

German judge is electrosensitive, seeks refuge in EMF-White Zone

An electrosensitive judge from Augsburg finds refuge in the Wehra Valley (German Black Forest).

An electrosensitive (EHS) judge from Augsburg finds refuge in the Wehra Valley (German Black Forest)

Rain spluttered on the roof of the little white camper. Although Barbara has turned up the heater, the cold of winter creeps along the ground and relentlessly wraps around our feet. Barbara Domberger is on a forced vacation in Wehra Valley. The rugged gorge is one of the few havens left for the electrosensitive.

She recall she once still had a few secluded holiday areas where she could retire, but gradually, they have disappeared. "The digital network is currently our biggest problem," she says. The 43-year-old District Judge is on the run - from harmful emitters, mostly microwaves from mobile phone networks. "I've become electrosensitive," she says.

The judge is convinced : when she's exposed to artificial electromagnetic fields for too long, like those from cordless phones or wireless Internet connections, she gets sick. She feels artificially invaded, unable to sleep and concentrate. "And all my muscles harden." Her family doctor says it's from too much stress.

It took three or four years of suffering before an old school friend put her on the right track, says Domberger. Back then the concept of electrical sensitivity was unknown. That's changed: Domberger has read many studies on her condition and has developed contacts with people who share her plight. She chairs the Munich Society for the electrosensitive and mobile-phone injured.



Barbara Domber in his camper

She is very convincing when she easily refutes the arguments of the mobile phone industry. She knows that many prefer sticking her with a psychosomatic label. If that was the case, then how can one explain that her heart rate changes as soon as she enters a room filled with radiation? Domberger says it's a clear medical evidence.

Fear of radiation dominates her life. The once-successful young woman had to abandon her condominium with 17 a square-meter rooftop terrace near downtown Augsburg. "The apartment couldn't be shielded," she says. Her furniture is stored. She's looking for a small apartment in low-radiation area, which she could shield with special reflective paint.

She only goes out when necessary. For shopping, of course. But a movie or the theater? "I used to like going to restaurants," says Domberger. Today, she even turns down birthday invitations, because almost everyone has a cordless phone at home. "**I miss the contact with ordinary people,**" she says with a sigh.

Since January 2010, the District Judge is on sick leave. The state of Bavaria is considering putting her on permanent disability.

Barbara Domberger was in charge of the elderly and disabled. She'd love to work again. "Being a judge was my dream job." For eight years, she worked at the District Court of Augsburg, and before that six years as a prosecutor, also for the Federal Ministry of Justice. Now she's fighting for electrosensitivity to be recognized as a disease and to obtain help for those affected.

Today she's resting in the Wehra Valley. "**Here I feel really good, as I did before,**" she says with a smile.

Very little radiation gets through where she parked her white camper, as opposed to airports or railway stations. A holiday trip in the hot South? Only by car. For longer trips, she bought a special blouse, [woven with reflective silver fiber](#). It cost her 90 Euros. "Most people with EHS can't afford it," says Domberger who asked us not to divulge the exact location of her retreat.