

Missing student • Bones found in the forest: Sonja Engelbrecht is dead



Police officers and emergency vehicles are in a forest near Kipfenberg. A bone of the student who had been missing since 1995 was found there.

(Photo: Friedrich / dpa)

26 years ago, a 19-year-old woman from Munich disappeared without a trace after a party. Now a forest worker found remains - far away from Munich. The police are now searching the area with a large number.

From [Martin Bernstein](#)

She would now be 45 years old: Sonja Engelbrecht from Munich. On the night of April 10th to 11th, 1995, the college student disappeared without a trace one week after her 19th birthday. Since then, the parents have been desperately looking for her, the murder commission of the Munich police investigated - in vain. It is now clear: Sonja Engelbrecht is dead. A forest worker found a human thigh bone in the dense forest northwest of the Upper Bavarian town of Kipfenberg ([Eichstätt district](#)) as early as the summer of 2020 , which, following a recent renewed DNA typing, could be unequivocally assigned to the missing woman from Munich.

The police have been searching the more than ten square kilometers of wooded area in the Altmühltal between Kipfenberg, Pfahldorf and Kinding since morning hours. Dog handlers are also in action, as are the riot police, a total of around a hundred officers. Search dogs have been brought in from Croatia that specialize in tracking down bones that have been lying in the ground for a long time. The search is to be continued in the next few days before the snowfall announced by meteorologists sets in on Friday. The location of the bone, which was probably excavated and carried off by an animal, is only about 1.5 kilometers away from the A 9 motorway, which runs from Munich to Nuremberg. The closest exits are Denkendorf and Kinding.



Sonja Engelbrecht - disappeared in 1995.

(Photo: private / Facebook)

On April 11, 1995, the 19-year-old from [Laim](#) is said to have gone with her companion, a school friend who was two years younger than her, to what was then the "Zum Vollmond" restaurant at Schleißheimer Strasse 82 and met two friends of her companion. After a joint party in their nearby apartment on Schellingstrasse, she is said to have left shortly after 2 a.m. with her companion. When she stepped out in a bush, Sonja felt she was being watched on the way, her companion later said on the record. Her school friend reported that she tried to call her sister from a phone booth at Stiglmaierplatz, and that he himself took the tram away.

The family had doubts about what had happened during the night

Sonja's sister did not receive a call that night, according to the family. That wasn't common either. The family has been pointing out these and other open questions for years. She doubts that Sonja even went to Stiglmaierplatz: there would have been both telephone booths and tram stops on the way. On a homepage created four years ago, as well as in media appearances, the family left little doubt that they did not trust the statements about the course of the night.

The police, on the other hand, believed the accounts to be credible. The mystery of the young woman's disappearance remained: serial killer? Hitchhikers? Act of relationship? Hundreds of leads were followed, and more than 100 witnesses were heard. The family of the disappeared lost a lot of money to fraudulent free riders who pretended to know something about their daughter's whereabouts. "A mother always hopes," said Sonja's mother years ago on television. The family believed Sonja had been kidnapped, so they called in a private detective.

After several television broadcasts, the homicide squad had already received information. Several women had reported who had been approached by a man on the night of the crime. In 2003, the then head of the homicide squad was confident that he would "be able to close the Engelbrecht case in a month or two". Now, after 26 years, one thing is certain: Sonja Engelbrecht is dead. But what exactly happened in the [Maxvorstadt](#) during Holy Week in 1995 is still a mystery.

Source: <https://www.sueddeutsche.de/muenchen/muenchen-mordfall-engelbrecht-kipfenberg-knochenfund-1.5471015>