

Start of Proceedings against John Demjanjuk before the Munich Jury Court



In what is likely to be the last big NS war crime trial in Germany, 89-year-old John „Iwan“ Demjanjuk will be facing charges before the Munich Jury Court from Monday, 30 November 2009 onwards. The Munich prosecution’s indictment accuses Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk of having, as a so-called alien (fremdvölkisch) SS guard, been an accomplice to the murder of not less than 27,900 Jewish persons at the Sobibor extermination camp in 1943, having previously been trained at the SS training camp Trawniki. Save for isolated cases where the murdered persons stemmed from Poland, these 27,900 victims were transported to Sobibor by train from the Dutch Westerbork internment camp and were subsequently murdered in the Sobibor gas chamber.

Some 40 relatives of the murdered persons – mostly children and siblings – will be taking part in the trial as co-plaintiffs. Around 25 of the co-plaintiffs are expected to be present for the beginning of the trial.

This website is maintained by legal counsels representing the co-plaintiffs. The former have for months been preparing the trial in cooperation with the victims’ relatives and will be pleading their case in the trial. The website is to provide the interested public with an insight into the proceeding from the perspective of the co-plaintiffs and their legal counsels, and it is to illustrate the motives behind the co-plaintiffs’ participation in the trial.

The site is to provide continuous reports on the course of the trial that is currently scheduled to run until May 2010....