

## RAXEN BULLETIN

### 1. THE “POLITICAL HEADLINES”

#### *Naturalisation questionnaire in Baden-Württemberg*

The state of Baden-Württemberg introduced new provisions for the naturalisation procedure to check the applicants' compliance with the Constitution. Since January 2006, the municipal authorities have to use a naturalisation questionnaire which encompasses 30 questions on the applicants' political and personal attitudes. Officially, this questionnaire is only to be used if anti-constitutional tendencies are assumed; however, according to a press release of the State Ministry of the Interior, it is “in general” to be doubted that Muslims who verbally accept the constitutional principles are “really internally” committed to them. During a debate in the *Bundestag* in mid-January, the State Minister of the Interior stressed that not all - and not only - Muslim applicants will be asked these questions.

[www.innenministerium.baden-wuerttemberg.de/de/Meldungen/111612.html?referer=81115&template=min\\_meldung\\_html&min=im](http://www.innenministerium.baden-wuerttemberg.de/de/Meldungen/111612.html?referer=81115&template=min_meldung_html&min=im) (27.02.2006)

[www.innenministerium.baden-wuerttemberg.de/de/Meldungen/112892.html?referer=81115&template=min\\_meldung\\_html&min=im](http://www.innenministerium.baden-wuerttemberg.de/de/Meldungen/112892.html?referer=81115&template=min_meldung_html&min=im) (27.02.2006)

#### *“German only” at schools*

A controversial debate on “German only” regulations at schools was triggered of by an article of the Turkish newspaper *Hürriyet* on a secondary school in Berlin which had introduced a provision that obliges all pupils to speak German in the classroom and on the schoolyard. This school regulation had been agreed on by teachers, parents and pupils. Whereas many politicians stated general approval with such (voluntary) “German only” provisions, some Turkish organisations (e.g. the Berlin-based TBB) describe the provisions as discriminatory and against the Constitution.

[www.tbb-berlin.de/de/frame.html](http://www.tbb-berlin.de/de/frame.html) (27.02.2006); taz 28.01.06, p. 6

#### *Mohammed cartoons*

All big Muslim organisations in Germany publicly condemned the violent reaction in the Muslim world to the publication of the Mohammed cartoons and urged all Muslims in Germany to remain calm. In many mosques the imams called upon the Muslims not to use violence. In a few German cities, several thousand Muslims attended peaceful demonstrations against the defamation of their Islamic faith. German politicians praised the calm reactions of the Muslim community.

[www.islamische-zeitung.de/?id=6931](http://www.islamische-zeitung.de/?id=6931) (27.02.2006); taz 13.02.06, p. 5

## 2. UPDATE ON LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

### *Anti-discrimination bill is again subject to heated political debates*

After the German anti-discrimination law could not be passed within the past legislation period due to a lack of time, the parliamentary group of the Greens – now one of the opposition parties – introduced the same bill once again into the German Bundestag (printed matter 16/297). The heated debate on this anti-discrimination bill in the Bundestag on January 20, 2006 showed once again the clearly different political positions on how to transpose the EU Directives into national law. Whereas the Conservatives (CDU/CSU) and the Liberals refused to accept that a future anti-discrimination law exceed the minimum standards of the directives, the Greens, the left-wing party *Die Linke* and parts of the SPD insisted on more comprehensive provisions; the latter position is also supported by the Minister of Justice, Zypries (SPD).

The bill which was discussed in the parliament exceeds the minimum standards of the directives: It covers the realm of labour law *and* civil law (in accordance with 2000/43/EC), and aims at combating discrimination not only on the grounds of “race” or ethnic origin, but also gender, religion, belief, sexual orientation, disability, age.

[www.bundestag.de/bic/hib/2006/2006\\_003/index.html](http://www.bundestag.de/bic/hib/2006/2006_003/index.html) (27.02.2006)

Die Welt (12.01.2006): [www.welt.de/data/2006/01/12/830236.html](http://www.welt.de/data/2006/01/12/830236.html) (27.02.2006)

### 3. RESEARCH

#### *Longitude study on anti-Semitic, Islamophobic and xenophobic attitudes*

In January 2006, the results of the fourth round of the longitude survey GMF (“*Gruppenbezogenen Menschenfeindlichkeit*”) conducted by the Interdisciplinary Institute for Conflict and Violence Research (University of Bielefeld) were published. The core aim of the GMF survey is to analyse the level and long-term development of, among others, xenophobic, anti-Semitic and Islamophobic attitudes in the German society. Generally speaking, the latest findings reveal a rising tendency. Within the framework of the GMF survey, one research group specifically deals with the interviewees’ disposition to discriminate against, for instance, Muslims or foreigners.

*Heitmeyer, W. (ed.) (2006) Deutsche Zustände. Folge 4. Suhrkamp: Frankfurt/Main*

#### *Longitude survey on xenophobic and extreme right-wing attitudes among young people in Brandenburg*

The longitude study “Youth in Brandenburg” on the living situation and attitudes of young people in the state of Brandenburg, which has been conducted since 1991, analyses, among others, the young people’s agreement with certain xenophobic and extreme right-wing statements. In 2005, 3,379 pupils between twelve and 20 years were interviewed. The general tendency is positive: 73.4% interviewees rejected xenophobic items where else in 1999 only 65.6% expressed their disagreement.

[www.mbjs.brandenburg.de/media/lbm1.a.1222.de/zeitreihenstudie\\_kurz.pdf](http://www.mbjs.brandenburg.de/media/lbm1.a.1222.de/zeitreihenstudie_kurz.pdf) (27.02.2006)

#### Conference documentation on “Integration and Islam”

In late February, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) published a comprehensive documentation of the expert conference “Integration and Islam”, which was held in June 2005. The conference report contains articles on various aspects of the topic, such as Islamic instructions at school, organisational structures of the Muslim community, integration policy with the focus on Islam.

[www.bamf.de/clin\\_043/nn\\_566316/SharedDocs/Anlagen/DE/Asyl/Publikationen/schriftenreihe-band-14.templateId=raw.property=publicationFile.pdf/schriftenreihe-band-14.pdf](http://www.bamf.de/clin_043/nn_566316/SharedDocs/Anlagen/DE/Asyl/Publikationen/schriftenreihe-band-14.templateId=raw.property=publicationFile.pdf/schriftenreihe-band-14.pdf) (27.02.2006)

## 4. ANNEX

### 1 Statistical data and incidents on racist violence and crimes

#### 1.1 Official Statistics

##### *Annual Statistics on politically motivated right-wing crimes*

The preliminary figures of **politically motivated right-wing crimes** (PMK/right-wing) in 2005 show a drastic increase of 29% compared to the previous year: In 2005 10,271 extreme right-wing crimes were registered, including 7,626 propaganda offences and 588 violent crimes. In 2004, 7,943 right-wing offences were recorded 5,634 of them were propaganda offences and 498 violent crimes.

The number of PMK/right-wing crimes with a **xenophobic background** among the total number of politically motivated right-wing crimes decreased slightly in 2005: In 2004, 1,446 crimes were deemed as xenophobic; amongst them 250 violent crimes. In 2005 1,418 crimes with a xenophobic background were registered, 233 of them being categorised as violent crimes (see table 1 at the end of this chapter)

[www.petra-pau.de/16\\_bundestag/dok/down/2005\\_zf-rechtsextreme-straftaten.pdf](http://www.petra-pau.de/16_bundestag/dok/down/2005_zf-rechtsextreme-straftaten.pdf) (27.02.2006)

##### *State Offices for the Protection of the Constitution published its annual report*

According to the State Office on the Protection of the Constitution in Saxony; the number of PMK/right-wing crimes in Saxony increased drastically: 2,239 such crimes were registered by the police in 2005. Compared to the annual figures of previous year (2004:1334), this represents an increase by 905 cases or 67.8%. The number of PMK/right-wing crimes which were categorised as violent grew by 47.6%: 93 such crimes were registered in Saxony in 2005 (2004: 63).

The State Office also registered an increase in the number of right-wing extremist people in Saxony (2005: 3,230) – due to the growing number of members of more or less informal right-wing extremist, especially neo-Nazi groups. Whereas all right-wing extremist political parties in Saxony together lost – very few – members (2005: 1,239; 2004: 1,250); the NPD registered a slight increase in the number of party members (2005: about 1,000; 2004: 950).

[www.sachsen.de/de/bf/verwaltung/verfassungsschutz/aktuelles/index.html](http://www.sachsen.de/de/bf/verwaltung/verfassungsschutz/aktuelles/index.html) (27.02.2006)

#### 1.2 Unofficial Statistics

##### Unofficial annual statistics on right-wing violence in the eastern federal states

For the third time since 2003, the association *Opferperspektive* published the unofficial annual statistics on right-wing and racist violence in East Germany, based on the data collection of nine CIVITAS-funded victim support organisations in the eastern states and Berlin. In 2005, the victim support associations documented 614 acts of (extreme) right-wing violence; in 182 cases a primarily racist motivation, and in seven cases an anti-Semitic background is assumed.

In the course of their counselling itself, the victim support organisations counted 1,020 clients in 2005; 794 of them were victims of extreme right-wing violence and at least 331 of them refugees, migrants or *Spätaussiedler* (ethnic German migrants) – assumedly attacked for racist reasons. Furthermore, six people were victims of anti-Semitic attacks.

According to these unofficial statistics, the number of right-wing violent acts in Eastern Germany has increased in comparison to the previous year (2004: 551; 2005: 614). The number of victims of right-wing violence who seek support at one of the nine organisations remains on a continuous high level (2004: 805; 2005:794).

[www.opferperspektive.de/Home/526.html](http://www.opferperspektive.de/Home/526.html) (27.02.2006)

### *1. 3 Anti-Semitic incidents*

#### *Largest Jewish web portal in Europe brought down*

In the early morning of the 2nd February the largest Jewish web portal in Europe, haGalil.com, broke down as a result of a computer hackers' attack. The web portal reports on Jewish topics, Israel and the Middle East conflict, Anti-Semitism and right-wing extremism. Up to now, it remains unclear who is responsible for the attack; HaGalil has been the target of right-wing groups/people before. In the meantime, though it has been found out that the attack was conducted from a website in Qatar. Briefly before the website attack, HaGalil presented the disputed Muhammad caricatures. Apart from haGalil.com websites like Antisemitismus.net, judentum.org, Klick-nach-rechts.de and other domains connected to the same editors were also affected.

[www.hagalil.com/archiv/2006/02/060209](http://www.hagalil.com/archiv/2006/02/060209) (27.02.2006)

[www.mut-gegen-rechte-gewalt.de/druckartikel.php?id=10&k](http://www.mut-gegen-rechte-gewalt.de/druckartikel.php?id=10&k) (27.02.2006)

[www.telepolis.de/r4/artikel/21/21920/1.html](http://www.telepolis.de/r4/artikel/21/21920/1.html) (27.02.2006)

[www.hagalil.com/archiv/2006/02/060204nd.htm](http://www.hagalil.com/archiv/2006/02/060204nd.htm) (27.02.2006)

#### *Anti-Semitic smearings*

Most of the anti-Semitic incidents which have been reported during the past two months were cases of anti-Semitic smearings. In the following we will present a very small selection of those cases which has led to further investigations by the police or the state security agencies.

On January 24, SS runes were smeared on six memorial boards on the Jewish cemetery in the city of Brandenburg an der Havel. Several anti-Semitic graffiti were detected in the Berlin district Lichtenberg on February 2. On February 14, a memorial board, which commemorates Heinrich Stahl, former chairman of the Jewish Community killed by the Nazis, was smeared in the Berlin district Alt-Rudow.

Press Release, Polizei Berlin, 3.2.2006,

Press Release, Polizei Berlin, 15.02.2006

[www.mut-gegen-rechte-gewalt.de/artikel.php?id=10&kat=10&artikelid=1969](http://www.mut-gegen-rechte-gewalt.de/artikel.php?id=10&kat=10&artikelid=1969) (27.02.2006)

[www.jewish-forum.de/showtopic.php?threadid=4513](http://www.jewish-forum.de/showtopic.php?threadid=4513) (27.02.2006)

### *1. 4 Xenophobic incidents*

In the following, we will present a list of selected – assumedly xenophobic – incidents which have all been reported or verified by the police.

#### *Xenophobic attack on twelve year old boy of Ethiopian origin*

A lot of public attention was given to the racist attack on a twelve year-old boy of Ethiopian origin on January 9, 2006. A group of five extreme right-wing young men (between 14 and 19) attacked the boy in the village of Pömmelte (Saxony-Anhalt). Threatening the young victim with

a gun, the perpetrators hit and kicked him several times, pushed a burning cigarette into his face and forced him to kiss their boots. They were caught shortly after the attack by the police; the 19-year-old main perpetrator, a previously convicted neo-Nazi, was arrested; he openly expressed clearly xenophobic motives.

After the attack the mayor of Pömmelte, local representatives of the Christian Churches and of the welfare organisation Diakonie decided to establish a Round Table against right-wing extremism.

[www.das-parlament.de/2006/05/Inland/005.html](http://www.das-parlament.de/2006/05/Inland/005.html) (27.02.2006)

### *Attack on two Vietnamese*

On New Year's Eve two Vietnamese were attacked by six extreme right-wing young men in Gräfenhainichen, a small town in Saxony-Anhalt. One of the victims was injured. In the flats of two of the suspected perpetrators (15 and 17 years old) the police found ammunition and weapons as well as Nazi material. One of the perpetrators (16 years old) has been arrested. The suspected perpetrators are connected with the "Kameradschaft Landkreis Wittenberg", an extreme right-wing group.

[www.mz-web.de/artikel?id=1134400753706](http://www.mz-web.de/artikel?id=1134400753706) (27.02.2006)

### *Restaurants and shops owned by foreigners damaged in Rheinsberg*

In the night from February 18 to February 19, four different shops and restaurants, all of them owned by foreigners, were severely damaged in Rheinsberg; i.e. windows were smashed and in a Chinese restaurant the damage amounts to several thousand Euro. Immediately after the attacks, four young men between 17 and 19 years were caught – all of them well-known to the police due to their use of symbols of an anti-Constitutional organisation. One of the suspects is member of the radical right-wing party NPD

[www.polizei.brandenburg.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=213206](http://www.polizei.brandenburg.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=213206) (27.02.2006)

[www.polizei.brandenburg.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=213349](http://www.polizei.brandenburg.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=213349) (27.02.2006)

[www.maerkischeallgemeine.de/cms/beitrag/10653407/61299/0?print=J](http://www.maerkischeallgemeine.de/cms/beitrag/10653407/61299/0?print=J) (27.02.2006)

### *Selected cases of Nazi smearings and paroles*

In addition to these cases of xenophobic violence, the police and State Security authorities also launched investigations in numerous cases of Nazi graffiti and paroles in early 2006. In January, Swastikas and SS runes were smeared on the facades of several buildings in Hoyerswerda (Saxony); furthermore, sticker of the extreme right-wing political party NPD and their "youngster organisation" JN were detected at these buildings. In the small village Gerolzhofen in Bavaria, Nazi symbols were smeared at the wall of three buildings in late January. Similar cases were reported by the police in Berlin-Lichtenberg: On February 13, for instance, anti-Israeli paroles and swastikas were sprayed on several facades and other public places. Three days later, similar smearings were detected on the wall of a school in Lichtenberg and soon after that, more than 70 posters and flyers with Nazi paroles were found in the same district.

[www.amal-sachsen.de/chronik.php?PHPSESSID=94ff871554ac5c1c40a5f9db6bccbb36](http://www.amal-sachsen.de/chronik.php?PHPSESSID=94ff871554ac5c1c40a5f9db6bccbb36)  
(27.02.2006)

[www.maerkischeallgemeine.de/cms/beitrag/10653407/61299/0?print=J](http://www.maerkischeallgemeine.de/cms/beitrag/10653407/61299/0?print=J) (27.02.2006)

Press Release, Polizei Bayern, 30.1.2006

Press Release, Polizei Berlin 14.2.2006; 16.2.2006; 17.2.2006

Tab. 1: PMK/right-wing: Criminal acts and violent crimes 2005 (preliminary data)

	<b>Criminal acts</b>			
	Total number		Of which xenophobic criminal acts	
		of which violent crimes		<i>among those: violent crimes</i>
<b>January</b>	745	39	106	21
<b>February</b>	773	41	104	17
<b>March</b>	908	44	153	15
<b>April</b>	660	23	83	8
<b>May</b>	983	62	136	20
<b>June</b>	796	51	129	21
<b>July</b>	740	45	93	17
<b>August</b>	1000	48	116	18
<b>September</b>	969	74	141	36
<b>October</b>	913	48	96	14
<b>November</b>	966	56	137	27
<b>December</b>	818	57	124	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,271</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>1,418</b>	<b>233</b>

Source: BMI (according to monthly parliamentary inquiries)