

DOMESTIC
SECURITY REPORT
SWITZERLAND
2007

Summary

Islamist Violent Extremism and Terrorism

In 2007, jihadism remained a dynamic global movement and continued to pose a threat to West European states and societies. Although opportunities for terrorist operations were restricted, jihadists continued in 2007 to focus their activities on Iraq. In western Europe, particularly in Great Britain, Denmark, Germany, France and Spain, security forces uncovered operational cells whose members were chiefly residents of the respective countries. Thus, jihadist home-grown terrorism also exists in western Europe. Moreover, it has become apparent that the network around core Al-Qaeda members in Pakistan maintains operational links to Europe.

Operational cells uncovered in Great Britain, Denmark, Germany, France and Spain.

In the current reporting year, all attacks in Europe were either unsuccessful or detected in time; security authorities were able to intercept plans in the preparatory stages and arrest those involved. To date, no jihadist terrorist cell planning or preparing an attack has been detected in Switzerland. The recently established Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) could, however, prompt Maghrebi Islamists particularly in western Europe to carry out jihadist activities.

In June 2007, the Federal Criminal Court convicted a Tunisian Islamist and his cohabitant – a Belgian citizen of Moroccan descent – under Article 260^{ter} of the Swiss Criminal Code (SCC) to a (partly unconditional) term of imprisonment for, amongst other things, supporting a terrorist criminal organisation. Another Tunisian Islamist who was a member and propagandist of the Hizb ut-Tahrir was convicted in the Canton of Neuchâtel to a conditional term of imprisonment for violating Article 259 SCC (public call to violence) and Article 261^{bis} SCC (racism). Appeals against these judgements were still pending at the time this report went to print. Also in 2007, an Algerian Islamist residing illegally in Switzerland was deported to Algeria; he was suspected of belonging to and supporting a terrorist criminal organisation, of terrorist financing, of theft and of receiving stolen goods.

Conviction for supporting a terrorist criminal organisation.

Organised Crime

As in previous years, there is evidence to suggest that in 2007 criminal groups from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) continued to operate an extensive network in Switzerland and use structures within the country primarily to legalise and invest ill-gotten gains. Due to their financial resources, these groups could pose a threat to the economy, to democratic institutions and to Switzerland as a financial centre.

Criminal groups from the CIS continue to operate extensive network.

Criminal groups from south-eastern Europe, especially from Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia, continued to play a significant role, exhibiting typical elements contained in all forms of modern transnational and global crime; they have flexible structures and are internationally interwoven. The range of offences committed by these groups include: drug trafficking; human trafficking for the purpose of prostitution; migrant smuggling; extortion of protection money; money laundering; arms trafficking; cigarette smuggling; burglary; handbag theft; robbery; receiving stolen goods; illegal gambling; forgery of documents, identity papers and visas; bodily harm and manslaughter, including contract killings. From this range of crimes, the main emphasis is on drug trafficking.

Criminal groups from south-eastern Europe continue to play a relatively significant role.

Right-wing Extremism

The number of right-wing motivated incidents – a total of 109 in 2007 – remained steady. Approximately 53 percent of all incidents registered involved violence against people or objects.

Number of right-wing related incidents remains steady.

Confrontation between left and right-wing extremists presented security forces throughout Europe – including those in Switzerland – with considerable problems. Such conflict has a high potential for violence. Right-wing extremists were seen to behave more aggressively towards the security forces in the year under review, organising their activities more often secretly in order to avoid the tighter preventive measures imposed by the security agencies.

Right-wing activists in Europe maintain a variety of international contacts, mainly on the

personal level. Right-wing extremist parties are a potential danger to the democratic and constitutional foundations of a state because they tolerate members who time and again are involved in politically motivated violent confrontation.

Left-wing Extremism

In the year under review, the number of left-wing motivated incidents fell by 2.6 percent, from 227 in 2006 to 221 in 2007.

Decrease in the number of left-wing related incidents.

Approximately 57 percent of the incidents registered involved violence either against people or objects.

The anti-globalisation movement was less important for left-wing extremists; the scene continued to move away from their criticism of globalisation and concentrate their efforts on the fight against fascism (Antifa) and on campaigns in favour of alleged political prisoners. From these

International Red Aid active once again.

solidarity campaigns it has become apparent that in the wake of the reactivation of the Secours Rouge International (SRI, International Red Aid),

Swiss activists are forging closer contacts with left-wing extremists abroad, thus increasingly cooperating with their foreign counterparts. The SRI runs general secretariats in Brussels and Zurich, and is active throughout Europe. The general secretariat in Zurich is operated by the Revolutionärer Aufbau Zürich (RAZ, Revolutionary Advance Zurich), a factor that lends greater weight to RAZ throughout Europe. The SRI is known to be in contact with left-wing extremist terror groups abroad and their sympathisers.

In 2007, the activities of the so-called Antifa were stimulated as a result of parliamentary elections in October. Beginning in June, but increasingly from September, the left-wing scene began to intensify its activities against the Schweizerische Volkspartei (SVP, Swiss People's Party), whose politics were denounced as being right-wing extremist and racist. This development resulted, for example, in major rioting during an unauthorised demonstration against an SVP election rally in Bern on 6 October.

Basically, the overall assessment that left-wing extremism poses a threat to the domestic security of Switzerland on the local level and in isolated cases remains unchanged.

Violent Extremism by Ethnic Albanian, Kurdish and Tamil Groups

The activities of non-Swiss violent extremist groups are usually dependent on developments in members' home countries. Whilst the situation in Kosovo remained quiet but tense due to the status question, fighting has continued both in Sri Lanka and Turkey. In Switzerland, fighting erupted between rivaling members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) during the 1 May celebrations in Zurich. Likewise in May, around 20 young Kurds occupied the premises of daily newspapers, radio and television stations in Basel, Bern, Biel and Zurich, and penetrated an Amnesty International office. Prior to these incidents, arson attacks had been carried out in Basel, St. Gallen, Zurich, Lyss and Münchenbuchsee, for which a youth organisation of the Kurdish Worker's Party (PKK) known as Kamikaze APO's claimed responsibility. Thus, there is still a potential for violence in Switzerland. However, it is likely that Switzerland will remain only a platform for political demonstrations, and groups in the home country will continue to receive financial and logistical support from the respective expatriate communities in Switzerland.

Level of extremism dependent on developments in the respective home country.

Illegal Intelligence

Foreign intelligence services continue to engage in all kinds of espionage activities in Switzerland. Often it is not Switzerland itself that is the target, but international organisations and foreign states; the fact that numerous international institutions are established in Switzerland makes the country an attractive target of foreign intelligence services. These services are usually interested in finding out how political decisions are reached by international bodies with the purpose of benefiting their own states. In addition to these activities, foreign intelligence services also keep refugees and dissidents living in Switzerland, particularly their political activities, under surveillance.

All kinds of espionage present in Switzerland.

Also on the economic espionage front, Switzerland – as the centre of many research institutions and enterprises in the sector of top-level

technology remains an attractive target. Moreover, various states in the West have become the target of electronic espionage attacks; several armament enterprises as well as the Swiss Federal Administration have been unsuccessfully attacked. Western intelligence services mostly suspect foreign states to be behind these attacks.

Cybercrime

Compared to previous years, the number of reports received by Fedpol's Cybercrime Coordination Unit KOBIK nearly doubled in 2007, reaching a monthly total of between 900 and 1,000 reports. Reports in connection with economic crime increased in particular, coming second only to reports in connection with child pornography. In addition, reports on focussed espionage by state or private agencies and on instances of jihadism on the Internet were the main cause for concern.

Dramatic increase in the number of reports concerning economic crime.

Botnets – a term for infected software robots or “bots” which run autonomously on private computers and are controlled remotely without the knowledge of the owner – remain a great hazard. Botnets form the basis of a large amount of criminal activity on the Internet. The people behind botnets have become increasingly professional and are basing their structures more and more on the principle of a division of labour.

Proliferation

International efforts in the fight against the proliferation of biological and chemical weapons achieved considerable success in 2007, while efforts in the field of nuclear weapons and disarmament

in general came to nothing. Although the situation concerning North Korea eased up at the beginning of 2007, developments with regard to Iran remained tense. On 23 December 2006 and 24 March 2007, the UN Security Council decided to impose sanctions on Iran. These measures were implemented by Switzerland under the Regulation of 14 February 2007 on Measures against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In 2007, several criminal proceedings continued in Switzerland in connection with suspected violations against the Goods Control Act. In addition, investigations were started in two cases in connection with requests from Germany for mutual assistance.

Several ongoing proceedings in connection with suspected violations of the Goods Control Act.

Hooliganism

Most of the matches in 2007 by teams in the top football league were characterised by violence amongst opposing fans, towards the police and sometimes even towards innocent bystanders. Although the competent police authorities registered a slight fall in the number of violent incidents, the intensity of the violence was greater.

Violence towards opposing fans, the police and innocent bystanders.

The majority of “high-risk fans” is male, between 18 and 30 years old and Swiss. The number of fans willing to use violence in Switzerland remains unchanged at around 1,500 to 2,000 people, 200 to 300 of whom can be described as hooligans in the classic sense with a high propensity to use violence. This hard core is well organised and seeks confrontation mainly with other groups of hooligans. ■

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Fine febbraio 2008

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