

Christoph Strässer

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Chairman William Muse
Virginia Parole Board
PO Box 26963
Richmond VA 23261
USA

Jens Soering, inmate I.D. 1161655

Dear Mr. Muse,

While I am fully aware of and have great respect for the Parole Board's independence, I wish to take the opportunity to write to you today to ask you to release Jens Söring, I.D. 1161655, on parole.

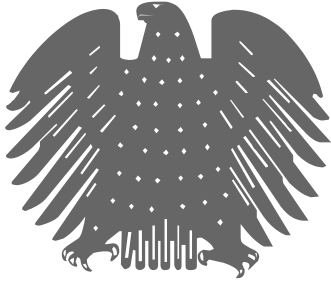
I enclose a letter to Governor Robert F. McDonnell in which 53 Members of the German Bundestag, from all of the parliamentary groups in the Bundestag, asked for Mr. Söring, a German citizen, to be allowed to return to Germany – whether through the legal procedure of a prisoner transfer between friendly states, or parole. The letter and the request set out in it were supported by respected figures such as serving and former federal ministers, former ministers of state, chairs of parliamentary committees, working group spokespersons, party leaders and chairs of parliamentary groups, and colleagues from all of the Bundestag's parliamentary groups.

I also enclose a letter from my colleague Ruprecht Polenz, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, to Governor McDonnell; the points he made remain valid.

Markus Löning, the Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy, and Peter Beyer, rapporteur on transatlantic relations, as well as representatives of the German Embassy, have all visited Mr. Söring in prison again recently.

I am counting on your understanding, as I believe it is standard practice within the rule of law for a state to seek the transfer or parole of its citizens in appropriate cases.

Mr. Söring has been a model of good behavior and engagement during his imprisonment. His conduct has been irreproachable. He has undertaken productive work as an author, for which he has won awards. He is rehabilitated and would undoubtedly be able to integrate into German society. In addition, Mr. Söring would not pose any risk to the community following a transfer to Germany.



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While I am aware of and respect the differences between our countries' legal systems, I nonetheless believe it should be possible to transfer Mr. Söring to Germany after more than a quarter of a century in prison. It would undoubtedly be an act of mercy. The decision to do so would deserve respect and would be another symbol of the trust and continuing friendship between Germany and the United States.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our request.

Respectfully yours,

Christoph Strässer