



Bundeskriminalamt

HERBST-  
**BKA** TAGUNG 2015  
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**International Terrorism: How can prevention and repression  
keep pace?**

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**Shaping deradicalisation/disengagement**

Abstract

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For young people, social and family experiences of disintegration and disappointment – along with a feeling of low acceptance and problematic gang dynamics – render identity formation difficult. Young people lacking a personal, stable identity tend to be at risk of a "radicalisation of spoiled identities". Most of them fall back on their religious roots without having a religious education. This can lead to young people adopting extremist, hyper-masculine, fundamentalist or traditionalist attitudes. It may happen that they distance themselves from democracy and develop violence-prone attitudes and are faced with an "unsuccessful attempt of self-healing", i. e. the consolidation of their violence and radicalisation career.

Extremist Salafists are attractive for unsettled young people because these scenes give these people an identity, stability and orientation. In a tempting way, they offer them:

- an identity, a community and a (spiritual) home, independent of national and ethnic categories,
- knowledge with an exclusive claim to truth (the only and higher truth) which is to lead to inflated self-esteem,
- a clear attribution of values with an obvious distinction between "believers" and "unbelievers", life "worth" and life "not worth" living (dichotomous world view conveying ideologies of inequality),
- clear orientation guidelines given by charismatic authorities who demand obedience: "You don't have to think, you just have to follow."
- utopias of justice which pick up on the highly ideologised idea of the global pursuit of Muslims (collective victim identity) who have to be supported by showing solidarity (participation factor) to prevent their suffering.
- attention in the public and dissociation from the adult world and society.
- the possibility to compensate accumulated hatred by acts of violence and to justify these acts of violence with "religious" motives.

The aim of *Violence Prevention Network* (VPN)<sup>i</sup> is to disengage young people who show extremist tendencies and/or commit ideologically motivated offences from the process of

radicalisation. Besides preventive approaches to strengthen ambiguity tolerance, early detection and the prevention of radicalisation processes, the Network also implements intervention measures in the initial stages of radicalisation and deradicalisation work addressed specifically to those seeking a way out of extremist ideologies.

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<sup>i</sup> cf. [www.violence-prevention-network.de](http://www.violence-prevention-network.de)