

RAXEN Bulletin No 3

NFP Germany

1. The “political headlines”

Neo-Nazis convicted of being members of a terrorist organisation

On May 4, 2005, the Bavarian Higher Regional Court sentenced four neo-Nazis to several years in prison for being members of a terrorist organisation. The 29-year-old Martin Wiese was convicted of having been leader of this terrorist group and of having collected weapons and explosives to conduct attacks; he was sentenced to seven years in prison.

According to the court, the defendants generally aimed at killing people and at overcoming the democratic system in Germany. However, they were not convicted of having concretely planned a bomb attack on the construction site of the Jewish Community Centre in Munich in 2003, which they had been initially accused of (Frankfurter Rundschau [FR] 06.05.2005; die tageszeitung [taz] 06.05.2005).

Arson attack on Turkish bistro

On 30 March, a Turkish-Kurdish fast-food stand in Rheinsberg (Brandenburg) was completely destroyed by an arson attack. The police assume that the perpetrator was motivated by xenophobia. In an open letter to the owner of the bistro the City of Rheinsberg clearly condemned the attack and called on the population to donate to the victim (press release Opferperspektive e.V. 01.04.2005, Berliner Zeitung 06.04.2005).

Anti-war and anti-racism festival in Berlin

In Berlin, more than 100,000 people visited a festival with numerous events to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II on May 8. The Berlin Senate stated that the festival aimed to send a clear statement against war, racism and intolerance. As part of the festival, 25,000 people lined up in a 33-km-long “chain of lights” (taz 09.05.2005, p. 3, Berliner Morgenpost 08.05.2005).

2. Update on legal developments

Germany found guilty of not implementing the EU Race Equality Directive by European Court of Justice

On 28 April, 2005, the European Court of Justice ruled that Germany had breached EU law by failing to implement the EU Race Equality Directive (2000/43/EC) into its national legislation. With Luxembourg and Finland, Germany is now the third EU member state that has been found guilty of not transposing the respective EU directive, which was supposed to be implemented by 28 July, 2003 at the latest.

The German Government presented an antidiscrimination bill aiming at transposing several anti-discrimination directives simultaneously in December 2004. This bill, which is still in the legislation procedure and has not yet been adopted, covers all grounds of discrimination listed in the Employment Equality Directive (2000/78/EC) and refers to both labour and civil law (e.g. access to services, housing). The fact that the governmental bill exceeds the minimum standards required by the EU directives has led to a heated political debate in Germany (cf. EU News 17/2005, European Commission – Representation in Germany 04.05.2005, p. 7).

3. Research

Survey on attitudes towards foreigners, migration and integration

In May 2005, the Federal Institute for Population Research (BiB) released the results of the study “Attitudes towards Demographic Trends and Population-Related Policies” based on standardised interviews of more than 4,000 people. The report also includes a chapter on attitudes towards foreigners, integration and migration policies.

www.bib-demographie.de/info/ppas_broschuere.pdf

Research study on vocational training shows disadvantaged treatment of migrants

The “Study on the Educational Achievement, Motivation and Attitudes at the Beginning of Vocational Training” (ULME I), which was conducted on behalf of the Office for Education in Hamburg, examined students at this stage of education in Hamburg. The study concludes that migrants have lower chances of finding a place for their apprenticeship than Germans – even when their performance at school is better.

www.hamburger-bildungsserver.de/welcome.phtml?unten=/baw/ba/ulme.html

Questionnaire to measure extreme right-wing attitudes

Researchers at the University of Berlin (FU) have developed a list of questions to measure extreme right-wing attitudes. With this instrument a survey was conducted in Berlin and Brandenburg in autumn 2004. In March 2005, the researchers presented their findings.

www.polwiss.fu-berlin.de/osz/dokumente/PDF/Rex04.pdf

4. Annex

Official numbers of extreme right-wing crimes

National annual statistics on extreme right-wing crimes 2004

In May 2005, the Federal Ministry of the Interior released the **annual statistics on politically motivated crimes (PMK)** for 2004. 12,553 of these PMK crimes were registered as extreme right-wing – an increase of 8.4% in comparison to the year 2003. This increase mainly results from the increased number of propaganda offences (2004: 8,455; 2003: 7,951). The number of violent crimes in the category “PMK right-wing” has decreased slightly from 845 (2003) to 832 (2004).

The number of crimes with a **xenophobic** or **anti-Semitic** background increased: In 2004, 2,553 of all PMK-right-wing crimes were deemed to be xenophobic (2003: 2,431) and 1,346 as anti-Semitic (2003: 1,226) (cf. Press release Federal Ministry of the Interior 09.05.2005)

Furthermore the Federal Report on the Protection of the Constitution (published in May 2005; preliminary version), which concentrates on extremist crimes and movements aiming at overcoming the state, categorise 12,051 of all 12,553 PMK right-wing crimes as “**extremist crimes**” – an increase of 11.7% regarding right-wing extremist crimes compared to 2003 (differentiation according to the type of crime is presented in Table 1) (press release Federal Ministry of the Interior 17.05.2005).

Latest official numbers on extreme right-wing crimes: first quarter of 2005

According to the monthly parliamentary inquiries, 2,426 **politically motivated (PMK) right-wing** crimes were reported in the first quarter of the year 2005 (February: 773; March: 908), i.e. a significant increase compared to the first quarter of 2004, when the same data source listed 1,820 such crimes. 124 of the PMK right-wing crimes in the first three months of 2005 were registered as violent crimes (first quarter 2004: 104), 1,785 as propaganda offences. 100 people were hurt as a result of these PMK right-wing crimes (first quarter 2004: 83).

In the first quarter of 2005, 363 of all 2,426 PMK right-wing crimes were deemed to be **xenophobic** (comparable period 2004: 321), including 88 propaganda offences and 53 violent crimes. 33 people were injured as a result of one of these xenophobic crimes. In the first three months of 2004, the number of violent crimes with a xenophobic background amounted to 56; 42 people were injured as a result of these crimes (see Table 2 and 3).

Furthermore, the official statistics list 296 PMK right-wing crimes with an **anti-Semitic** background in the first three months of 2005 (first quarter 2004: 263); five people were injured as a result of these crimes (first quarter 2004: 3).

Selected xenophobic and anti-Semitic incidents (media reports)

Within the relevant period several xenophobic and anti-Semitic attacks and incidents were reported in the media. In the following we outline some selected examples:

In Langenfeld (North-Rhine-Westphalia), a 31-year old **man from the Dominican Republic** was attacked and critically injured in front of a discotheque in early May; before and during the attack the perpetrator yelled xenophobic slogans at the victim. The state security department of the police has started its investigations (press release of the Police Department Mettmann 04.05.2005; FR 06.05.2005, p. 4; taz 06.05.2005, p.7)

In early May, a **57-year old Indian** was injured by two men in Cottbus (Brandenburg). At first, the victim was insulted by the two perpetrators in a bus; after he alighted from the bus, they followed him and attacked him. Since the police cannot rule out a xenophobic motive, the state security department has taken over the investigation (taz 12.05.2005; www.mut-gegen-rechte-gewalt.de).

In Halberstadt (Saxony-Anhalt), a 36-year old **asylum seeker** from Liberia was attacked and seriously injured by a group of six to eight men. A Federal Border Patrol officer who attempted to help the victim was also hurt. Three suspected perpetrator who have been arrested in the meantime are all from the extreme right-wing milieu (FR 07.05.2005, p. 4, Hamburger Abendblatt 07.05.2005).

Besides these xenophobic attacks, several **anti-Semitic incidents** have been reported:

According to the police in Darmstadt, 13 gravestones were pushed over in a Jewish cemetery in Babenhausen (Hesse) in late April (taz 28.04.2005, p. 7).

The police in Stralsund (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) reported that a swastika had been sprayed on a Jewish memorial (taz 09.05.2005, p. 7).

In Nordhausen, a small town in Thuringia, a series of anti-Semitic slogans (e.g. "Zionists: Murderer and Fascists") were detected on the building of the Jewish Culture Initiative (Jüdische Kulturinitiative), the local cemetery and at a memorial for the Jewish synagogue. Just shortly before these smears were discovered, it was publicly announced that an exhibition on anti-Semitism would be shown in Nordhausen (Nordhäuser Online-Zeitung 04.05.2005; www.mut-gegen-rechte-gewalt.de/artikel.php?id=10&kat=10&artikelid=1532)

Tables

Table 1: Politically motivated criminality – right-wing: Violent acts and other offences with extremist background in 2004 (Federal Report on the Protection of the Constitution)

<i>Type of crime</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>
Violent crimes (total)	759	776
Murder/man slaughter	0	0
Attempted murder/man slaughter	7	6
Bodily harm	637	640
Arson	24	37
Causing an Explosion	0	2
Other violent crimes	91	91
Other (non-violent) offences (total)	10,033	11,275
Damage of Property	225	243
Threat/coercion	93	97
Propaganda offences	7,551	8,337
Disturbing the Peace of the Dead	26	20
Other crimes, mainly Incitement of the people	2,138	2,578
Total number of PMK right-wing crimes with an extremist background	10,792	12,051
Total number of all PMK right-wing crimes	11,576	12,553

Source: Federal Annual Report on the Protection of the Constitution 2004; numbers based on the statistics of the Federal Criminal Office (Bundeskriminalamt)

Table 2: Politically motivated criminality – right-wing: Criminal acts and violent crimes in the first quarter of 2005*

	Criminal acts			
	Total number		of which xenophobic criminal acts	
		of which violent crimes		<i>among those: violent crimes</i>
January	745	39	106	21
February	773	41	104	17
March	908	44	153	15
Total: 1st quarter	2426	124	363	53

Source: Criminal Investigation Registration Service - politically motivated criminality (KPMD-PMK); Federal Ministry of the Interior (according to the monthly parliamentary inquiries on extreme right-wing and xenophobic crimes)

*preliminary data

Table 3: Politically motivated criminality – right-wing: Injured people in the first quarter of 2005*

	Injured people as a result of "politically motivated criminality – right-wing"	people injured as a result of xenophobic crimes
January	25	10
February	40	14
March	35	9
Total	100	33

Source: Criminal Investigation Registration Service - politically motivated criminality (KPMD-PMK); Federal Ministry of the Interior (according to the monthly parliamentary inquiries on extreme right-wing and xenophobic crimes)

*preliminary data