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Texas Man Sentenced to 90 Consecutive Life Sentences for 2019 Mass Shooting at Walmart in El Paso, Texas, Killing 23 People and Injuring 22 Others

A Texas man was sentenced to 90 consecutive life sentences in prison for carrying out a mass shooting at the Cielo Vista Walmart in El Paso, Texas, on Aug. 3, 2019, killing 23 people and injuring 22 more.

On Feb. 8, Patrick Wood Crusius, 24, pleaded guilty to a 90-count indictment with 45 counts of violating the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act and 45 counts of using a firearm during and in relation to crimes of violence.

The defendant was sentenced to one life sentence for each count in the indictment, including for hate crime acts that resulted in the deaths of Andre Anchondo, Jordan Anchondo, Arturo Benavides, Jorge Calvillo Garcia, Guillermo Garcia, Leonardo Campos, Angelina Englisbee, Maria Flores, Raul Flores, Adolfo Cerros Hernandez, Alexander Hoffmann, David Johnson, Luis Alfonso Juarez, Maria Legarreta Rothe, Maribel Loya Hernandez, Ivan Filiberto Manzano, Gloria Irma Marquez, Elsa Mendoza Marquez, Margie Reckard, Sara Regalado Monreal, Javier Amir Rodriguez, Teresa Sanchez, and Juan Velasquez.

Crusius was also sentenced for 22 counts of hate crime acts that caused bodily injury and involved attempts to kill 22 people injured in the shooting.

In addition to the hate crimes, Crusius was sentenced for 45 firearms violations, including 23 counts of using a firearm in a federal crime of violence resulting in death, and 22 counts of using a firearm in a federal crime of violence.

“No one in this country should have to live in fear of hate-fueled violence – that they will be targeted because of what they look like or where they are from,” said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland.

“The 90 consecutive life sentences announced today guarantee that Patrick Crusius will spend the rest of his life in prison for his deadly, racist rampage in El Paso. We are grateful to the victims and their family members who have spent the last three days bravely sharing the devastation and pain they endured because of Crusius’s

horrendous crimes. The Justice Department's commitment to combating hate crimes is unwavering."

"We are hopeful today's sentence brings a sense of justice, but the memories of the victims and our support for their families and the survivors doesn't end here," said FBI Director Christopher Wray. "FBI employees are members of the communities we serve, and in El Paso, we will continue to help our neighbors and friends heal for as long as it takes. When anyone in our communities is threatened with violence or hate, the FBI will work with them side by side to fight for justice, and we will hold the perpetrators accountable."

"We hope this sentence will bring some small measure of justice to those impacted by this massacre of innocent people targeted for no other reason than their Hispanic identity and national origin," said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

"This hate crime, that extinguished the lives of 23 innocent people, stands as one of the most horrific acts of white nationalist-driven violence in modern times. We lift up the legacies of those who lost their lives and those who survived this tragedy and will ensure that they are never forgotten. Make no mistake, white nationalist hate crimes have no place in our country today and we must bring every tool at our disposal to confront this threat."

"This defendant systematically targeted and killed 23 innocent people, injured 22 more, and forever changed the lives of so many others who witnessed this horrific event, leaving a haunting scar on the El Paso/Ciudad Juarez community and beyond," said First Assistant U.S. Attorney Margaret Leachman for the Western District of Texas.

"While today's sentence cannot possibly replace the lives lost or undo the harm done to the survivors and those otherwise impacted by this horrific event, it is our hope this sentence of 90 consecutive life terms brings some finality and peace to those effected. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas will continue to aggressively prosecute those who commit violence because of bias or hate, seeking justice in the names of the victims and their loved ones."

According to court documents, Crusius previously admitted that he killed and wounded people at the Walmart because of the actual and perceived national origin of the people he expected to be at the Walmart. He further admitted that he intended to kill everyone he shot.

Crusius also admitted he wrote a manifesto, titled "An Inconvenient Truth," and uploaded it to the internet minutes before he commenced his attack. In it, he characterized himself as a white nationalist, motivated to kill Hispanics because they were immigrating to the United States. Crusius admitted to selecting El Paso, a border

city, as his target to dissuade Mexican and other Hispanic immigrants from coming to the United States.

The FBI investigated the case, in partnership with the El Paso Police Department; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF); the Texas Department of Public Safety; the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office; the El Paso County Office of the Medical Examiner; the Allen Police Department; and the Dallas Police Department.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Ian Hanna, Gregory McDonald, and Patricia Acosta for the Western District of Texas’ El Paso Division and Trial Attorneys Kyle Boynton of the Civil Rights Division’s Criminal Section and Michael Warbel of the Criminal Division’s Capital Case Section prosecuted the case.

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For more information about the department’s efforts to combat and prevent hate crimes, visit www.justice.gov/hatecrimes.

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WIKIPEDIA KEYWORD: EXPLANATORY TEXT.

In [judicial practice](#), **back-to-back life sentences**, also called **consecutive life sentences**,^{[1][2]} are two or more consecutive [life sentences](#) given to a [felon](#). This penalty is typically used to minimize the chance of the felon being released from [prison](#).

This is a common punishment for a [defendant](#) convicted of [multiple murder](#) in the United States.

Depending on the jurisdiction in which the case is tried, a defendant receiving a life sentence may become eligible for [parole](#) after serving a minimum length of time, on the order of 15–25 years.

If a back-to-back penalty is imposed, the defendant must serve that minimum for every life sentence before parole can be granted.

Such a penalty also ensures that even if some of the murder convictions are overturned on appeal, the defendant must still serve the sentences for the ones left standing.

Other countries either allow multiple concurrent life sentences which can be served at the same time (e.g. Russia), or allow multiple consecutive life sentences with a single minimum term (e.g. Australia), thus allowing earlier release of the [prisoner](#).

Legal Rules for Imposing and Running Life Sentences in Germany

LIFE SENTENCE ALONG THE GERMAN CRIMINAL CODE – GENERAL PART (July 2023), AS INCLUDED INTO THE GENERAL RULES FOR THE IMPOSING OF PRISON SENTENCES

Text in English, Translation provided by the Federal Ministry of Justice, Berlin.

(Strafgesetzbuch – StGB)

German Criminal Code

Full citation: Criminal Code in the version published on 13 November 1998 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 3322), as last amended by Article 2 of the Act of 22 November 2021 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 4906)

Division 3: Legal Consequences / Title 1 : Penalties / Imprisonment

Section 38 Term of imprisonment

- (1) Imprisonment is for a fixed term, unless the law provides for imprisonment for life.
- (2) The maximum term of a fixed-term period of imprisonment is 15 years, the minimum term one month.

Section 39: Determination of term of imprisonment

Imprisonment for a term of less than one year is determined in full weeks and months, imprisonment for a longer term in full months and years.

Fine

Section 40: Daily rates

- (1) A fine is imposed in daily rates. The minimum fine is five and, unless otherwise provided by law, the maximum is 360 full daily rates.
- (2) The court determines the amount of the daily rate having regard to the offender's personal and financial circumstances. In doing so, it typically bases its assessment on the average net income which the offender earns or could earn in one day. A daily rate is set at no less than 1 euro and no more than 30,000 euros.
- (3) The offender's income and assets and other relevant assessment factors may be estimated when setting the amount of the daily rate.
- (4) The number and amount of the daily rates are indicated in the decision.

Section 41: Fine in addition to imprisonment

If the offence has led to the actual or attempted enrichment of the offender, then, in addition to a term of imprisonment, a fine which would not otherwise have been provided for, or only in the alternative, may be imposed if, having regard to the offender's personal and financial circumstances, this appears appropriate.

Title 3

Fixing of penalties for multiple offences

Section 52: Several offences committed by one act.

- (1) If the same act violates more than one criminal statute or the same criminal statute more than once, only one penalty is imposed.
- (2) If more than one criminal statute has been violated, the penalty is determined according to the statute which provides for the most severe penalty. The penalty may not be more lenient than the other applicable statutes permit.
- (3) Under the conditions of section 41, the court may separately impose a fine in addition to a sentence of imprisonment.
- (4) Additional penalties, incidental legal consequences and measures (section 11 (1) no. 8) must or may be imposed if one of the applicable statutes so requires or allows.

Section 53: Joinder of offences

- (1) If a person has committed several offences, all of which are to be adjudicated at the same time, and that person has incurred more than one sentence of imprisonment or more than one fine, an aggregate sentence is imposed.
- (2) If a sentence of imprisonment concurs with a fine, an aggregate sentence is imposed. The court may, however, impose a separate fine; where a fine is to be imposed in such cases for more than one offence, an aggregate fine is imposed.
- (3) Section 52 (3) and (4) applies analogously.

Section 54: Fixing of aggregate sentence

- (1) If one of the penalties for the individual offences is imprisonment for life, an aggregate sentence of imprisonment for life is imposed. In all other cases, the aggregate sentence is fixed by increasing the most severe individual sentence incurred and, in the case of different kinds of penalties, by increasing the sentence which is most severe in nature. The person of the offender and the individual offences are considered in their totality.
- (2) The aggregate sentence may not exceed the sum of the individual sentences. In the case of determinate sentences of imprisonment, it may not exceed 15 years and in the case of a fine 720 daily rates.
- (3) Where an aggregate sentence is to be formed of a sentence of imprisonment and a fine, one daily rate corresponds to one day's imprisonment for the purpose of calculating the sum of the individual sentences.

Section 55: Subsequent fixing of aggregate sentence

- (1) Sections 53 and 54 also apply to a convicted person who has had a sentence imposed by final judgment if that person is convicted of another offence committed prior to the earlier conviction before the original sentence is enforced, barred by the statute of limitations or remitted. The earlier conviction is the judgment in those proceedings in which the underlying findings of fact were last examined.
- (2) Additional penalties, incidental legal consequences and measures (section 11 (1) no. 8) imposed in the earlier decision are to be upheld to the extent they have not been rendered moot by the new decision.

Title 4

Suspension of sentence on probation

Section 57: Suspension of remainder of determinate sentence of imprisonment

(1) The court suspends enforcement of the remainder of a determinate sentence of imprisonment on probation if

1. two thirds of the imposed sentence, but at least two months, have been served,
2. this can be justified having regard to public security interests and
3. the convicted person consents thereto.

The decision is, in particular, to take into consideration the convicted person's character, previous history, the circumstances of the offence, the importance of the legal interest endangered should the convicted person re-offend, the convicted person's life circumstances and conduct whilst serving the sentence imposed, and the effects which such suspension are expected to have on the convicted person.

(2) After one half of a determinate sentence of imprisonment has been served, but at least six months, the court may suspend enforcement of the remainder of the sentence on probation if

1. the convicted person is serving a first sentence of imprisonment and the term does not exceed two years or
2. following an overall evaluation of the offence, the convicted person's character and development whilst serving the sentence imposed, special circumstances are deemed to exist and the remaining conditions of subsection (1) are met.

(3) Sections 56a to 56g apply accordingly. The probation period, even if subsequently reduced, may not be less than the remainder of the sentence. If the convicted person has served at least one year of the sentence imposed before the remainder is suspended on probation, the court typically places the convicted person under the supervision and guidance of a probation officer for all or a part of the probation period.

(4) Where a sentence of imprisonment has been reduced by crediting time served, it is deemed to have been served within the meaning of subsections (1) to (3).

(5) Sections 56f and 56g apply accordingly. The court is also to revoke the suspension of the sentence if, in the period between the conviction and the decision to suspend the sentence, the convicted person has committed an offence which could for factual reasons not be taken into account by the court when deciding to suspend the sentence and which would have led to a denial of such suspension had it been known at that time; the judgment in those proceedings in which the underlying findings of fact were last examined counts as the conviction.

(6) The court may dispense with suspending enforcement of the remainder of a determinate sentence of imprisonment on probation if the convicted person makes insufficient or false statements concerning the whereabouts of objects which are subject to confiscation of the proceeds of crime.

(7) The court may fix a term not exceeding six months before the expiry of which an application by the convicted person for the suspension of sentence on probation is inadmissible.

Section 57a: Suspension of remainder of imprisonment for life

(1) The court suspends enforcement of the remainder of a sentence of imprisonment for life on probation where

1. 15 years of the sentence have been served,
2. the particular severity of the convicted person's guilt does not require its continued enforcement and
3. the conditions of section 57 (1) sentence 1 nos. 2 and 3 are met.

Section 57 (1) sentence 2 and (6) applies accordingly.

(2) Any deprivation of liberty suffered by the convicted person as a result of the offence qualifies as a sentence served within the meaning of subsection (1) sentence 1 no. 1.

(3) The probation period is five years. Section 56a (2) sentence 1, sections 56b to 56g and section 57 (3) sentence 2 and (5) sentence 2 apply accordingly.

(4) The court may fix terms not exceeding two years before the expiry of which an application by the convicted person for the suspension of sentence on probation is inadmissible.

Section 57b:

Suspension of remainder of aggregate sentence of imprisonment for life

If imprisonment for life has been imposed as an aggregate sentence, the individual offences are assessed collectively when determining the particular severity of guilt (section 57a (1) sentence 1 no. 2).

Section 58: Aggregate sentence and suspension of sentence

(1) If a person has committed more than one offence, the length of the aggregate sentence is decisive as regards the suspension of sentence in accordance with section 56.

(2) If, in the cases under section 55 (1), enforcement of the previous sentence of imprisonment has been suspended on probation or the remainder of the sentence has been suspended on probation, and if the aggregate sentence has also been suspended on probation, the minimum new probation period is reduced by any probation period which has already expired, but not to less than one year. If the aggregate sentence is not suspended on probation, section 56f (3) applies accordingly.

The whole text of the German Criminal Code in English can be downloaded free of charge at:

https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_stgb/englisch_stgb.html