

World Without Nazism Summit Germany May-June 2014

Hate Crimes (Samples)

May 2014

03.05.2014, Halle-Saale: a 20-year old man from Guinea is attacked by three offenders with a knife and a shard of glass – and he is asked, what he is doing in Germany¹.

06.05.2014, Weißenfels: A man threatens a Takeaway-owner of Iranian origin and his friend, because he „hates migrants“. The Takeaway-owner asks the offender and his three companions to leave. They stand outside and show the “Hitler greeting“. After hours of waiting, the Takeaway-owner and his friend dare to leave the restaurant, but the offender waits for them and attacks the friend with a knife.²

11.05.2014, Magdeburg: A group of Anti-Nazi-activists were attacked by supporters of the right-populist party „Alternative für Deutschland“ (AfD) with a knife and a base ball bat, shouting: “I’ll stab you“. They had tried to knock over a billboard of the AfD³.

17.05.2014, Regensburg: A young woman was insulted at a fair by a racist woman because of her Asian appearance. Afterwards the offender broke her leg with a kick⁴.

24.05.2014, Siegen: 30 Neonazis wanted to visit a Nazi-Rock concert in Scheinfeld, but it was cancelled. Frustrated they ran through the city center of Siegen and beat up a student coming their way⁵.

25.05.2014, Dortmund: 25 Neonazi-supporters of the party „Die Rechte“ attacked an election party at the City Hall of Dortmund, trying to get into the building. The group was led by “Die Rechte“-candidate Siegfried Borchardt (“SS-Siggi”) who was elected for the city council the same day. About 80 democratic politicians of all parties prevented this, 10 of them were injured during the attack⁶.

27.05.2014, Berlin-Friedrichshain: Right-wing extremists broke into a restaurant in Kopenstraße and devastated it, for example with racist and Neonazi Graffiti. After a short

¹ <http://www.mobile-opferberatung.de/monitoring>

² <http://www.mobile-opferberatung.de/monitoring>

³ <http://www.jungewelt.de/2014/05-13/018.php>

⁴ <http://www.regensburg-digital.de/rassistischer-angriff-auf-der-dult/20052014/>

⁵ http://blog.zeit.de/stoerungsmelder/2014/05/30/neonazis-pruegeln-siegener-asta-referenten-krankenhausreif_16453

⁶ <http://www.bnr.de/artikel/hintergrund/neonazi-schlaeger-im-rathaus>,

<http://www.derwesten.de/staedte/hagen/nach-tumulten-polizei-in-der-kritik-aimp-id9397472.html#plx401599785>

period of empathy, the police began again to investigate against the victim, not against Neonazis perpetrators⁷.

31.05.2014, Eisenberg: A 40-year-old Indian and a 20-year-old Pakistani were attacked on their way to a city fair by three men who also insulted them with racist parables⁸.

June 2014

01.06.2014, Berlin-Kreuzberg: On a Sunday morning a group of five Neonazis attack a 30-year-old man in the middle of alternative Berlin-Kreuzberg. The victim was knocked down by a punch, afterwards the five offenders went on beating the lying victim⁹.

07.06.2014 Schönebeck: A 47-year-old man is insulted racially by a unknown person in the afternoon in front of a supermarket. Then the offender punches him in the face¹⁰.

12.06.2014, Frankfurt: Because a lawyer showed a flag of Israel in her window, strangers wrote on the window a swastika and "Jews out"¹¹.

12.06.2014, Hamburg: At the Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften (HAW) the prayer rugs of muslim students were set on fire – several times¹².

14.06.2014, Dortmund: Three men were thrown out of the „Leeds Pub“ because they expressed Neonazi propaganda. They walked over to the alternative Pub "Hirsch Q" and asked for a drink. As they were recognized as Nazis, the bartender refused them the drinks. The three offenders attacked visitors of the Pub with pepper spray¹³.

19.06.2014, Berlin-Kreuzberg: In the early morning hours two young men set the main tent of protesting refugees on fire. It was a planned action¹⁴.

21.06.2014, Berlin-Friedrichshain: A 44-year-old woman from Gabun is attacked while jogging in Volkspark Friedrichshain. She was insulted racially and several times hit in the face¹⁵.

⁷ <http://www.morgenpost.de/bezirke/friedrichshain-kreuzberg/article128530753/Neonazis-verwuesten-Lokal-in-Friedrichshain.html>

⁸ http://www.focus.de/regional/thueringen/kriminalitaet-auslaender-in-eisenberg-geschlagen-und-beschimpft_id_3889960.html

⁹ <http://www.tagesspiegel.de/berlin/bezirke/kreuzberg-blog/rechtsextremer-uebergreif-in-berlin-linker-in-kreuzberg-zusammengeschlagen/9979044.html>

¹⁰ <http://www.mobile-opferberatung.de/monitoring/>

¹¹ <http://www.fr-online.de/antisemitismus-kein-davidstern-mehr-im-fenster,1472798,27586856.html>

¹² <http://www.mopo.de/polizei/st--georg-berliner-tor--zuendler-stecken-gebetsteppiche-an,7730198,27558844.html>

¹³ <http://www.derwesten.de/staedte/dortmund/neonazis-verletzen-gaeste-in-dortmunder-szenekneipe-hirsch-q-id9472663.html#plx1271211384>

¹⁴ <http://www.tagesspiegel.de/berlin/bezirke/kreuzberg-blog/oranienplatz-in-berlin-kreuzberg-info-zelt-abgebrannt-demonstration-in-kreuzberg/10067502.html>

28.06.2014, Brandenburg (Stadt): At a public viewing event during the FIFA World championship a 26-year-old man is attacked by three Neonazis because he asked them not to cry out national-socialist paroles¹⁶.

Elections 2014

On May 25th there were the Elections for the EU-parliament. German right-populist and right-extremist parties were not very successful: The right-wing extremist NPD got 1 percent of the votes, they have 1 representative in Brussels now (Udo Voigt). The right-wing populist AfD got 7,1 percent of the votes and gets 7 representatives in European Parliament. The islamophobic "Pro NRW" only got 0,2 percent, the "Republikaner" 0,4 percent – and no representatives¹⁷.

On May 25th there were also local elections in 10 states of Germany: Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia. Here the right-wing parties got more votes than in the last years – mainly because of the new party "AfD".

The preliminary results:

The „Alternative für Deutschland“ (AfD) obtained 311 mandates in local parliaments (89 in North Rhine-Westphalia, 48 in Rhineland-Palatinate, 44 in Brandenburg, 71 in Saxony, 22 in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, 17 in Hamburg, 16 in Saxony-Anhalt, 4 in Thuringia, Saarland still missing, Baden-Württemberg still missing).

The NPD got 167 mandates (59 in Saxony, Brandenburg 29 in, 32 in Thuringia, 17 in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, 8 in NRW, 12 in Saxony-Anhalt, 5 in Baden-Württemberg, 5 in Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland still missing).

The islamophobic "Pro NRW" got 24 mandates in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The Neo-Nazi party "Die Rechte" acquired 2 mandates in North Rhine-Westphalia.

"Die Republikaner" received 8 seats in Rhineland-Palatinate, 3 mandates in North Rhine-Westphalia.

"Pro Mainz" (secession of "Die Rechte") got 1 mandate in Rhineland-Palatinate.

„ Deutsche Volksunion Rheinpfalz“ (secession of NPD) got 1 mandate also in Rhineland-Palatinate

¹⁵ <http://www.tagesspiegel.de/berlin/polizei-justiz/berlin-friedrichshain-afrikanerin-im-park-angegriffen-und-rassistisch-beleidigt/10082076.html>

¹⁶ <http://www.internetwache.brandenburg.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=12112932>

¹⁷ <http://www.netz-gegen-nazis.de/artikel/europawahlen-rechtspopulistische-parteien-im-aufwind-9479>

In some areas, such as in North Rhine-Westphalia and in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, neo-Nazis hide in innocuous-sounding camouflage lists - and are successful: In Ueckermünde a camouflage list named "Wir von hier" got 14.1 percent of votes and 3 seats in the city council. The "Alternative für Torgelow" got 8.7 percent and 2 mandates, the voter community "Besseres Strasburg" got 15 percent, which is 3 mandates. In NRW there was a list called "Ab jetzt ... Demokratie durch Volksabstimmung", but it wasn't successful and didn't get a mandate¹⁸.

Right-Wing Extremist Activities

A traditional day for Neonazi-demonstration is May 1st. This year there were demonstrations of right-wing extremists in Dortmund (450 Neonazis, 600 protesters), Duisburg (100 Neonazis, 400 protesters), Essen (50 Pro NRW-demonstrants, 300 protesters), Rostock (300 Neonazis, 1.100 protesters), Plauen (700 Neonazis, 2.000 protesters), Frankfurt (Oder) (50 Neonazis, 250 protesters), Dachau (50 Neonazis, 250 protesters)¹⁹.

On May 8th there was a revisionist Neonazi-demonstration in Demmin (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania) – as in the last 8 years. 200 Neonazis occurred, about 400 protesters demonstrated against it peacefully. Only police was overwhelmed: first they brought Neonazis and protesters very close together, what could be dangerous, but worked out because everyone stayed calm. Then they attacked a protestor without a reason and hit him so hard that he had to stay in hospital in induced coma. The debate about this police reaction is still ongoing in politics and public²⁰.

In the observation period there were two big, nationwide important Nazi-Rock-concerts: One in Nienhagen (Saxony-Anhalt, 1.200 Neonazis, 200 protesters)²¹, one in Gera (Thuringia, "Rock für Deutschland", 300 Neonazis, 400 protesters)²².

New strategy: In Schleswig-Holstein Neonazis opened with „Brigade 8“ und „Midgards Wächter“ two Rocker-Clubs of their own²³.

Just before the 10th anniversary of the nail bomb attack in Cologne of the „NSU“-Group the police found a nail bomb at a Neonazi's home in Munich – luckily before it could be used²⁴.

Lifestyle: A new phenomenon are Nazi Hipster: neo-Nazis who use the current youth culture of hipsters with their design elements in web or even in fashion and lifestyle²⁵.

¹⁸ <http://www.mut-gegen-rechte-gewalt.de/news/reportagen/tummelplatz-rechter-parteien-die-kommunalwahlen-2014-2014-05>

¹⁹ <http://www.netz-gegen-nazis.de/dokument/02052014-presseschau-9432>

²⁰ <http://www.netz-gegen-nazis.de/artikel/demmin-2014>

²¹ <http://sachsen-anhalt-live.mdr.de/Event/veto-das-politik-blog-von-mdr-sachsen-anhalt/120058817>

²² <http://www.netz-gegen-nazis.de/artikel/am-samstag-verbreitet-rock-f%C3%BCr-deutschland-wieder-hass-gera-9557>

²³ <http://www.netz-gegen-nazis.de/artikel/%E2%80%9Ebrigade-8%E2%80%9C-und-%E2%80%9Emidgards-w%C3%A4chter%E2%80%9C-neonazis-im-rocker-style-9533>

²⁴ <http://www.bnr.de/artikel/aktuelle-meldungen/explosives-risiko>

Governmental Actions

In June the Federal Minister of the Interior published and presented his annual report. Some of this year's findings:

In Germany there are - according to government studies - less right-wing extremists (22,700 instead of 23,150), less right-wing motivated crimes (16,557 instead of 17,134), less right-wing demonstrations (180 instead of 211) and less extreme right concerts (78 instead of 82). Questionable, however: the number of racially motivated violence has risen sharply (from 393 in 2012 to 473 in 2012), as has the number of antisemitic acts of violence (from 36 in 2012 to 45 in 2013). One reason for the increased violence with racist background: the incitement of NPD & Co against refugee and refugee homes shows violent action.

Family Minister Manuela Schwesig presented on June 17th a new federal program against right-wing extremism, which is to be launched on 01 January 2015. Changes from the previous promotion of democracy work against right: the support runtime should be five instead of the previous three years, and thus make more continuous operation possible. The projects have to finance only 20% instead of 50% of the costs themselves. The funding is increased only slightly from 28,5 Million to 30 Million Euros. Experts had advocated an increase to 70 Million Euros. Schwesig's party, the SPD, had announced an increase to 50 Million Euros in their election campaign²⁶.

Neonazis in Court

During the observation period, there were several judgements in processes against neo-Nazis which negated a right-wing motivation to acts of violence. This is especially remarkable as the Federal Minister of Justice starts at the moment a legislative initiative which should encourage judges to stronger punishment if a right-wing motivation is observed.

Three cases, where the right-wing motivation was very obvious – but not seen by the judges in May and June:

Bernburg: Nine convicted neo-Nazis, with typical clothing and tattoos punched in September 2013 the 34-year-old snack operators Abdurrahman E. in Bernburg (Saxony-Anhalt) with inhuman brutality almost to death. They called him a "bloody cattle" and "bloody Turk". According to the Regional Court of Magdeburg this is still not sufficient for a "racist motive" because the act was so "spontaneous". Five men were acquitted, four received prison sentences of between eight and five years. However, this is fortunately not the last word: Both the prosecutor and the lawyer for the victims lodged a revision²⁷.

²⁵ <http://www.rollingstone.com/culture/news/heil-hipster-the-young-neo-nazis-trying-to-put-a-stylish-face-on-hate-20140623>

²⁶ <http://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/familienministerin-schwesig-millionen-gegen-rechts-1.2024998>

²⁷ <http://www.netz-gegen-nazis.de/artikel/bernburg-9456>

Kempton: In April 2013 a Thuringian killed a man at the “Kaufbeurer Tänzelfest” (Bavaria). The offender is a convicted neo-Nazi, the victim came from Kazakhstan - in fact it would have been quite nearby conclusion think of a racist motive for the killing, which is a lower motivation and thus a feature of murder. But the prosecutor at the District Court of Kempton informed shortly before the trial: "A xenophobic / racist motive could not be detected and proved." So the offender has been convicted at the end only because of bodily injury resulting in death, not murder. The judge stated in his judgment, he could not see a reference to a right-wing act. The father from Kazakhstan was for him a “random victim”. The judge did not question how randomly a convicted neo-Nazi chooses a victim which fits perfectly in the group of people he hates²⁸.

Bad Schandau: A 15-year-old pupil from Hamburg with Asian appearance was chosen by Saxon Neonazis as a victim, who had beforehand hunted a whole group of pupils. The three young men hit the 15-year-Old until his jaw and eye socket broke – and received suspended sentences for the deed. A xenophobic background, as initially suspected, was not mentioned in the judgment of the District Court of Pirna, although the perpetrators yelled right-wing slogans before and during the deed and obviously targeted a student sought out by Asian physiognomy as a victim. For the Court, it was a debate about football²⁹.

Civil Society

Before the local elections on May 25, numerous initiatives have warned against voting for right-wing extremist parties and especially for their camouflage lists.

On the evening of the election day, 80 democratic politicians of all parties defended the City Hall of Dortmund against 25 Neonazi-supporters of the party „Die Rechte“ who wanted to attack the election party there. For this action there was not only approval: The police, who took a long time until it was on site to resolve the dispute, criticized afterwards the politicians to have been provoking and drunk - while there are YouTube videos that show the contrary: the violence was, as expected, started by the Neonazis. The discussion, however, is symptomatic of discourse in Germany, always to give part of the guilt for an attack to the victims of right-wing violence themselves³⁰.

"We are ashamed for all those who cry out against us": art student and the Frankfurt Soccer Fan project fight against racism with a picture of Eintracht Frankfurt striker legend Anthony Yeboah on a house wall³¹.

²⁸ <http://www.br.de/nachrichten/rechtsextremismus/rechtsextremismus-extremismus-kolumne-taenzelfest-100.html>

²⁹ <http://www.netz-gegen-nazis.de/artikel/warum-ist-es-f%C3%BCr-gerichte-so-schwer-eine-rechtsextreme-motivation-zu-erkennen-9508>

³⁰ <http://www.bnr.de/artikel/hintergrund/neonazi-schlaeger-im-rathaus,http://www.derwesten.de/staedte/hagen/nach-tumulten-polizei-in-der-kritik-aimp-id9397472.html#plx401599785>

³¹ <http://www.fnp.de/lokales/frankfurt/Anthony-Yeboahs-starke-Botschaft-fuer-Toleranz;art675,906210>

Conclusions for the Period

Unfortunately there were in May and June 2014 again numerous incidents with the police and judiciary, which suggest that the lessons which the law enforcement agencies have pulled from disclosure of the right terrorist group NSU, were not very sustainable: Policemen protect neo-Nazis and criminalize counter-demonstrators or even victims of right-wing violence. Judges don't mention right-wing motivations for crime and violence – perhaps because that would make them more work, perhaps because it would require a political positioning. The policy responses to these phenomena are rather helpless, such as the law design of the Minister of Justice which asks for longer sentences for far-right motivation, but offers no methodology how the judges can be persuaded to recognize it. Positive is the proposed federal program against right-wing extremism which, although unfortunately financially not much better equipped than before, sets some essentially good accents.