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About a German financial fraud and cybercriminal, the complicated legal system in the USA and a bounty hunter...

Rainer von Holst is not just anyone. The financial fraudster who's been on the run for years has defrauded innocent people around the world of millions. His children, who were involved in the intrigues of Mr. von Holst, were sentenced to prison for several years by a court in Augsburg. The responsible authorities in Bamberg against cybercrime, also called "Fake News" in modern German, are also hunting for the enterprising criminal who is pretending to be a lawyer in the USA without any evidence. On the platform "Gerlachreport", which is controlled in the USA, the man, who could not be found until recently, spreads false stories about politicians, officials, journalists and companies in order to blackmail them. The criminal energy seems to be boundless. Many people in Germany, especially in the social media, believe the brazen lies of the portal. Despite years of research and requests from the courts in Germany to the US authorities, the wanted suspect could not be found.

Until yesterday...

It is not the same as in the Middle East when you are looking for extremists, war criminals and other criminals to uncover their intrigues. At the end of my six-week stay in the USA (including three weeks as a guest of the US State Department) I followed the request of a business partner and accepted a journalistic job. Markus Thöb from Penguinfilm, with whom I produce formats relating to the Middle East (extremism, terrorism...), asked me to follow up on a lead that could reveal the residence of the subject. One of the reasons why von Holst could not be handed over so far is simply because the US authorities did not know where he was. Two detectives also failed in their search in different states.

I agreed because I don't like people like von Holst. Many years ago my family lost a high five-digit sum to such brazen criminals who pretend to be serious and then, for example, leave for the USA to lead a comfortable life.

Due to internal hints and various researches I was able to search out von Holst...

Frankly, the fraudulent financial investor made it easy for me. I spent a day observing the area. Afterwards I paid him a visit.

Visibly surprised, he ended the conversation with bended brow and closed the door. Threatening to call the police. I would have been very pleased if they had come. The criminal's visa has expired. He is in the States illegally.

The authorities in Germany and the USA fobbed off hundreds of cheated people, many of whom had been cheated out of their pensions by him, by saying that von Holst could not be found.

In the meantime, the fact that von Holst is not discoverable cannot be maintained. After all, I have found him and finally proved that he can be found in the USA.

On the photo you can see him looking into my camera "enthusiastically".

And another point in this context is important to me: the producer of Fake News threatens journalists anonymously. This does not concern me, but my colleagues are suffering. Sometimes he does this so clumsily that I almost take it with humour when considering the threats I face as a journalist in the Middle East. And if I had not already given the necessary information to the authorities in the USA and Germany, I could hardly resist the desire to help arrest this criminal.

But there are also solutions for this in the USA. We are in the land of the "bounty hunters".

I understand that bounty hunters are sometimes necessary here. The legal system in the US is quite complicated, as can be seen in this case.

For years, the responsible authorities were unable to locate the wanted man. This is no longer the case since yesterday.

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I am flying back to Europe next week bringing my several weeks lasting US adventure to an end.

At the end of June I will be back in the Middle East.

Another report, which is also about a search.

Further information about the intrigues of Rainer von Holst can be found here:

[Menschen machen Medien](#)

[Stiftung Warentest](#)

Simon Jacob,
USA, New York, New Jersey
March 12th, 2020

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