



Bundeskriminalamt

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AUTUMN
CONFERENCE

International Terrorism: How Can Prevention and Repression Keep Pace?

BKA Autumn Conference, 18 - 19 November 2015

Opening Remarks

Abstract

Holger Münch

President of the Bundeskriminalamt

The attacks committed in Paris on 13 November have made it clear once again what kinds of danger the Islamist scene poses in Europe. Even if we have been aware for a long time that we are in the crosshairs of international terrorism, these attacks have nevertheless started a new stage of escalation and a new dimension of terrorist violence.

On 17 November 2015, in the light of credible intelligence strongly indicating a threat, Federal and Lower Saxony security authorities had no choice than to cancel the international football match in Hanover.

Apart from the international quality of this phenomenon, which our security authorities counteract by means of a suppression strategy interlinked at national and international level, especially the number of potential Islamists confronts us with growing challenges.

We are dealing with Jihad fighters and supporters who return to Europe from war zones and crisis areas and commit attacks here on behalf of terrorist groups. We are also dealing with perpetrator networks operating across national borders as well with individuals committing acts of violence on their own initiative and without direct connection to group structures.

Against the background of the debate on how to handle the growing number of refugees, we are simultaneously experiencing a significant mobilisation and radicalisation of the right-wing scene with an impact reaching far into the centre of our society.

In the future, we will have to expect much more intense interaction between extremist scenes. Apart from preventing acts of violence and attacks committed by individual extremist perpetrators, it will also be particularly important to stop an escalation between radicalised scenes.

Mere repressive approaches will be insufficient here. In order to counteract the growing number of radicalised individuals in our country we need - on a much larger scale than in the past - prevention and deradicalisation measures. Above all, we have to make sure that measures of repression and prevention interrelate as smoothly as possible. This can be successful only if all relevant players act in unison under a jointly agreed prevention strategy. In our capacity as central agency of the German police we want to contribute our share to the formation and further development of a joint prevention strategy. We trust that the Autumn Conference will provide a useful platform to give impetus to measures that are, from a police

perspective, necessary; to take up other players' impetus and to join in a dialogue with government and civil society entities and experts that promote prevention. Our aim is to sustain this impetus and to keep it alive after this conference has ended.

The attacks committed in Paris once again have made it clear that there is an urgent need for prevention and deradicalisation measures - we cannot afford to waste time!