

Pensioner gang charged with torturing financial adviser

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A group of pensioners who tortured their financial adviser after the value of their investments fell following the financial crisis have been charged.



The gang of five pensioners, all from West Germany, kidnapped 56-year old James Amburn after the value of their investments fell by around \$3.6m.

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Amburn was attacked with a Zimmer frame before being bundled into a car boot and driven 480km to the home of Roland Koenig, 74.

Koenig and his accomplice, Willy Dehmer, 80, were then joined by Gerhard and Iris Fell, aged 63 and 66, and Koenig's 79-year old wife, Sieglinde. They then confined Amburn to a cellar, and bound him with masking tape.

The victim claims he was burned with cigarettes, beaten and had two ribs broken when he was hit with a chair leg.

During his four days in the cellar, the pensioners threatened to kill Amburn, but he convinced them they could recover their money by selling some securities.

The gang forced Amburn to send a fax to his bank to transfer funds, but failed to notice he had scribbled 'call police' on the bottom of the fax.

Shortly afterwards, the bank called the police, who sent a team of armed officers to Koenig's home.

The pensioners each face up to five years in prison for hostage taking and causing grievous bodily harm.

Their trial is due to begin next year.