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We are thankful to Agence France Press (AFP) for its report.]

[THE AFP REPORT IS DOCUMENTED FOR HISTORICAL AND SCIENTIFIC REASONS]

Zwei verletzte "Stuttgart 21"-Gegner kämpfen um Augenlicht

[Two injured adversaries of the Stuttgart 21 project are in hospital where doctors are struggling to save them from remaining permanently blind]

(AFP) – Vor 1 Tag

Berlin/Stuttgart — Nach dem umstrittenen Polizei-Einsatz gegen Gegner des Bahnprojekts "Stuttgart 21" kämpfen zwei verletzte Demonstranten um ihr Augenlicht. Wie eine Sprecherin des Stuttgarter Katharinen-Hospitals bestätigte, wurden zwei Männer erneut operiert. Einer sei an einem Auge, ein anderer **an beiden Augen schwer verletzt** worden. Im Moment gebe es noch keine Prognose, ob und zu welchem Grad bleibende Schäden zu erwarten seien, sagte die Sprecherin.

Bei dem an beiden Augen verletzten Mann handelt es sich um den 66-jährigen Dietrich Wagner, wie die Krankenhaus-Sprecherin bestätigte. Wagner berichtete im Magazin "Stern", wie er sich die Verletzungen zuzog: **Er habe bei den Protesten im Stuttgarter Schlossgarten am vergangenen Donnerstag versucht, Jugendlichen zu helfen, die vom Strahl des Wasserwerfers weggefegt worden waren, sagte der Ingenieur im Ruhestand dem "Stern". Er habe die Arme hochgerissen und den Polizisten gewunken, um ihnen zu bedeuten, sie sollten aufhören. Dabei habe ihn der Wasserstrahl so massiv ins Gesicht getroffen, dass er ohnmächtig geworden sei. "Es fühlte sich an wie der Schlag von einem Riesenboxer."**

Nach Angaben des Chefarzts am Stuttgarter Katharinen-Hospital, Egon Georg Weidle, erlitt Wagner an den Augen **"beidseitig schwere Prellungsverletzungen"**. Die Lider seien zerrissen, der Augenboden eines Auges gebrochen, die Netzhaut vermutlich eingerissen, sagte Weidle dem "Stern". Die Linsen seien zerstört und müssten durch Kunstlinsen ersetzt werden. Wagner sei **"im Moment erblindet"**.

Dem Bericht zufolge stellte der Rentner inzwischen Strafanzeige gegen den baden-württembergischen Innenminister Heribert Rech. Er verstehe nicht, "wie man gegen die Stuttgarter Bevölkerung ein solches Inferno anrichten kann", sagte Wagner dem Magazin.

Der milliardenteure Umbau des Stuttgarter Hauptbahnhofs hat in den vergangenen Wochen in der baden-württembergischen Hauptstadt zehntausende Menschen auf die Straße getrieben. Am vergangenen Donnerstag eskalierten die Proteste, als bei einem umstrittenen Polizei-Einsatz mindestens 130 Menschen verletzt wurden [130 people injured???]. Baden-Württembergs Ministerpräsident Stephan Mappus (CDU) will nun den ehemaligen CDU-Generalsekretär Heiner Geißler als Vermittler zwischen Gegnern und Befürwortern des Projekts einsetzen.

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NOTE – REGARDING THE NUMBER OF INNJURED REPORTED BY AFP:

Is AFP serious when writing that **“at least 130 people were injured” BY THE POLICE, during that demonstration on Sept. 30, 2010?** It seems that this is a wrong and misleading figure - more or less the number of injured admitted by the police, and this was perhaps based on the number of those treated *for less than minor injuries* in Stuttgart hospitals. According to more trustworthy sources, and among them are apparently the committees who legally registered the demonstration in advance, more than 370 injured people were seen on the scene after the police attack and many received first aid on the spot. AN EMERGENCY HOSPITAL HAD TO BE SET UP IN THE SCHLOSS-PARK. Several REGULAR HOSPITALS in STUTTGART faced tight capacities as injured people were coming in...

The falsifying of numbers is scandalous and reliance of reporters on figures provided by the police amounts to an unprofessional failure to check facts and perhaps even to unethical collusion. Similarly, certain news programs and certain commentators tend to systematically shrink figures, both of participants in demonstrations and of the number of trees to be felled in the downtown Schloss-Park. While DER SPIEGEL reported that 300 trees were to be felled in the Schloss-Park, public radio sometimes talked of 100 and on other occasions, of 125 trees.]

ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY:

The biggest demonstrations in Stuttgart since Sept. 30, 2010 were on weekends, on Friday evenings. When the bloody attack of the police in the evening of Sept. 30 that apparently started with the clearing of a street occupied by a sit-in of very young pupils had just happened, more than 60,000, and according to one source, 65,000 ordinary people had been in the streets of downtown Stuttgart.

On the subsequent Friday evening, more than 100,000 came in protest, and a week later, again on Friday, about 150,000.

The police perhaps cannot count, as we notice again and again, or they downplay the size of demonstrations on purpose.

But conservative politicians who favor the construction of a new subterranean central station, the destruction of a large public park with 300 trees, and a speculative construction project on the acreage to be cleared in downtown Stuttgart, are getting cold feet as elections are due next year, at the latest in the state of Baden-Wurttemberg. Their aim seems to be to split the citizens movement against their huge project by offering mediation. The movement that was initially turning against the destruction of the park (that is still protected by law, for ecological reasons) and against the huge cost of the project that will make the tax-payer shoulder a cost of up to 10 billion Euros while offering huge speculative profits to the private key proponents of the project, now is turning into a civil rights movement, against police brutality, against the arrogance of politicians in power, and against factual exclusion of the local population from decision-making processes that affect them in major ways.

Soon after THE BIGGEST DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE “STUTTGART 21 PROJECT” SO FAR, mediation was agreed upon:

It is a mediation process that at present [Oct.20, 2010] continues and that was already flawed right at the beginnings.

The public was able to witness what looks perhaps like rather undesirable tricks played by Mr. Mappus, the prime-minister of Baden Wurttemberg (CDU). This let the mediator, Mr. Geissler of the Christian Democratic Party (CDU) who is a sly fox educated by the jesuits and also a member of ATTAC, look pretty bad. In fact, the prime minister disavowed the aged Mr Geissler, once a leading member of the CDU, when he said **the announcement made by the latter, that an agreement had been reached** between the two and that all construction and tree-felling activities would be stopped as long as the mediation process continued, was the result of a misunderstanding and it was not true that activities would be halted. On the Monday evening [i.e. Oct. 3, 2010], subsequent to the announced agreement concerning a mediation process (an announcement made by Mr. Geissler on Saturday) and in response to the statement by the prime minister, Mr.

Mappus, BROADCAST IN THE NEWS on Sunday morning, some 30,000 demonstrators took to the streets again in Stuttgart.