
GERMAN STATE PROBES FRANKFURT POLICE EXTREMIST NETWORK: REPORT

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Deutsche Welle (17 December 2018)

A lawyer who represented victims of far-right violence had her daughter threatened, possibly by extremist police. The resulting investigation has revealed a neo-Nazi network within the Frankfurt police force.

State criminal police (LKA) are investigating an alleged right-wing extremist network in the Frankfurt police force, respected German newspaper Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ) reported Sunday.

The LKA in Hesse has reportedly set up a special investigative group after a group of police officers allegedly sent a threatening letter to a lawyer of Turkish background who has represented Islamic extremists in court.

"Dirty Turkish sow," the faxed letter to Seda Basay-Yildiz began. "You're not going to destroy Germany. You better piss off as long as you can still get out of here alive, you swine!"

Basay-Yildiz told Frankfurter Neue Presse on Saturday this part of the letter was standard fare for her regular hate letters, but she was more worried by what came next.

"In retaliation ... we will slay your daughter," it read, followed by her daughter's name and her address. It was signed with "NSU 2.0.," referring to the far-right German neo-Nazi terror group National Socialist Underground, which was active in the 2000s. Basay-Yildiz also worked in the court case against NSU members.

She told the paper that the name of her 2-year-old daughter and her private address are not public knowledge.

Officers revealed

The threat emerged in August and the resulting investigation reportedly discovered a group of at least five police officers who had been sharing neo-Nazi messages and images in a chat group — a grave offence in Germany.

Investigators reportedly stumbled upon the group after finding a police computer had been used to look up the lawyer's personal details without an official reason.

LKA officials told FAZ they were not ruling out the possibility that it could end up being a case of

"much greater dimensions." The four male police officers and one female officer have been suspended from duty pending further investigation.

Basay-Yildiz criticized police after learning about the new developments in the media. She told FAZ she had repeatedly sought information on how the case was progressing, but only found out about the police network on Saturday. "I would have liked the police to have informed me beforehand," she said.

The LKA reports directly to the Hesse Interior Ministry and acts as an independent law enforcement agency.

The NSU crime scenes: a photo exhibition
Enver Şimşek, September 9, 2000, Nuremberg

Enver Şimşek, aged 38, was the first victim of the far-right terrorist group Nationalist Socialist Underground (NSU). He was found on the side of an arterial road in Nuremberg with several bullets in his body. He died two days later. Regina Schmeken started photographing the sites of the NSU crimes at the beginning of 2013 and returned to them several times until 2016.

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