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Long youth punishments amongst violent and sexual juvenile and adolescent offenders: *An investigation of the individual preventive intention of the (youth-) penal system.*

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Abstract

The present work examines the execution of long youth penalties amongst juvenile and adolescent offenders convicted of violent and sexual crimes. To investigate the intention of the penal system, which lies in the social re-integration of prisoners to avoid further criminal behavior, different aspects like education, care, treatment, day-release and release preparation regarding young inmates were examined in detail.

For this purpose, records obtained from federal central register as well as prison files of relevant offenders that were released from prison between 2002 and 2007 after completing a youth penalty of more than five years were evaluated. In addition, ministerial administrative provisions as well as a survey in penal institutions were used to analyze the current situation in prison. Due to the different chronological and methodical differences, the investigation of the current situation can only be a supplement to the results of release years 2002 until 2007.

The results of the prison files evaluation show the arrangement of confinement and treatment for especially the group of violent and sexual offenders. In this connection, the survey in penal institutions and examination of the ministerial administrative provisions, moreover, work out the special characteristics as well as possible restrictions regarding the everyday life of the prisoners. At last, the analyzing of the federal central register statements show whether there is an influence of imprisonment aspects to recidivism after releasing or not.

This study expands the status of investigation in terms of the youth penal system and draws a comprehensive picture to the execution of long youth penalties. Beside considerable deficits in education and the psychosocial area the need has appeared absolutely also for the change of the prison measures, based on a suitable support and qualification as well as subsequently above all concerning the social re-integration. On this occasion, in particular the preparation of release is to be named as a critical moment of the enforcement. Above all, there is a need to elaborate additional possibilities for the difficult group of prisoners with a negative social and legal forecast in order to do justice to the intention of the penal system, which lies in the social re-integration of prisoners.