

German guerrilla leader draws 8-year prison term

BERLIN (UPI) — A West Berlin judge Friday sentenced hunger-striking guerrilla leader Ulrike Meinhof to eight years imprisonment for her part in an attempted murder.

Weak from two months without solid food, Mrs. Meinhof did not attend the sentencing in a courthouse surrounded by water cannon and police with German Shepherd dogs. Only a few demonstrators showed up outside.

In past court appearances, Mrs. Meinhof shouted "swine" and "fascists" at judges and lawyers and was subsequently banned from court sessions.

Horst Mahler, her former lawyer and a follower of her Red Army faction of self-styled "metropolitan guerrillas," was given a 14-year sentence on conviction on charges of conspiracy in the attempted murder and other crimes. He was dragged into the courtroom by four police officers trying to carry him on a blanket and refused to sit upright to hear his sentence.

A third defendant, mechanic Hans-Juergen Baecker, was acquitted.

Ms. Meinhof was convicted for her actions with a gang that is blamed for a series of bombings, shootings and robberies that killed four U.S. servicemen and three policemen.