

# Undercover police officer 'could be prosecuted in Germany'

Green party MP calls for government to reveal whether Mark Kennedy committed criminal offences in Germany



⌚ Questions have been filed with the German parliament about the activities of undercover police officer Mark Kennedy. Photograph: Murdo Macleod for the Guardian

**Helen Pidd**

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The row over the deployment of **Mark Kennedy** deepened today as another German politician entered the fray to suggest the undercover police officer could be prosecuted in Germany.

Hans-Christian Ströbele, a Green party MP, has tabled a question for the German government demanding to know whether Kennedy committed any crimes in [Germany](#) or incited others to do so. If it is proven he did, he must be brought to justice, said the politician.

Ströbele said today: "We are demanding the German government reveal what this agent, this British agent, was investigating for the British authorities in Germany - and also what he was working on for the German authorities. We are urgently demanding information on whether he had ever committed any violent acts, or provoked anyone else to behave violently, and whether he ever committed any criminal offences.

"If it turns out to be true that he committed crimes, charges should be brought against him and he should be put on trial."

Not just Kennedy but also his superiors should be prosecuted if there was evidence of criminality, he added.

Ströbele said Kennedy was also at risk of civil actions brought by German-based activists. Women who feel he tricked them into bed could potentially demand damages, as well as others who think Kennedy hurt them physically or emotionally, said the politician.

So far two of Ströbele's constituents who knew Kennedy have written to him asking for information on Kennedy's deployment in Germany.

Another question was filed with the German parliament today by Andrej Hunko, MP for the leftwing Linke party, suggesting activists convicted in Germany over the past seven years had a right to know whether Kennedy had been involved in their prosecution.

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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