

Detention Conditions: Psychological and Physical Pressure

According to credible reports from her defense team and partially confirmed by legal representatives, Johanna Findeisen has been subjected to detention conditions that may qualify as “white torture” under international standards (e.g., the UN Istanbul Protocol).

These include:

Isolation:

- Little to no social contact with other inmates during the first days of imprisonment.
- Conversations with her lawyers reportedly interrupted or restricted.

Sensory Deprivation:

- Limited access to outdoor exercise or physical activity.
- Even limited access to common indoor activities. From part of them, Johanna Findeisen was excluded without any understandable explanation.

Degrading Communication:

- Reportedly yelled at and verbally abused by prison staff.
- Treated as if she had already had been found guilty despite the legal presumption of innocence which is still valid in favor of her as long as no verdict is in.

Sleep Deprivation:

- Frequent night-time cell checks with lights turned on within the first days of imprisonment.
- Disturbance from neighboring cells with mentally ill inmates.
- Chronic sleep disturbance due to constant stress and disrespect by the jail officials.

Humiliating Body Searches:

- In February 2025: Despite having a fever, she was forced to undress completely, bend over, and cough in front of the open cell door.
- From May until June 2024: Invasive body search by the jail officials. The staff member was so heavily masked that it was unclear whether it was a man or woman.
- According to her legal team, there was no apparent medical or security-related justification.

Inadequate Food:

- After long trial days, she was repeatedly given cold or spoiled meals.
- The food was sometimes inedible or failed to meet basic health standards.

Transport Conditions:

- Transported to court in a windowless, extremely confined compartment within a prison van.
- According to her defense attorney, this causes nausea, disorientation, and panic due to lack of visibility and air circulation.

Excessive Use of Restraints:

- Handcuffs reportedly applied so tightly that they caused painful pressure marks and bruises.
- These measures were allegedly used without necessity or risk of escape e.g. during transport in the tiny compartment within a prison van.

International Legal Assessment

According to multiple human rights standards, the reported conditions violate:

- Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR): Prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment.
- UN Convention Against Torture (CAT), Articles 1 & 16: Ban on any form of psychological or physical abuse, even without visible injury.
- UN Istanbul Protocol: Defines solitary confinement, sensory deprivation, systematic sleep interruption, and degrading searches as forms of psychological torture.