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Portrait: The 9/11 skeptic who refuses to be called a crackpot

The Danish High Court has to decide today whether it is legitimate to call Niels Harrit's theories 'crackpot'.



SKEPTICISM. 9/11 skeptic, Niels Harrit, refuses to be called a crackpot. The Eastern Division of the Danish High Court has to decide today whether his theories are 'crackpot'. Photograph: FINN FRANDBSEN



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Journalist

What really happened on September 11 when the two planes flew into the Twin Towers in the USA?

9/11 skeptic, Niels Harrit, has a number of theories on this, and Søren Villemoes – a journalist at Weekendavisen – therefore called Niels Harrit a crackpot in 2012. This led Niels Harrit to

take him to court, but the City Court of Copenhagen decided that Søren Villemoes was entitled to write what he wrote.

Niels Harrit appealed the case, and the Eastern Division of the Danish High Court has to decide today whether or not 9/11 skepticism is 'crackpot', writes Universitetsavisen.

But Niels Harrit has not always spent his time speculating about 9/11 theories. He has previously taught chemistry, played the flute and performed with Peter Belli. Politiken presents a portrait of the renowned 9/11 skeptic.

Associate professor and musician

Niels Harrit was born on 25 January 1945. He was employed by the Department of Chemistry at the University of Copenhagen when he was around 25. He was an associate professor here for over 40 years.

But in addition to teaching chemistry, Niels Harrit played the flute, saxophone and keyboard, and before the World Trade Center was attacked and Niels Harrit saw a video of a seventh tower which collapsed, music took him far and wide.

He has spent much of his time playing music – and not in private in his garage. Niels Harrit has performed with a number of Danish musicians, including Peter Belli, Lars Bisgaard and Bjarne Thanning. And he has played with a number of different bands.

He played the keyboard and saxophone in the Maxwells rock group. He has played with the Contemporary Jazz Quintet and Cadentia Nova Danica avant-garde jazz groups. He has played in the Arnvid Meiers swing orchestra. From 1980 to 1986 he played in fusion band, Blast, and from 1991 to 1992 he played blues with Ken Lending. He has even played Latin music with Salsa Na Ma and Belixa Brazil. This information is taken from the Musikhuzet.dk website.

Niels Harrit has thus not limited himself to either a single instrument or a single music genre. He has covered a lot of ground in the world of music, and is now sharing more than just music.

RESUME

- Niels Harrit was **born on 25 January 1945**.
- He was employed as an **Associate Professor at the Department of Chemistry** at the University of Copenhagen for over 40 years. He is now retired.
- He has played the **flute, saxophone and keyboard**.
- He has **played in a swing orchestra**, rock group, fusion band and blues band.
- He has **performed with a number of Danish musicians**, including Peter Belli, Lars Bisgaard and Bjarne Thanning.
- Niels Harrit has **traveled around Denmark** since 2007 presenting his theories on 9/11.
- He **does not believe the official explanation**, that the seventh building of the World Trade Center collapsed due to fire.
- In 2012, **Søren Villemoes called him a crackpot** in connection with an exhibition in the Danish Royal Library on the Armenian genocide.
- **Niels Harrit took him to court** for this comment, but the City Court of Copenhagen found in Søren Villemoes' favour in 2013.
- Niels Harrit appealed the case, and **the Eastern Division of the Danish High Court has to decide today whether it is legitimate to call Niels Harrit's theories 'crackpot'**.

9/11 skeptic

Niels Harrit is now 70. He has retired from his job as associate professor and spends much of his time sharing his theories on what happened in the USA on September 11. Theories which primarily involve the seventh tower.

The World Trade Center consisted of seven towers – the Twin Towers, WTC1 and WTC2, and five smaller towers numbered 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. The seventh tower was set back from the remaining towers and was a huge 47-storey office building.

Building 7 was not hit by any plane, as the twin towers were, yet still collapsed in just a few seconds, seven hours after the two towers. Niels Harrit has been trying for a long time to draw attention to what caused Building 7 to collapse, as he does not believe the official explanation. According to him, it is impossible for the seventh tower to have collapsed due to a fire.

Niels Harrit has therefore travelled around Denmark the last several years – since 2007 – presenting his theories. Theories which he claims are scientific and not 'conspiracy theories'.

He has long been calling for a new investigation of what happened to the seventh building on September 11, and some well-known figures in both Denmark and abroad have supported this call. These include Jesper Klein (actor), Jan Utzon (architect), Inge Genefke (doctor) and Flemming Pless (church minister).

Skeptics outside Denmark include the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, and US film director, Michael Moore.

Although he is not the only one who wants a new investigation, he has difficulty finding support for his theories. But the opposition is not stopping 9/11 skeptic Niels Harrit from spreading his message. And from refusing to be called a crackpot.