

**THE
LEUCHTER
REPORTS
CRITICAL EDITION**

THIRD REVISED EDITION

DEDICATION:

To Ernst

FRED A. LEUCHTER JR.
DR. ROBERT FAURISSON
GERMAR RUDOLF

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LEUCHTER
REPORTS
CRITICAL EDITION**

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By FRED A. LEUCHTER JR., DR. ROBERT FAURISSON and GERMAR RUDOLF

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ON THE COVER: Cover illustrations clockwise from upper left: Dr. Robert Faurisson and Fred A. Leuchter study paper work while doing research at the Dachau camp for the “Second Leuchter Report”; Fred A. Leuchter and a prison guard at the entry door to the execution gas chamber of the prison at Parchman, Mississippi, while doing research for the “Third Leuchter Report”; a snapshot of Leuchter. Background below: The Auschwitz-Birkenau work camp, where it is alleged as many as 4 million Jews were gassed to death.

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Introduction

By Germar Rudolf

The *Leuchter Report*,¹ first published in 1988, is the work of a pioneer. It was the first study that subjected the claim that human beings were killed in masses in homicidal gas chambers during the Third Reich to a forensic investigation. Because Fred Leuchter had only two weeks to prepare his expert report focusing on the Auschwitz and Majdanek camps and because he had no in-depth knowledge of the historical issues at hand, his report could not possibly have the scientific depth the topic deserves. It was therefore to be expected that it would be subject to detailed criticism.

Instead of criticizing the *Leuchter Report*, the author of these lines decided in 1989 to do the job better. After all, it is always easy to complain, but it is quite difficult to do a better job on a topic so complex and imbued with prejudices and emotions. The English version of this improved “Leuchter Report,” my own expert report called *The Rudolf Report*, was first published in German in 1993² and in English ten years later.³ In contrast to the success of the *Leuchter Report*, my own expert report remained something of an insider’s secret resource, probably because it is, after all, a second attempt and also because long, in-depth scientific studies covering physical, chemical, toxicological, and engineering questions, as well as detailed historical documentations, are not the kind of publications that attract the masses. They are simply not easy to digest nor, in this case, so easy to criticize.

Considering the fact that the *Leuchter Report* remains popular, I decided to put it back in print. But since historical research on Auschwitz and Majdanek has made huge progress since 1988 – not least because many archives in eastern Europe became accessible after the collapse of the Soviet Union – it would be irresponsible to simply reprint it. It was therefore decided to publish a commented version of it. The text of the original *Leuchter Report* was left intact, since it has also become a historical document in its own right. The reader will find many footnotes throughout the report, however, which were all added by the author of these lines. They either cite references to sources

¹ Fred A. Leuchter, *An Engineering Report on the alleged Execution Gas Chambers at Auschwitz, Birkenau and Majdanek, Poland*, Samisdat Publishers Ltd., Toronto 1988, 195 pp.

² Rüdiger Kammerer, Armin Solms (eds.), *Das Rudolf-Gutachten*, Cromwell, London 1993 (www.vho.org/D/rga).

³ G. Rudolf, *The Rudolf Report*, Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago 2003 (www.vho.org/GB/Books/trr).

and further explanations that back up Leuchter's claims, or they correct or comment on Leuchter's statements where necessary. All illustrations embedded in the text section of the report were added for this edition, so that the reader can visualize the locations, devices and items Leuchter is writing about. At the end of this first *Leuchter Report*, the reader will find several additional chapters, which explain in more detail the issues involved.

What is unknown to many is the fact that Fred A. Leuchter not only authored the famous first *Leuchter Report*, but that he also compiled three more studies on related issues in the years that followed. They were called *The Second*, *Third*, and *Fourth Leuchter Report*.⁴ Since they all belong together, it was decided to include them in this book as well. These later three reports were not given comment in this edition, because most comments that would seem appropriate are already included in the *First Leuchter Report*. As to Leuchter's critique of Jean-Claude Pressac's work on Auschwitz – *The Fourth Leuchter Report* – I direct the reader's attention to more thorough critiques by other revisionists of Pressac's work.⁵

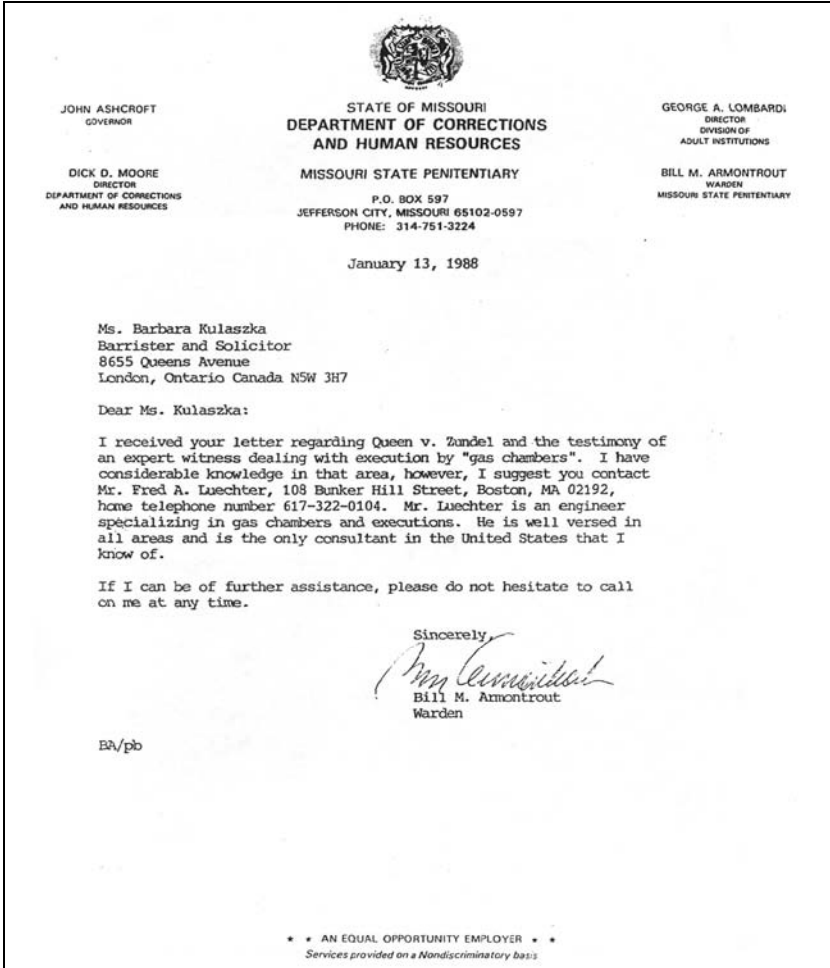
The idea to publish this critical edition of the Leuchter Reports was triggered by the fate of the person at whose request they had been compiled: Ernst Zündel. The reader will be introduced to Ernst Zündel's trials and tribulations in the introduction by Robert Faurisson, so I will restrict myself to saying that these four *Leuchter Reports* are the core of Zündel's legacy, for which he is sitting in a German jail as I write these lines, because in Germany expressing doubt of the veracity of the official version of the Holocaust is a thought crime punishable with up to five years in prison.

This critical edition is not only dedicated to Ernst Zündel, but also, of course, to the author of these reports, who suffered like no other American because of his historical dissent. After Ernst Zündel had published Leuchter's first report, Jewish organizations launched a vicious smear campaign, which eventually destroyed not only Leuchter's reputation but also his ability to make a living. Leuchter's contracts with state authorities for the manufacture, installation and servicing of execution hardware were cancelled. He was financially forced out of his home in Massachusetts and had to find private work elsewhere.⁶

⁴ Fred Leuchter, Robert Faurisson, *The Second Leuchter Report*, Samisdat Publishers, Toronto 1990; Fred A. Leuchter, *The Third Leuchter Report*, Samisdat Publishers Ltd., Toronto 1990; Fred A. Leuchter, *The Fourth Leuchter Report*, Samisdat Publishers Ltd., Toronto 1991.

⁵ C. Mattogno, *Journal of Historical Review*, 10(4) (1990), pp. 461-485; R. Faurisson, *ibid.*, 11(1) (1991), pp. 25-66; *ibid.*, 11(2) (1991), pp. 133-175; A. Butz, *ibid.*, 13(3) (1993), pp. 23-37; Germar Rudolf (ed.), *Auschwitz: Plain Facts*, Theses & Dissertations Press, Chicago, IL, 2005; C. Mattogno, *Auschwitz: The Case for Sanity*, The Barnes Review, Washington 2010.

⁶ See the special issue on Leuchter and the *Leuchter Report* in *The Journal of Historical Review*, 12(4) (1992), pp. 421-492 (www.vho.org/GB/Journals/JHR/12/index.html#4), esp.: Fred Leuchter, "Is there life after persecution? The botched execution," pp. 429-444.



But who is Fred. A. Leuchter anyway? A number of mainstream media reported about Fred Leuchter. Some of their statements were:⁷

A feature article in *The Atlantic Monthly* (Feb. 1990) described Leuchter as “the nation’s only commercial supplier of execution equipment. [...] A trained and accomplished engineer, he is versed in all types of execution equipment. He makes lethal-injection machines, gas chambers, and gallows, as well as electrocution systems [...]”

Similarly, a lengthy *New York Times* article (October 13, 1990), complete with a front-page photo of Leuchter, called him

“The nation’s leading adviser on capital punishment.”

⁷ Taken from the paper “Probing Look at ‘Capital Punishment Industry’ Affirms Expertise of Auschwitz Investigator Leuchter,” *The Journal of Historical Review* 17(2) (1998), pp. 34ff.

In his book about America's capital punishment industry, Stephen Trombley confirms that Leuchter is:⁸

"America's first and foremost supplier of execution hardware. His products include electric chairs, gas chambers, gallows, and lethal injection machines. He offers design, construction, installation, staff training and maintenance."

Thus, with Fred A. Leuchter we have the foremost, if not the only expert on execution technology in the U.S. at that time. Should such a person not be competent to judge the technical feasibility of the alleged execution technology applied by the Third Reich? Well, at least he should have the right to voice his opinion, should he not?

According to Fred Leuchter, killing someone in a gas chamber is very dangerous for those who carry out the execution, above all because the body of the dead prisoner is saturated with lethal gas. After the execution, explains Leuchter:⁹

"You go in. The inmate has to be completely washed down with chlorine bleach or with ammonia. The poison exudes right out through his skin. And if you gave the body to an undertaker, you'd kill the undertaker. You've got to go in; you've got to completely wash the body."

Bill Armontrout, warden of the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City, which contains an execution gas chamber, confirms the danger:¹⁰

"One of the things that cyanide gas does, it goes in the pores of your skin. You hose the body down, see. You have to use rubber gloves, and you hose the body down to decontaminate it before you do anything [else]."

In Leuchter's opinion, the use of gas chambers should be discontinued, not just because of the cruelty of this method of execution, but because of his beliefs relating to gas chambers as such:¹¹

"They're dangerous. They're dangerous to the people who have to use them, and they're dangerous for the witnesses. They ought to take all of them and cut them in half with a chain saw and get rid of them."

With a career built on the motto "Capital punishment, not capital torture," Leuchter took pride in his work – until the Holocaust lobby saw to it that he lost that career.

May this book be an intellectual memorial for both Ernst Zündel and Fred Leuchter.

Germar Rudolf, Chicago, April 1, 2005

⁸ Stephen Trombley, *The Execution Protocol*, Crown Publishers, New York 1992, p. 8.

⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 98.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 102

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 13.