking the Public Prosecutor's Office to have the charges handled by a different public prosecutor from Amsterdam. They are also asking this other public prosecutor to have a new investigation conducted and to reconsider prosecuting the officers.