

Outline of the Annual Report of the
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1 ISLAMIST TERRORISM

Islamist terrorism is not a homogenous phenomenon. It covers transnational terror networks, pro-violence organisations, independent small groups and regional organisations which resort to violence. In comparison to last year the personnel potential of some 430 people in Berlin represents an increase of 110 persons .

Transnational terror groups like “Al-Qaida” or “Mujahidin-networks”, “Ansar al-Islam” or the “Islamic Emirate of Caucasus” are rather clandestine organisations with different organisational structures which to some extent are interlinked. Based on its jihadist ideology “Al-Qaida” additionally exceeds the influence of the organisation’s structures while giving ideological explanations to independent small groups and lone operators thus “inspiring” them and consequently radicalising them. In this connection the internet is a vital instrument of propaganda. It is hard to assess this personnel potential by pure quantity.

Regional organisations which resort to violence carry out terrorist acts primarily in their home countries - for example to eliminate the local power structures. In Berlin “Hizb Allah” and “ Hamas” are among such Arab organisations. Generally the members of these organisations exercise restraint in Germany and are in most cases non-violent.

Additionally there are also adherents of pro-violence organisations like “Hizb ut-Tahrir” (HuT) and “Caliphate State” in Berlin.

Germany continues to be the target of Islamist terrorism. This is particularly exemplified by numerous video threats which were published in German in the internet at the beginning of 2009. Militant radical Islamic groups aim increasingly at recruiting German Muslims and converts. In March 2008 Cüneyt C., a Turk who grew up in Bavaria, committed a suicide attack in Afghanistan and in April the German convert Eric B. called for jihad.

2 SALAFIST EFFORTS

Salafism which is based on a wahabist ideology is one of the world’s most rapidly expanding Islamist movements and clings to the ideas of the so-called “pious forefathers” dating back to prehistoric times of Islam 1,400 years ago. In this context life is rigidly based on the principles of Koran and Sunna and the exclusive right to an appropriate comprehension of Islam in contrast to any other interpretations of Islam.

The way how Salafists perceive Islam and literally interpret the texts is consequently a support of the early Islamic forms of government and rules which are incompatible with the constitutional principles of the Basic Law. The characteristic feature of Salafists to strive for isolation which strictly differentiates between “practising believers” and supposed “infidels” involves the aspiration to create their own social environment. That is why they use the term “infidels” for non-Muslims on the one hand and for Muslims who in terms of salafist ideology “do not stick to it” on the other hand.

The salafist ideology is disseminated in Berlin primarily by a sermonizer who stems from Morocco but also by a publishing house which offers its publications online. The sermonizer is quite popular particularly amongst young people and even quite a lot of non-Muslims whom he wants to motivate to convert feel specifically approached by his offer to teach Islam in German. Every now and then he can be met as a speaker at Islam seminars and that is why he is well-known among Salafists in Germany. The publishing house is one example for the increasing internet activities of Salafists. Allegedly the publications shall impart basic knowledge about Islam, most of them, however, are written by authors with a salafist influence. This includes books, audio- and video messages of sermonizers who represent such a movement in Germany. On suspicion of forming a criminal organisation pursuant to § 129 of the German Criminal Code the premises of the publishing house were searched in April due to a preliminary investigation by the Munich public prosecution.

3 LEGALISTIC ISLAMISM

The Islamist organisations “Islamic Community Milli Görüs reg.ass.” IGMG and “Muslim Brotherhood” reject violence to achieve their political objectives.

Among some 3,000 members of legalistically acting Islamist organisations approximately 2,900 Turkish Islamists are primarily organised in the IGMG. They still represent the biggest majority. The Arab “Muslim Brotherhood” counts approximately 100 people.

The IGMG is interested in intensifying its contacts with politicians and society and in being accepted as an official contact with regard to the political dialogue between German authorities and Muslims. Although

some reformers demand an IGMG reorientation the leading figures still continue to adhere dogmatically to the ideological positions of “Milli Görüs”. Hence it is questionable whether a spectrum of reforms in the context of integrating them into the “Milli-Görüs”-movement can be implemented or even firmly established within the organisation. This challenges the IGMG’s verbal commitments to democracy and the Rule of Law. There is still vital evidence for IGMG’s Islamist attitude which contradicts the principles of Western democracies and the corresponding values.

4 RIGHT-WING EXTREMISM

The right-wing personnel potential has clearly decreased to 1,780 people (2007: roughly 2,010 people). For the first time after years the number is now below 2,000. This applies in particular to far right parties with some 630 members only (2007: about 810). According to § 5 paragraph 2 of the Berlin Act regulating matters relating to the protection of the constitution there were no adequate indications for subversive activities with respect to 2 organisations. Thus their members can no longer be added to the right-wing extremist personnel potential. In all other fields rather a stable development can be observed.

In 2008 the “National Democratic Party of Germany” (NPD) registered a slight increase in members with a total of about 330 people (2007: roughly 290 people) although the fluctuation is still high. On the one hand many members leave the party, on the other hand activists from the party’s grassroot organisation of the far-right network “Netzwerk Freie Kräfte” try hard to recruit people. Should a similar number of people leave the party in 2009, too it remains to be seen whether the NPD will be able to compensate for the loss with new members from now on.

With some 550 people the “Neonazis” registered another slight decline of 100 people (2007: about 650 people) whereas the number of roughly 500 right-wing extremists who focus on sub-culture and violence continues to stagnate just as in previous years. This shows the high continuity in this field.

The NPD is right in the middle of a deep crisis – both on the federal and the state level. Leading officials are at odds with each other, members leave the party and the officials are no longer happy with the leadership. The chairmen of the NPD were requested to resign, both on the federal

and the state level. Jörg Hähnel, the current deputy of the Berlin NPD, was voted new chairman at an emergency party conference in June which did not change the party's 'neo-nazi' focus. Hähnel is quite a controversial person within the party. Unlike the years before the Berlin NPD is less active and did hardly organise any public activities or party rallies. Continuous activities seem to be impossible.

After a long period of planning the party established the "Young National Democrats"/"Junge Nationaldemokraten" (JN), a regional youth organisation, whose partly energetic activities were not backed from the NPD but from action-oriented right-wing extremists from the "Netzwerk Freie Kräfte". True enough, the "Freie Kräfte" and the NPD cooperated closely in Berlin but it was not possible to act as a protagonist among the different right-wing extremists.

In 2008 the structural change within the "Netzwerk Freie Kräfte" continued. Last year comradeships were no longer active in Berlin. The roughly 200 action-oriented right-wing extremists have changed their organisation structures and types of action – primarily in order to evade a ban and to approach new targets. Some 130 "autonomous nationalists" have been the main activists of the network for quite some years now.

A second right-wing network – the music network – is composed of several groups, music bands and individual people. Basically it includes the right-wing extremist band "Deutsch, Stolz, Treue"(D.S.T also X.x.X.), "Spreegeschwader" (SG),"Legion of Thor" (LoT) and "Die Lunikoff Verschwörung" and some neo-Nazi groupings. Because of state repression the music network was hardly active in Berlin over the past years. It was sensational when Michael "Lunikoff" Regener the former singer of the right-wing extremist band "Landser" who attained a certain cult status among right-wing extremists, was released from prison in February. After his release he produced a CD with the band "Die Lunkoff-Verschwörung" which was started in 2004 and he gave 2 concerts, but none of them in Berlin.

As a result of bans, proscription processes and self-liquidations the importance of discourse-oriented right-wing extremism faded away during the past few months. In May the Federal Ministry of the Interior imposed a ban on the two nationwide organised associations, "Verein zur Rehabilitierung der wegen Bestreitens des Holocaust Verfolgten" (VRBHV) (association to rehabilitate those who deny the holocaust and are prosecuted) and "Collegium Humanum"/"body humanum". Most of

the far right holocaust deniers were organised in the associations mentioned above. In March 2009 another ban was imposed on the “Heimattreue Deutsche Jugend” (HDJ)/”Homeland-Loyal German Youth”.

As a result of lacking success the nationwide organised “Kampfbund Deutscher Sozialisten”/”Combat Group of German Socialists” split up in July. Merely the “Kontinent Europa Stiftung” (KES)/”Continent of Europe Foundation” attracted public attention within discourse-oriented right-wing extremism as the founder of the foundation moved to Berlin which was made public in July. Activities of the foundation were not to be realized in Berlin and the promised study centre was not opened.

5 LEFT-WING EXTREMISM

The personnel potential of far-left organisations remains at rather a constant level with 2,200 people (in 2007: about 2,210). Nevertheless slight shifts were registered within the left-wing extremist spectrum: the number of non-violent people slightly increased (from about 700 people in 2007 up to some 720 in 2008) whereas a slight decrease of 1,100 action-oriented people including those who resort to violence was noted in comparison to 2007 (roughly 1,160 people). Additionally far-right parties and the fusions within the parties shot up from 350 to about 380 people in 2008.

The far-left scene in Berlin is in the process of reorienting the structure, philosophy and strategy. After the demonstrations against the G 8 summit in Heiligendamm in June 2007 the use of violence was the main issue and strong dissent was to be observed among left-wing extremist groups. The protagonists mainly concentrated on different, more regional subjects like taking up the struggle against construction projects and enhancing the unrestricted autonomous scope which in spring 2008 culminated in the so-called “autonomous scope for action” days, an event which was attended by far-left extremists from all over Germany and Europe. Even after the event which entailed numerous violent acts the use of violence was heavily disputed.

Apart from reorganising the structure “Antifascism” was another vital subject. A lot of left-wing extremists think that it is justified to resort to violence when they combat right-wing extremists as their political opponents. But left-wing extremists also try to address non-extremist protagonists in order to increase their assertiveness.

Left-wing extremists primarily tried to take the financial crisis and the entailing consequences as an example to criticise theoretical capitalism which hardly resulted in any concrete actions. Nevertheless left-wing extremists from Berlin joined the alliance with respect to the financial crisis – among them the “Antifaschistische Linke Berlin”/” the anti-fascist left-wing movement of Berlin” (ALB), “Für eine linke Strömung”/”Support the left-wing current” (FeLS), die “Deutsche Kommunistische Partei”/the “German Communist Party (DKP) Berlin” and the “Gruppe Arbeitermacht”/”Workers’ Power” (GAM). They appealed to join two mass rallies themed “We do NOT pay for your CRISIS! Express solidarity with society”.

A major part of the far-left autonomous spectrum joined in a nationwide “anti-militarization campaign” which started in September when the Bundestag had to resolve a prolongation of the mandate of the German armed forces in Afghanistan. Several violent acts were committed in the course of this campaign.

In September three supposed members of the “militant group” (mg) who were detained in summer 2007 had to appear before the Berlin Superior Court of Justice. They were accused of having formed a criminal organisation. The mg admitted to have carried out 25 arson attacks in the Greater Berlin district and when the mg members were arrested extremist and non-extremist groups showed solidarity with them. There were no further mg attacks since the arrests and the militancy debate which has been a point of discussion among left-wing extremists for 8 years was no longer resumed.

6 FOREIGN EXTREMIST ACTIVITIES THREATENING SECURITY (EXCEPT ISLAMISM)

In 2008 the number of some 1,579 people who were responsible for extremist and security threatening activities which were carried out by foreign organisations of the far-left and ultra-nationalist spectrum was just as high as in the year before. Unlike the Turkish far-left organisations with only some 185 members like the “Marxistisch-Leninistische Kommunistische Partei”/”Marxist-Leninist Communist party”, the “Revolutionäre Volksbefreiungspartei-Front”/the “Revolutionary People’s Liberation Party/Front”, the “Volksbefreiungspartei-Front der Türkei – Revolutionäre Linke”/the “People’s Liberation Party-Front of Turkey – Revolutionary Left” as well as the

“Kommunistische Partei der Türkei/Marxisten-Leninisten”/the “Communist Party of Turkey/Marxist-Leninist” - the “Kurdistan Workers’ Party” (PKK) with some 1,000 people is still the biggest of all far-left foreign organisations (about 1,270 people).

Approximately 55 people are still assigned to the Iranian MEK/NWRI.

In foreign countries far-left organisations carry out terrorist activities or support explicitly violence to eliminate power structures in their respective home-countries - which in turn is different from region to region. In Berlin the members of such groups are cautious and in most cases they do not resort to violence.

The ultra nationalist Turkish organisations which are combined in the Federation of Turkish-Democratic Idealist Associations in Europe count about 300 people. Individual adherents tend to provoke confrontation and to resort to violence with respect to PKK adherents and Turkish left-wing extremists.

In Europe PKK/Kongra Gel continues to pursue a dual strategy of armed struggle in Turkey and cautious actions in Europe. In Germany, however, Komalên Ciwan, a youth organisation, regards violence as a political means – on several occasions the organisation carried out arson attacks. Three German mountain climbers were kidnapped in July in the Eastern part of Turkey. The motive behind it was the ban on the TV channel ROJ TV which was imposed by the Federal Minister of the Interior. After more than 10 years the PKK/Kongra Gel was held responsible for the first kidnapping of foreign tourists. In April riots were not to be prevented during the first nationwide youth demonstration in Berlin.

Terrorist activities which were carried out by far-left organisations in Turkey decreased in the year under report and in Germany most of the activities which can be attributed to adherents of such organisations went off peacefully. Further investigations and proceedings are instituted against members of a foreign terrorist organisation within the DHKP-C.

7 THE “SCIENTOLOGY-ORGANISATION”

When Scientology endeavoured to prevent surveillance from part of the offices for the protection of the constitution the organisation suffered a setback. On 12th February 2008 the higher administrative court in Münster declared that it is legal that the offices for the protection of the constitution can keep the organisation under surveillance. It was determined that Scientology and the members of Scientology maintain ambitions against the free democratic basic order.

After that Scientology changed its tactics. On 20th April 2008 the organisation made a “policy statement on human rights and democracy” which refers to the well-known statements of Scientology that the organisation does not want to pursue any political activities but is merely a non-political religious organisation. Every German Scientology branch adopted this policy statement as part of the statutes. Scientology’s lawyers announced that the organisation wanted to terminate the endless debates about the verdict to keep Scientology legitimately under surveillance by the offices for the protection of the constitution, debates which dragged on for eleven years. In terms of content Scientology continued to fully agree with the statements made in its publications. Scientology adheres to the irrevocability of L. Ron Hubbard’s statements, the founder of the organisation.

Scientology’s strategy to open a new branch in Berlin at the beginning of 2007 was to influence the federal government and other decision-makers. Even though the Berlin branch is of utmost political importance it is not a German or European headquarter. Thinking in terms of hierarchy the branch is equal to other German SO-institutions. In 2008 SO continued to pursue intensively its publicity and lobbying activities. Although the organisation runs numerous publicity campaigns a measurable success like an increase in numbers of visitors or members of the Berlin SO can not be observed.



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