

TRANSLATION

German press article “Mikrowelle als Nahkampfwaffe”, **06.Jan 2001**, published in the *Welt am Sonntag*, a Sunday newspaper in Germany (the equivalent of the *Observer* in England)

Microwave as Close-Combat Weapon

Neighbours attack each other with manipulated ovens. The radiation penetrates walls and leads to severe health problems. Already 150 court cases.

When Irmgard K. from Kalckreuth near Nuremberg want to have peace, she has to get out. Out of her flat, somewhere, but outside. If she stays at home it start all up again: headaches, balance problems, a pounding in her ears, heart palpitations. The cause is microwave radiation, which is guided on purpose into the flat of Irmgard K. in order to torture her. Evil-minded neighbours, that is the suspicion, are irradiating the walls of her flat with a converted microwave oven. Her partner, Dr. Reinhard Munzert describes it as a “novel from of high-tech crime”, with an increasing number of victims across Germany. Around 20 of these victims have founded the “Association of Victims of Electro-Weapons”. They try to help themselves because the police does not believe them, nor the Attorney General, mostly not even their own friends.

For Irmgard K. everything started with a minor incident. She argued with her neighbours about their five dogs, whose barking she could not bear. The argument escalated into a “war between neighbours”. After that her complaints started: “Suddenly, I could hear continually changing tones and had sleeping problems”. Reinhard Munzert researched for her until a technician at the University of Erlangen prompted him to think about microwaves. “We know”, says Munzert, “that it sounds unbelievable.” He and his partner, however, are being “cooked like meat in the microwave”.

Klaus Münther of the Federal Institute of Physics and Technology in Braunschweig confirmed for *Welt am Sonntag* “that is is technically possible” to irradiate neighbours through the walls of their flat with converted microwave ovens. That is because the walls only absorb about half the radiation, windows even permit complete penetration. For the conversion of an oven into a radiation gun, however, a technical modification is necessary. That is confirmed by Prof. Peter Pauli of the University of the German Military: “A microwave oven has a capacity of about 800 Watts. In order to focus this into a beam one needs a guide antenna.” Additionally, two safety switches have to be bridged. Who can manage that can terrorise their neighbour with a dose that is about hundred times stronger than the federal law on emissions permits, which has set the limit for radiation from mobile phone antennas at 10 Watts per square meter.

Friedhelm and Gertrud Kuhn from Bochum have known these numbers off by heart for a long time. That is because they too have been irradiated in their own home from unknown sources since 1999. It also began with an argument with neighbours. In the beginning, Friedhelm Kuhn only felt a flickering in the eye, then came high blood pressure, stabbing pains in the heart and the feeling “of being cooked”. “Every time when I enter my house, it feels like I receive a sun burn”, he describes the influence of microwaves on his body. Through his work as an electro-technician Kuhn had the idea that it could be related to radiation and he reported a case of bodily harm to the police. However, he was rejected. Kuhn: “The Attorney General said he is not going to deal with imaginary issues.” That is when the electro-technician tried self-help: He plastered the inner walls of his house with aluminium foil since they absorb at least half the radiation. The family Kuhn did not want to move house, despite the radiation attacks, since they had built their home according to their own design.

Miriam Enzler, in contrast, has already moved house. She also had an argument with a neighbour, she also had suddenly “the feeling of living between two power sockets”, and she also experienced how victims of microwaves are treated “as if we were the biggest idiots”. Miriam Enzler is still suffering severely from the radiation attacks even after her house move: “My mouth lining burns like fire, I have headaches to the point of nausea and severe stomach cramps.”

According to lawyer Detlev Eidebenz, who represents a victim from Frankfurt, the only hope for stopping the unknown microwave gangsters Germany-wide lies in fighting together. Eidebenz says: “In Germany, there have already been 150 court cases, which didn't lead to an outcome.” Now, says the lawyer, the Attorney Generals of every state within federal Germany have to be alerted to the large number of individual cases. There is already support from the police: Markus Dümig from the 8th department of the Frankfurt-am-Main police collects the Germany-wide reports of victims of microwaves. Dümig says: “As long as the issue is honoured by criminal justice.”

The helpful officer is the straw clutched by desperate microwave victims. Even though there are only few studies that prove that microwaves can cause long-term damage, they fear the long-term consequences more than the pain they suffer at the moment. For Irmgard K. the nightmare became reality: In her case, doctors have now diagnosed a tumour in her ovaries.