

RAXEN BULLETIN III
Germany

1. UPDATE ON POLICIES, INITIATIVES AND PUBLIC DISCOURSE

Attack on People of Indian Origin Evokes Public Debate on Racially Motivated Violence

In Mügeln, a small town in the Eastern German state of Saxony, eight Indian men were involved in a brawl at a local festival on August 18. As the Indians fled into a nearby pizzeria, they were chased by a mob of about 50 young Germans and were apparently watched by a crowd of onlookers who did not intervene. After the Indians had barricaded themselves into the restaurant, the German mob kicked in the restaurant's door. It took about 70 police officers to gain control of the situation. The local police force reported that, according to eye witness statements, the mob shouted right-wing insults. All eight Indians and four Germans – among them two police officers – were injured. The authorities have not fully investigated the incident yet.

The attack became a top news story around the country and has rekindled the debate on xenophobia, racism and right-wing extremism in Germany. Politicians, trade unionists and victim support organizations have renewed calls for action, such as a re-examination of the federal funding programme against xenophobia. Among proposals for counteraction, calls to ban the far-right National Democratic Party of Germany (NPD) have resurfaced.

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,2744791,00.html> (28.08.2007)

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/0,1518,501607,00.html> (28.08.2007)

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,2751519,00.html> (28.08.2007)

New National Integration Plan

On July 12, a national joint strategy on integration policy was discussed at Germany's second-ever national integration summit initiated by the Federal Government. This "National Action Plan" had been prepared by more than 250 federal and state representatives and NGOs, including many migrant groups, who were organised in six working groups. The participants committed themselves to 400 voluntary measures. The largest proportion of these commitments will be undertaken by trade unions, businesses, associations and foundations. Migrant organisations will be responsible for 50 projects. The German government's burden includes the expansion of obligatory integration courses including accompanying childcare options, strengthening women's rights, and measures to facilitate the access to the labour market for migrants.

The overall positive perception of the summit was overshadowed by the boycott of four major Turkish organisations which called for the increased restrictions in the new immigration law, which had been approved by the national parliament, the German Bundestag, on July 6, to be revoked.

<http://www.bundesregierung.de/Webs/Breg/DE/Bundesregierung/BeauftragtefuerIntegration/NationalerIntegrationsplan/nationaler-integrationsplan.html> (29.08.2007)

2. UPDATE ON LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS AND AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGNS

Legislative Initiative for an Increase in the Punishments for Right-Wing Extremist Violent Crimes

The state governments of Brandenburg and Saxony Anhalt have announced their intention to draft a bill which enforces more severe punishments for right-wing extremist violent crimes.

Assumed racist or xenophobic motivations for committed violent crimes are to be explicitly examined and taken into account as an aggravating factor to be considered in court when passing sentence. This planned accentuation aims, on the one hand, at having a deterrent effect and, on the other hand, at entailing the distinctive indication of right-wing extremist motives and therefore facilitating the statistical identification of right-wing extremist incidents. The legislative initiative met with mixed responses from other state governments. The draft will be discussed in the upper house of the German parliament, the German Bundesrat, on September 21.

<http://www.brandenburg.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=300770> (30.08.2007)

http://www.asp.sachsen-anhalt.de/presseapp/data/mj/2007/050_2007.htm (30.08.2007)

<http://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/0,1518,499120,00.html> (30.08.2007)

NGOs Critically Asses Anti-Discrimination Law

One year after the General Equal Treatment Act (AGG) came into force, six non-governmental and scientific organisations have criticised the insufficient transposition of the EU Race Equality Directive (200/43/EG) in a letter to the EU commissioner Vladimir Spidla. According to the NGOs, the AGG is not in full compliance with the EU requirements. Among the 12 points criticised, the inapplicability of the AGG to dismissals of employees was mentioned as well as the legal exception for the housing market. According to this regulation, unequal treatment in the housing is not unlawful if it serves the purpose of establishing or maintaining socially stable housing structures and a balanced mixture concerning the economic, social and cultural composition of a neighbourhood. Furthermore, the criticism is directed towards the organisational structure of the official federal specialised body for the promotion of equal treatment, the Antidiskriminierungsstelle (ADS), due to its close affiliation with the Federal Ministry of Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

http://typo3.lsvd.de/fileadmin/pics/Dokumente/ADG/brief_kommission_agg_15_08_2007.pdf
(30.08.2007)

3. RESEARCH

Publication on the Event Character of Right-Wing Extremism:**Background Information, Methods, and Practical Measures of Prevention**

The publication explains current neo-Nazi propaganda strategies, which combine leisure activities and ideological messages in order to recruit young people. Besides analysing right-wing extremist music and website offers, the publication presents methods and pedagogical approaches to prevention which can be applied for educational youth work.

Glaser, S. / Pfeiffer, Th. (eds.) 2007: Erlebniswelt Rechtsextremismus. Menschenverachtung mit Unterhaltungswert. Hintergründe – Methoden – Praxis der Prävention, available at:

http://www.bpb.de/publikationen/HFQBGR,0,Erlebniswelt_Rechtsextremismus.html

or

<http://www.wochenschau-verlag.de/> (28.08.2007)

4. Official / unofficial statistical data

Preliminary Figures on Extreme Right-wing and Xenophobic Crimes

According to the preliminary figures based on the monthly inquiries, 5,321 political motivated **right-wing crimes** were registered in the first six months of 2007. Compared to the preliminary figures in the first half of 2006, this represents a slight decrease of 9.8%. However, the number of violent right-wing crimes rose slightly by 1.2% and the number of people injured as a result of these crimes increased by 26.6% (01-06/2006: 256; 01-06/2007: 324).

Concerning **xenophobic** crimes, the figures clearly display a falling tendency. In the first six months of 2007, 723 of all right-wing crimes were categorised as xenophobic; this represents an decrease of 27.9% compared to the same period in 2006 (01-06/2006: 1,003). Among those xenophobic crimes, the number of violent crimes decreased slightly by 3.3% (01-06/2006: 153).

Politically motivated right-wing crimes 01-05/2007

	Criminal acts			
	Total number		of which xenophobic criminal acts	
		of which violent crimes		among those: violent crimes
January	909	58	139	24
February	865	47	123	22
March	853	60	120	33
April	895	49	111	21
May	928	57	108	19
June	871	68	122	29
Total	5,321	339	723	148
Diff. in % to 01-06/2006	-9.8	+1.2	-27.9	-3.3

Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI); preliminary data

http://www.petrapau.de/16_bundestag/dok/down/2007_zf-rechtsextreme-straftaten.pdf (28.08.2007)

http://www.petrapau.de/16_bundestag/dok/down/2006_zf-rechtsextreme-straftaten.pdf (28.08.2007)

Latest Official Figures on Anti-Semitic Crimes

In the first half of 2007, 468 anti-Semitic crimes were registered within the category “politically motivated crimes/right-wing”. This shows a slight increase of 8 such crimes compared to the same period in 2006 (01-06/2006: 460). Among the anti-Semitic crimes in the first half of 2007, 16 incidents were categorised as violent crimes (01-06/2006: 7); 11 people were injured as a result of anti-Semitic crimes (01-06/2006: 4). These preliminary data are based on monthly inquiries.

http://www.petrapau.de/16_bundestag/dok/down/2007_zf_antisemitische_straftaten.pdf (28.08.2007)

http://www.petrapau.de/16_bundestag/dok/down/2006_zf_antisemitische_straftaten.pdf (28.08.2007)

5. Upcoming events

14 September: International Congress “City and Migration: Living an international future”, Dessau/Germany

The international congress of the IBA Urban Redevelopment 2010 focuses on the role of migration in the future development of cities under the condition of demographic change – particularly in Eastern Germany. This issue will be discussed by international, national and local experts. In addition, the potentials opened up in municipalities by migration will be subject to debate. The congress will end with an international festival.

<http://www.iba-stadtumbau.de/index.php?id=74,362,0,0,1,0> (24.08.2007)

25-26 October: “Regional Conference EAST” within the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All - 2007, Potsdam/Germany

On behalf of the Brandenburg Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Family, the Commissioner for the Integration of Immigrants will organize a conference within the framework of the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All – 2007.

The conference will focus on educational and professional training and employment opportunities with a particular emphasis on the situation in the states of Eastern Germany. The conditions specific to the new Federal states and their consequences with regard to equal opportunities and the reduction of discrimination will be explained and discussed.

http://www.masgf.brandenburg.de/cms/detail.php?gsid=bb2.c.418914.de&_siteid=19

(24.08.2007)

7-9 December: International Conference on “Ethnicity, Belonging, Biography and Ethnography, Göttingen/Germany

The conference organised by the Center of Methods of Social Sciences of the University of Göttingen will focus on the subject of ethnicity and socio-cultural belongings. Different theoretical conceptions and empirical studies will be presented. In addition, workshops that focus on methods for collecting and analyzing data material relevant to ethnicity and socio-cultural belonging will be offered.

<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/sh/61025.html> (24.08.2007)