

OPERATION SPRING – Press-statements

“Nearly 100 Africans were arrested and convicted in questionable trials on the basis of weak evidence, as Angelika Schuster and Tristan Sindelgruber discovered in years of research. They have told this story in a film which has all the suspense of a detective novel.”

(Neue Zürcher Zeitung)

“This is a portrait of a judiciary scandal which should shake up the republic: The separation of powers is temporarily thrown off balance in favor of the police.... In an enlightened republic a film like “Operation Spring” should initiate debate on the condition of the country’s legal culture...”

(Berliner Zeitung)

"The film reveals a trial based on extremely flimsy evidence full of serious errors and implicates the scandalous court system and its one-sided predisposition to the police. A well-structured, exciting and outrageous ‘courtroom’ documentary which could stir up a fuss about Austrian judicial practices."

(DOX - Documentary Film Magazine, #59, July 2005)

“Their suspenseful and thoroughly objective portrait of the largest police operation in Austria’s post-war history (which included the first “great bugging operation”) gives rise to considerable doubt concerning the actions of the judiciary and media.”

(Die Presse, Vienna)

„'Operation Spring' thoroughly undermines the viewer’s trust in Austria as a country based on the rule of law...”

(Profil, Vienna)

“In a painstaking and straightforward manner the filmmakers examine the trials, uncovering such unbelievable details that the audience will literally be left speechless.... After “Operation Spring” the Austrian judicial system has a number of questions to answer.”

(Kurier, Vienna)

“The infamous major operation mounted by Austrian criminal investigators and special police units and the resulting trials of Africans living in Austria offered Tristan Sindelgruber and Angelika Schuster an opportunity to show how Africans are sometimes criminalized....The result is a disturbing - and at times Kafkaesque - portrait ... which asks important questions, such as what value is currently attached to basic democratic rights in our society.”

(Kleine Zeitung, Graz)