



Nico Krone, Sabine Habersatter and long-term employee Sylke Koppenhagen (from left to right)

Security reloaded

Medium-sized businesses and their owners' families have specific safety requirements. To be able to fulfil these, understanding and trust are indispensable foundations. That is when the Numbrecht-based H&K Krisenwerkstatt GmbH comes into play - a company specialised in the professional training of bodyguards and in the consultancy of companies and their owner families.

TEXT: NANE STEINHOFF | PHOTOS: LEMRICH

When families have to think about security for the first time, great uncertainty often emerges; especially when it includes thinking about their own family's wellbeing. "One can't carry out a well-founded analysis about the risk for one's property and family on their own, so

the party concerned turns to outsiders. Numerous companies offer their expertise for this and also have security employees and appropriate concepts at hand. Even though this might look like a big advantage, for us it is a disadvantage," explains Nico Krone, managing partner of H&K

Krisenwerkstatt GmbH. He adds: "How can my client be sure that we can properly identify and assess his or her needs when we make money with security measures? This is the main reason for why we have established independent consultation." The other reason is that the H&K team knows the perspective of families in need of protection from their very own, personal experience. Sabine Habersatter, who is also a managing partner at H&K, comes from an affected family herself and Nico Krone is an internationally experienced safety expert and family bodyguard. For almost a decade, the two have now intensively dealt

with the realities of personal protection for families and have also advised many families concerned. Krone notes: "Each family has an individual risk situation which requires individual measures. We examine the situation and holistically advise them. As a result, the family decides which conclusions can be drawn and which measures should be taken."

Unobtrusive escorts

"Most families don't want the typical body builder with black sunglasses as a bodyguard. Families prefer an employee who doesn't attract attention and who acts according to the situation. This can mean that the bodyguard accompanies the family as a 'friend of the family' on a vacation or helps the client when a drunk colleague exceeds his limits at a company event," says Krone. The bodyguard also needs to be able to independently decide how to unobtrusively defuse a situation and he or she has many more tasks for the family's daily security than the obvious ones, such as taking the dog for a walk in the morning. Krone adds: "Often, the security concepts in families aren't only individual but also distinguish themselves from security concepts at authorities, for example." Thus, a bodyguard in a family has to gain broad and holistic training in order to be able to cover all areas of the protection mandate. Besides self-evident skills such as self-defence, he or she needs to be able to drive, have soft skills, have a

well-founded training in first aid and have a detailed knowledge of the legal situation amongst others. "Finding and training these employees is the second focus of our company. Besides finding a good, independent security consultation, it is a big challenge to find, employ and foster suitable security employees," says Krone.

Wrong conceptions

A majority of people interested in becoming a security agent got their knowledge about this task from the TV and this image barely correlates with the reality of the daily work routine. "Thus, our long-term goal is to shape the security agent's job description in the industry, as well in the public," notes Krone. Unfortunately, an organised, specialist training for the profession of a bodyguard does not really exist in Germany yet, so that the prospective security employee has to gain further specialist training in order to get into the field of personal protection. Germany has numerous academies and training institutions that offer this missing standardised training; but as there are many different fields of activity for a bodyguard, it is quite difficult to specifically educate oneself further.

Krone explains: "Due to this educational issue, people interested in becoming bodyguards rarely receive realistic training, while a majority of educational facilities don't have experience in the

field of personal security and don't specialise on the protection of families." That is why H&K Krisenwerkstatt GmbH believes that they need experts that have theoretical as well as practical experience. Thus, their training courses and individual education offerings train bodyguards and people who want to become bodyguards for the deployment in families at risk. Their training centre enables intensive and targeted education alongside other trainers, specialists and a small, high-quality network of companies. Krone adds: "Like this, we do not only ensure that we meet our own quality and qualification requirements, but we also want to adjust our knowledge and teaching activity to the current political and societal situation. And, of course, we do not only want to offer consultation to our clients but we also want to help them in finding the right people and companies which suit their individual situations."

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