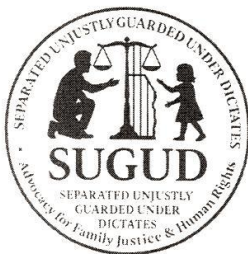


Separated Unjustly Guarded Under Dictates



Advocacy for Family Justice & Human Rights

" You are not alone "

FOLLOW-UP OBSERVATIONAL REPORT

Beyond Physical Security

*The Finsterwalde Incident and the Continuing Need
for Structural Violence Prevention in Family Justice*

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Submitted to :

- United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers
- UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders
- UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Executive Summary

On 16 July 2026, another serious violent incident occurred in Germany, this time at the district administration building in **Finsterwalde, Brandenburg**, where several public authorities, including the **Youth Welfare Office (Jugendamt)**, are located.

According to publicly available information released by the competent German authorities, a German national allegedly entered the building, threatened a public employee, and subsequently started a fire inside the administrative offices. Several individuals required medical treatment for smoke inhalation, and criminal proceedings were initiated on suspicion of attempted homicide.

This incident occurred only weeks after the fatal **Stade tragedy** addressed in **SUGUD Preliminary Observational Report No. 67**, which had already been submitted to United Nations human rights mechanisms. That earlier report did not seek to establish institutional responsibility for criminal conduct. Instead, it raised a broader preventive human rights question: whether recurring acts of violence associated with institutions involved in family administration require examination beyond the immediate criminal act itself.

The present report follows that analytical approach.

It neither attributes responsibility for the Finsterwalde incident to any public institution nor attempts to prejudge the outcome of the ongoing criminal investigation.

Rather, it examines whether repeated violent incidents involving institutions operating within the field of family administration justify renewed international

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attention to conflict prevention, institutional trust, procedural fairness, and effective remedies before conflicts escalate into irreversible violence.

Background

Violence against public officials is unacceptable under all circumstances.

Every criminal act remains the sole responsibility of the individual who commits it.

At the same time, modern human rights practice recognizes that effective prevention requires more than criminal prosecution after violence has already occurred.

It also requires careful examination of whether institutional systems contain sufficient safeguards capable of identifying and de-escalating severe conflicts before they become violent.

This preventive approach does not weaken criminal accountability.

On the contrary, it complements criminal justice by examining whether additional preventive measures may reduce the likelihood of future tragedies.

Relationship to SUGUD Preliminary Report No. 67

SUGUD Preliminary Observational Report No. 67 examined the fatal incident that occurred in Stade, Lower Saxony.

The purpose of that report was not to determine criminal liability.

Instead, it invited international human rights mechanisms to consider whether recurring conflicts surrounding family-related public institutions should also be examined from the perspective of prevention.

Among its principal observations, Report No. 67 emphasized that violence prevention requires understanding the complete sequence of objectively verifiable events preceding violent acts rather than focusing exclusively upon criminal responsibility after violence has already occurred.

The present report should therefore be understood as a continuation of that preventive analytical framework rather than as an independent assessment of criminal liability.

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The Finsterwalde Incident

On **16 July 2026**, a serious violent incident occurred inside the district administration building in **Finsterwalde**, State of Brandenburg.

According to official information released by German authorities:

- the alleged perpetrator is a German citizen;
- a public employee was threatened;
- a fire was started inside administrative offices;
- several individuals suffered smoke inhalation;
- criminal investigations were initiated on suspicion of attempted homicide.

At the time of writing, the criminal investigation remains ongoing.

Accordingly, this report neither questions nor anticipates the conclusions of the competent prosecutorial authorities.

Two Independent Incidents — One Preventive Human Rights Question

The Stade tragedy occurred in **Lower Saxony**.

The Finsterwalde incident occurred in **Brandenburg**.

The alleged perpetrators are different individuals.

The factual circumstances are different.

The criminal investigations are entirely independent.

These distinctions are important.

Nothing in this report suggests the existence of a common criminal plan, coordinated conduct, or institutional responsibility.

Nevertheless, despite these differences, both incidents occurred within institutions operating in the field of family-related public administration.

The recurrence of serious violence affecting the same institutional field therefore raises an independent preventive human rights question.

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The relevant issue is not whether the perpetrators are connected.

The relevant issue is whether existing institutional mechanisms are sufficiently capable of preventing severe conflicts from progressively escalating toward violence.

Why This Report Does Not Depend Upon the Perpetrator's Personal Motive

The present report does not seek to determine the personal motive, psychological condition, or criminal responsibility of the alleged perpetrator.

Those questions remain exclusively within the competence of the German criminal justice system.

Regardless of the perpetrator's individual motivations, the selection of a public institution operating within the field of family administration as the location of a serious violent attack raises a legitimate preventive human rights question.

The report therefore does not examine why this individual acted.

Instead, it examines whether repeated attacks involving institutions operating within the same field justify broader examination of conflict escalation, institutional trust, and preventive safeguards.

This distinction is essential.

The report neither attributes institutional responsibility for criminal conduct nor attempts to prejudge ongoing criminal investigations.

Its objective is solely to examine whether broader preventive lessons should be considered whenever serious violence repeatedly affects institutions operating within the same administrative sector.

Chronological Development

29 June 2026

Fatal incident in Stade.

1 July 2026

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SUGUD submitted Preliminary Observational Report No. 67 to United Nations mechanisms, emphasizing that prevention requires examination of institutional conflict escalation before violence occurs.

16 July 2026

A second serious violent incident occurred in Finsterwalde, Brandenburg.

Although factually unrelated to Stade, its occurrence again focused national attention upon institutions connected with family administration.

Following the Finsterwalde Incident

Public discussion increasingly focused upon strengthening physical security inside government buildings.

Such measures may constitute an appropriate immediate protective response.

The present report respectfully submits that physical security alone cannot constitute a comprehensive violence-prevention strategy.

Procedural and Institutional Risk Factors

International human rights law recognizes that effective violence prevention extends beyond physical security measures.

Preventive strategies must also examine whether procedural and institutional conditions contribute—directly or indirectly—to the progressive escalation of severe conflicts.

The purpose of such examination is not to assign responsibility for individual criminal acts.

Rather, it is to determine whether existing institutional safeguards are sufficiently capable of reducing the likelihood of future violence through early intervention, procedural fairness, transparency, and effective conflict resolution.

Previous documentation submitted by SUGUD to United Nations mechanisms has identified recurring procedural concerns within family justice proceedings, including documented allegations relating to:

prolonged family proceedings;
concerns regarding procedural fairness;

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limited opportunities for meaningful participation by affected parties;
concerns regarding access to independent and effective review mechanisms;
significant financial burdens associated with prolonged litigation.

These observations originate from previously submitted documentary material and should not be interpreted as findings regarding the Finsterwalde incident itself.

The present report does not conclude that any of these procedural factors caused the events in Finsterwalde.

Rather, the recurrence of serious violent incidents involving institutions operating within the same administrative field justifies independent examination of whether procedural and institutional risk factors deserve greater attention within comprehensive violence-prevention policy.

Violence prevention is most effective when institutions are capable not only of responding to crises, but also of identifying circumstances in which unresolved disputes progressively deteriorate toward dangerous levels of confrontation.

Physical Security Addresses Exposure — Not Escalation

Following the Finsterwalde incident, public discussion understandably focused upon strengthening physical security inside public administrative buildings.

Enhanced access control, surveillance systems, and additional security personnel may reduce immediate risks occurring within government premises.

Such measures deserve consideration as part of responsible occupational safety.

However, physical security addresses only one dimension of public protection.

It reduces opportunities for violence inside specific locations.

It does not necessarily reduce the institutional conditions that may contribute to prolonged conflict escalation before violence occurs.

Nor can physical security accompany public officials throughout every aspect of daily life.

When employees leave government buildings, they return to their homes, travel through public spaces, spend time with their families, shop, attend social activities, and take holidays.

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No democratic society can realistically ensure permanent physical protection in every environment.

For this reason, sustainable public safety requires more than strengthening buildings.

It also requires strengthening public confidence that serious institutional disputes can be resolved peacefully through procedures perceived as fair, transparent, accessible, and effective.

The most durable form of protection is therefore preventive institutional confidence rather than permanent physical surveillance.

The Right to an Effective Remedy

International human rights law requires more than criminal accountability after violence has occurred.

It also requires the existence of effective legal remedies capable of resolving serious disputes before irreversible escalation takes place.

Article 2(3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights requires States Parties to ensure that individuals have access to effective remedies for violations of protected rights.

Similarly, Article 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights guarantees the right to an effective remedy before a national authority.

The present report does not conclude that these obligations were violated in the Finsterwalde incident.

Rather, it respectfully submits that the effectiveness, accessibility, transparency, and perceived independence of available remedies deserve careful examination whenever recurring institutional conflicts culminate in serious acts of violence.

Independent assessment of preventive mechanisms strengthens confidence in public institutions.

It does not weaken them.

Mutual Protection

This report is submitted in support of preventive human rights protection for everyone involved.

Its purpose is not to criticize public employees as individuals.

Nor is it intended to undermine public institutions.

Rather, it seeks to strengthen confidence in them.

A transparent, fair, and trusted institutional system protects:

- children;
- parents;
- judges;
- lawyers;
- Youth Welfare Office employees;
- psychologists;
- social workers;
- public servants;
- society as a whole.

Where institutional confidence deteriorates, every participant becomes increasingly vulnerable.

Preventive institutional reform therefore protects not only citizens.

It also protects public officials themselves.

The most effective protection for public employees is not merely stronger physical security.

It is an institutional environment in which conflicts are more likely to be resolved through trusted legal procedures before violence becomes conceivable.

Protection of citizens and protection of public officials should therefore be understood as complementary objectives rather than competing interests.

Recommendations

In light of the recurrence of serious violent incidents affecting institutions operating within the field of family administration, the present report respectfully recommends that United Nations human rights mechanisms encourage further examination of the following issues:

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1. Whether existing preventive mechanisms are capable of identifying severe conflict escalation before violence occurs.
2. Whether available legal remedies are sufficiently effective, accessible, transparent, and trusted by individuals involved in prolonged family disputes.
3. Whether additional independent evaluation of institutional conflict-management practices may contribute to preventing future violence.
4. Whether preventive strategies should integrate procedural fairness, transparency, accountability, and effective remedies alongside physical security measures.
5. Whether comparative international best practices regarding conflict de-escalation within family justice systems may provide useful guidance for future reforms.

These recommendations neither prejudice ongoing criminal proceedings nor assign responsibility for individual acts of violence.

Their purpose is exclusively preventive.

Conclusion

The recurrence of two serious incidents within a short period, involving different individuals, different federal states, and different factual circumstances, does not establish a common institutional cause.

Nor does it establish institutional responsibility.

It does, however, reinforce the importance of asking whether existing preventive mechanisms are sufficiently capable of identifying severe conflict escalation before violence occurs.

The central human rights question is therefore no longer limited to identifying individual criminal responsibility.

It is equally necessary to examine whether existing institutional safeguards provide sufficiently accessible, trusted, transparent, and effective pathways for resolving severe disputes peacefully.

Physical security remains an important component of public protection.

Yet physical security alone cannot prevent every future act of violence.

Sustainable prevention ultimately depends upon public confidence that legal institutions remain capable of resolving conflict through fairness, transparency, accountability, and effective remedies.

The objective of this report is therefore neither to assign blame nor to influence ongoing criminal investigations.

Its objective is to contribute to a preventive human rights dialogue that protects citizens, public officials, and the rule of law simultaneously.

The present report should therefore be read together with SUGUD Preliminary Observational Report No. 67, not as an attempt to establish legal responsibility for the Finsterwalde incident, but as part of an ongoing effort to encourage evidence-based, preventive, and human rights-oriented reflection on how serious institutional conflicts may be prevented from escalating into irreversible violence.

***SUGUD** remains available to cooperate with any competent independent review mechanism by providing additional documentation, methodological clarification, or relevant case materials, where appropriate and consistent with applicable legal requirements.*

Respectfully submitted,

Ahmed Homos

Fachjournalist | GEMA Member
Member of the ver.di Trade Union
Member of BVF & AWU
Founder of SUGUD

Reference: **OHCHR 3ygz24a** - Reference: **UR/CRC/25/DEU/8** - ECHR:
5769/25 German Constitutional Court: **1 BvR 1377/25** - Bundestag Petition: **Pet 4-21-07-99999-003005**



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