

# Accused Child Abuser Slashes Self in Hospital

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In what appeared to be a failed suicide attempt, German child sex abuse suspect Karl Heinz Henning slashed his wrists and neck Tuesday afternoon at Calmette Hospital, though the wounds were not life-threatening, police said.

At 1 pm, an hour before the 61-year-old was scheduled to be taken to Prey Sar prison, Henning locked himself in the bathroom of his room at the hospital, said Keo Thea, deputy chief of the municipal anti-human-trafficking office.

"He went into the bathroom and locked himself inside pretending to shower and shave himself but he cut both his wrists and his neck," Keo Thea told reporters at the hospital. "But it is not serious. He was bleeding only a little," he said.

# Slashes...

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Police say the ring also included fellow German national Thomas Baron von Engelhardt, 42, who has been charged with debauchery, and three ethnic-Vietnamese Cambodians who were charged with human trafficking for allegedly procuring the young children who appeared in films confiscated from Henning's apartment.

Henning was already being treated at Calmette for injuries sustained during his Aug 20 arrest, when he leapt from the top floor of a three-story building in Chamkar Mon district while police were searching his apartment. Police initially reported that the suspect had leapt from the first floor.

Police on Tuesday initially suspected that Henning had cut himself with a disposable razor brought to the hospital by his lawyer Theng Mengy, Keo Thea said. But on closer inspection, the razor appeared unused, and police now suspect Hen-

ning cut himself with the sharp edge of a plastic sheet of tablets.

At first, Henning answered from within the bathroom, but police broke in after 20 minutes when he failed to respond, Keo Thea added.

"I saw he was lying face-down on the floor, pretending to take a shower," said a policeman who declined to be named. "The water was still showering down on his neck. But he could still speak. There was a little blood on the floor."

A doctor who declined to give his name said Henning's condition was not serious. "It didn't affect the main veins," he said. Henning's wounds were sutured, the doctor added.

Henning remained under sedation Tuesday in a surgical ward operating room, where access to him was barred even to police, according to Keo Thea, who said police had considered Henning a suicide risk since he jumped from his balcony during his arrest.

"My officers were guarding him overnight yesterday, concerned he might do something. At last, he tried it in the afternoon," Keo Thea said.

"We had planned to send him to Prey Sar prison at 2 pm today. That's why he [tried to] commit suicide."

Henning is slated to be released from the hospital and sent to Prey Sar today, where he will join the four other suspected members of the child pornography ring, Keo Thea said.

Theo Kidess, deputy head of mission at the German embassy, said the embassy was aware of the incident and would continue to provide consular assistance to Henning as needed.

A federal police attache from the German embassy in Bangkok is scheduled to arrive today for a periodic cooperation visit with Cambodian police that will include work on the pedophile ring investigation, he added.

Keo Thea said Interior Ministry technicians had still not been able to crack the password protection of some files on a seized computer hard drive known, so far, to contain 1,650 images of Henning and Engelhardt having sex with young children.