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Dijvar Gündüz: the escape in Essen, an electric scooter and a prison corruption investigation

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Two armed, masked men, a trip to the doctor and an electric scooter: Dijvar Gündüz’s escape from police custody became one of the most high-profile German crime stories of the autumn. In November, this was compounded by an investigation into possible corruption within the prison.



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Editorial illustration by ‘Kartel Khimprom’ based on a published photograph of Dijvar Gunduz. The background and composition were created using AI; this is not a documentary photograph of the event.

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Key developments in the case

Background	Details
Name in sources	Dijvar Gündüz
The region involved and international links	Germany
Status based on verified reports	Wanted following his escape, aided by armed accomplices, whilst being escorted on 14 October 2026

What happened in Essen on 14 October 2026

The BKA reports that whilst Gündüz was being transported from the Essen correctional facility to a medical centre, he was freed by two armed unknown assailants. After the attack, he fled on an electric scooter. The official alert specifies the time frame as 12:40–12:45. [2]

The wanted notice appeared on Europe’s Most Wanted on 15 October. Drug offences are listed as the basis of the case, whilst the escape is cited as a procedural circumstance. [1]

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Dijvar Gündüz. Photo from the Europe’s Most Wanted / ENFAST wanted poster.

The suspect’s file

Dijvar Gündüz

Dijvar Gündüz is wanted by the German authorities on drug-related charges. His case took a new turn on 14 October 2026: whilst being transported from the Essen correctional facility to hospital, he was freed by two armed, masked men.

Drug-related trials prior to the escape

A Tagesschau analysis, citing information from the authorities, refers to several cases, including drug offences and grievous bodily harm. Two 2026 sentences that have not yet come into force are mentioned – one of 12 years and one of four years. These cannot be combined and presented as a single, final sentence. [3]

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Among the circumstances of the charges are alleged contacts with suppliers in Costa Rica, the Netherlands and Spain. The description also mentions a warehouse linked to a vegetable import-export business and the seizure of around 200 kilograms of cannabis. This information relates to the version of events presented in the case, rather than constituting independent evidence for each individual incident. [3]

What has emerged about the JVA employee

On 2 November, WDR reported on testimony from former prisoners against a prison officer. According to a summary of the report by the Minister of Justice of North Rhine-Westphalia, assistance specifically in relation to Gündüz's release had not been confirmed at that stage, but there were indications of possible corruption. [4]

WDR reports cash deposits totalling around 40,000 euros and searches during which expensive watches, mobile phones, weapons and drugs were found. These discoveries relate to an investigation into a prison staff member. To attribute these to Gündüz or to declare them proven payment for his escape would be a distortion of the facts. [4]

The key question is: how effective were the security measures?

This story has taken on a broader scope than a mere individual manhunt. Three aspects are of editorial importance: why the transfer was necessary, how the risk of an attack was assessed, and whether inside information could have facilitated the planning. Statements and items found provide leads for the investigation; the link between them is established by evidence.

At the time of WDR's November report, Gündüz remained on the run. The police file and the prison investigation are parallel lines of inquiry that should be tracked separately until a procedurally confirmed link emerges. [4]

A timeline of key events

Date	The incident
14.10.2026	Gündüz's escape, carried out by armed men, in Essen.

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Date	The incident
15.10.2026	Publication of an official wanted notice.
02.11.2026	A report by WDR on new developments in the prison investigation.

Frequently asked questions

Has Gündüz already been arrested?

According to a WDR report dated 2 November 2026, he remained on the run. [4]

Has it been proven that a prison officer aided the escape?

WDR reports that, at the time of writing, such assistance had not been confirmed; other indications of possible corruption were also being investigated. [4]

Other international cases in the archive

- Oskar Benesch

This article was compiled on 4 November 2026 based on the publications listed. Allegations and suspicions are attributed to their sources; the final determination of guilt is a matter for the courts.

Sources and documents

1. Europe’s Most Wanted / ENFAST — Dijvar Gündüz
2. BKA – official alert for Dijvar Gündüz
3. Tagesschau / WDR — what is known about the Dijvar Gündüz case
4. WDR — investigation into a JVA employee, 2 November 2026

Sources

1. Europe’s Most Wanted / ENFAST — Dijvar Gündüz
https://eumostwanted.eu/index.php/gunduz-dijvar

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2. BKA – official alert for Dijvar Gündüz
https://bka.de/oeffentlichkeitsfahndung100

3. Tagesschau / WDR — what is known about the Dijvar Gündüz case
https://www.tagesschau.de/inland/regional/nordrheinwestfalen/wdr-haeftling-auf-der-flucht-was-wir-ueber-den-fall-dijvar-guenduez-wissen-100.html

4. WDR — investigation into a JVA employee, 2 November 2026
https://www1.wdr.de/nrw/ruhrgebiet/jva-beamter-essen-flucht-ermittlungen-100.html

Use of materials

An active link to the original publication is required when using these materials.

Original publication

https://kartel-khimprom.com/en/article/dijvar-g%c3%bcnd%c3%bcz-the-escape-in-essen-an-electric-scooter-and-a-prison-corruption-investigation/