

## RAXEN BULLETIN VI (November 2006) – Germany

### 1. THE “POLITICAL HEADLINES”

#### National Soccer Associations set up a task force against racism and violence

Reacting to cases of xenophobia, racist behaviour and violence in German soccer stadiums, the German Soccer Federation (DFB) and German Soccer League (DFL) agreed on the instalment of a joint taskforce against violence and racism. This taskforce is commissioned to, among others, initiate and coordinate measures against racism and violence in soccer and to cooperate closely with state authorities and other organisations engaged in the struggle against racism. One focus of attention of the taskforce should be on the lower soccer leagues which are particularly affected by violence and racist incidents. Furthermore, the DFB decided to create two positions, one of them being in charge of issues related to migrant integration, the other one being in charge of security issues.

The Conference of the federal and state Ministers for the Interior (IMK) officially welcomed the current activities of the DFB to combat violence, xenophobia and racism and to promote integration.

In the meantime, the regional soccer club of FC Halle successfully appealed against a decision of the court of the Soccer Federation NOFV: After several fans of FC Halle had behaved in a racist manner during a game, the soccer club had been sentenced to pay a fine of €2,000 and had been obliged to take appropriate action to “ensure that there will be no more xenophobic statements in the stadium”. In the second instance, the fine was reduced and the latter obligation was withdrawn completely. The court followed the arguments of the representatives of the soccer club who had argued that they would not be capable of combating social problems such as racism.

[www.dfb.de](http://www.dfb.de) (24.11.2006; press release of the DFB on 31.10.2006)

[www.bundesrat.de/cln\\_050/nn\\_8780/DE/gremien-konf/fachministerkonf/imk/Sitzungen/06-11-16-termin.html\\_nnn=true](http://www.bundesrat.de/cln_050/nn_8780/DE/gremien-konf/fachministerkonf/imk/Sitzungen/06-11-16-termin.html_nnn=true) (24.11.2006; Decisions of the of 182<sup>nd</sup> IMK Conference)

Tagesspiegel 14.11.2006

#### Extreme right-wing incident after *Reichspogromnacht* commemoration event in Frankfurt/Oder

On November 9, 2006, numerous events took place for the commemoration of the Nazi pogroms during the „Night of broken Glass” (*Reichspogromnacht*) in 1938. Some 120 people participated in one of these events at the memorial in Frankfurt/Oder (Brandenburg) where the Jewish synagogue was set on fire by the Nazis 68 years ago. Shortly after the event, several young right-wing people started to rampage and destroyed the flower arrangements and candles which had been laid down to commemorate the victims of the Nazi pogroms. When the police arrived, the perpetrators kept shouting “Sieg Heil”. According to the police, many of the 16 to 24-year old people are known to be affiliated with the extreme right-wing milieu. The public prosecutor has applied for a warrant for nine of them due to, among others, incitement of the people, breach of the peace and disturbing the peace of the dead.

The incidents attracted a lot of attention in the media; leading politicians strongly condemned the act.

Press releases of the State Ministry of Brandenburg and the police Brandenburg:

[www.brandenburg.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=272246&\\_siteid=28](http://www.brandenburg.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=272246&_siteid=28) (24.11.2006)

[www.internetwache.brandenburg.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=298632](http://www.internetwache.brandenburg.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=298632) (24.11.2006)

## 2. UPDATE ON LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

### Parliamentary motion on ratification of the Protocol No. 12 of the European Convention on Human Rights

The parliamentary group of the Liberals (FDP) made a motion in the German Bundestag urging the Parliament to ratify the Additional Protocol No. 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights. The Protocol contains a general prohibition of discrimination on any grounds unless there is an objective and reasonable justification. It addresses any public authority.

The Liberal Party argued that Germany as one of the very first countries that had signed the Protocol No. 12 in 2000 should now also ratify it. Meanwhile the protocol has been ratified by 14 countries in which it has entered into force since on April 1, 2005 after the tenth country had ratified it.

The government has not yet reacted to this motion.

*Germany, Bundestag, printed matter 16/1345 (25.10.2006)*

### 3. RESEARCH

#### **Ward-Schofield, J. (2006) Migration Background, Minority-Group Membership and Academic Achievement. AKI Research Review 5. Berlin**

The study group “Intercultural Conflicts and Societal Integration” (AKI) at the Social Science Research Centre Berlin (WZB) published a research report with the title “Migration Background, Minority-Group Membership and Academic Achievement”. This report presents a compilation of psychological research results (mostly conducted in the USA) on the causes of educational disparities between pupils with and without a migration background. The report highlights three major factors which are assumed to be of relevance in the German context, and suggests ways of how to overcome them:

- “Stereotype threats” which can undermine long-term academic success
- “expectancy effects” (i.e. teachers’ expectations and the impact on teachers’ and pupils’ behaviour)
- “ability grouping” (e.g. early and rigid tracking in the educational system in Germany)

[http://www.wz-berlin.de/zkd/aki/files/aki\\_research\\_review\\_5\\_Schofield\\_engl.pdf](http://www.wz-berlin.de/zkd/aki/files/aki_research_review_5_Schofield_engl.pdf) (24.11.2006)

#### **Decker, O., Brähler, E. (2006) Vom Rand zur Mitte. Rechtsextreme Einstellungen und ihre Einflussfaktoren in Deutschland. FES: Bonn**

In early November 2006, Friedrich-Ebert Foundation (FES) released the results of a representative survey on right-wing extremist attitudes among Germans (with some 5,000 respondents). The questionnaire covered several dimensions of right-wing extremism, including antisemitism and xenophobia. The authors concluded that the phenomenon of right-wing extremism constitutes a political problem not only at the margin, but also in the centre of German society. 37% of the respondents approve of the statement that “foreigners only come to Germany to exploit our social welfare state”; 17.8% stated that the influence of Jews is too big.

<http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/do/04088a.pdf> (24.11.2006)

#### **Frindte, W. (2006) Inszenierter Antisemitismus. Eine Streitschrift. VS Verlag: Wiesbaden**

The recently released publication *Inszenierter Antisemitismus* focuses on causes and different types of “modern antisemitism” in Germany. The author analyses this multi-faceted phenomenon from a political as well as social-scientific perspective and presents historical examples to clarify new types of antisemitism. Antisemitism often occurs in disguise pretending to be criticism towards Israeli politics or to be a breach of certain taboos.

## 4. ANNEX

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

#### *1.1 Official statistics on right-wing, xenophobic and antisemitic crimes*

According to the (preliminary) official statistics of the Federal Criminal Office, the police registered 1,019 politically motivated right-wing crimes in September 2006 (September 2005: 969), among those were 184 crimes categorised as xenophobic (September 2005: 141). These figures illustrate the continuous increase of extreme right-wing and xenophobic crimes compared to the previous year (see table 1).

Between January and September 2006, 9,013 politically motivated right-wing crimes were counted by the police, i.e. an increase of 19% compared to the first nine months of the previous year. The figures of right-wing crimes deemed as violent grew by 22% to 522. The number of right-wing crimes which were assessed by the police as xenophobic has drastically risen in 2006: Whereas 1,061 such crimes were registered in the first nine months of 2005, the police counted 1,551 such xenophobic crimes in the comparable period of 2006. This represents an increase by 46%. 255 of these xenophobic crimes were categorised as violent, i.e. 47% more than between January and September 2005 (173). 180 persons were injured as a result of these xenophobic violent crimes.

The police registered 286 antisemitic politically motivated right-wing crimes in the third quarter of 2006, which adds up to a total of 746 in the first nine months of the year. This represents a slight decrease compared to 2005, when 790 antisemitic politically motivated right-wing crimes were registered by the police during the first nine months. Between January and September 2006, 15 antisemitic crimes were categorised as violent crimes; eight persons were injured as a result of these crimes (January - September 2006: 17 persons injured).

[www.petra-pau.de/16\\_bundestag/dok/down/2006\\_zf\\_antisemitische\\_straftaten.pdf](http://www.petra-pau.de/16_bundestag/dok/down/2006_zf_antisemitische_straftaten.pdf) (27.11.2006)

[www.petra-pau.de/16\\_bundestag/dok/down/2006\\_zf-rechtsextreme-straftaten.pdf](http://www.petra-pau.de/16_bundestag/dok/down/2006_zf-rechtsextreme-straftaten.pdf) (24.11.2006)

#### *1.2 Selected cases of (allegedly) xenophobic or antisemitic incidents*

The following section presents selected cases of allegedly xenophobic and antisemitic incidents. All of those were verified by the police.

In the night of November 7 to 8, 2006, an **arson attack** on a clothes store owned by a 56-year old **Vietnamese** was committed in Quedlinburg (Saxony-Anhalt). The shop window was damaged and a bottle with flammable liquid was thrown inside which ignited a small fire. When the police arrived, the perpetrator(s) has/have already disappeared. The state security unit of the police took over the investigations; a xenophobic background has neither been confirmed nor ruled out by the police.

*Press release of the police HBS – No. 143/06 (09.11.2006)*

In the afternoon of October 31, 2006, a 22-year old **man from Ghana** was continuously insulted in a xenophobic manner by a 37-year old man, who was walking his dog at the subway station *Zoologischer Garten* in Berlin-Charlottenburg. When the perpetrator unleashed his dog, the man from Ghana left quickly. The 37-year old man then threw a bottle towards the victim, but failed to hit him. The man from Ghana, however, slipped on the broken glass and fell; lying on the floor, he was bitten by the perpetrator's dog. When security personnel of the public transportation

company appeared, the 37-year old man tried to escape, but was caught instantly by two police officers. Whilst being arrested he continued to insult and threaten the man from Ghana.

*Press release of the police Berlin No. 2397 (31.10.2006)*

In the night of November 10 to 11, 2006, some 20 persons of the extreme right-wing milieu tried to attack two **Kurds** in Celle (Lower Saxony); the perpetrators threatened to kill them (“We will kill you, piss off!”). The two Kurds instantly sought shelter in a nearby pub and locked the door. The perpetrators tried – unsuccessfully – to open the door of the pub yelling further threats and racist parables.

When the police arrived, the right-wingers insulted the police officers; finally, however, the police gained control of the situation and arrested four right-wing extremists between 23 and 26 years old. The police started investigations due to threat, attempted bodily harm, breach of the peace and resistance to law enforcement officials.

*Press release of the police POL-CE 11.11.2006*

On November 20, 2006 (shortly after midnight), a 37-year old **Iranian** was attacked and slightly injured by several perpetrators in Berlin-Reinickendorf. The perpetrators followed the victim from a pub where they had allegedly insulted the Iranian in a xenophobic way. The state security unit of the police started its investigations.

*Press release of the police Berlin No. 2588 (20.11.2006)*

According to the police in Mettmann (North Rhine-Westphalia, NRW), a 23-year old police officer has been suspended because he is suspected of **incitement of the people**: He is accused of having made xenophobic statements in an internet chat forum and incited to commit a bomb attack on discotheque. According to a media report, the suspended police officer wrote that “flyers should be distributed in Turkish, Albanian and Russian – to ensure that all these trash people are present when the bomb explodes”. The NRW State Minister of the Interior welcomed that the police officer was suspended.

*Press release of the police Mettmann POL-ME No. 0611254 (23.11.2006) Westdeutsche Zeitung 24.11.2006*

In the night of November 13 to 14, a black swastika was smeared on a **Jewish memorial board** in the inner city of Cottbus (Brandenburg). Furthermore, five memorial stones (“Stolpersteine”), which have been installed into the pavement to commemorate the Jewish citizens who were deported and killed by the Nazis, have been torn out. On one other stone a swastika was smeared.

*FR 15.11.2006, p. 4*

On November 15, 2006 (at 3:30 am), the police caught a 47-year old man red-handed when he was starting to spray **antisemitic slogans** at a wall in Berlin-Neukölln. Since October 24, similar slogans have been detected in the same area. The police accuse the man – according to the police, a right-wing extremist – of having committed altogether similar 23 crimes (mainly damage and incitement of the people).

*Press release of the police Berlin No. 2544 (15.11.2006)*

## 2. Media coverage of EUMC publications

A speech of the Vice-President of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Dieter Graumann, was published in November on the **online platform “hagalil.com”**, an important online information platform on racism, antisemitism and right-wing extremism. In his speech Graumann also referred to the EUMC 2004 report on the manifestations of antisemitism in the EU.

<http://www.hagalil.com/01/de/Antisemitismus.php?itemid=109> (24.11.2006)

## 3. Important upcoming events

From December 6 to 8, 2006, the welfare organisation Caritas is going to conduct the high-level congress **“Integration concrete. Diversity, chances and visions of an immigration society”**. The conference will take place at the city hall Schöneberg (John-F.-Kennedy-Platz) and entails workshops, speeches and presentations (among others, of the Federal Minister for the Interior and the President of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees) and several information stands.

<http://www.caritas.de/28611.html> (24.11.2006)

The parliamentary group Bündnis 90/Die Grünen (Green party) is preparing a conference on **antidiscrimination and equal treatment** (*“Recht auf Gleichbehandlung in Sicht?”*). The conference will take place on December 15, 2006 in Berlin and aims at gathering representatives of NGOs, academic experts and policy-makers to discuss the German anti-discrimination legislation, pertinent EU requirements and how to enhance the protection from discrimination.

[www.gruene-](http://www.gruene-)

[bundestag.de/cms/service/dok/157/157091.recht\\_auf\\_gleichbehandlung\\_in\\_sicht.htm](http://bundestag.de/cms/service/dok/157/157091.recht_auf_gleichbehandlung_in_sicht.htm)

(24.11.2006)

The Federal Agency for Civic Education and the Centre for Research on Antisemitism (at the Technical University Berlin) announced an international conference on **“The Holocaust in Transnational Memory”**, which will take place on December 11, 2006 in Berlin (*dbb forum berlin*, Friedrichstraße 169/170). Among other, the conference will deal with antisemitism and Holocaust denial in Germany and Europe, Holocaust research and the topic of “Holocaust in the Muslim world”.

[www.bpb.de/files/NN75Y0.pdf](http://www.bpb.de/files/NN75Y0.pdf) (24.11.2006)

**Tab. 1: Politically motivated right-wing crimes (Jan. –Sept. 2006)**

	Criminal acts			
	Total number		of which xenophobic criminal acts	
		of which violent crimes		<i>among those: violent crimes</i>
<b>January</b>	807	54	107	18
<b>February</b>	953	43	183	17
<b>March</b>	915	28	139	11
<b>April</b>	814	55	133	25
<b>May</b>	1,177	88	201	43
<b>June</b>	1,235	67	240	39
<b>July</b>	1,048	50	200	29
<b>August</b>	1,045	67	164	33
<b>September</b>	1,019	70	184	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,013</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>1,551</b>	<b>255</b>
<i>previous year (I-IX 2005)</i>	<i>7,574</i>	<i>427</i>	<i>1,061</i>	<i>173</i>
<i>Changes compared to previous year (I-IX 2005)</i>	<i>+19%</i>	<i>+22%</i>	<i>+46%</i>	<i>+47%</i>

Source: BMI (preliminary data)

[www.petrapau.de/16\\_bundestag/dok/down/2006\\_zf-rechtsextreme-straftaten.pdf](http://www.petrapau.de/16_bundestag/dok/down/2006_zf-rechtsextreme-straftaten.pdf) (24.11.2006)

[www.petrapau.de/16\\_bundestag/dok/down/2005\\_zf-rechtsextreme-straftaten.pdf](http://www.petrapau.de/16_bundestag/dok/down/2005_zf-rechtsextreme-straftaten.pdf) (24.11.2006)