



Austria

Annual report of the documentation center Political Islam

The Documentation Center for Political Islam has published its first annual report.

The director counts finding extremist literature in bookstores and at trade fairs or identifying dubious sermons in a Viennese



mosque among her successes. In addition, the most important organizations from the Muslim Brotherhood to

Milli Görüs and the Gray Wolves to the Gülen movement are briefly examined.

The "Austrian Fund for the Documentation of Religiously Motivated Political Extremism" was founded in 2020, annual reports are to be published annually in the future. In addition to research work, the position should also document questionable developments.

When presenting the report, the head of the research center, Lisa Fellhofer, emphasized that there is no clear classification of the term "political Islam": "There are different forms, some of which compete with one another. But then there are also overlaps, the structure is very complex."

She also mentioned the start of a new research project by the agency, which deals with sublime hate speech by representatives of political Islam. Although there has been a declining number of explicit statements by radical Muslims, more attention should be paid to indirect statements by these groups. Information was also obtained about dubious sermons in German in a mosque in

Vienna. According to the Documentation Center, the preachers belong to the Muslim Brotherhood. Among other things, anti-Semitic motifs were used and segregation was called for - for example, in the form that the police should not be called in conflicts between Muslims.

After talks with the responsible Islamic religious community, consequences were drawn and the criticized imam was suspended. "This shows that the IGGÖ does take care of these things," said Fellhofer.

Germany

The Office for the Protection of the Constitution in Hamburg is taking action against extremist preachers

This year, the state treaty between Hamburg and the Islamic association "Schura" is to be evaluated. The radical Islamic Center (IZH), a member of the Shura, is at the center of the criticism. Now there is another incident.

The authority is taking action against a leading cadre of the center. The deputy head will be expelled, the interior



authorities confirmed. He maintains close contacts with terrorist organizations, it said. The authorities rely on findings from the Office for the Protection of the Constitution.

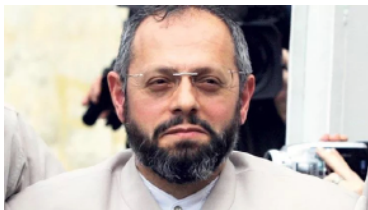
After the person concerned had been served with an order, he now has three months to leave the country. If he does not leave the country, he could be deported to Iran.

Since November 2012, the city of Hamburg and the Turkish mosque association Ditib, the Schura (Council of Islamic Communities in Hamburg), the Association of Islamic Cultural Centers e.V. and the Alevi community have been linked by a state treaty. With the agreement, the city state granted the associations more rights at the time. In return, they expressly committed to the German Constitution, took on integration tasks and fought against radicalism, also financed with federal and state funds. After ten years, the contract will be evaluated in November. The first talks are going on in the background.

The IZH, at least, has repeatedly violated this commitment to loyalty to the constitution. In the case of the suspect, the Office for the Protection of the Constitution is said to have presented clear evidence that he had close ties to several terrorist groups. It is specifically about donation associations that are attributed to Hezbollah, which is banned in Germany.

Last summer, the Hamburg security agencies presented new evidence that the mosque was being controlled by Tehran. The IZH rejected the allegations. At that time, the Schura umbrella organization stood in front of the center. A Schura executive said they believe the IZH more than the security authorities.

Nationwide crackdowns on supporters of the 'Caliphate State'



In a large-scale raid in Germany, 50 buildings were searched and three people arrested for violating the

ban on associations. According to the Koblenz public prosecutor's office, this is the Caliphate State organization led by Metin

Kaplan. Kaplan is said to have controlled the organization from Turkey.

Kaplan was sentenced to four years in prison in 2000 for publicly inciting criminal offenses and was deported from Germany to Turkey in 2004. The „Caliphate State“ organization was banned in 2001. In 2005, a Turkish court sentenced Kaplan to life imprisonment. This was reduced to 17 years and six months in 2010. Kaplan was released early from prison in 2016 because of illness.

The investigations are aimed at a total of 41 people. The public prosecutor's office accuses the accused of having maintained the banned association as a ringleader or having participated as a member. In addition, non-members are said to have distributed propaganda material. The suspects are said to have made significant income through the sale of Kaplan's writings and fundraising and food sales to maintain the association's structures. Kaplan's son is said to have held a managerial position in the organization.

Great Britain

Prince Charles and the cash suitcase from Qatar

According to a media report by the "Sunday Times", the British heir to the throne, Prince Charles, received a total of three suitcases each containing one million euros in cash in 500-euro notes between 2011 and 2015 - personally presented by the then Prime Minister of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani.

A spokesman for the British heir to the throne confirmed the handover in 2015. The money was therefore immediately paid into a bank account of the non-profit "Prince of Wales's Charitable Fund".

As the article points out, such a payment would not be illegal - just unusual in nature. Auditors of the endowment fund approved

the respective donations at the time. "We have investigated what happened at the time and can confirm that trustees of the endowment fund at the time discussed the donations and the relationship with the donor. After a special investigation, the payments were allowed. There was no leadership failure," he emphasized.



Sheikh Hamad served as Prime Minister of Qatar from 2007 to 2013. Great Britain is still considered his second home, which he travels to regularly. Under his reign, Qatar invested large sums of money in London, among other things for the construction of the Olympic Village and the new attraction "The Shard".

Turkey

Deutsche Welle and Voice of America blocked

The Turkish Broadcasting Authority (RTÜK) has blocked the online programs of the broadcasters "Deutsche Welle" and "Voice of America" in Turkey.

Media associations in Germany criticized the blocking of Deutsche Welle's Internet service in Turkey. The government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan now seems to want to extend its "constant attacks on independent media in the country" to foreign media, said Reporters Without Borders. The media landscape in Turkey is now almost 90 percent under the control of the government or government-affiliated businessmen.

The German Association of Journalists called on the German government to work to lift the ban.

The German government also joined the criticism. Government spokesman Steffen Hebestreit said in Berlin that the decision was "taken note of with regret". Concerns about freedom of expression and freedom of the press in Turkey persist, and Germany will continue to advocate for "independent, fact-based journalism" in Turkey.

