

Fri 14 Jan 2011 16.49 GMT

Jason Kirkpatrick, a Berlin-based filmmaker who knew Kennedy, said the undercover officer often visited Berlin over the past six years, and was a regular visitor to a tattoo parlour called Für Immer in the eastern district of Friedrichshain.

But what unsettles Kirkpatrick and other German-based activists is the suspicion that the German authorities sanctioned Kennedy's work in Germany. This inkling came around a year ago, when Kennedy apparently started to show a sudden interest in the anti-fascist movement.

"One day late 2009, early 2010, Mark asked me out of the blue if I knew any places in Germany with Nazi issues. He said he had a 'crew' in England who could come and sort them out," claims Kirkpatrick. "I was shocked to hear him talk of violence like that."

Kirkpatrick reasons that the British police authorities can have had no legitimate interest in German anti-fascists, and believes Kennedy was therefore also under the instruction of the German authorities.

But when Hunko asked a series of questions about Kennedy's German deployment just before Christmas, the German government refused to respond for "operational" reasons.

Under German law, both Ströbele's and Hunko's new questions must be answered by next Wednesday. If the German government refuses to answer them, Ströbele says he will appeal to the highest German court, the Bundesverfassungsgericht, the federal constitutional court.

He is also lodging demands with the Geheimdienst-Kontrollgremium, a body set up to investigate complaints about the German secret service.

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