

English Translation of Udo Ulfkotte’s “Bought Journalists” Suppressed?

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The English translation of German journalist Udo Ulfkotte’s best-selling book, *Gekaufte Journalisten* (*Bought Journalists*) appears to have been suppressed throughout North America and Europe. On May 15, 2017 Next Revelation Press, an imprint of US-Canadian-based publisher Tayen Lane, released the English version of *Bought Journalists*, under the title, *Journalists for Hire: How the CIA Buys the News*.

Tayen Lane has since removed any reference to the title from its website. Correspondingly [Amazon.com](#) indicates the title is “currently unavailable,” with opportunities to purchase from independent sellers offering used copies for no less than \$1309.09. The book’s subject matter and unexplained disappearance from the marketplace suggest how powerful forces are seeking to prevent its circulation.

Gekaufte Journalisten was almost completely ignored by mainstream German news media following its release in 2014. “No German mainstream journalist is allowed to report about [my] book,” Ulfkotte observed. “Otherwise he or she will be sacked. So we have a bestseller now that no German journalist is allowed to write or talk about.”{1}

Along these lines, publication of the English translation was repeatedly delayed. When this author contacted Ulfkotte in early December 2015 to inquire on the book’s pending translation, he responded, “Please find the link to the English edition here,”

<http://www.tayenlane.com/bought-journalists>

The above address once providing the book’s description and anticipated publication date now leads to an empty page.[2] Tayen Lane has not responded to emails or telephone calls requesting an explanation for the title’s disappearance.

When a book publisher determines that it has acquired a politically volatile or otherwise “troublesome” title it may embark on a process recognized in the industry as “privishing.” “Privishing is a portmanteau meaning to privately publish, as opposed to true publishing that is open to the public,” writes investigative journalist Gerald Colby.

It is usually employed in the following context: “We privished the book so that it sank without a trace.” The mechanism used is simple: cut off the book’s life-support system by reducing the initial print run so that the book “cannot price profitably according to any conceivable formula,” refuse to do reprints, drastically slash the book’s advertising budget, and all but cancel the promotional tour.”[3]

Privishing often takes place without the author knowing, simply because it involves breach of contract and potential liability. Tayen Lane will likely not face any legal challenge in this instance, however. Ulfkotte died of a heart attack on January 13, 2017, at age 56.[4]

Udo Ulfkotte was a prominent European journalist, social scientist, and immigration reform activist. Upon writing *Gekaufte Journalisten* and becoming one of the most significant media industry and deep state whistleblowers in recent history, Ulfkotte complained of repeated home searches by German state police and expressed fear for his own life. He also admitted previous health complications stemming from witnessing a 1988 poisoned gas attack in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Ulfkotte's testimony of how intelligence agencies figure centrally in Western journalism is especially compelling because he for many years functioned in the higher echelons of mainstream newswriters. The German journalist explains how he was recruited during the 1980s to work in espionage. This began through an invitation proffered by his graduate school advisor for an all-expense-paid trip to attend a two-week seminar on the Cold War conflict in Bonn.

After Ulfkotte obtained his doctorate he was given a job as a reporter at "the leading conservative German newspaper, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, oddly appointed despite no journalistic training and hundreds of other applicants. Serving as a correspondent throughout the Middle East, Ulfkotte eventually became acquainted with agents from the CIA, German intelligence agency Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND), Britain's MI6, and Israel's Mossad, all of whom valued his ability to travel freely in countries largely closed to the West. His editors readily collaborated in such intelligence gathering operations,"[5] for which journalist possess "non-official cover" by virtue of their profession.

"Non-official cover" occurs when a journalist is essentially working for the CIA, but it's not in an official capacity," Ulfkotte explains. "This allows both parties to reap the rewards of the partnership, while at the same time giving both sides plausible deniability. The CIA will find young journalists and mentor them. Suddenly doors will open up, rewards will be given, and before you know it, you owe your entire career to them. That's essentially how it works." [6] He likewise ruefully admits to "publishing articles under my own name written by agents of the CIA and other intelligence services, especially the German secret service." [7]

Ulfkotte's insider knowledge of the relationship between mainstream media and the intelligence community has special relevance in terms of informing the CIA's antipathy toward Wikileaks, as well as the media campaign centering on the Trump administration's alleged "ties to Russia," while also lending credence to Trump's frequent claims of the US media's political biases and deep state ties. Indeed, Ulfkotte "Tweeted" about these very subjects just two days before he passed.

+++ Trump nennt CNN FakeNews...+++ <https://t.co/uLJhQbic7a>

— Udo Ulfkotte (@UdoUlfkotte) [January 11, 2017](#)

Ulfkotte's explosive revelations still have the potential to further intensify the much-deserved scrutiny corporate news media presently face. In a society that pays more than lip

service to freedom of thought and expression *Journalists for Hire* would be required reading for college students—and particularly those studying in journalism programs intending to seek employment in the media industries.

In fact, journalism professors, some of whom have migrated to the academy following long careers at renowned news outlets, possess similar insider knowledge of the relationships Ulfkotte readily explains. As both journalists and educators they have a twofold burden of responsibility. This is the case more so than ever because the entire professional and intellectual enterprise they are engaged in (and one directly linked to the nation's accelerating civic deterioration) has been made a farce. *Journalists for Hire's* suppression suggests how Ulfkotte's posthumous censors refuse for this important examination and cleansing to proceed.

Notes

[1] Ralph Lopez, "[Editor of Major German Newspaper Says He Planted Stories for CIA](#)," Reader Supported News, February 1, 2015.

[2] Udo Ulfkotte to James Tracy, email correspondence, December 6, 2015. In author's possession.

[3] Gerard Colby, "The Price of Liberty," in *Into the Buzzsaw: Leading Journalists Expose the Myth of a Free Press*, Kristina Borjesson, ed., Amherst NY: Prometheus Books, 2002, 15-16.

[4] Former US military intelligence officer L. Fletcher Prouty relates a similar experience of how publication of his book, *The Secret Team: The CIA and Its Allies in Control of the United States and the World*, was greeted in 1972. "Then one day a business associate in Seattle called to tell me that the bookstore next to his office building had had a window full of books the day before, and none the day of his call. They claimed they had never had the book. I called other associates around the country. I got the same story from all over the country. The paperback had vanished. At the same time I learned that Mr. Ballantine had sold his company. I traveled to New York to visit the new 'Ballantine Books' president. He professed to know nothing about me, and my book ... The campaign to to kill the book was nationwide and worldwide. It was removed from the Library of Congress and from College libraries as letters I received attested all too frequently." Prouty, *The Secret Team: The CIA and Its Allies in Control of the United States and the World*, New York: SkyHorse Publishing, 2008, xii.

[5] Ronald L. Ray, "[Reporter Admits Most Media Work for CIA, MI6, Mossad](#)," American Free Press, October 26, 2014. See also Tyler Durden, "[German Journalist Blows Whistle on How CIA Controls the Media](#)," *ZeroHedge*, October 9, 2014; Udo Ulfkotte, "[German Politicians Are US Puppets](#)," Center for Research on Globalization, November 9., 2014.

[6] Durden, "[German Journalist Blows Whistle on How CIA Controls the Media](#)."

[7] Lopez, "[Editor of Major German Newspaper Says He Planted Stories for CIA](#)."

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James F. Tracy was a tenured Associate Professor of Journalism and Media Studies at Florida Atlantic University from 2002 to 2016. He was fired by FAU ostensibly for violating the university's policies imposed on the free speech rights of faculty. Tracy has filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the university, with trial set to begin November 27, 2017. Tracy received his PhD from University of Iowa. His work on media history, politics and culture has appeared in a wide variety of academic journals, edited volumes, and alternative news and opinion outlets. Additional information is available at MemoryHoleBlog.com, TracyLegalDefense.org, and jamesftracy.wordpress.com.

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