



I18 Paedophile Homosexual Sadistic Serial Killers Juergen Bartsch and Luis Alfredo Garavito

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This presentation will compare two killers whose crimes have not been reported in scientific literature in English text by use of material that was never presented before (first hand accounts). Insight into similarities of modus operandi, and behavior of highly intelligent, pedophile sadistic homosexual serial killers of different age in two different cultures, and two different times (1960s vs. 1990s).

Report on two sadistic homosexual pedophile serial killers, based on (a) a meeting with Luis Alfredo Garavito Cubillos in Columbia (July 2002), and (b) on the original files of the trials against Juergen Bartsch, and letters written by him. The resources have never been used in scientific investigation until now, and in contrast to the well-known case of Jeffrey Dahmer, the cases of Bartsch and Garavito have not been reported in scientific literature as yet.

Bartsch: In 1966, then 19-year old homosexual serial killer Juergen Bartsch (1946-1976) was arrested after an unsuccessful attempt to torture, kill, and dismember a young boy. The victim, left in an unused air raid shelter, had been able to free himself by burning his ties with a candle flame while the offender had gone home to eat and watch TV with his parents as he did every evening. Between 1962 and 1966, Bartsch had killed four young boys. He estimated to have undertaken more than one hundred further homicidal attempts. The method of actual murder was beating and strangulation. He dismembered most of the bodies, pricked out the eyes, decapitated the bodies, and removed the genitals. He also tried but failed to perform anal intercourse with the victims. His actual goal was to slowly torture the final victim to death. His wish for dominance, control, and sexual gratification as well as his strategies of avoiding prosecution were topics that were openly discussed with Bartsch from the start of the investigation.

The role of the (loving) parents who owned a butcher shop, and who had adopted Bartsch as a baby, is discussed. Under the influence of psychiatric consultations, Bartsch's views on his parents, as much as memories of sexual abuse performed by a teacher, seemed to change. It is not clear if these were true memories, or fabrications of a very intelligent, juvenile who received nearly unlimited attention after his confessions.

After two trials, Bartsch was moved to a psychiatric hospital where he could not receive psychological assistance due to a lack of personnel. He nevertheless managed to marry a woman who had written letters to him. During a voluntary castration operation, Bartsch died due to an error in the anesthetic procedure (the medical doctor was sentenced to nine months on probation). A month before the operation, Bartsch fought vigorously against castration. Later, he believed that this might be the only way towards a possible healing, and fought as vigorously for it.

Garavito: Between 1992 and 1999, Garavito killed more than 200 children at core ages between 8 and 13 years. His modus operandi remained stable. During the day, he lured children of a lower social status out of crowded parts of the city into hidden areas that were overgrown with large plants. Garavito promised either payment for easy work, drugs, or made other socially believable offers. The children were tied up, tortured, raped, and killed by at the least a cut in the lateral part of the neck, or by decapitation. During the killings, Garavito was drunk.

Even after his arrest (for attempted rape) under a false identity it was not immediately possible to track his crimes since Garavito had frequently changed residences and jobs. He also changed his appearance with different hairstyles and used false identification. During his ongoing confessions, he directed the investigators correctly to the scenes of crime all over Columbia. The violent environment and juridical peculiarities in Columbia are discussed.

In spite of an initial sentence of 2,600 years, it is formally possible that Garavito will be released from prison within the next 10 to 20 years, after serving his maximum sentence in jail.

Similarities: Both killers were highly organized, very intelligent, and both believe(d) in, and work(ed) on their release from prison. In prison, they easily managed to manipulate their environment and were/are treated extremely well. Both claim(ed) that they had a right to a second chance.

The modus operandi of both offenders remained stable over the course of their crimes, irrespective of the different number of victims (Bartsch: 4, Garavito: more than 200 confirmed), the offender's age (Bartsch: ~19, Garavito: ~30), and the different cultures they lived in (Europe vs. South America). Both were drinkers. Also, the promises made by Bartsch and Garavito to the children were quite similar.

Finally, the choice of killing locations, the course of investigations, and severe juridical problems involved in both cases are discussed.

Serial Killings, Sadism, Pedophile Killers