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**The suppression of right-wing extremism –  
a challenge for society as a whole**

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**Right-wing extremism: Analysis of the phenomenon – suppression of  
the phenomenon from the perspective of the Federal Office for the  
Protection of the Constitution**

Abstract

**Dr. Hans-Georg Maaßen**

Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz

(Office for the Protection of the Constitution)

The offender profile of right-wing terrorism in Europe in 2011 has changed the view of this field of crime. Right-wing extremism and violence go hand in hand – fight as a core category, exclusion, defamation and violence against minorities and political opponents.

The present situation stems from and continues a shift in the form of right-wing extremism that began in the 1990s. Right-wing extremism has become younger, more actionist and more militant. For the first time in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany, it now has a kind of youth movement, initially formed by the skinheads and today by “sub-culturally oriented right-wing extremists” with their own infrastructure. The sub-cultural milieu acts as a recruitment and radicalisation forum.

For some years, we have been witnessing a decline in the volume of right-wing extremist "human resources" potential but, at the same time, an increase in their activism and violence. Currently, one right-wing extremist in two can be described as militant.

The right-wing extremist event culture conveys a political message by using elements from pop culture. The most outstanding examples are activities by “The Immortals” and the neo-Nazi “Autonomous Nationalists”. They combine lifestyle and neo-Nazism. Absolutely no ideological rejection of neo-Nazi positions is associated with the modern dress code. This is actionism with no theoretical depth – a trend that the authorities for the protection of the constitution have also observed in other areas.

The number of right-wing extremist acts of violence, particularly xenophobic acts of violence, remains high. Right-wing extremists have a graduated range of instruments that they use against political opponents – from propaganda strategy and arson attacks on houses and other premises to personal attacks.

Terrorism needs to find a resonance. That is why questions need to be asked about what constitutes a breeding ground for xenophobia and anti-Semitism and for political arsonists.

Despite a decline in its membership, the “Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands” (National Democratic Party of Germany - NPD) is still the most significant right-wing extremist organisation (regional roots, roots in everyday culture: “racist nationalist grassroots revolution”). A procedure to ban this party is a political decision (destroying the structures but possibly also causing activists to drift into militant spheres).

The threat of right-wing terrorism remains virulent as long as the ideological conditions remain, as long as the milieu affirms xenophobic, racist convictions against the alleged impending demise of the German people. What is important is the assumption of an unavoidable apocalypse, which leaves no room for alternatives and calls for direct action. The risk becomes much more serious since weapons have been seized in this milieu and new communication technologies offer new opportunities.

The security services are increasing cooperation in their efforts to combat right-wing extremism: establishment of the “Joint Centre for Countering Right-Wing Extremism” (GAR) and the “Coordinated Internet Analysis of Right-Wing Extremist Content” (KIAR) as well as the data network on right-wing extremism. In particular, the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution is making major reform efforts to improve its analytical and operational capacities. As the adversary operates conspiratorially, human sources are indispensable.

All in all, this is a task that concerns the whole of society and a question of heightening political awareness so that right-wing extremism can be prevented from forging a link to the social dialogue.