



Bundeskriminalamt



**Crime Scene Internet –  
A Global Challenge for Internal Security**

BKA-Autumn Conference, 20 – 22 November 2007

**Right-Wing Extremism on the Internet –  
Current Trends and Counter Strategies**

Summarised presentation

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“Jugendschutz.net”

The dissemination of racist hate tirades and the distribution of neo-Nazi literature, CDs and devotional objects have been revolutionised by the Internet: right-wing extremist material which in the past could only be obtained if insider information was on hand and under the counter in relevant shops can today be ordered online or downloaded from the Internet. In October 2007, approximately 160 far-right mail-order companies operated online, more than 100 far-right bands used a website for trading purposes. The scene is online and not only insiders have quick access to right-wing extremist material. Jugendschutz.net, founded in 1997 by the state Ministries for Youth Protection as a common place for youth protection on the Internet, has been continuously monitoring far-right Internet activities since 2000 and is taking assertive action against illicit offers.

### **NPD and fellowships: Recruitment and mobilisation at the click of a mouse**

In the past years neo-Nazi fellowships and the NPD have expanded their field of activity and upgraded their Internet offers. In October 2007, more than 220 neo-Nazi fellowships and just under 190 NPD associations misused the Internet for propaganda purposes. Fellowships in particular create appealing websites and entice users with multimedia (e. g. films, music, flash animations) and interactive elements (e. g. forums, chat rooms). They create connections to the worlds of young persons, make entertainment and leisure time offers and in this way attempt to recruit young people. Free distribution of far-right music CDs or downloading offers are used to lure young people.

### **Right-wing extremists agitate on “Web2.0” platforms**

It is not only on established scene websites that right-wing extremist material can be found. It is precisely youth-related platforms of the Web2.0 such as Social Networks or Video Communities, where the users themselves primarily contribute the material, that have recently become the favoured playground for right-wing extremists. Time and again, racist self-portrayals, advertisements for fellowships as well as propaganda and mobilisation videos can be found on YouTube, Myspace & Co. Placing such material on regularly visited sites significantly enhances its propaganda capacity. In September 2007, the most frequently viewed YouTube video was called up more than 3.5m times.

### **Criminal symbolism and subtle neo-Nazi propaganda**

While criminal symbols and forms of greeting also continue to be important as an identity for agitating elements in the scene, they are, however, to be found less and less often on German Web servers. Instead, many right-wing extremists are acting on the Internet against foreigners, Jews, Roma and Sinti or homosexuals on a more subtle level and still within the legal framework. In the process, human propaganda is often subliminally conveyed. In many cases, only a closer look at the messages and context helps to decipher that racist or national socialist concepts are in fact being propagated.

### **Effective double strategy of jugendschutz.net against cyberhate**

Within the framework of its right-wing extremist project, which is currently financed by the Federal Agency for Political Education, jugendschutz.net documents right-wing elements in the Internet and, together with agencies and providers, is denying them the propaganda platforms in Germany and abroad. In addition, possibilities are presented illustrating how a critical examination of right-wing extremist contents can be initiated in school and outside school. Using this double strategy, jugendschutz.net has succeeded in closing down more than 1,000 right-wing websites to date and has raised the awareness of young persons and adults in over 250 workshops. With the establishment of the International Network Against Cyberhate (INACH), in 2002 jugendschutz.net set the cornerstone for a successful transnational co-operation against cyberhate.