

Press Release of the International League for Human Rights about the decision of the Administrative Court of Cologne in the surveillance-case of Rolf Goessner

The Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution has been found guilty of a breach of the law that spans at least four decades.

With this sensational decision, the Court has upheld that the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution has acted in a way that can best be described as unprecedented breach unconstitutional and scandalous.

The decision says that the surveillance of Rolf Goessner until the 13 November 2008 was contrary to the German law. Complainant Rolf Goessner said: "this sentence is a bitter defeat for the interior secret service, whose secretive data monitoring has been declared as illegitimate and disproportional."

This scandalous long-term surveillance must not remain without harsh political consequences, especially since this was not a singular case."

Goessner has added that he regrets that so much time and energy has been wasted on legal procedures but that this exhausting struggle was necessary to shed some light on the dark activities of the secret service. He always knew that his suit was also made in the name of a whole generation that was active in various leftist politics and activities after the 1960s and that might likewise have been under the surveillance of the State. The fact that the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution was allowed to collect, evaluate and transmit personal data and keep this secret over the years is the proof that it is an anti-democratic institution, for which the principles of transparency and accountability do not apply.

The justification of the verdict is not available as yet.