

## **European Ethno-Nationalist and White Supremacy Groups**

### **Key Findings**

- European far-right ethno-nationalist groups have cast immigrants as a scapegoat for economic hardship faced by young Europeans. Rather than promote overt white supremacy, these groups denigrate minorities—particularly Muslim immigrants—as detrimental to European culture.
- Far-right political parties like Germany’s Alternative für Deutschland and Italy’s Lega Nord have been able to generate substantial popular support by promising to defend their respective countries against the cultural attacks of immigrants and foreign influences, and have consequently made gains in domestic parliamentary elections.
- Groups like Les Identitaires and its youth wing, Generation Identity, have renounced violence in favor of utilizing social media and public demonstrations to portray themselves as legitimate, mainstream movements protecting European culture. These groups have directly targeted Europe’s youth through social media and public demonstrations.
- Some U.S. neo-Nazi groups have created a European presence. Atomwaffen Division and other U.S.-based groups have inspired European offshoots such as the Feuerkrieg Division. The Nationalist Social Club has established a following in countries such as Germany and Bulgaria.
- Groups including Combat 18 and the Nordic Resistance Movement, which openly embrace neo-Nazi ideology and violent tactics, are still able to recruit for violent activities, despite the rise of non-violent, populist groups.

### **Executive Summary**

More than 70 years after the defeat of Nazi Germany, ethno-nationalist and white supremacist movements in Europe continue to thrive. They include far-right political parties, neo-Nazi movements, and apolitical protest groups. Some groups openly espouse violent white supremacy, while others have propagated their radical stances under the guise of populism. Such populist groups claim that they are striving to protect average hardworking Europeans by preserving their livelihoods and heritages from economic and cultural threats posed by immigrants and ethnic minorities. Though not all of these groups directly link their ideologies to Nazism, their propaganda portrays immigrants and ethnic minorities in a similar manner to how Nazi propaganda portrayed Jews, blaming them for national economic troubles and depicting them as a serious threat to the broader national identity.

In a June 2018 speech, German Chancellor Angela Merkel recognized that the majority of refugees are victims, and that “escape and expulsion are part of our German and European history.”<sup>1</sup> Nonetheless, several far-right political parties in Europe have infused anti-immigrant and particularly anti-Muslim xenophobia into their party platforms through the concept of ethno-

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<sup>1</sup> “Rede von Bundeskanzlerin Merkel zum Gedenktag für die Opfer von Flucht und Vertreibung am 20. Juni 2018 in Berlin,” Die Bundeskanzlerin, June 20, 2018, <https://www.bundestkanzlerin.de/Content/DE/Rede/2018/06/2018-06-20-rede-gedenkstunde-20-juni.html>

nationalism—the idea that a nation should be composed of a single ethnicity. These parties postulate that hardworking European natives are suffering economic and cultural losses due to immigrants and ethnic minorities who want to replace national, religious, and cultural identities with foreign values. Ethno-nationalists also view multiculturalism as a code word for the destruction of the native national identity. For example, Hungary’s neo-fascist Jobbik political party rejects “the dead-end Western European multiculturalism” and has pledged to “defend our cultural identity developed over our history.”<sup>2</sup> Groups like Germany’s Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) political party lament the influx of Muslim immigrants, which they claim weakens the German culture and quality of life. AfD has gone so far as to claim that Islam is a danger to Germany.<sup>3</sup>

These far-right political parties have therefore been able to unite ethno-nationalism with populism by propagating the notion that ethno-nationalism serves the average hardworking individual and the broader national identity. Their propaganda campaigns have allowed them to generate substantial popular support and make gains in domestic elections. The AfD came in third in Germany’s September 2017 parliamentary elections.<sup>4</sup> In March 2018’s Italian parliamentary elections, the far-right, anti-immigrant Lega Nord (“Northern League”) party succeeded in becoming the third largest party in Italy’s parliament. League leader Matteo Salvini served as Italy’s interior minister from June 2018 until August 2019. In that role, he refused a migrant aid ship permission to dock in Italy and called for a national census to address “the Roma question.”<sup>5</sup> Both parties also view the European Union as a harmful foreign influence that has undermined the sovereignty of their respective nations.<sup>6</sup> Salvini has even derided the euro as

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<sup>2</sup> “Manifesto on The Guidelines For a Future Jobbik-Led Government,” Jobbik, accessed June 25, 2018, [https://www.jobbik.com/manifesto\\_on\\_the\\_guidelines\\_for\\_a\\_future\\_jobbik\\_led\\_government](https://www.jobbik.com/manifesto_on_the_guidelines_for_a_future_jobbik_led_government).

<sup>3</sup> “Manifesto for Germany,” Alternative für Deutschland, accessed June 27, 2018, 48, [https://www.afd.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2017/04/2017-04-12\\_afd-grundsatzprogramm-englisch\\_web.pdf](https://www.afd.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2017/04/2017-04-12_afd-grundsatzprogramm-englisch_web.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Kate Connolly, “German election: Merkel wins fourth term but far-right AfD surges to third,” *Guardian* (London), September 24, 2017, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/sep/24/angela-merkel-fourth-term-far-right-afd-third-german-election>.

<sup>5</sup> “Italian interior minister wants census of Roma communities,” Reuters, June 18, 2018, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-roma/italian-interior-minister-wants-census-of-roma-communities-idUSKBN1JE2H0>; Gavin Jones and Giselda Vagnoni, “How Italy’s ‘Captain’ Salvini steered his ship onto the rocks,” Reuters, September 3, 2019, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-politics-salvini-insight/how-italys-captain-salvini-steered-his-ship-onto-the-rocks-idUSKCN1VPOHC>.

<sup>6</sup> “Manifesto for Germany,” Alternative für Deutschland, accessed June 27, 2018, 7, [https://www.afd.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2017/04/2017-04-12\\_afd-grundsatzprogramm-englisch\\_web.pdf](https://www.afd.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2017/04/2017-04-12_afd-grundsatzprogramm-englisch_web.pdf); Simon Osborne, “‘It’s a GERMAN currency!’ Lega Nord vows to pull Italy from euro ‘MISTAKE,’” *Express* (London), February 8, 2018, <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/916123/italian-elections-2018-lega-nord-northern-league-leader-matteo-salvini-eurozone>.

a “German currency” and a “crime against humanity.”<sup>7</sup> Salvini continues to serve in Italy’s parliament.<sup>8</sup>

Some ethno-nationalist political movements have openly embraced the language and symbolism of the Nazi movement. In Hungary, Gabor Vona, the former chair of the far-right Jobbik, has blamed international Jewry for attempting to buy Hungary and interfere in its elections. Jobbik has also used the Nazi “Arrow Cross” to symbolize pride in Hungary’s Nazi past.<sup>9</sup> In 2014, a Hungarian court ruled that Jobbik may be referred to as “neo-Nazi” in Hungary.<sup>10</sup> Despite similarities in propaganda, however, not all of Europe’s far-right political movements have openly embraced links to the Nazi or neo-Nazi movements. Members of the French anti-immigrant Les Identitaires movement reject violence and consider themselves to be patriots defending European identity from cultural corruption imposed by Islamic mores.<sup>11</sup> Les Identitaires’ youth wing, Generation Identity (GI), has a presence across Europe and uses social media and popular demonstrations to propagate similar anti-Islamic notions and gain traction with young people.<sup>12</sup> In July 2020, Twitter suspended several GI-linked accounts during a purge of more than 50 white supremacist accounts.<sup>13</sup>

Les Identitaires and GI adhere to the identitarian ideology and its Great Replacement theory, which GI describes as “the process by which the indigenous European population is replaced by non-European migrants.”<sup>14</sup> Employing similar rhetoric, Brenton Tarrant, the white supremacist who allegedly killed 50 people at two New Zealand mosques on March 15, 2019, entitled his manifesto “The Great Replacement” and wrote about the “crisis of mass immigration and ... assault on the European people that, if not combated, will ultimately result in the complete racial and cultural replacement of the European people.”<sup>15</sup> The New Zealand attack was a manifestation of the identitarian ideology and its view of a broader white European ethnic

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<sup>7</sup> Simon Osborne, “‘It’s a GERMAN currency!’ Lega Nord vows to pull Italy from euro ‘MISTAKE,’” *Express* (London), February 8, 2018, <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/916123/italian-elections-2018-lega-nord-northern-league-leader-matteo-salvini-eurozone>; Elizabeth Schumacher, “Matteo Salvini: Italy’s far-right success story,” *Deutsche Welle*, March 5, 2018, <http://www.dw.com/en/matteo-salvini-italys-far-right-success-story/a-42830366>.

<sup>8</sup> Gavin Jones and Giselda Vagnoni, “How Italy’s ‘Captain’ Salvini steered his ship onto the rocks,” *Reuters*, September 3, 2019, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-politics-salvini-insight/how-italys-captain-salvini-steered-his-ship-onto-the-rocks-idUSKCN1VP0HC>.

<sup>9</sup> “Ungarn schützen, das ist unser Ziel: Bededikt Frings für die DS im Gespräch mit Gábor Vona, dem Chef der Ungarischen Garde,” in *Deutsche Stimme* (May 2008): 9.

<sup>10</sup> “Gerichtsurteil in Ungarn: Jobbik darf als Neonazipartei bezeichnet werden,” *Spiegel Online*, January 28, 2014, <http://www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/urteil-in-ungarn-jobbik-darf-als-neonazi-partei-bezeichnet-werden-a-945998.html>.

<sup>11</sup> Associated Press, “French far-right group has message in menu,” *Boston.com*, December 10, 2011, [http://archive.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2011/12/10/french\\_far\\_right\\_group\\_has\\_message\\_in\\_menu/](http://archive.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2011/12/10/french_far_right_group_has_message_in_menu/).

<sup>12</sup> Sumi Somaskanda, “Identitarian movement - Germany’s ‘new right’ hipsters,” *Deutsche Welle*, June 23, 2017, <http://www.dw.com/en/identitarian-movement-germanys-new-right-hipsters/a-39383124>.

<sup>13</sup> Anna Schechter, “Twitter suspends more than 50 white nationalist accounts,” *NBC News*, July 10, 2020, <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/social-media/twitter-suspends-more-50-white-nationalist-accounts-n1233469>.

<sup>14</sup> “Frequently Asked Question,” *Generation Identity United Kingdom and Ireland*, accessed March 8, 2018, <https://www.generation-identity.org.uk/faqs/>.

<sup>15</sup> Brenton Tarrant, “The Great Replacement,” *Internet Archive*, accessed April 1, 2019.

identity prevalent in the Western world that transcends national borders. While groups like GI claim to reject violence, they promote an ideology that has led directly toward it.

Some of Europe's historically non-political, violent far-right groups have not only embraced similar populist language to the ethno-nationalist political movements, but also continue to espouse openly racist concepts and employ violence to achieve their visions of an ethnically homogenous state. Combat 18, a violent neo-Nazi skinhead group founded in the United Kingdom in 1992, currently has a presence in at least 18 countries.<sup>16</sup> Similar to ISIS in its aim to create a Muslim-only caliphate, the group encourages supporters to carry out lone-wolf terrorist attacks as part of its greater aim to create white-only countries through violence.<sup>17</sup> National Action is another group of young far-right extremists that, in 2016, became the first far-right group to be labeled as a terrorist organization in the United Kingdom after it praised the murder of a parliamentarian.<sup>18</sup> The group, whose members believe that "Britain should be for British people,"<sup>19</sup> reportedly operates training camps where recruits learn hand-to-hand combat in preparation for "white jihad."<sup>20</sup> Not only do these violent white supremacist groups employ similar strategies to some of the most prominent Islamic terror groups, but they are also motivated to pursue the radical end goal of an ethnically or culturally homogenous state due to similar concerns that their identity and way of life are under threat.

In addition to homegrown ethno-nationalist movements, Europe has also seen a rise of far-right networks affiliated with U.S. neo-Nazi groups. For example, U.S.-based Atomwaffen Division (AWD), now known as National Socialist Order,<sup>21</sup> has established a network in Germany.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>16</sup> *Terrorism and Violent Extremism Awareness Guide*. Quebec: RCMP Communications Office, 2016, <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/wam/media/1731/original/1cb81f63911f002d67b340c08591bd31.pdf>; "Division Polonia," Division Polonia Blood C18 Honor, accessed April 10, 2018, <http://bhddivisionpolonia.altervista.org/index.html>; "C18 Hungary," C18 Hungary, accessed April 10, 2018, <http://c18hungary.blogspot.com/>; "Aryan Strikeforce/Combat 18 Ukraine," VK.com, accessed April 10, 2018, <https://vk.com/as318ukraine>; Bianca Hall "Neo-Nazi group Combat 18 plasters anti-Islam stickers over children's playground in Heidelberg West," *Age* (Victoria), August 26, 2015, <https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/neonazi-group-combat-18-plasters-antiislam-stickers-over-childrens-playground-in-heidelberg-west-20150826-gj7tv8.html>.

<sup>17</sup> "National Socialist Political Soldiers Handbook," *Combat 18*, accessed April 2, 2018, <https://archive.org/details/NationalSocialistPoliticalSoldiersHandbook>.

<sup>18</sup> Jessica Elgot, "Neo-Nazi group National Action banned by UK home secretary," *Guardian* (London), December 12, 2016, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/12/neo-nazi-group-national-action-banned-by-uk-home-secretary>.

<sup>19</sup> Lucy Sherriff, "Meet New Neo-Nazi Group National Action Which Just Wants To 'Piss People Off,'" *Huffington Post*, June 3, 2014, [https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/03/06/new-neo-nazi-group-national-action\\_n\\_4910260.html?guccounter=1](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/03/06/new-neo-nazi-group-national-action_n_4910260.html?guccounter=1).

<sup>20</sup> "Banned neo-Nazi group National Action 'kept meeting,'" *BBC News*, June 14, 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-44489796>; Charlie Bayliss, "National Action 'members attended terror-style training camps to learn judo, kickboxing and street fighting martial arts for upcoming race war,'" *Daily Mail* (London), June 13, 2018, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5840925/National-Action-members-attended-terror-style-training-camps-learn-MMA.html>; Lucy Sherriff, "Meet New Neo-Nazi Group National Action Which Just Wants To 'Piss People Off,'" *Huffington Post*, June 3, 2014, [https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/03/06/new-neo-nazi-group-national-action\\_n\\_4910260.html?guccounter=1](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/03/06/new-neo-nazi-group-national-action_n_4910260.html?guccounter=1).

<sup>21</sup> "National Socialist Order Announcement!," *American Futurist*, July 25, 2020.

<sup>22</sup> A. C. Thompson, Ali Winston, and Jake Hanrahan, "California Murder Suspect Said to Have Trained With Extremist Hate Group," *ProPublica*, January 26, 2018, <https://www.propublica.org/article/california-murder-suspect>.

Additionally, the Feuerkrieg Division was created as a European, neo-Nazi offshoot of AWD.<sup>23</sup> The U.S.-based Nationalist Social Club (NSC) is also active in Germany, Hungary, and Bulgaria.<sup>24</sup> Modern communication methods make it easy for these groups to expand their reach across international borders. Further, groups such as NSC have no formal hierarchy and allow chapters latitude to interpret their own guidelines around the core principle of white supremacy. This independence has made it easier for these groups to expand their membership without a need for official oversight or investment of resources.

The Counter Extremism Project (CEP)'s European Ethno-Nationalist and White Supremacy Groups report outlines the history, propaganda, violent activities, and notable rhetoric of some of the continent's most active ethno-nationalist and white supremacist groups.

### Alternative für Deutschland

- **Summary:** The far-right Alternative für Deutschland (Alternative for Germany or AfD) political party has increased in popularity across Germany on anti-immigrant and anti-Islam platforms. The party blames immigrants in general and Muslim immigrants in particular for weakening the German culture and way of life.<sup>25</sup> The party's manifesto declares forthrightly that "Islam does not belong to Germany."<sup>26</sup> In Germany's September 2017 parliamentary elections, AfD became the third largest political party in the German parliament.<sup>27</sup>

A group of economists established AfD in 2013 out of concern that the European Union's economic policies were weakening Germany's economy. In 2014, AfD won 10 percent of the vote in local elections in the German state of Saxony. Co-founder Bernd Lucke quit in

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[atomwaffen-division-extremist-hate-group](#); A.C. Thompson, Ali Winston, and Jake Hanrahan, "Inside Atomwaffen As It Celebrates a Member for Allegedly Killing a Gay Jewish College Student," ProPublica, last updated August 3, 2018, <https://www.propublica.org/article/atomwaffen-division-inside-white-hate-group>; Mack Lamoureux and Ben Makuch, "An American Neo-Nazi Group Has Dark Plans for Canada," Vice News, July 10, 2018, [https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/ev847a/an-american-neo-nazi-group-has-dark-plans-for-canada](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/ev847a/an-american-neo-nazi-group-has-dark-plans-for-canada); Jake Hanrahan, Twitter post, June 2, 2018, 7:44 p.m., [https://twitter.com/Jake\\_Hanrahan/status/1003059715293794304](https://twitter.com/Jake_Hanrahan/status/1003059715293794304).

<sup>23</sup> "FEUERKRIEG DIVISION (FKD) PROSCRIBED AS TERRORIST GROUP," Counter Terrorism Policing, July 17, 2020, <https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/fkd-proscribed/>.

<sup>24</sup> Russell Harris, "Neo-Nazi 'Slap-Tags' Found On Rail-Trail In Pepperell," *Groton Herald*, November 5, 2020, <http://www.grotonherald.com/news/neo-nazi-%E2%80%98slap-tags%E2%80%99-found-rail-trail-pepperell>; "Online ISIS Supporters Celebrate Vienna Attack," European Centre for Counterterrorism, November 14, 2020, <https://en.europarabct.com/?p=47921>; Quentin Augusto, "New Far-Right Group 'NSC 131 Active in Germany,'" Belltower.news, September 18, 2020, <https://www.belltower.news/police-raids-in-hesse-new-far-right-group-ns-131-active-in-germany-104581/>; "Online ISIS Supporters Celebrate Vienna Attack," European Centre for Counterterrorism, November 14, 2020, <https://en.europarabct.com/?p=47921>.

<sup>25</sup> "Manifesto for Germany," Alternative für Deutschland, accessed June 27, 2018, 48, [https://www.afd.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2017/04/2017-04-12\\_afd-grundsatzprogramm-englisch\\_web.pdf](https://www.afd.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2017/04/2017-04-12_afd-grundsatzprogramm-englisch_web.pdf).

<sup>26</sup> "Manifesto for Germany," Alternative für Deutschland, accessed June 27, 2018, 48, [https://www.afd.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2017/04/2017-04-12\\_afd-grundsatzprogramm-englisch\\_web.pdf](https://www.afd.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2017/04/2017-04-12_afd-grundsatzprogramm-englisch_web.pdf).

<sup>27</sup> Kate Connolly, "German election: Merkel wins fourth term but far-right AfD surges to third," *Guardian* (London), September 24, 2017, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/sep/24/angela-merkel-fourth-term-far-right-afd-third-german-election>.



July 2015, declaring that the party had become xenophobic. Later that month, Frauke Petry took over as the party's leader and shifted its focus from economics to immigration.<sup>28</sup> In 2016, Petry stated her belief that German police should, "if necessary," shoot at illegal immigrants trying to enter Germany, and AfD deputy leader Alexander Gauland stated that most Germans "wouldn't want to live next door" to German soccer player Jérôme Boateng because his father is Ghanaian.<sup>29</sup> That June, German Deputy Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel labeled the AfD as xenophobic and compared its positions to those of the Nazi party. At the time, the AfD was represented in eight out of 16 of Germany's state assemblies.<sup>30</sup>

AfD has specifically targeted Islam. The party's 2016 Manifesto for Germany denigrated Islam as foreign to Germany society and called for its restriction. It sought to distinguish between "law-abiding and well-integrated" Muslims in Germany who are "accepted and valued members" of German society and Islam as a whole, which "does not belong to Germany."<sup>31</sup> The manifesto further condemned the "ever-increasing number of Muslims in the country...as a danger to our state, our society, and our values."<sup>32</sup>

Although Petry shifted AfD's focus from economics to immigration, the party has maintained its belief that the European Union has been economically detrimental to Germany. According to AfD's 2016 Manifesto for Germany, the core treaties of the European Union have undermined Germany's sovereignty. AfD accuses a "small and powerful elite within the political parties" of controlling Germany's government and ceding power to the European Union.<sup>33</sup> Much like its anti-immigration stance, AfD's aversion to the European Union suggests an overarching fear of the deterioration of the German identity.

While AfD's rhetoric has largely focused on Islam, the group has also targeted Germany's Jewish community. AfD has rejected ritual circumcision—practiced by both religious communities—as a "serious violation of fundamental rights."<sup>34</sup> In a January 2017 address to an AfD youth group, senior AfD leader Björn Höcke condemned

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<sup>28</sup> "Profile: German right-wing AfD leader Frauke Petry," BBC News, March 10, 2016, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35775513>.

<sup>29</sup> "German police 'should shoot at migrants', populist politician says," BBC News, January 30, 2016, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35452306>; Philip Oltermann, "German rightwing party apologises for Jérôme Boateng comments," *Guardian* (London), May 29, 2016, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/29/german-far-right-party-row-jerome-boateng-neighbour-comments>.

<sup>30</sup> "Germany's vice chancellor ties AfD views to Nazi sentiments," Deutsche Welle, June 12, 2016, <https://www.dw.com/en/germanys-vice-chancellor-ties-afd-views-to-nazi-sentiments/a-19324174>.

<sup>31</sup> "Manifesto for Germany," Alternative für Deutschland, accessed June 27, 2018, 48, [https://www.afd.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2017/04/2017-04-12\\_afd-grundsatzprogramm-englisch\\_web.pdf](https://www.afd.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2017/04/2017-04-12_afd-grundsatzprogramm-englisch_web.pdf).

<sup>32</sup> "Manifesto for Germany," Alternative für Deutschland, accessed June 27, 2018, 48, [https://www.afd.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2017/04/2017-04-12\\_afd-grundsatzprogramm-englisch\\_web.pdf](https://www.afd.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2017/04/2017-04-12_afd-grundsatzprogramm-englisch_web.pdf).

<sup>33</sup> "Manifesto for Germany," Alternative für Deutschland, accessed June 27, 2018, 7, [https://www.afd.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2017/04/2017-04-12\\_afd-grundsatzprogramm-englisch\\_web.pdf](https://www.afd.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2017/04/2017-04-12_afd-grundsatzprogramm-englisch_web.pdf).

<sup>34</sup> "Where Anti-migration and anti-Semitism Meet: How Germany's AfD Came to Be," *Haaretz*, March 14, 2016, <https://www.haaretz.com/jewish/how-germany-s-afd-came-to-be-1.5417311>.

Germany's ongoing commemorations of the Holocaust and called for "a 180-degree reversal on the politics of remembrance."<sup>35</sup>

Petry resigned from the party shortly after the September 2017 elections because of concerns over "how the AfD is likely to develop."<sup>36</sup> Following AfD's third-place victory in Germany's September 2017 elections, AfD remained outside the governing coalition, making it Germany's main opposition party.<sup>37</sup> In June 2018, a poll in the *Bild am Sonntag* newspaper recorded a 16 percent approval for AfD, its highest rating ever in the newspaper's poll. The poll came as the governing coalition faced a crisis over immigration policies.<sup>38</sup>

In March 2020, Germany's domestic intelligence agency labeled the AfD faction known as Flügel ("wing") as a threat to the country's democratic order. The agency, Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz (BfV), also announced that it would place Flügel under systematic surveillance, allowing the BfV to recruit informants, keep personal data on file, and monitor phone calls.<sup>39</sup> The head of AfD in the German state of Thuringia, Björn Höcke, leads the extremist wing. Flügel commands strong support in eastern Germany and has an estimated 7,000 members, representing approximately 20 percent of AfD's overall membership.<sup>40</sup> According to a BfV official, the increased scrutiny comes as the faction is believed to be uniting far-right extremist groups, including neo-Nazis, and coordinating online.<sup>41</sup> On March 20, 2020, AfD's executive committee voted to dissolve Flügel by April 30, 2020, fearing the faction could bring increased scrutiny to the entire party.<sup>42</sup> In May, AfD co-chair Jörg Meuthen pressured AfD's central committee to annul the membership of Flügel leader Andreas Kalbitz. Meuthen has since faced rebuke from AfD members for calling for a division between the western and eastern factions in order to separate out the far right. In June 2020, Meuthen called for a "firewall" against far-right extremism in AfD.<sup>43</sup>

<sup>35</sup> Jefferson Chase, "Local AfD leader's Holocaust remarks prompt outrage," Deutsche Welle, January 18, 2017, <https://www.dw.com/en/local-afd-leaders-holocaust-remarks-prompt-outrage/a-37173729>.

<sup>36</sup> Jefferson Chase, "Frauke Petry, co-chair of the far-right AfD, to quit the party," Deutsche Welle, September 26, 2017, <https://www.dw.com/en/frauke-petry-co-chair-of-the-far-right-afd-to-quit-the-party/a-40686693>.

<sup>37</sup> Philip Oltermann, "Germany's rightwing AfD gears up to play noisy opposition role," *Guardian* (London), February 7, 2018, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/feb/07/germanys-rightwing-afd-gears-up-to-play-noisy-opposition-role>.

<sup>38</sup> Andrea Shalal, "Migration fight erodes support for German conservatives, far-right AfD gains," Reuters, June 24, 2018, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-politics/migration-fight-erodes-support-for-german-conservatives-far-right-afd-gains-idUSKBN1JK0HV>.

<sup>39</sup> "Germany to spy on far-right AfD's Flügel faction," BBC News, March 12, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-51850840>.

<sup>40</sup> Katrin Bennhold, "Germany Places Part of Far-Right Party Under Surveillance," *New York Times*, March 12, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/12/world/europe/germany-afd.html>.

<sup>41</sup> "Germany to spy on far-right AfD's Flügel faction," BBC News, March 12, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-51850840>.

<sup>42</sup> "Germany's far-right AfD to dissolve extreme 'Wing' faction," Deutsche Welle, March 20, 2020, <https://www.dw.com/en/germanys-far-right-afd-to-dissolve-extreme-wing-faction/a-52864683>.

<sup>43</sup> "AfD seeks to show united front after weeks of bitter infighting," *The Local*, June 21, 2020, <https://www.thelocal.de/20200621/afd-seeks-to-show-united-front-after-weeks-of-bitter-infighting>.

- **Base of Operations:** Germany
- **Website:** <https://www.afd.de/>
- **Social Media:** [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#)
- **Leadership:** AfD was founded by Bernd Lucke, Alexander Gauland, and Konrad Adam.<sup>44</sup> AfD is co-chaired by Jörg Meuthen and Tino Chrupalla.<sup>45</sup> Björn Höcke leads AfD's Flügel faction.<sup>46</sup>
- **Membership Size and Relevance:** As of March 2020, AfD reportedly had 35,000 members across Germany.<sup>47</sup> In Germany's September 2017 parliamentary elections, AfD won 92 out of 631 seats to become Germany's third-largest political party in parliament.<sup>48</sup> In February 2018, German Prime Minister Angela Merkel signed a coalition agreement between her conservative Christian Democrats party and the center-left Social Democrats, making AfD Germany's main opposition party.<sup>49</sup>
- **Recruitment and Propaganda:** AfD's propaganda focuses on the restoration of German culture and sovereignty, both of which the party believes have been weakened by an influx of immigrants and the open-border and economic policies of the European Union. Its plans to restore German sovereignty and restrict Islam in Germany are outlined in its 2016 Manifesto for Germany.<sup>50</sup>

The AfD maintains a social media presence on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram. As of June 29, 2020, AfD had 501,726 likes on Facebook and more than 160,000 followers on Twitter. The AfD's Twitter page posts in German while its Facebook page posts in German and English.<sup>51</sup> AfD's YouTube channel had more than 82,200 subscribers as of June 29, 2020, compared with 33,812 as of March 19, 2019. The

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<sup>44</sup> "Profile: German right-wing AfD leader Frauke Petry," BBC News, March 10, 2016, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35775513>.

<sup>45</sup> Elizabeth Schumacher, "AfD: Meet the far-right bosses," Deutsche Welle, December 3, 2017, <https://www.dw.com/en/afd-meet-the-far-right-bosses/a-41632235>; Associated Press, "Anti-immigration party in Germany chooses new leader," ABC News, November 30, 2019, <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/anti-immigration-party-germany-chooses-leader-67406472>.

<sup>46</sup> "Germany's far-right AfD to dissolve extreme 'Wing' faction," Deutsche Welle, March 20, 2020, <https://www.dw.com/en/germanys-far-right-afd-to-dissolve-extreme-wing-faction/a-52864683>.

<sup>47</sup> Bojan Pancevski, "Germany Labels Part of Nativist Opposition Party an Extreme-Right Group," *Wall Street Journal*, March 12, 2020, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/germany-labels-part-of-nativist-opposition-party-an-extreme-right-group-11584038861>.

<sup>48</sup> Philip Oltermann, "Germany's rightwing AfD gears up to play noisy opposition role," *Guardian* (London), February 7, 2018, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/feb/07/germanys-rightwing-afd-gears-up-to-play-noisy-opposition-role>.

<sup>49</sup> Philip Oltermann, "Germany's rightwing AfD gears up to play noisy opposition role," *Guardian* (London), February 7, 2018, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/feb/07/germanys-rightwing-afd-gears-up-to-play-noisy-opposition-role>; Austin Davis, "Far-right Alternative for Germany rises as Merkel struggles for coalition," *Washington Times*, February 20, 2018, <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/feb/20/alternative-germany-afd-rises-angela-merkel-strugg/>.

<sup>50</sup> "Manifesto for Germany," Alternative für Deutschland, accessed June 27, 2018, [https://www.afd.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2017/04/2017-04-12\\_afd-grundsatzprogramm-englisch\\_web.pdf](https://www.afd.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2017/04/2017-04-12_afd-grundsatzprogramm-englisch_web.pdf).

<sup>51</sup> Alternative für Deutschland, Facebook account, accessed June 29, 2020, <https://www.facebook.com/alternativefuerde/>; Alternative für Deutschland, Twitter account, accessed June 29, 2020, <https://twitter.com/AfD>.



channel hosted more than 542 videos that had drawn more than 21 million views, an increase of more than 16 million since March 19, 2019.<sup>52</sup> AfD's Instagram account had more than 83,000 followers in June 2020.<sup>53</sup>

- **Violent Activities:** AfD is not linked to specific acts of violence.
- **Rhetoric:**
  - Senior leader Björn Höcke on Holocaust remembrance in a speech to an AfD youth group, January 2017: "These stupid politics of coming to grips with the past cripple us - we need nothing other than a 180-degree reversal on the politics of remembrance."<sup>54</sup>
  - Chairwoman Frauke Petry in an interview with a regional newspaper, March 2016: German police should shoot at migrants "if necessary" to keep them out of the country.<sup>55</sup>
  - AfD manifesto, May 2016: "Islam does not belong to Germany. Its expansion and the ever-increasing number of Muslims in the country are viewed by the AfD as a danger to our state, our society, and our values."<sup>56</sup>
  - AfD manifesto, May 2016: "Many Muslims live as law-abiding and well-integrated citizens amongst us, and are accepted and valued members of our society. They belong to Germany. Islam does not belong to Germany."<sup>57</sup>
  - AfD manifesto, May 2016: "An Islam which neither respects nor refrains from being in conflict with our legal system, or that even lays claim to power as the only true religion, is incompatible with our legal system and our culture."<sup>58</sup>

### **Blood & Honour**

**Summary:** Blood & Honour (B&H) is a neo-Nazi skinhead group that originated in England in 1987 from the skinhead music scene. The group promotes white-power ideology through the proliferation of music festivals and recordings.<sup>59</sup> B&H claims to be a "musical based resistance network" that acts as a "global confederacy of like-minded freedom fighters."<sup>60</sup> British skinhead and singer Ian Stuart Donaldson founded the group with Nicky Crane in 1987 and named it after the motto of the Hitler Youth movement in

<sup>52</sup> Alternative für Deutschland, YouTube account, accessed June 29, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq2rogaxLtQFrYG3X3KYNww/about>; Alternative für Deutschland, YouTube account, accessed March 19, 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq2rogaxLtQFrYG3X3KYNww/about>.

<sup>53</sup> Alternative für Deutschland, Instagram account, accessed June 29, 2020, <https://www.instagram.com/afd.bund/>.

<sup>54</sup> Jefferson Chase, "Local AfD leader's Holocaust remarks prompt outrage," Deutsche Welle, January 18, 2017, <https://www.dw.com/en/local-afd-leaders-holocaust-remarks-prompt-outrage/a-37173729>.

<sup>55</sup> "Where Anti-migration and anti-Semitism Meet: How Germany's AfD Came to Be," *Haaretz*, March 14, 2016, <https://www.haaretz.com/jewish/how-germany-s-afd-came-to-be-1.5417311>.

<sup>56</sup> "Manifesto for Germany," Alternative für Deutschland, accessed June 27, 2018, 48, [https://www.afd.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2017/04/2017-04-12\\_afd-grundsatzprogramm-englisch\\_web.pdf](https://www.afd.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2017/04/2017-04-12_afd-grundsatzprogramm-englisch_web.pdf).

<sup>57</sup> "Manifesto for Germany," Alternative für Deutschland, accessed June 27, 2018, 48, [https://www.afd.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2017/04/2017-04-12\\_afd-grundsatzprogramm-englisch\\_web.pdf](https://www.afd.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2017/04/2017-04-12_afd-grundsatzprogramm-englisch_web.pdf).

<sup>58</sup> "Manifesto for Germany," Alternative für Deutschland, accessed June 27, 2018, 48, [https://www.afd.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2017/04/2017-04-12\\_afd-grundsatzprogramm-englisch\\_web.pdf](https://www.afd.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2017/04/2017-04-12_afd-grundsatzprogramm-englisch_web.pdf).

<sup>59</sup> "BLOOD & HONOUR," Southern Poverty Law Center, accessed September 10, 2020, <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/blood-honour>.

<sup>60</sup> Blood & Honour website, accessed September 18, 2020, <https://www.bloodandhonourworldwide.co.uk/bhww/>.

Nazi Germany.<sup>61</sup> Blood and Honour was also the name of a song performed by Donaldson's white-power band, Screwdriver. According to B&H, the 1985 song became "an anthem then flagship for generations of people to come who were far sighted enough to see the abyss our people, culture and future faced if we continued on the road we were taking."<sup>62</sup>

Donaldson died in a 1993 car crash, but B&H has continued to spread across Europe and into the United States. Crane died of an AIDS-related illness two months after Donaldson's death. B&H continues to hold annual music festivals to celebrate white power and memorialize Donaldson.<sup>63</sup> B&H has chapters across the world, including in the United Kingdom, Ukraine, Lithuania, Poland, Belgium, and Serbia. Authorities discovered B&H graffiti in Bosnia in February 2020.<sup>64</sup> B&H has been banned in several European countries, including Germany and Spain.<sup>65</sup> In the United Kingdom, B&H members are forbidden from joining the police.<sup>66</sup> B&H has also spread to Australia,<sup>67</sup> Canada,<sup>68</sup> and the United States.<sup>69</sup>

B&H is closely associated with the violent neo-Nazi group Combat 18, which originated as an armed faction of B&H. Donaldson's death caused a rift in B&H between those committed to promoting white power through music and those who sought out more violent methods.<sup>70</sup> Combat 18 is still closely linked to B&H. When the Canadian

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<sup>61</sup> Rebecca Jones, "About Blood & Honour," *Herald Democrat*, August 30, 2017, <https://www.heralddemocrat.com/news/20170830/about-blood--honour>.

<sup>62</sup> "B & H Introduction," Blood & Honour website, accessed September 18, 2020, <https://www.bloodandhonourworldwide.co.uk/bhww/b-h-history/history/>.

<sup>63</sup> Nermina Kuloglija, "Ultra-Right Groups Show Their Face in Bosnian Town," *Balkan Insight*, May 12, 2020, <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/05/12/ultra-right-groups-show-their-face-in-bosnian-town/>; Rebecca Jones, "About Blood & Honour," *Herald Democrat*, August 30, 2017, <https://www.heralddemocrat.com/news/20170830/about-blood--honour>; Brian Whelan, "Ian Stuart Donaldson and a legacy of hate," *Channel 4 News*, September 24, 2013, <https://www.channel4.com/news/ian-stuart-donaldson-a-legacy-of-hate>.

<sup>64</sup> "Neo-Nazi Blood & Honor banned in Russia," *RAPSI*, May 30, 2012, [http://rapsinews.com/judicial\\_news/20120530/263294629.html](http://rapsinews.com/judicial_news/20120530/263294629.html); Nermina Kuloglija, "Ultra-Right Groups Show Their Face in Bosnian Town," *Balkan Insight*, May 12, 2020, <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/05/12/ultra-right-groups-show-their-face-in-bosnian-town/>.

<sup>65</sup> "Germany bans neo-Nazi group," *BBC News*, September 14, 200, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/925009.stm>; "El Supremo ordena a la organización neonazi 'Blood and Honour' que se disuelva," *Público*, June 8, 2011, <https://www.publico.es/actualidad/supremo-ordena-organizacion-neonazi-blood.html>.

<sup>66</sup> Nermina Kuloglija, "Ultra-Right Groups Show Their Face in Bosnian Town," *Balkan Insight*, May 12, 2020, <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/05/12/ultra-right-groups-show-their-face-in-bosnian-town/>.

<sup>67</sup> Alex White, "The pro-white gangs spreading race hate across Australia," *Herald-Sun* (Melbourne), October 7, 2014, <https://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/law-order/the-prowhite-gangs-spreading-race-hate-across-australia/news-story/7384aef1faabe901d9f6937756a76ea8>.

<sup>68</sup> Stewart Bell, "Neo-Nazi group Blood & Honour removed from Facebook after terrorist designation," *Global News*, June 27, 2019, <https://globalnews.ca/news/5439431/blood-honour-banned-from-facebook/>.

<sup>69</sup> Rebecca Jones, "About Blood & Honour," *Herald Democrat*, August 30, 2017, <https://www.heralddemocrat.com/news/20170830/about-blood--honour>.

<sup>70</sup> "Blood & Honour," *Southern Poverty Law Center*, accessed September 17, 2020, <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/blood-honour>.

## COUNTER EXTREMISM PROJECT

government banned both groups in 2019, it labeled Combat 18 the “armed branch” of B&H.<sup>71</sup>

- **Base of Operations:** B&H was originally founded in England but has since spread across Europe, Russia, Australia, and North America.<sup>72</sup>
- **Website:** [Blood & Honour Worldwide](#), [Blood & Honour Australia](#), [Blood & Honour Italy](#), [Blood and Honour/Combat 18 USA](#) (site discontinued), [Blood and Honour/Combat 18 Canada](#) (discontinued), [Blood and Honour/Combat 18 Poland](#) (discontinued)
- **Social Media Presence:** Facebook (banned), [VK](#)
- **Leadership:** Ian Stuart Donaldson and Nicky Crane co-founded B&H.<sup>73</sup> B&H chapters have no formal leadership.<sup>74</sup>
- **Membership Size and Relevance:** B&H has no formal membership.<sup>75</sup> B&H inspired the related Combat 18 neo-Nazi group, which acts as the violent faction of B&H.<sup>76</sup> Combat 18 largely drew its membership from white supremacists associated with B&H and the Chelsea Headhunters soccer hooligan gang.<sup>77</sup>

In June 2019, Canada designated B&H and Combat 18 as terrorist groups. It was the first time Canada designated far-right groups.<sup>78</sup> Facebook banned B&H the following day. According to Canadian group Organization for the Prevention of Violence, B&H’s presence in Canada reached 60 to 70 members between 2016 and 2017, but the group

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<sup>71</sup> Mack Lamoureux, “Canada Adds Far-Right Groups to Terror Watch List for First Time,” Vice, June 27, 2019, [https://www.vice.com/en\\_uk/article/8xz77k/canada-combat-18-blood-honour-far-right-groups-terror-watch-list](https://www.vice.com/en_uk/article/8xz77k/canada-combat-18-blood-honour-far-right-groups-terror-watch-list).

<sup>72</sup> “Neo-Nazi Blood & Honor banned in Russia,” RAPSI, May 30, 2012, [http://rapsinews.com/judicial\\_news/20120530/263294629.html](http://rapsinews.com/judicial_news/20120530/263294629.html); Nermina Kuloglija, “Ultra-Right Groups Show Their Face in Bosnian Town,” Balkan Insight, May 12, 2020, <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/05/12/ultra-right-groups-show-their-face-in-bosnian-town/>; Alex White, “The pro-white gangs spreading race hate across Australia,” *Herald-Sun* (Melbourne), October 7, 2014, <https://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/law-order/the-prowhite-gangs-spreading-race-hate-across-australia/news-story/7384aef1faabe901d9f6937756a76ea8>; “B & H Worldwide Contacts,” Blood & Honour, accessed September 17, 2020, <https://www.bloodandhonourworldwide.co.uk/bhww/b-h-worldwide-contacts/>.

<sup>73</sup> Brian Whelan, “Ian Stuart Donaldson and a legacy of hate,” Channel 4 News, September 24, 2013, <https://www.channel4.com/news/ian-stuart-donaldson-a-legacy-of-hate>.

<sup>74</sup> Blood & Honour Australia homepage, accessed September 18, 2020, <http://www.bloodandhonouraustralia.org/home.html>.

<sup>75</sup> Blood & Honour Australia homepage, accessed September 18, 2020, <http://www.bloodandhonouraustralia.org/home.html>.

<sup>76</sup> Nermina Kuloglija, “Ultra-Right Groups Show Their Face in Bosnian Town,” Balkan Insight, May 12, 2020, <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/05/12/ultra-right-groups-show-their-face-in-bosnian-town/>; Rebecca Jones, “About Blood & Honour,” *Herald Democrat*, August 30, 2017, <https://www.heralddemocrat.com/news/20170830/about-blood-honour>; Brian Whelan, “Ian Stuart Donaldson and a legacy of hate,” Channel 4 News, September 24, 2013, <https://www.channel4.com/news/ian-stuart-donaldson-a-legacy-of-hate>.

<sup>77</sup> Ryan Shaffer, “British, European and white: cultural constructions of identity in post-war British fascist music,” in *Cultures of Post-War British Fascism*, eds. Nigel Copsey and John E. Richardson (London: Routledge, 2015), 149; Tim Kelsey, “Informer exposes neo-Nazi football gangs,” *Independent* (London), August 6, 1993, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/informer-exposes-neo-nazi-football-gangs-tim-hepple-who-infiltrated-the-british-national-party-after-1459707.html>.

<sup>78</sup> Stewart Bell, “Canada adds neo-Nazi groups Blood & Honour, Combat 18 to list of terror organizations,” Global News, June 26, 2019, <https://globalnews.ca/news/5432851/canada-adds-neo-nazi-groups-blood-honour-and-combat-18-to-list-of-terror-organizations/>.

failed to expand beyond Alberta and its membership began to decline after 2017.<sup>79</sup> Germany, Russia, and Spain have also banned B&H.<sup>80</sup>

- **Recruitment and Propaganda:** B&H holds music festivals and rallies throughout the year to spread its propaganda and attract new members.<sup>81</sup> B&H promotes itself as “white rock & roll resistance” and also “rock against communism.”<sup>82</sup> B&H also publishes an eponymous magazine<sup>83</sup> and several online radio programs through its 28 Radio network.<sup>84</sup> B&H promotes the 14-word mantra: “We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children.”<sup>85</sup>

Official B&H chapters use the group’s “Sign of the Brotherhood”: a grinning skull-and-crossbones imposed over red, white, and black diamond on top of a triskelion. The triskelion is an ancient symbol from pre-Christian Europe comprising three curved or jointed segments spiraling from a common center. The red in the diamond represents the “sacred blood” and those who have died defending it, while the black represents courage and the white represents the white ethnicity.<sup>86</sup> B&H commonly uses a banner with the words “Blood” and “Honour” separated by a triskelion. B&H propaganda may also reference the original German phrase, “*Blut und Ehre*.” B&H members frequently use the numerals 2 and 8 or 28 representing the alphanumeric equivalent of the letters B and H.<sup>87</sup>

B&H maintains its own prisoner support network, the White Cross, to aid those who have been arrested, charged, and sentenced for crimes related to B&H. The support network is self-funded to ensure “no 28 prisoner is left behind or forgotten in their times of need.”<sup>88</sup>

- **Violent Activities:** Combat 18 is the violent offshoot of B&H. While B&H is affiliated with acts of vandalism and espousing a racist ideology, Combat 18 is primarily responsible for violent activities associated with B&H, which itself focuses more on

<sup>79</sup> Stewart Bell, “Neo-Nazi group Blood & Honour removed from Facebook after terrorist designation,” Global News, June 27, 2019, <https://globalnews.ca/news/5439431/blood-honour-banned-from-facebook/>.

<sup>80</sup> “Germany bans neo-Nazi group,” BBC News, September 14, 2000, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/925009.stm>; “El Supremo ordena a la organización neonazi ‘Blood and Honour’ que se disuelva,” Público, June 8, 2011, <https://www.publico.es/actualidad/supremo-ordena-organizacion-neonazi-blood.html>; “Neo-Nazi Blood & Honor banned in Russia,” RAPS, May 30, 2012, [http://rapsinews.com/judicial\\_news/20120530/263294629.html](http://rapsinews.com/judicial_news/20120530/263294629.html).

<sup>81</sup> Brian Whelan, “Ian Stuart Donaldson and a legacy of hate,” Channel 4 News, September 24, 2013, <https://www.channel4.com/news/ian-stuart-donaldson-a-legacy-of-hate>.

<sup>82</sup> “B & H Banners,” Blood & Honour, accessed September 18, 2020, <https://www.bloodandhonourworldwide.co.uk/bhww/banners/>.

<sup>83</sup> “B & H Magazines,” Blood & Honour, accessed September 18, 2020, <https://www.bloodandhonourworldwide.co.uk/bhww/magazines/>.

<sup>84</sup> “28 Radio,” Blood & Honour, accessed September 18, 2020, <http://28radio.net/>.

<sup>85</sup> Blood & Honour Australia homepage, accessed September 18, 2020, <http://www.bloodandhonouraustralia.org/home.html>.

<sup>86</sup> “Sign of the Brotherhood,” Blood & Honour, accessed September 18, 2020, <https://www.bloodandhonourworldwide.co.uk/bhww/b-h-history/sign-of-the-brotherhood/>.

<sup>87</sup> “Blood & Honour,” Anti-Defamation League, accessed September 11, 2020, <https://www.adl.org/education/references/hate-symbols/blood-honour>.

<sup>88</sup> “B & H White Cross,” Blood & Honour, accessed September 18, 2020, <https://www.bloodandhonourworldwide.co.uk/bhww/white-cross/>.

spreading neo-Nazi propaganda through music festivals.<sup>89</sup> Nonetheless, B&H members do arm themselves and promote violence.<sup>90</sup> When Russia banned the group in 2012, it linked B&H to several terrorist attacks.<sup>91</sup> In Australia, authorities have linked B&H to death threats against immigration supporters.<sup>92</sup> Canadian police have also linked B&H to multiple violent attacks.<sup>93</sup>

- **Rhetoric:**

- B&H Australia homepage, undated: “We believe it is important for all Racially conscious people to become active participants in pro-White movements such as Blood & Honour. If you really believe in saving the White Race, get out and start interacting with those who share a similar goal. Individually we are weak, united we are strong!”<sup>94</sup>
- B&H homepage, undated: “Sadly our founder and leader Ian Stuart Donaldson was taken from us in 1993. But his legacy has remained and flourished, his dream of a movement run by and for skinheads, behind a musical front remains, and has grown into a confederation of like minded people, stronger than ever. A movement, offering people an alternative lifestyle to the drug infested, pro homosexual, race mixing scene fanatically pushed by today's powers to be, is giving hope to thousands around the world.”<sup>95</sup>
- Ian Stuart Donaldson, B&H homepage, undated: “Eventually there will be a race war and we have to be strong enough in numbers to win it. I'll die to keep this country pure and if it means bloodshed at the end of the day, then let it be.”<sup>96</sup>
- Ian Stuart Donaldson, B&H homepage, undated: “To achieve all of this we, and our European comrades, must above all have faith. Our enemies are strong, and presently we are relatively weak in numbers, but unbeatable in spirit. We must realize that we, and our enemies, are engaged in a struggle for the survival of the European races. If we fail we will be destroyed along with European civilization; and we must accept in our hearts, that if victory is eventually ours we must deal with our enemies in the most ruthless fashion. If we do not destroy their cancer at

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<sup>89</sup> Darko Janjevic, “Reports: Banned neo-Nazi group 'Combat 18' active in Germany again,” Deutsche Welle, January 27, 2017, <https://www.dw.com/en/reports-banned-neo-nazi-group-combat-18-active-in-germany-again/a-37297774>.

<sup>90</sup> “El Supremo ordena a la organización neonazi ‘Blood and Honour’ que se disuelva,” Público, June 8, 2011, <https://www.publico.es/actualidad/supremo-ordena-organizacion-neonazi-blood.html>.

<sup>91</sup> Brian Whelan, “Ian Stuart Donaldson and a legacy of hate,” Channel 4 News, September 24, 2013, <https://www.channel4.com/news/ian-stuart-donaldson-a-legacy-of-hate>.

<sup>92</sup> Alex White, “The pro-white gangs spreading race hate across Australia,” *Herald-Sun* (Melbourne), October 7, 2014, <https://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/law-order/the-prowhite-gangs-spreading-race-hate-across-australia/news-story/7384aef1faabe901d9f6937756a76ea8>.

<sup>93</sup> Adrian Humphreys, “Violent racist gang expands into Edmonton,” National Post, April 18, 2012, <https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/violent-racist-gang-expands-into-edmonton>.

<sup>94</sup> Blood & Honour Australia homepage, accessed September 18, 2020, <http://www.bloodandhonouraustralia.org/home.html>.

<sup>95</sup> Blood & Honour homepage, Internet Archive, accessed September 17, 2020, <https://web.archive.org/web/20130625201704/http://www.bloodandhonourworldwide.co.uk/home1.html>.

<sup>96</sup> “Blood & Honour,” Southern Poverty Law Center, accessed September 17, 2020, <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/blood-honour>.



the root we will have to face up to its reincarnation at a later stage. We must have faith in this, our battle to the death.”<sup>97</sup>

## Combat 18

- **Summary:** Combat 18 (a.k.a. C18, 318, nicknamed “Terror Machine”) is a neo-Nazi group that seeks to create white-only countries through violence. The group was established in the United Kingdom and is now present in at least 18 countries worldwide. The “18” in the name refers to the first and eighth letters of the English alphabet, A and H, for Adolf Hitler. Combat 18 was founded in 1992 by Paul “Charlie” Sargent. It largely drew its membership from white supremacists associated with the Chelsea Headhunters soccer hooligan gang and the British neo-Nazi record label and political organization Blood and Honour (B&H).<sup>98</sup>

According to the group’s propaganda magazine *Combat 18*, Combat 18’s aims are to create all-white countries by shipping “all non-whites back to Africa, Asia, Arabia, whether alive or in body bags,” execute “all Queers” and “white race mixers,” “weed out all Jews in the government, the media, the arts, the professions,” execute “all Jews who have actively helped to damage the white race,” and “put into camps the rest until we find a final solution to the eternal Jew.”<sup>99</sup> Over time, Combat 18 has ceased functioning as a centralized organization. Instead, the group’s ideology and brand have become a transnational rallying call for neo-Nazi action.<sup>100</sup> Combat 18 encourages the creation of independent cells and lone-wolf terrorism under the slogan “whatever it takes!”<sup>101</sup> While the group may have once had an official roster, supporters of Combat 18 now claim that membership is achieved through participation in violent neo-Nazi activities.<sup>102</sup>

Combat 18 refuses to participate in electoral politics, instead directly appealing to potential recruits through fliers, stickers, magazines, music distribution, and the use of violence. The organization is banned in Germany, and Combat 18 members in the United

<sup>97</sup> “Blood & Honour,” Southern Poverty Law Center, accessed September 17, 2020,

<https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/blood-honour>.

<sup>98</sup> Ryan Shaffer, “British, European and white: cultural constructions of identity in post-war British fascist music,” in *Cultures of Post-War British Fascism*, eds. Nigel Copsey and John E. Richardson (London: Routledge, 2015), 149; Tim Kelsey, “Informer exposes neo-Nazi football gangs,” *Independent* (London), August 6, 1993, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/informer-exposes-neo-nazi-football-gangs-tim-hepple-who-infiltrated-the-british-national-party-after-1459707.html>.

<sup>99</sup> “The Aims of C18,” *Combat 18*, accessed April 10, 2018,

[https://ia600104.us.archive.org/15/items/Combat18/Combat%2018/Ef3824e2beb9985f682e99fd133515b22cfa03ef4\\_Q20647\\_R331396\\_D1942757.pdf](https://ia600104.us.archive.org/15/items/Combat18/Combat%2018/Ef3824e2beb9985f682e99fd133515b22cfa03ef4_Q20647_R331396_D1942757.pdf).

<sup>100</sup> “Combat 18,” 28 Brotherhood, accessed April 2, 2018, <http://28brotherhood.com/combati18> (site discontinued).

<sup>101</sup> “National Socialist Political Soldiers Handbook,” *Combat 18*, accessed April 2, 2018, <https://archive.org/details/NationalSocialistPoliticalSoldiersHandbook> (site discontinued); Ben Knight, “Combat 18: The neo-Nazi network facing a ban in Germany,” *Deutsche Welle*, July 5, 2019, <https://www.dw.com/en/combati18-the-neo-nazi-network-facing-a-ban-in-germany/a-49493000>; “Editorial,” *Combat 18*, accessed April 24, 2020, [https://ia600104.us.archive.org/15/items/Combat18/Combat18/Ef3824e2beb9985f682e99fd133515b22cfa03ef4\\_Q20647\\_R331396\\_D1942757.pdf](https://ia600104.us.archive.org/15/items/Combat18/Combat18/Ef3824e2beb9985f682e99fd133515b22cfa03ef4_Q20647_R331396_D1942757.pdf).

<sup>102</sup> “Combat 18,” 28 Brotherhood, accessed April 2, 2018, <http://28brotherhood.com/combati18> (site discontinued).

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Kingdom are barred from working in law enforcement or corrections facilities.<sup>103</sup> In the 1990s, Combat 18 members allegedly made ties with the loyalist paramilitary group Ulster Defence Association in Northern Ireland.<sup>104</sup> Combat 18 has also been linked to Aryan Strike Force 318 (ASF318) in the eastern United States, the Racial Volunteer Force (RVF) in Britain, and the National Socialist Underground (NSU) in Germany.<sup>105</sup>

- **Base of Operations:** Founded in London; chapters exist in the United Kingdom, United States, France, Italy, Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Russia, Ukraine, Serbia, Greece, Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Canada, Australia, South Africa, and Argentina<sup>106</sup>
- **Website:** [Blood and Honour/Combat 18 USA](#) (site discontinued), [Combat 18 Florida](#), [Combat 18 France](#), [Blood and Honour/Combat 18 Canada](#), [Blood and Honour/Combat 18 Poland](#), [Combat 18 Hungary](#), [Redwatch](#), [Redwatch \(Poland\)](#), [ISD Records](#).<sup>107</sup>
- **Social Media Presence:** [Facebook](#) (Combat 18 Australia) (discontinued), [VK](#) (suspended), [VK](#) (Ukraine)
- **Leadership:** Founded and originally led by Paul “Charlie” Sargent.<sup>108</sup> Today, Combat 18 describes itself as leaderless resistance organized in cells.<sup>109</sup>
- **Membership Size and Relevance:** Combat 18 is present in at least 18 countries in Europe, North America, South America, and Australia. According to the group itself, there are no membership rolls, making membership fluid and its numerical strength

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<sup>103</sup> Darko Janjevic, “Reports: Banned neo-Nazi group ‘Combat 18’ active in Germany again,” Deutsche Welle, January 27, 2017, <http://www.dw.com/en/reports-banned-neo-nazi-group-combat-18-active-in-germany-again/a-37297774>; Hannah Kane, “Former Essex Police officer guilty of gross misconduct over London bomb hoax note linked to Combat 18 group,” Essex Live, February 20, 2018. <https://www.essexlive.news/news/former-essex-police-officer-guilty-1240183>.

<sup>104</sup> Raf Diallo, “What Happened to Combat 18 after the ’95 Landsdowne Road Riot?” Newstalk.com. May 27, 2013, <http://www.newstalk.com/What-happened-to-Combat-18-after-the-95-Landsdowne-Road-riot>.

<sup>105</sup> “About Us,” Aryan Strikeforce, accessed April 2, 2018, <http://archive.is/9NdI5#selection-193.676-193.1817>; Ashitha Nagesh, “Here are the far-right extremist groups spreading hate in Britain,” *Metro* (London), September 14, 2017, <http://metro.co.uk/2017/09/14/here-are-the-far-right-extremist-groups-still-operating-in-the-uk-6926869/>; “Reports: German intelligence recruited head of neo-Nazi group as informant,” Deutsche Welle, May 17, 2017, <http://www.dw.com/en/reports-german-intelligence-recruited-head-of-neo-nazi-group-as-informant/a-38866369>.

<sup>106</sup> “Terrorism and Violent Extremism Awareness Guide,” Royal Canadian Mounted Police, 2016, <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/wam/media/1731/original/1cb81f63911f002d67b340c08591bd31.pdf>; “Division Polonia,” Division Polonia Blood C18 Honor, accessed April 10, 2018, <http://bhddivisionpolonia.altervista.org/index.html>; “C18 Hungary,” C18 Hungary, accessed April 10, 2018, <http://c18hungary.blogspot.com/>; “Aryan Strikeforce/Combat 18 Ukraine,” VK.com, accessed April 10, 2018, <https://vk.com/as318ukraine>; Bianca Hall “Neo-Nazi group Combat 18 plasters anti-Islam stickers over children's playground in Heidelberg West,” *Age* (Victoria), August 26, 2015, <https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/neonazi-group-combat-18-plasters-antiislam-stickers-over-childrens-playground-in-heidelberg-west-20150826-gj7tv8.html>.

<sup>107</sup> The Southern Poverty Law Center asserts that ISD Records is controlled by Combat 18; T.K. Kim, “A Look at White Power Music Today,” April 19, 2006, <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/intelligence-report/2006/look-white-power-music-today>.

<sup>108</sup> Nick Ryan, “Combat 18: Memoirs of a Street-Fighting Man,” *Independent* (London), February 1, 1998, <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/combat-18-memoirs-of-a-street-fighting-man-1142204.html>.

<sup>109</sup> “Combat 18,” 28 Brotherhood, accessed April 2, 2018, <http://28brotherhood.com/combat18> (site discontinued); Ben Knight, “Combat 18: The neo-Nazi network facing a ban in Germany,” Deutsche Welle, July 5, 2019, <https://www.dw.com/en/combat-18-the-neo-nazi-network-facing-a-ban-in-germany/a-49493000>.

difficult to estimate.<sup>110</sup> A Facebook page allegedly belonging to an Australian chapter of the group had 169 likes as of April 2, 2018, and 194 likes as of July 3, 2018.<sup>111</sup> By March 19, 2019, the page had 252 likes.<sup>112</sup> The page had been discontinued as of June 29, 2020. In 2016, the British organization Hope Not Hate approximated that Combat 18 had between 20 and 30 members in the United Kingdom.<sup>113</sup>

Combat 18 has been promoted by bands in the neo-Nazi skinhead rock music scene. Numerous white power skinhead bands in Germany, Russia, Poland, the United Kingdom, Serbia, Slovakia, Switzerland, and the United States have recorded songs praising Combat 18. Several online neo-Nazi record stores sell merchandise with the group's logo and slogan.<sup>114</sup>

Europol has warned that Combat 18 poses a threat across Europe.<sup>115</sup> Combat 18 has remained particularly active in the United Kingdom, Germany, and Greece. In the United Kingdom, Combat 18 supporters have joined other far-right groups such as the xenophobic North West Infidels, which opposes Muslim immigration.<sup>116</sup> Germany banned Combat 18 in January 2020 after linking it to the June 2019 murder of German politician Walter Lübcke.<sup>117</sup> Combat 18 has reportedly established cells in seven out of

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<sup>110</sup> "Combat 18," 28 Brotherhood, accessed April 2, 2018, <http://28brotherhood.com/combatt18> (site discontinued); Ben Knight, "Combat 18: The neo-Nazi network facing a ban in Germany," Deutsche Welle, July 5, 2019, <https://www.dw.com/en/combatt-18-the-neo-nazi-network-facing-a-ban-in-germany/a-49493000>.

<sup>111</sup> 318 Australia, Facebook page, accessed April 2, 2018, [https://www.facebook.com/318-Australia-997744473688614/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/318-Australia-997744473688614/?ref=br_rs); 318 Australia, Facebook page, accessed July 3, 2018, [https://www.facebook.com/318-Australia-997744473688614/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/318-Australia-997744473688614/?ref=br_rs).

<sup>112</sup> 318 Australia, Facebook page, accessed March 19, 2019, [https://www.facebook.com/318-Australia-997744473688614/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/318-Australia-997744473688614/?ref=br_rs).

<sup>113</sup> Ian Cobain, "Britain's Far Right in 2016: Fractured, Unpredictable, Dispirited ... and Violent," *Guardian* (London), November 24, 2016, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/24/britains-far-right-in-2016-fractured-unpredictable-dispirited-and-violent>.

<sup>114</sup> "Patches, Buttons, Pins & Etc.," MSR Productions, accessed April 2, 2018, [http://msrproductions.com/index.php?main\\_page=index&cPath=26](http://msrproductions.com/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=26); "Combat 18 - Terrormachine Shirt," Street Fight Versand, accessed April 2, 2018, <http://streetfightversand.de/bekleidung/manner/combatt-18-terrormachine-shirt.html> (site discontinued); British People's Party, accessed April 2, 2018, <http://www.bpp.org.uk/newbadges.html> (site discontinued); "The N.S. Political Soldier's Handbook / Combat 18 / Field Manual (BOOK)," Black Metal Cult Records, accessed April 2, 2018, <https://www.blackmetalcultrecords.com/blogs/bmc-catalogue/upcoming-the-national-socialist-political-soldiers-handbook-combatt-18-field-manual-book> (site discontinued); "Imperium Press Flags," Imperium Press Flags, accessed April 2, 2018, <http://www.aryanunity.com/> (site discontinued).

<sup>115</sup> "Raids in 6 states as Germany bans 'Combat 18' neo-Nazi group," Deutsche Welle, January 23, 2020, <https://www.dw.com/en/raids-in-6-states-as-germany-bans-combatt-18-neo-nazi-group/a-52116504>.

<sup>116</sup> Mark Townsend, "Foreign-born Fascists 'helping to Radicalise UK Far-right Movement,'" *Guardian* (London), February 6, 2016, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/06/foreign-born-fascists-radicalise-uk-far-right-movement>.

<sup>117</sup> "Raids in 6 states as Germany bans 'Combat 18' neo-Nazi group," Deutsche Welle, January 23, 2020, <https://www.dw.com/en/raids-in-6-states-as-germany-bans-combatt-18-neo-nazi-group/a-52116504>.

Germany's 16 states since 2013.<sup>118</sup> In 2006, a Combat 18 cell in Dortmund smuggled firearms from Belgium and planned assaults on immigrants and politicians.<sup>119</sup> French President Emmanuel Macron announced in February 2019 that France would move to ban the group as well.<sup>120</sup> In 2016, former Combat 18 leader Nigel Bromage claimed that the group was attempting to persuade teachers to join in order to influence schoolchildren.<sup>121</sup> In March 2018, Greek authorities arrested 11 people suspected of belonging to a Combat 18 cell that was accused of more than 30 arson attacks, primarily on migrants, anarchists, and Jewish sites.<sup>122</sup> Greek police raids against the group have recovered firearms, explosives, Molotov cocktails, narcotics, and edged and blunt weapons.<sup>123</sup> In June 2019, Canada designated Combat 18 and Blood & Honour as terrorist groups. It was the first time Canada designated far-right groups.<sup>124</sup>

- **Recruitment and Propaganda:** Historically, Combat 18 has recruited from a pool of neo-Nazi skinheads and soccer hooligans, particularly from the B&H network and far-right skinhead music scene.<sup>125</sup>

Combat 18 has a minimal Internet presence but some websites and social media pages for the group do exist. A Greek cell has used Facebook to coordinate attacks. A Czech cell that operated from 2011 to 2012 maintained a website to spread its message and recruit.<sup>126</sup>

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<sup>118</sup> Darko Janjevic, "Reports: Banned Neo-Nazi Group 'Combat 18' Active in Germany Again," Deutsche Welle, January 27, 2017, <http://www.dw.com/en/reports-banned-neo-nazi-group-combat-18-active-in-germany-again/a-37297774>.

<sup>119</sup> Gisela Friedrichsen, "Die Rolle Der 'Combat-18'-Zelle," Spiegel Online, November 6, 2014, <http://www.spiegel.de/panorama/justiz/nsu-prozess-in-muenchen-zu-mord-in-dortmund-a-1001474.html>; Daniel Koehler, *Right-Wing Terrorism in the 21st Century: The 'National Socialist Underground' and the History of Terror from the Far-Right in Germany* (London: Routledge, 2016), 217-218.

<sup>120</sup> "Germany bans Combat 18 as police raid neo-Nazi group," BBC News, January 23, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-51219274>.

<sup>121</sup> Mike Lockley, "Far-right Combat 18 'trying to Recruit Birmingham Teachers,'" *Birmingham Mail*, July 2, 2016, <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/far-right-combat-18-secret-11557407>.

<sup>122</sup> Yiannis Souliotis, "Gas Station Worker, 35, Suspected to Have Led Combat 18 Hellas Far-right Group," Ekathimerini, March 8, 2018, <http://www.ekathimerini.com/226527/article/ekathimerini/news/gas-station-worker-35-suspected-to-have-led-combat-18-hellas-far-right-group>; Philip Chrysopoulos, "Greek Police Seize Knives, Explosives, Nazi Flags After Combat 18 Raids," Greek Reporter, March 9, 2018, <http://greece.greekreporter.com/2018/03/09/greek-police-seize-knives-explosives-nazi-flags-after-combat-18-raids/>; Associated Press, "7 Charged in Greece with Belonging to Violent Neo-Nazi Group," Fox News, March 7, 2018, <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2018/03/07/7-charged-in-greece-with-belonging-to-violent-neo-nazi-group.html>; Yiannis Souliotis, "Gas Station Worker, 35, Suspected to Have Led Combat 18 Hellas Far-right Group."

<sup>123</sup> Associated Press, "7 Charged in Greece with Belonging to Violent Neo-Nazi Group," Fox News, March 7, 2018, <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2018/03/07/7-charged-in-greece-with-belonging-to-violent-neo-nazi-group.html>.

<sup>124</sup> Stewart Bell, "Canada adds neo-Nazi groups Blood & Honour, Combat 18 to list of terror organizations," Global News, June 26, 2019, <https://globalnews.ca/news/5432851/canada-adds-neo-nazi-groups-blood-honour-and-combat-18-to-list-of-terror-organizations/>.

<sup>125</sup> Brian Whelan, "Britain's Nazi Punk Scene Is Alive and Limping," Noisey, February 18, 2013, [https://noisey.vice.com/en\\_us/article/6xggnr/britains-nazi-punk-scene-is-alive-and-limping](https://noisey.vice.com/en_us/article/6xggnr/britains-nazi-punk-scene-is-alive-and-limping).

<sup>126</sup> Yiannis Souliotis, "Gas Station Worker, 35, Suspected to Have Led Combat 18 Hellas Far-right Group," Ekathimerini, March 8, 2018, <http://www.ekathimerini.com/226527/article/ekathimerini/news/gas-station-worker-35-suspected-to-have-led-combat-18-hellas-far-right-group>; "Czech Trial of Arson Attack Reviews Neo-Nazi

Combat 18's National Socialist Political Soldiers Handbook is a guidebook for prospective recruits. In addition to the group's creed, the manual offers advice on physical fitness, recruiting, evading detection and capture, and intentionally vague "direct action," which the handbook describes as "the disruption and elimination of all that is detrimental to our race and opposed to the cause of National Socialism."<sup>127</sup> The text is available online and through Internet retailers.<sup>128</sup>

- **Violent Activities:**

- From 2010 to 2018, Greek authorities accused Combat 18 Hellas of committing more than 30 attacks with bombs or gasoline on left-wing facilities, a migrant dwelling, and Jewish memorials.<sup>129</sup> Greek police claimed that the cell was planning a large bombing prior to the arrest of its members.<sup>130</sup>
- On February 4, 2010, two alleged members of Combat 18 in Australia were arrested for shooting at the roof of a mosque in Perth with a .303 rifle.<sup>131</sup> Bradley Neil Trappitt was fined more than AU\$9,000, and Jacob Marshall Holt was sentenced to seven months in jail.<sup>132</sup> The police accused both men of belonging to Combat 18.<sup>133</sup>
- On April 18-19, 2009, four men in the Czech Republic threw Molotov cocktails into the home of a Romani family in Vitkov. Three people were injured, including a 2-year-old girl who suffered extensive burns. Václav Cojocar, Jaromír Lukeš, Ivo Müller, and David Vaculík were charged with perpetrating the attack, which

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Groups," Romea, March 26, 2015, <http://www.romea.cz/en/news/czech/czech-trial-of-arson-attack-reviews-neo-nazi-groups>.

<sup>127</sup> "National Socialist Political Soldiers Handbook," *Combat 18*, accessed April 12, 2018, <https://archive.org/details/NationalSocialistPoliticalSoldiersHandbook>.

<sup>128</sup> "National Socialist Political Soldiers Handbook," *Combat 18*, accessed April 12, 2018, <https://archive.org/details/NationalSocialistPoliticalSoldiersHandbook>; "Combat 18 Field Manual the National Socialist Political Soldier's Handbook," Amazon, accessed April 12, 2018, <https://www.amazon.com/National-Socialist-Political-Soldiers-Handbook/dp/B008F2PIGQ>; "The N.S. Political Soldier's Handbook / Combat 18 / Field Manual (BOOK)," Black Metal Cult Records, accessed April 2, 2018, <https://www.blackmetalcultrecords.com/blogs/bmc-catalogue/upcoming-the-national-socialist-political-soldiers-handbook-combat-18-field-manual-book>.

<sup>129</sup> "Seven key suspects of far-right Combat 18 Hellas group testify, four remanded in custody," Ekathimerini, March 10, 2018, <http://www.ekathimerini.com/226619/article/ekathimerini/news/seven-key-suspects-of-far-right-combat-18-hellas-group-testify-four-remanded-in-custody>; TNH Staff, "Neo-Nazi Suspects Revealing All About C18 Group," *National Herald*, March 9, 2018, <https://www.thenationalherald.com/193219/neo-nazi-suspects-revealing-c18-group/>.

<sup>130</sup> "Greek Neo-Nazis Arrested in Police Crackdown," Deutsche Welle, March 7, 2018, <http://www.dw.com/en/greek-neo-nazis-arrested-in-police-crackdown/a-42855743>.

<sup>131</sup> Cortlan Bennett, "'Neo-Nazi' Fails in Bid to Clear Court," *Sydney Morning Herald*, June 4, 2010, <https://www.smh.com.au/national/neonazi-fails-in-bid-to-clear-court-20100604-xj6p.html>.

<sup>132</sup> "Mosque Shooter Fined More Than \$9,000," *Sydney Morning Herald*, August 23, 2010, <https://www.smh.com.au/national/mosque-shooter-fined-more-than-9000-20100823-13fge.html>.

<sup>133</sup> Joseph Sapienza, "'Neo-Nazis' Arrested Over Perth Mosque Shooting," *WA Today* (Perth), May 25, 2010, <http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/neonazis-arrested-over-perth-mosque-shooting-20100525-wab5.html>.



coincided with Adolf Hitler's birthday.<sup>134</sup> Vaculík was accused by the prosecution of being a member of Combat 18 and reportedly had a "C18" tattoo on his chest.<sup>135</sup> Lukeš, Müller, and Vaculík were each sentenced to 22 years in prison. Cojocarú was sentenced to 20 years.<sup>136</sup>

- In May 2001, Combat 18 physically assaulted British Asians and their shops in Oldham, England, with the aim of provoking retaliatory violence. Combat 18 members also distributed information on making incendiary devices as well as the personal information of anti-racist activists in the Oldham area.<sup>137</sup>
- In January 1997, three Danish Combat 18 members were arrested and found guilty of sending a letter bomb to British celebrity Sharron Davies.<sup>138</sup> During a raid, Danish police found firearms and explosives components belonging to the perpetrators. One of the neo-Nazis, Thomas Derry Nakaba, shot a police officer during his apprehension.<sup>139</sup>
- On February 15, 1995, members of Combat 18 in the United Kingdom traveled to Dublin, Ireland, to attend a soccer match between England and Ireland.<sup>140</sup> In what became known as the Lansdowne Road football riot, soccer hooligans—including Combat 18 members—caused authorities to cancel the match due to violence. Approximately 50 people were injured.<sup>141</sup>

• **Rhetoric:**

- Combat 18 in Northern Ireland text message, June 2009: "Romanian gypsies beware beware/Loyalist C18 are coming to beat you like a baiting bear/Stay out of South Belfast and stay out of sight/And then youse [sic] will be alright/Get the boat and don't come back/There is no black in the Union Jack/Loyalist C18 'whatever it takes.'"<sup>142</sup>

<sup>134</sup> "Czech Republic: Seven-year Anniversary of Neo-Nazi Arson Attack on Romani Family Home in Vítkov," Romea, April 19, 2016, <http://www.romea.cz/en/news/czech/czech-republic-seven-year-anniversary-of-neo-nazi-arson-attack-on-romani-family-home-in-vitkov>.

<sup>135</sup> "Trial of the Czech Cell of Blood & Honour Enters Its Final Phase," Romea, October 17, 2015, <http://www.romea.cz/en/news/world/trial-of-the-czech-cell-of-blood-honour-enters-its-final-phase-3>.

<sup>136</sup> "Trial of the Czech Cell of Blood & Honour Enters Its Final Phase," Romea, October 17, 2015, <http://www.romea.cz/en/news/world/trial-of-the-czech-cell-of-blood-honour-enters-its-final-phase-3>.

<sup>137</sup> Paul Harris, "Far Right Plot to Provoke Race Riots," *Guardian* (London), June 3, 2001, <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2001/jun/03/uk.race>.

<sup>138</sup> "Combat 18's Hardline Racism," BBC News, April 19, 1999, [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/323366.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/323366.stm).

<sup>139</sup> Reuters, "7 Suspected Neo Nazis Seized by Danes in Letter-Bomb Plot," *New York Times*, January 20, 1997, <https://www.nytimes.com/1997/01/20/world/7-suspected-neo-nazis-seized-by-danes-in-letter-bomb-plot.html>; "Neo-Nazis Jailed Over Letter Bombs," *Irish Times* (Dublin), January 20, 1997, <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/neo-nazis-jailed-over-letter-bombs-1.102725>.

<sup>140</sup> Stephen Fottrell, and Simon Austin, "England v Republic of Ireland: Riot Marred Lansdowne Road Friendly," BBC Sport, May 28, 2013, <http://www.bbc.com/sport/football/22397204>.

<sup>141</sup> Frank Kilfeather, "English Fans Arrested over Riot at Soccer Match," *Irish Times* (Dublin), January 15, 1997, <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/english-fans-arrested-over-riot-at-soccer-match-1.22038>.

<sup>142</sup> Henry McDonald, "'Romanian Gypsies Beware Beware. Loyalist C18 Are Coming to Beat You like a Baiting Bear,'" *Guardian* (London), June 20, 2009, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/jun/21/race-northern-ireland-romanian-gypsies>.

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- *Combat 18* magazine, 1994: “In this magazine we are going to tell the truth about the modern day nightmare that the white Race is being plunged into, we will expose traitors and in-filtrators that have plagued nationalism for decades, we will urge our supporters to intimidate and attack the enemies of our people just as they have intimidated us.”<sup>143</sup>
- *Combat 18* magazine, 1994: “We will hit them when and where they least expect it! We will dictate the battles, not them! We will win this war, not them! REMEMBER – VICTORY IS OURS ‘WHATEVER IT TAKES’”<sup>144</sup>
- *Combat 18* magazine, 1994: “If we can build a network of ‘white-wingers’ nation and worldwide then we might stand a chance when the right leader emerges who can take our people by the reigns and lead us to victory, as the great Adolf Hitler did.”<sup>145</sup>
- National Socialist Political Soldiers Handbook: “Combat 18 advocates covert action as the only constructive form of action which should be undertaken at this moment in time by individuals committed to the National Socialist cause.”<sup>146</sup>
- National Socialist Political Soldiers Handbook: “The ‘lone wolf’ tactic is by far the most secure approach as you are dependent on no-one else for the successful completion of your plan and your personal security is entirely in your own hands. In this way, if your plan fails for whatever reason you have only yourself to blame. If your plan succeeds your courage will speak for itself.”<sup>147</sup>

### English Defence League (EDL)

- **Summary:** The English Defence League (EDL) believes that British society is under attack by Muslim extremists. Since 2009, the group has held what British media has routinely referred to as “aggressive rallies” across England.<sup>148</sup> The EDL claims to stand for English rights, democracy, and rule of law. Concurrently, the group believes it is a leader in “the struggle against global Islamification.”<sup>149</sup>

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<sup>143</sup> “The Aims of C18,” *Combat 18*, accessed April 10, 2018, [https://ia600104.us.archive.org/15/items/Combat18/Combat%2018/Ef3824e2beb9985f682e99fd133515b22cfa03ef4\\_Q20647\\_R331396\\_D1942757.pdf](https://ia600104.us.archive.org/15/items/Combat18/Combat%2018/Ef3824e2beb9985f682e99fd133515b22cfa03ef4_Q20647_R331396_D1942757.pdf).

<sup>144</sup> “Editorial,” *Combat 18*, accessed April 2, 2018, [https://ia600104.us.archive.org/15/items/Combat18/Combat18/Ef3824e2beb9985f682e99fd133515b22cfa03ef4\\_Q20647\\_R331396\\_D1942757.pdf](https://ia600104.us.archive.org/15/items/Combat18/Combat18/Ef3824e2beb9985f682e99fd133515b22cfa03ef4_Q20647_R331396_D1942757.pdf).

<sup>145</sup> “The Aims of C18,” *Combat 18*, accessed April 2, 2018, [https://ia600104.us.archive.org/15/items/Combat18/Combat18/Ef3824e2beb9985f682e99fd133515b22cfa03ef4\\_Q20647\\_R331396\\_D1942757.pdf](https://ia600104.us.archive.org/15/items/Combat18/Combat18/Ef3824e2beb9985f682e99fd133515b22cfa03ef4_Q20647_R331396_D1942757.pdf).

<sup>146</sup> “National Socialist Political Soldiers Handbook,” *Combat 18*, accessed April 2, 2018, <https://archive.org/details/NationalSocialistPoliticalSoldiersHandbook> (site discontinued).

<sup>147</sup> “National Socialist Political Soldiers Handbook,” *Combat 18*, accessed April 2, 2018, <https://archive.org/details/NationalSocialistPoliticalSoldiersHandbook> (site discontinued).

<sup>148</sup> “Far-right extremism: Who are the EDL?” Channel 4 News, May 28, 2013, <https://www.channel4.com/news/edl-far-right-extremism-woolwich-lee-rigby>.

<sup>149</sup> “About Us,” English Defence League, accessed June 26, 2018, <http://www.englishdefenceleague.org.uk/mission-statement/> (site discontinued).

The EDL equates illegal immigration with an invasion. It blames Muslim immigrants for importing a culture of terrorism into England and raping English women, a phenomenon that it has dubbed “rape jihad.”<sup>150</sup> The EDL believes that rape jihad is ingrained in Islamic religious texts and foundation.<sup>151</sup> The EDL blames the broader Muslim community for a list of offenses, including denigration and oppression of women, organized sexual abuse of children, support of terrorism, female genital mutilation, honor killings, homophobia, racism, anti-Semitism, and intolerance of non-Muslims.<sup>152</sup>

The EDL was co-founded in Luton, England, in 2009 by Kevin Carroll and Stephen Christopher Yaxley-Lennon, a.k.a. Tommy Robinson.<sup>153</sup> According to Robinson, the two men formed EDL in response to the threat of “militant Islam.”<sup>154</sup> In 2011, EDL members joined vigilante patrols in southeast London and clashed with police.<sup>155</sup> Matthew Collins of the British NGO Hope Not Hate told British media in 2013 that the EDL had become increasingly fascist in its protests and “went from being concerned about extremism, to them radicalising themselves.”<sup>156</sup> A 2013 poll found that 61 percent of Britons believed that groups like the EDL made terrorism more likely.<sup>157</sup>

In October 2013, Robinson and Carroll quit the group, citing concerns of growing far-right extremism within the EDL.<sup>158</sup> Robinson said he was persuaded to leave the group by the British anti-extremism think tank Quilliam, but later said that Quilliam paid him £2,000 a month to make the claim.<sup>159</sup> Twitter permanently banned Robinson in March 2018, reportedly because of violations of the company’s “hateful conduct” policy.<sup>160</sup> In

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<sup>150</sup> English Defence League, Tumblr post, April 22, 2018, [https://englishdefenceleague.tumblr.com/post/173186152694/we-stand-with-the-victims?is\\_related\\_post=1](https://englishdefenceleague.tumblr.com/post/173186152694/we-stand-with-the-victims?is_related_post=1).

<sup>151</sup> English Defence League, Tumblr post, April 22, 2018, <https://englishdefenceleague.tumblr.com/post/173186152694/we-stand-with-the-victims>.

<sup>152</sup> “About Us,” English Defence League, accessed June 26, 2018, <http://www.englishdefenceleague.org.uk/mission-statement/> (site discontinued).

<sup>153</sup> “Ex-EDL leaders Tommy Robinson and Kevin Carroll cleared,” BBC News, October 16, 2013, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-24554284>.

<sup>154</sup> Tom Michael, “TOMMY CAGED Who is Tommy Robinson, why did the ex-EDL leader change his name and when was he jailed?” *Sun* (London), June 9, 2018, <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/3838990/tommy-robinson-edl-right-wing-activist-jail-13-months/>.

<sup>155</sup> “Far-right extremism: Who are the EDL?” Channel 4 News, May 28, 2013, <https://www.channel4.com/news/edl-far-right-extremism-woolwich-lee-rigby>.

<sup>156</sup> “Far-right extremism: Who are the EDL?” Channel 4 News, May 28, 2013, <https://www.channel4.com/news/edl-far-right-extremism-woolwich-lee-rigby>.

<sup>157</sup> “Woolrich Reactions Poll,” Survation, May 24, 2013, <http://survation.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Woolwich-Full-Report.pdf>.

<sup>158</sup> “EDL leader Tommy Robinson quits group,” BBC News, October 8, 2013, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-24442953>; “Ex-EDL leaders Tommy Robinson and Kevin Carroll cleared,” BBC News, October 16, 2013, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-24554284>.

<sup>159</sup> “EDL leader Tommy Robinson quits group,” BBC News, October 8, 2013, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-24442953>; Tom Michael, “TOMMY CAGED Who is Tommy Robinson, why did the ex-EDL leader change his name and when was he jailed?” *Sun* (London), June 9, 2018, <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/3838990/tommy-robinson-edl-right-wing-activist-jail-13-months/>.

<sup>160</sup> “Tommy Robinson banned from Twitter,” BBC News, March 28, 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-43572168>.

May 2018, Robinson was sentenced to 13 months in prison for contempt of court after filming outside of a jury trial.<sup>161</sup> The following month, thousands of far-right supporters of Robinson marched through London.<sup>162</sup>

British counter-extremism group Hope Not Hate claims that the EDL has suffered a “lethargic and alcohol-fuelled almost comic collapse.”<sup>163</sup> Nonetheless, the group maintains its active social media presence and continues to stage demonstrations across the country.

- **Base of Operations:** England
- **Website:** <http://www.englishdefenceleague.org.uk/>
- **Social Media:** [Facebook](#) (suspended), [Facebook \(Bridlington/Scarborough\)](#) (suspended), [Facebook \(Bristol\)](#) (suspended), [Facebook \(Cannock Chase, Staffordshire\)](#) (suspended), [Facebook \(Crewe and Nantwich\)](#) (suspended), [Facebook \(Doncaster and Rotterdam\)](#) (suspended), [Facebook \(Essex\)](#) (suspended), [Facebook \(Lancaster\)](#) (suspended), [Facebook \(London Division II\)](#) (suspended), [Facebook \(Milton Keynes\)](#), [Facebook \(North East\)](#) (suspended), [Facebook \(Northumberland\)](#) (suspended), [Facebook \(North West\)](#) (suspended), [Facebook \(Preston\)](#) (suspended), [Facebook \(Sunderland\)](#) (suspended), [Facebook \(West Midlands\)](#) (suspended), [Facebook \(Angels West Midlands\)](#) (suspended), [Facebook \(South Yorkshire\)](#) (suspended), Twitter (suspended), [Twitter \(Alan Spence\)](#) (suspended), [Tumblr](#) (suspended), [Tumblr](#), [Gab](#)
- **Leadership:** Alan Spence claims to be the EDL’s chairman.<sup>164</sup>
- **Membership Size and Relevance:** The EDL does not maintain membership lists, but media reports suggested the group had approximately 30,000 members as of 2013.<sup>165</sup> British NGO Hope Not Hate claimed in early 2018 that the EDL has collapsed, though the EDL still maintains an active online presence and calendar of events.<sup>166</sup>

The EDL maintains 17 regional chapters throughout England, according to the group’s website. After Facebook suspended the EDL’s accounts in April 2019, the group

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<sup>161</sup> Tom Michael, “TOMMY CAGED Who is Tommy Robinson, why did the ex-EDL leader change his name and when was he jailed?” *Sun* (London), June 9, 2018, <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/3838990/tommy-robinson-edl-right-wing-activist-jail-13-months/>.

<sup>162</sup> Claude Moraes, “The far right is organised and growing. Those Nazi salutes are serious,” *Guardian* (London), June 14, 2018, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jun/14/far-right-nazi-tommy-robinson-racist-movements-donald-trump>.

<sup>163</sup> Mark Wilding, “The Rise and Demise of the EDL,” *Vice*, March 12, 2018, [https://www.vice.com/en\\_uk/article/qve8wm/the-rise-and-demise-of-the-edl](https://www.vice.com/en_uk/article/qve8wm/the-rise-and-demise-of-the-edl).

<sup>164</sup> Alan Spence, Twitter account, accessed June 22, 2018, [https://twitter.com/Original\\_EDL](https://twitter.com/Original_EDL) (account suspended).

<sup>165</sup> “EDL leader Tommy Robinson quits group,” *BBC News*, October 8, 2013, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-24442953>.

<sup>166</sup> Mark Wilding, “The Rise and Demise of the EDL,” *Vice*, March 12, 2018, [https://www.vice.com/en\\_uk/article/qve8wm/the-rise-and-demise-of-the-edl](https://www.vice.com/en_uk/article/qve8wm/the-rise-and-demise-of-the-edl); English Defence League homepage, accessed June 26, 2018, <http://www.englishdefenceleague.org.uk/> (site discontinued).

recommended members use its website forum to connect with each other while the EDL reorganized.<sup>167</sup> The EDL's main Facebook page had 2,728 likes as of March 19, 2019.<sup>168</sup>

- **Recruitment and Propaganda:** The EDL maintained Facebook pages for each of its 17 regional chapters. Facebook suspended the EDL in April 2019.<sup>169</sup> After Twitter suspended the EDL's account in 2017, the group created an account on Gab, a social network populated by far-right groups.<sup>170</sup> The EDL's website also had a forum available to registered members.<sup>171</sup> The EDL also asked for donations through PayPal. PayPal has since suspended the group's account.<sup>172</sup> PayPal suspended Robinson in November 2018.<sup>173</sup> The EDL's website was offline as of April 2020. EDL members have created an online radio program on the website BlogTalkRadio. As of June 2020, the show had 286 followers and almost 1,000 episodes.<sup>174</sup>
- **Violent Activities:** The EDL claims to be committed to non-violence.<sup>175</sup> Nonetheless, its members have been involved in numerous violent clashes with police and other protesters. The *Guardian* has produced footage of violent protesters at EDL demonstrations and the group's plans to elicit violent reactions.<sup>176</sup> Further, others have reportedly been inspired to violence by EDL propaganda.
  - On June 19, 2017, Darren Osbourne drove his car into a crowd of people outside the Finsbury Park mosque in London, killing one and wounding nine.<sup>177</sup> Police allege that Osbourne radicalized within three to four weeks after reading propaganda by Robinson and other British far-right groups.<sup>178</sup>

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<sup>167</sup> "Join Us," English Defence League, accessed April 24, 2020, <http://www.englishdefenceleague.org.uk/join-us/> (site discontinued).

<sup>168</sup> English Defence League, Facebook page, accessed March 19, 2019, <https://www.facebook.com/englishdefenceleagueofficialmainpage/>.

<sup>169</sup> Alex Hern, "Facebook bans far-right groups including BNP, EDL and Britain First," *Guardian* (London), April 18, 2019, <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2019/apr/18/facebook-bans-far-right-groups-including-bnp-edl-and-britain-first>.

<sup>170</sup> EDLmedia, Gab account, accessed June 22, 2018, <https://gab.ai/EDLmedia>; "The Twitter account of the English Defence League has been purged," English Defence League, December 20, 2017, <http://www.englishdefenceleague.org.uk/the-twitter-account-of-the-english-defence-league-has-been-purged/> (site discontinued).

<sup>171</sup> "Forum," English Defence League, accessed June 26, 2018, <http://www.englishdefenceleague.org.uk/forum/> (site discontinued).

<sup>172</sup> EDLDonations, PayPal, accessed June 22, 2018, <https://www.paypal.me/EDLDonations> (site discontinued).

<sup>173</sup> Press Association, "PayPal bans Tommy Robinson from using service," *Guardian* (London), November 8, 2018, <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/nov/08/paypal-bans-tommy-robinson-from-using-service>.

<sup>174</sup> "The English Defence League Show," BlogTalkRadio, accessed June 29, 2020, <https://www.blogtalkradio.com/the-english-defence-league-show>.

<sup>175</sup> "About Us," English Defence League, accessed June 26, 2018, <http://www.englishdefenceleague.org.uk/mission-statement/>.

<sup>176</sup> Matthew Taylor, "English Defence League: Inside the violent world of Britain's new far right," *Guardian* (London), May 28, 2010, <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2010/may/28/english-defence-league-guardian-investigation>.

<sup>177</sup> Lizzie Dearden, "Finsbury Park attack: Why Darren Osborne was not charged with terror offences," *Independent* (London), February 2, 2018, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/finsbury-park-mosque-attack-terror-terrorism-darren-osborne-jailed-life-murder-jo-cox-mair-rigby-a8192326.html>.

<sup>178</sup> Lizzie Dearden, "Darren Osborne: How Finsbury Park terror attacker became 'obsessed' with Muslims in less than a month," *Independent* (London), February 2, 2018, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/darren-osborne-finsbury-park-attack-who-is-tommy-robinson-muslim-internet-britain-first-a8190316.html>.



- On July 20, 2013, the EDL held a protest in Birmingham, England. Police charged 20 men with violent disorder.<sup>179</sup> In 2015, a group of 50 EDL supporters were collectively sentenced to more than 75 years in prison for violent disorder.<sup>180</sup>
- **Rhetoric:**
  - EDL Gab account, June 23, 2018: “Just as Italy’s new government grows a pair and comes down tough on the invasions, Spain goes all soft and weepy and takes in those invaders turned back by Italy <https://dailym.ai/2MM5vA5>”<sup>181</sup>
  - Alan Spence, tweet, May 8, 2018: “Hey Israel why the fuck are you bombing Syrian army positions? These people are stopping ISIS advancing.....Fuck you jew cunts!!”<sup>182</sup>
  - EDL Tumblr post, April 22, 2018: “We stand because the Government refuses to stand up for us and the thousands of young women and girls abused by Muslim gangs up and down this country. We call it rape jihad because it is not only an attack on the individual girls it is an attack on the foundation of this country, on our future mothers. It is jihad because it is inspired by Mohammed, the founder of Islam, and the theology of the Quran.”<sup>183</sup>
  - EDL Tumblr post, April 22, 2018: “The English Defence League has been pushing back now – for going on 8 years. Little, but some progress has been made but we will not be satisfied until the misogyny, cruelty and terror of Islam are banished from this green and pleasant land.”<sup>184</sup>
  - EDL Tumblr post, March 31, 2018: “Churchill’s advice was ignored. ‘An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat him last.’ The ‘crocodile’ in the national room is of course Islam.”<sup>185</sup>
  - EDL spokesman Guramit Singh on upcoming protests in Bradford, England, 2013: “The problem with Bradford is the security threat, it is a highly populated Muslim area. They are very militant as well. Bradford is a place that has got to be hit.”<sup>186</sup>

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<sup>179</sup> “Twenty men charged over EDL violence,” BBC News, February 21, 2014, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-birmingham-26288991>.

<sup>180</sup> “EDL supporters jailed for more than 75 years after Birmingham violence,” ITV, January 9, 2015, <http://www.itv.com/news/central/2015-01-09/edl-supporters-jailed-for-more-than-75-years-after-birmingham-violence/>; “Fifty sentenced for Birmingham EDL protest violence,” BBC News, January 9, 2015, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-birmingham-30751692>.

<sup>181</sup> EDLmedia, Gab post, June 23, 2018, <https://gab.ai/EDLmedia/posts/28078280>.

<sup>182</sup> Alan Spence, Twitter post, May 9, 2018, 7:09 p.m., [https://twitter.com/Original\\_EDL/status/994353715707564033](https://twitter.com/Original_EDL/status/994353715707564033).

<sup>183</sup> English Defence League, Tumblr post, April 22, 2018, <https://englishdefenceleague.tumblr.com/post/173186152694/we-stand-with-the-victims>.

<sup>184</sup> English Defence League, Tumblr post, April 22, 2018, <https://englishdefenceleague.tumblr.com/post/173186152694/we-stand-with-the-victims>.

<sup>185</sup> English Defence League, Tumblr post, March 31, 2018, <https://englishdefenceleague.tumblr.com/post/172447064559/the-dying-of-free-speech-in-the-uk>.

<sup>186</sup> Matthew Taylor, “English Defence League: Inside the violent world of Britain’s new far right,” *Guardian* (London), May 28, 2010, <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2010/may/28/english-defence-league-guardian-investigation>.

**Feuerkrieg Division**

- **Summary:** Feuerkrieg Division (“Firewar Division” or FKD) was a European, neo-Nazi offshoot of the U.S.-based Atomwaffen Division.<sup>187</sup> FKD was founded in 2018 and primarily existed online. Its members subscribed to an accelerationist philosophy that called for a race war to purge society of undesirables and eliminate existing political and social systems.<sup>188</sup>

In leaked chat transcripts, FKD members discussed plans for violent attacks and their hopes of a coming civil war. Members discussed how to build bombs and other methods of violent attack. In 2019, in retaliation for the arrest of one of its members in the United Kingdom, the group publicly released a list of police buildings and an image of a senior police officer with a gun to his head. FKD declared the officer to be a race traitor and called for attacks.<sup>189</sup> As the COVID-19 pandemic took hold in the United States in February 2020, FKD members spoke of the need to spread the virus among Black and Jewish people.<sup>190</sup> In February 2020, the group Eugene Antifa labeled FKD “a pressure cooker for potential terrorists.”<sup>191</sup>

FKD claimed to officially disband in February 2020.<sup>192</sup> In April 2020, Estonian police arrested a 13-year-old boy, identified only as “Commander,” who had allegedly created and led FKD.<sup>193</sup> In leaked online chat transcripts, Commander spoke about targeting Jewish schools in Estonia and killing Jewish children.<sup>194</sup> The United Kingdom proscribed the group as a terrorist organization in July 2020.<sup>195</sup>

- **Base of Operations:** Global
- **Website:** N/A
- **Social Media:** N/A

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<sup>187</sup> “FEUERKRIEG DIVISION (FKD) PROSCRIBED AS TERRORIST GROUP,” Counter Terrorism Policing, July 17, 2020, <https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/fkd-proscribed/>.

<sup>188</sup> “FEUERKRIEG DIVISION (FKD) PROSCRIBED AS TERRORIST GROUP,” Counter Terrorism Policing, July 17, 2020, <https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/fkd-proscribed/>.

<sup>189</sup> Daniel De Simone, “Neo-Nazi group led by 13-year-old boy to be banned,” BBC News, July 13, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53392036>.

<sup>190</sup> “LEAKED: Neo-Nazi Terrorist ‘Feuerkrieg Division’ Organizing Chats,” Unicorn Riot, March 20, 2020, <https://unicornriot.ninja/2020/leaked-neo-nazi-terrorist-feuerkreig-division-organizing-chats/>.

<sup>191</sup> “Feuerkrieg Division Exposed: International Neo-Nazi Terrorist Network,” Eugene Antifa, February 24, 2020, <https://eugeneantifa.noblogs.org/post/2020/02/24/feuerkrieg-division/>.

<sup>192</sup> Lizzie Dearden, “Why has Britain banned a neo-Nazi terrorist group that ‘no longer exists’?,” *Independent* (London), July 14, 2020, <https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/news-analysis/feuerkrieg-division-terrorist-group-ban-neo-nazis-uk-a9618221.html>.

<sup>193</sup> Michael Kunzelman and Jari Tanner, “He led a neo-Nazi group linked to bomb plots. He was 13,” Associated Press, April 11, 2020, <https://apnews.com/7067c03e1af0b157be7c15888cbe8c27>.

<sup>194</sup> “LEAKED: Neo-Nazi Terrorist ‘Feuerkrieg Division’ Organizing Chats,” Unicorn Riot, March 20, 2020, <https://unicornriot.ninja/2020/leaked-neo-nazi-terrorist-feuerkreig-division-organizing-chats/>.

<sup>195</sup> “FEUERKRIEG DIVISION (FKD) PROSCRIBED AS TERRORIST GROUP,” Counter Terrorism Policing, July 17, 2020, <https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/fkd-proscribed/>.

- **Leadership:** A 13-year-old boy in Estonia, identified only as “Commander,” created and led FKD until his arrest in April 2020.<sup>196</sup>
- **Membership Size and Relevance:** FKD had between 30 and 80 members in more than 12 countries as of early 2020. FKD claimed to disband in February 2020.<sup>197</sup> The United Kingdom proscribed FKD as a terrorist group in July 2020.<sup>198</sup>
- **Recruitment and Propaganda:**  
FKD specifically targeted teenagers for recruitment and focused its recruitment on encrypted messaging apps.<sup>199</sup> The group’s alleged leader, known as Commander, was revealed to be a 13-year-old boy in Estonia.<sup>200</sup> Multiple FKD members have been revealed to be 14 to 16 years old. FKD members encouraged the recruitment of high school students for shootings and vandalism.<sup>201</sup> FKD required recruits to post propaganda posters and send photos to the group’s leader.<sup>202</sup>

FKD glorified American neo-Nazi James Mason, author of the pro-Nazi anthology *Siege*.<sup>203</sup>

- **Violent Activities:**
  - In January 2020, FKD members discussed online plans to join with other groups in attacking Jewish institutions in Croatia.<sup>204</sup>
  - In October 2019, an alleged FKD member in Lithuania left a bomb outside an office building in Vilnius. The bomb failed to explode, and police arrested the teenage suspect after finding bomb-making materials in his home.<sup>205</sup>

<sup>196</sup> Michael Kunzelman and Jari Tanner, “He led a neo-Nazi group linked to bomb plots. He was 13,” Associated Press, April 11, 2020, <https://apnews.com/7067c03e1af0b157be7c15888cbe8c27>.

<sup>197</sup> Michael Kunzelman and Jari Tanner, “He led a neo-Nazi group linked to bomb plots. He was 13,” Associated Press, April 11, 2020, <https://apnews.com/7067c03e1af0b157be7c15888cbe8c27>; Lizzie Dearden, “Why has Britain banned a neo-Nazi terrorist group that ‘no longer exists’?,” *Independent* (London), July 14, 2020, <https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/news-analysis/feuerkrieg-division-terrorist-group-ban-neo-nazis-uk-a9618221.html>.

<sup>198</sup> “FEUERKRIEG DIVISION (FKD) PROSCRIBED AS TERRORIST GROUP,” Counter Terrorism Policing, July 17, 2020, <https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/fkd-proscribed/>.

<sup>199</sup> Daniel De Simone, “Neo-Nazi group led by 13-year-old boy to be banned,” BBC News, July 13, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53392036>.

<sup>200</sup> Michael Kunzelman and Jari Tanner, “He led a neo-Nazi group linked to bomb plots. He was 13,” Associated Press, April 11, 2020, <https://apnews.com/7067c03e1af0b157be7c15888cbe8c27>.

<sup>201</sup> “LEAKED: Neo-Nazi Terrorist ‘Feuerkrieg Division’ Organizing Chats,” Unicorn Riot, March 20, 2020, <https://unicornriot.ninja/2020/leaked-neo-nazi-terrorist-feuerkrieg-division-organizing-chats/>.

<sup>202</sup> Daniel De Simone, “Neo-Nazi group led by 13-year-old boy to be banned,” BBC News, July 13, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53392036>.

<sup>203</sup> “LEAKED: Neo-Nazi Terrorist ‘Feuerkrieg Division’ Organizing Chats,” Unicorn Riot, March 20, 2020, <https://unicornriot.ninja/2020/leaked-neo-nazi-terrorist-feuerkrieg-division-organizing-chats/>.

<sup>204</sup> “LEAKED: Neo-Nazi Terrorist ‘Feuerkrieg Division’ Organizing Chats,” Unicorn Riot, March 20, 2020, <https://unicornriot.ninja/2020/leaked-neo-nazi-terrorist-feuerkrieg-division-organizing-chats/>.

<sup>205</sup> Daniel De Simone, “Neo-Nazi group led by 13-year-old boy to be banned,” BBC News, July 13, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53392036>; “Explosion in Vilnius was planned during daytime with people around – police rep,” *Baltic Times* (Riga), June 26, 2020, <https://www.baltictimes.com/explosion-in-vilnius-was-planned-during-daytime-with-people-around-police-rep/>.

- In September 2019, U.S. Army Private First-Class Jarrett William Smith provided information on explosives to an undercover FBI agent. Smith admitted in a plea agreement to disseminating instructions on building bombs. Smith told the agent he distributed explosives information “for the glory of his Satanist religion,” and sought to create societal chaos. Smith is reportedly involved with FKD at the time of his arrest. The group expressed “consternation” over Smith’s arrest on Telegram.<sup>206</sup>
- On August 8, 2019, the FBI-led Joint Terrorism Task Force arrested Connor Climo after finding bomb components in his Las Vegas residence. Between May 2019 and July 15, 2019, Climo communicated online with FKD members about setting fire to a Las Vegas synagogue, and making Molotov cocktails and improvised explosive devices. Climo pleaded guilty in February 2020 to possession of bomb-making materials and plotting to attack Jewish and LGBT targets.<sup>207</sup>
- **Rhetoric:**
  - “White\_powerstroke,” leaked transcript of chat conversation, February 2020: “It will most likely only focus on major metro areas, so areas with lots of niggers and kikes. If you guys contract this virus, you had BETTER spread that shit to every kike in your country.”<sup>208</sup>
  - “Garzon,” leaked transcript of chat conversation, February 2020: “Greater than a thousand Bowers. Just go around big ten college campuses pounding every sorority yenta. Do it for your race.”<sup>209</sup>
  - “Dillion,” leaked transcript of chat conversation, 2020: “Kill all the Asians and Jews. They are the biggest threat. Jews internal. Chinese external.”<sup>210</sup>
  - Jarrett William Smith, a.k.a. Anti-Kosmic, leaked transcript of chat conversation, September 2019: “Buy a bottle of [redacted] and some [redacted] for [redacted]. Unscrew the lid of the bottle, and then insert [redacted]. Quickly screw the lid back on and either toss or roll it. It will blow in about 8-15 seconds like a grenade and it will leave behind a cloud of chlorine gas.”<sup>211</sup>

<sup>206</sup> John Hanna, “‘Satanist’ Kansas soldier pleads guilty to bomb plot charges,” Associated Press, February 10, 2020, <https://apnews.com/87b9aa7caf100382d331d9a24a84b0bd>; Michael Kunzelman and Jari Tanner, “He led a neo-Nazi group linked to bomb plots. He was 13,” Associated Press, April 11, 2020, <https://apnews.com/7067c03e1af0b157be7c15888cbe8c27>.

<sup>207</sup> “Las Vegas Man Pleads Guilty To Possession Of Bomb-Making Components,” U.S. Department of Justice, February 10, 2020, <https://www.justice.gov/usao-nv/pr/las-vegas-man-pleads-guilty-possession-bomb-making-components>.

<sup>208</sup> “LEAKED: Neo-Nazi Terrorist ‘Feuerkrieg Division’ Organizing Chats,” Unicorn Riot, March 20, 2020, <https://unicornriot.ninja/2020/leaked-neo-nazi-terrorist-feuerkrieg-division-organizing-chats/>.

<sup>209</sup> “LEAKED: Neo-Nazi Terrorist ‘Feuerkrieg Division’ Organizing Chats,” Unicorn Riot, March 20, 2020, <https://unicornriot.ninja/2020/leaked-neo-nazi-terrorist-feuerkrieg-division-organizing-chats/>.

<sup>210</sup> “LEAKED: Neo-Nazi Terrorist ‘Feuerkrieg Division’ Organizing Chats,” Unicorn Riot, March 20, 2020, <https://unicornriot.ninja/2020/leaked-neo-nazi-terrorist-feuerkrieg-division-organizing-chats/>.

<sup>211</sup> “LEAKED: Neo-Nazi Terrorist ‘Feuerkrieg Division’ Organizing Chats,” Unicorn Riot, March 20, 2020, <https://unicornriot.ninja/2020/leaked-neo-nazi-terrorist-feuerkrieg-division-organizing-chats/>.

- “Commander,” leaked transcript of chat conversation, August 2019: “so if i survive i’ll probably go kill a few yid kids too lmao”<sup>212</sup>
- “Dylan D.,” leaked transcript of chat conversation, 2019: “Killing local police and federal authorities is seemingly pointless, much like cutting the head off a hydra. What we truly need to do is strike at the heart of the hydra and eliminate those who control them. Key figures, high level jews, policy makers, lobbyists and billionaire CEOs who hold massive sway over politicians via extortion, blackmail or bribery. High level or high value targets that wouldn’t have the kind of security that the federal government can supply.”<sup>213</sup>
- “Dylan D.,” leaked transcript of chat conversation, 2019: “And that will come in die time when the trials and tribunals begin after we have regained control of our nation. They will all hang for treason, if they survive the civil war. That is our job now. Prepare for war because it is coming.”<sup>214</sup>
- “Commander,” leaked transcript of chat conversation, undated: “The Order is quite similar to our organization too, you know that right?”<sup>215</sup>

### Generation Identity

- **Summary:** Generation Identity (GI) is a pan-European youth movement that originated in France in 2012 as the youth wing of France’s Les Identitaires movement.<sup>216</sup> GI has since spread to five other regions in Europe. Its newest branch claims to span the United Kingdom and Ireland, which the group claims are “inflicted by extreme multiculturalism.”<sup>217</sup> GI believes that white Europeans are falling victim to “the Great Replacement”—“the process by which the indigenous European population is replaced by non-European migrants.”<sup>218</sup> GI seeks to stop what it views as the Islamization of Europe, stop globalization, and reverse the “Great Replacement.”<sup>219</sup>

<sup>212</sup> “LEAKED: Neo-Nazi Terrorist ‘Feuerkrieg Division’ Organizing Chats,” Unicorn Riot, March 20, 2020, <https://unicornriot.ninja/2020/leaked-neo-nazi-terrorist-feuerkrieg-division-organizing-chats/>.

<sup>213</sup> “LEAKED: Neo-Nazi Terrorist ‘Feuerkrieg Division’ Organizing Chats,” Unicorn Riot, March 20, 2020, <https://unicornriot.ninja/2020/leaked-neo-nazi-terrorist-feuerkrieg-division-organizing-chats/>.

<sup>214</sup> “LEAKED: Neo-Nazi Terrorist ‘Feuerkrieg Division’ Organizing Chats,” Unicorn Riot, March 20, 2020, <https://unicornriot.ninja/2020/leaked-neo-nazi-terrorist-feuerkrieg-division-organizing-chats/>.

<sup>215</sup> “LEAKED: Neo-Nazi Terrorist ‘Feuerkrieg Division’ Organizing Chats,” Unicorn Riot, March 20, 2020, <https://unicornriot.ninja/2020/leaked-neo-nazi-terrorist-feuerkrieg-division-organizing-chats/>.

<sup>216</sup> “French far-right group storms site of new mosque,” France24, October 21, 2012, <http://www.france24.com/en/20121020-france-french-far-right-group-hold-sit-protest-against-new-mosque-islam-generation-identity>; Haydn Rippon, “Occupy le mosque: France’s new radical nativism,” The Conversation, November 5, 2012, <https://theconversation.com/occupy-le-mosque-frances-new-radical-nativism-10368>.

<sup>217</sup> Generation Identity United Kingdom and Ireland homepage, accessed March 5, 2018, <https://www.generation-identity.org.uk/> (site discontinued); “Meet the IB, Europe’s version of America’s alt-right,” *Economist*, November 12, 2016, <https://www.economist.com/news/europe/21709986-france-austria-identitarian-movement-gives-xenophobia-youthful-edge-meet-ib>.

<sup>218</sup> “Frequently Asked Question,” Generation Identity United Kingdom and Ireland, accessed March 8, 2018, <https://www.generation-identity.org.uk/faqs/>.

<sup>219</sup> Generation Identity United Kingdom and Ireland homepage, accessed March 5, 2018, <https://www.generation-identity.org.uk/> (site discontinued).



To realize these goals, the network has issued five demands: preserve European ethno-cultural identity, defend freedom of speech and opinion against far-left attacks, repatriate illegal immigrants to their countries of origin, promote regional development in African countries to stem emigration, and secure national borders.<sup>220</sup> GI claims it does not “provide a platform for any kind of national-socialist or fascist groups or views.”<sup>221</sup> Nonetheless, GI’s German chapter, Identitäre Bewegung, has reportedly marched alongside neo-Nazi skinheads, and the German neo-Nazi political party NPD has held up GI’s tactics as a model.<sup>222</sup> Austrian GI leader Martin Sellner has also professed the group’s dedication to non-violence,<sup>223</sup> but GI has created militaristic training camps across Europe that feature combat training as well as anti-Islamic and anti-immigrant speakers.<sup>224</sup>

GI has staged numerous public protests, beginning with occupying the site of a future mosque in Poitiers, France, in October 2012.<sup>225</sup> Several of the perpetrators were sentenced to a year in prison in December 2017 on charges of incitement to discrimination and property destruction related to this incident.<sup>226</sup> In March 2016, police arrested 14 GI members after they lit tires on fire during a protest near refugee camps in Calais, France. The GI protesters claimed that they were defending Europe from a “migrant invasion.”<sup>227</sup> In October 2017, GI’s British chapter unrolled a giant banner over London’s Westminster Bridge reading “Defend London: Stop Islamisation.”<sup>228</sup>

GI accuses humanitarian NGOs of smuggling millions of people to Europe from Africa. It created a spinoff group, Defend Europe, in order to stop what it believes to be illegal human trafficking by refugee aid organizations.<sup>229</sup> In August 2017, Defend Europe

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<sup>220</sup> “Our Demands,” Generation Identity United Kingdom and Ireland, accessed March 7, 2018, <https://www.generation-identity.org.uk/demands/> (site discontinued).

<sup>221</sup> Generation Identity United Kingdom and Ireland homepage, accessed March 5, 2018, <https://www.generation-identity.org.uk/> (site discontinued).

<sup>222</sup> “Meet the IB, Europe’s version of America’s alt-right,” *Economist*, November 12, 2016, <https://www.economist.com/news/europe/21709986-france-austria-identitarian-movement-gives-xenophobia-youthful-edge-meet-ib>;

<sup>223</sup> Atika Shubert, “Hipster or hatermonger? The trendy young face of Austria’s far-right,” CNN, December 2, 2016, <https://www.cnn.com/2016/12/02/europe/austria-alt-right-identity-movement-martin-sellner/>.

<sup>224</sup> Christina Maza, “White Supremacists Now Have Their Own Anti-Islam Military Camps,” *Newsweek*, November 9, 2017, <http://www.newsweek.com/far-right-white-supremacists-islam-military-camps-europe-training-706578>.

<sup>225</sup> “French far-right group storms site of new mosque,” France24, October 21, 2012, <http://www.france24.com/en/20121020-france-french-far-right-group-hold-sit-protest-against-new-mosque-islam-generation-identity>.

<sup>226</sup> “How to write history like an identitarian,” Southern Poverty Law Center, February 14, 2018, <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2018/02/14/how-write-history-identitarian>.

<sup>227</sup> Lizzie Dearden, “Police arrest far-right activists as protesters block bridges with burning tyres to stop refugees entering Calais,” *Independent* (London), March 12, 2016, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/police-arrest-far-right-activists-as-protesters-block-bridges-with-burning-tyres-to-stop-refugees-a6927351.html>.

<sup>228</sup> Kashmira Gander, “National Action, Generation Identity, Britain First: The extreme far-right groups operating in the UK,” *International Business Times*, January 9, 2018, <https://www.ibtimes.co.uk/national-action-generation-identity-britain-first-far-right-groups-currently-operating-uk-1653655>.

<sup>229</sup> Antonio Parrinello and Steve Scherer, “Far-right millennials set out to sea to ‘defend Europe’ from migrants,” Reuters, July 21, 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-farright-millennials/far-right>

members chartered a ship in order to block the transport of immigrants from Libya. They draped it with a giant banner declaring “No Way—You Will Not Make Europe Home.”<sup>230</sup> GI claimed that it received \$100,000 in donations to pay for the charter.<sup>231</sup> However, the ship experienced mechanical issues and the GI crew had to be rescued by a ship belonging to the German refugee aid organization Sea Eye.<sup>232</sup> Human rights advocates accuse GI activists of delaying necessary humanitarian rescues with such tactics.<sup>233</sup>

In March 2018, British authorities banned Sellner from entering the country ahead of a speaking engagement. The British Home Office declared that his entry would not be “conducive to the public good.”<sup>234</sup> The following month, British authorities again denied Sellner entry into the country to attend a GI “European Reunion” conference.<sup>235</sup> Twitter suspended multiple GI accounts in July 2020, including Sellner’s.<sup>236</sup>

- **Base of Operations:** Founded in France; maintains chapters in the United Kingdom and Ireland, Germany, Austria, and Flanders, Belgium<sup>237</sup>
- **Website:** <https://www.generation-identity.co/>, [Generation Identity UK & Ireland](#) (site discontinued), [Génération Identitaire \(France\)](#), [Identitäre Bewegung \(Germany\)](#), [Identitäre Bewegung Österreich \(Austria\)](#) (site discontinued), [Generatie Identiteit \(Flanders\)](#)
- **Social Media:** [BitChute \(UK and Ireland\)](#), [Facebook \(Italy\)](#) (discontinued), [Instagram \(Italy\)](#) (discontinued), [Google+ \(Italy\)](#) (discontinued), [Facebook \(Austria\)](#) (discontinued), [Facebook \(Flanders\)](#) (discontinued), [Instagram \(Flanders\)](#) (discontinued), [Facebook \(UK\)](#) (discontinued), [Facebook \(Ireland and Northern Ireland\)](#) (discontinued), [Facebook \(Alba/Scotland\)](#) (discontinued), [Facebook \(Ireland\)](#) (discontinued), [Facebook \(Belfast\)](#)

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[millennials-set-out-to-sea-to-defend-europe-from-migrants-idUSKBN1A61J6](#); “Our Mission,” Defend Europe, accessed March 9, 2018, [http://defend europe.net/the-mission\\_fr/](http://defend europe.net/the-mission_fr/) (site discontinued).

<sup>230</sup> “The successes of Defend Europe,” YouTube video, 3:05, posted by “Defend Europe,” August 23, 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NpsDDtOC-yc>.

<sup>231</sup> Jason Horowitz, “For Right-Wing Italian Youth, a Mission to Disrupt Migration,” *New York Times*, July 21, 2017, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/21/world/europe/for-right-wing-italian-youth-a-mission-to-disrupt-migration.html>.

<sup>232</sup> Jon Henley, “Refugee rescue ship sails to aid of anti-migrant activists stranded in Med,” *Guardian* (London), August 11, 2017, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/aug/11/migrant-rescue-ship-sails-to-aid-of-stranded-far-right-activists>.

<sup>233</sup> Jason Horowitz, “For Right-Wing Italian Youth, a Mission to Disrupt Migration,” *New York Times*, July 21, 2017, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/21/world/europe/for-right-wing-italian-youth-a-mission-to-disrupt-migration.html>.

<sup>234</sup> Gianluca Mezzofiore, “Three far-right activists and YouTubers denied entry to the UK,” CNN, March 13, 2018, <https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/13/europe/activists-denied-entry-uk-intl/index.html>.

<sup>235</sup> Mark Townsend, “Anti-Muslim campaigners denied entry to UK at border,” *Guardian* (London), April 14, 2018, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/apr/14/anti-muslim-campaigners-denied-entry-uk-far-right-martin-sellner-abel-bodi>.

<sup>236</sup> Anna Schechter, “Twitter suspends more than 50 white nationalist accounts,” NBC News, July 10, 2020, <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/social-media/twitter-suspends-more-50-white-nationalist-accounts-n1233469>.

<sup>237</sup> Generation Identity United Kingdom and Ireland homepage, accessed March 5, 2018, <https://www.generation-identity.org.uk/> (site discontinued); “Meet the IB, Europe’s version of America’s alt-right,” *Economist*, November 12, 2016, <https://www.economist.com/news/europe/21709986-france-austria-identitarian-movement-gives-xenophobia-youthful-edge-meet-ib>.

## COUNTER EXTREMISM PROJECT

(discontinued), [Facebook \(Book\)](#) (discontinued), [Facebook \(England\)](#) (discontinued), [Facebook \(Manchester\)](#) (discontinued), [Facebook \(Wales\)](#) (discontinued), [Facebook \(London\)](#) (discontinued), [Facebook \(Defend Europe\)](#) (discontinued), [Facebook \(Patriot Peer\)](#) (discontinued), [Twitter \(Bewegung Österreich\)](#) (discontinued), [Twitter \(Flanders\)](#) (suspended), [Twitter \(Italy\)](#) (suspended), [Twitter \(London\)](#) (discontinued), [Twitter \(Manchester\)](#) (discontinued), [Twitter \(Paris\)](#) (suspended), [Twitter \(Saxony\)](#) (suspended), [Twitter \(UK & Ireland\)](#) (suspended), [YouTube \(Italy\)](#), [Twitter \(Martin Sellner\)](#) (suspended), [YouTube \(UK & Ireland\)](#) (suspended), [YouTube \(Martin Sellner\)](#) (suspended), [YouTube \(Defend Europe\)](#)

- **Leadership:** Martin Sellner and Martin Lichtmesz lead GI's Austrian chapter. Sellner is also the main leader of Defend Europe.<sup>238</sup> Lorenzo Fiato leads GI's Italian chapter.<sup>239</sup>
- **Membership Size and Relevance:** The network includes six regional chapters across Europe and smaller subchapters within those countries. GI's original French chapter allegedly had some 2,000 members as of 2016.<sup>240</sup>

Martin Sellner maintained more than 39,900 Twitter followers and 144,000 YouTube subscribers as of June 29, 2020.<sup>241</sup> The Italian GI chapter maintained 3,172 Twitter followers and 1,290 YouTube subscribers as of June 29, 2020.<sup>242</sup> The Flanders chapter had 246 Twitter followers as of June 29, 2020.<sup>243</sup> The Saxony chapter had 1,541 Twitter followers as of June 29, 2020.<sup>244</sup> The Defend Europe YouTube page had 5,227 subscribers as of June 29, 2020.<sup>245</sup>

- **Recruitment and Propaganda:** GI primarily targets European men and women in their 20s and 30s. The movement has a subgroup called Generation Identity Support Group (GISG), targeted to people over 40 to “help us protect our valuable heritage. A heritage that you have handed down.”<sup>246</sup> GI hosts online stores that sell T-shirts and stickers with slogans such as “Stop the Great Replacement,” “Chassons les Islamistes!” (“Hunt the

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<sup>238</sup> Gianluca Mezzofiore, “Three far-right activists and YouTubers denied entry to the UK,” CNN, March 13, 2018, <https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/13/europe/activists-denied-entry-uk-intl/index.html>; “How to write history like an identitarian,” Southern Poverty Law Center, February 14, 2018, <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2018/02/14/how-write-history-identitarian>.

<sup>239</sup> Jason Horowitz, “Ship Monitoring Rescues of Migrants Refuses to be Rescued,” *New York Times*, August 11, 2017, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/11/world/europe/migrant-ship-monitor-mediterranean.html>.

<sup>240</sup> “Bloc Identitaire becomes Les identitaires,” *Les Identitaires*, August 9, 2016, <http://www.les-identitaires.com/2016/08/bloc-identitaire-becomes-identitaires/>.

<sup>241</sup> Martin Sellner, Twitter account, accessed June 29, 2020, [https://twitter.com/Martin\\_Sellner](https://twitter.com/Martin_Sellner); Martin Sellner, YouTube account, accessed June 29, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZ8uFo1RKSGEg-od3Yu10Pw>.

<sup>242</sup> Generazione Identitaria, Twitter account, accessed June 29, 2020, <https://twitter.com/GenerazioneID>;

Generazione Identitaria, YouTube account, accessed June 29, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/user/GenerazioneID>.

<sup>243</sup> Generatie Identiteit, Twitter account, accessed June 29, 2020, <https://twitter.com/GIdentiteit>.

<sup>244</sup> Identitäre Sachsen, Twitter account, accessed June 29, 2020, [https://twitter.com/ib\\_sachsen](https://twitter.com/ib_sachsen).

<sup>245</sup> Defend Europe, YouTube account, accessed June 29, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwQL6Mcu34L9zHZzQ1PkyiA>.

<sup>246</sup> “GISG,” Generation Identity United Kingdom and Ireland, accessed April 16, 2018, <https://www.generation-identity.org.uk/over-40-support-group> (site discontinued).

Islamists”), “On est chez nous” (“We are home”), and “Defend Europe,” and the *Identitaires* magazine, which reports on the activities of GI and Les Identitaires.<sup>247</sup>

On April 14, 2018, GI hosted its “European Reunion” conference in England, which reportedly drew attendees from across Europe.<sup>248</sup> GI livestreamed the conference on Facebook, drawing more than 2,000 views.<sup>249</sup> The group claimed that the event was a success, but Hope Not Hate and anti-fascist Twitter account Anti-Fascist Intel alleged that organizers were forced to relocate the conference from London to Kent the day before and that prominent speakers, including Sellner, were unable to attend.<sup>250</sup>

GI relies on its social media presence to recruit and fundraise. The Defend Europe YouTube channel includes financial appeals for future protests.<sup>251</sup> YouTube hosts multiple versions of GI’s 2012 “Declaration of War” video, in which French youth declare their disenchantment with values of their parents’ generation—such as diversity, sexual liberation, and social security—and declare “war” against “anti-white racism.”<sup>252</sup>

Sellner also created a mobile app called Patriot Peer to connect GI members and sympathizers. After the crowdfunding website Kickstarter banned the app, Sellner turned to YouTube to raise support.<sup>253</sup> Sellner’s YouTube page had 25,311 subscribers and hosted more than 140 videos as of July 3, 2018.<sup>254</sup> Both Sellner’s Twitter and YouTube accounts were suspended in July 2020.<sup>255</sup>

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<sup>247</sup> Boutique Identitaire, accessed March 6, 2018, <http://www.boutique-identitaire.com/gb/>; “Shop,” Generation Identity United Kingdom and Ireland, accessed March 6, 2018, <https://www.generation-identity.org.uk/shop/> (site discontinued); “Revues,” Boutique Identitaire, accessed March 15, 2018, <http://www.boutique-identitaire.com/fr/18-revues>.

<sup>248</sup> European Reunion London Conference, Facebook event, accessed March 6, 2018, <https://www.facebook.com/events/212531269295634/>.

<sup>249</sup> Generation Identity United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, Facebook post, April 14, 2018, <https://www.facebook.com/IdentitarianMovement/videos/356243488220611/>; Tore R, “GENERATION IDENTITY HOLDS SUCCESSFUL FIRST CONFERENCE IN LONDON,” Generation Identity United Kingdom and Ireland, April 14, 2018, <https://www.generation-identity.org.uk/generation-identity-holds-successful-first-conference-in-london/> (site discontinued).

<sup>250</sup> Right Response Team, “GENERATION IDENTITY CONFERENCE: A SHAMBLES FROM START TO FINISH,” Hope Not Hate, April 14, 2018, <https://www.hopenothate.org.uk/2018/04/14/generation-identity-conference-shambles-start-finish/>; Anti-Fascist Intel, Twitter post, April 15, 2018, 1:25 p.m., <https://twitter.com/AntifaIntel/status/985569916207206400>.

<sup>251</sup> “The successes of Defend Europe,” YouTube video, 3:05, posted by “Defend Europe,” August 23, 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NpsDDtOC-yc>.

<sup>252</sup> “Generation Identitaire - A Declaration of War From the Youth of France (English subs),” YouTube video, 2:32, posted by “mike wilson,” November 8, 2013, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqybsUqkOWs>.

<sup>253</sup> “Patriot Peer - Connecting the silent majority,” YouTube video, 9:13, posted by “Martin Sellner GI,” February 12, 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFPHRCbgdNU>.

<sup>254</sup> “Martin Sellner GI” YouTube channel, accessed July 3, 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChAfRiWP0vFCrQbLRfuCA-A>.

<sup>255</sup> “Martin Sellner GI” YouTube channel, accessed July 14, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChAfRiWP0vFCrQbLRfuCA-A>; Martin Sellner, Twitter account, accessed July 14, 2020, [https://twitter.com/Martin\\_Sellner](https://twitter.com/Martin_Sellner).

In June 2018, Facebook finally took action to permanently ban GI from its platforms, citing violations of Facebook’s policies on extremism and hate speech.<sup>256</sup> With the exception of the Flanders chapter’s page, all of GI’s Facebook and Instagram accounts appeared to have been removed as of July 3, 2018. The Defend Europe website had also been removed as of the same date, though its YouTube page remained active. Related GI Twitter accounts remained active. GI UK & Ireland’s website was offline as of April 2020 and the group had migrated to a BitChute account.<sup>257</sup> Twitter also suspended Sellner’s account and multiple other GI accounts as part of a purge of more than 50 white nationalist accounts in July 2020.<sup>258</sup> GI’s Defend Europe YouTube account remained online as of July 14, 2020.<sup>259</sup>

- **Violent Activities:** GI is not known to have directly instigated any violent attacks. However, the group has engaged in military-style combat training in preparation for violent confrontation.<sup>260</sup> Some of GI’s protests have also directly threatened others. For example, in October 2016, GI members in Montpellier, France, built a fake wall over which they draped a banner declaring “Refugee-free Montpellier.” GI’s Facebook page declared that the group would not let immigrants “walk around Montpellier in peace.”<sup>261</sup>
- **Rhetoric:**
  - Martin Sellner YouTube video, January 19, 2017: “‘Diversity’ is a false idol. Immigration and multiculturalism are dogmas you are not allowed to question.”<sup>262</sup>
  - GI Ireland and Northern Ireland Facebook account, March 4, 2018: “The politicians of our country are openly advocating and promoting our replacement. Their plan is to import over 1 million migrants into Ireland over the next 10 - 20 years. Stop and reverse the great replacement of our people and culture!”<sup>263</sup>

<sup>256</sup> Luke Bailey, “Far-right group Generation Identity have been banned from Facebook across Europe,” i News, June 21, 2018, <https://inews.co.uk/news/generation-identity-banned-facebook/>.

<sup>257</sup> Generation Identity UK & Ireland, BitChute account, accessed April 27, 2020, <https://www.bitchute.com/channel/gbOO2MeCZOEp/>.

<sup>258</sup> Generation Identity Paris, Twitter account, accessed July 14, 2020, [https://twitter.com/GeneID\\_Paris](https://twitter.com/GeneID_Paris); Generation Identity Saxony, Twitter account, accessed July 14, 2020, [https://twitter.com/ib\\_sachsen](https://twitter.com/ib_sachsen); Generation Identity Italy, Twitter account, accessed July 14, 2020, <https://twitter.com/GenerazioneID>; Anna Schechter, “Twitter suspends more than 50 white nationalist accounts,” NBC News, July 10, 2020, <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/social-media/twitter-suspends-more-50-white-nationalist-accounts-n1233469>.

<sup>259</sup> Generation Identity, YouTube account, accessed July 14, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwQL6Mcu34L9zHZzO1PkyiA>.

<sup>260</sup> Christina Maza, “White Supremacists Now Have Their Own Anti-Islam Military Camps,” *Newsweek*, November 9, 2017, <http://www.newsweek.com/far-right-white-supremacists-islam-military-camps-europe-training-706578>.

<sup>261</sup> Romina McGuinness, “‘Immigrants are ISIS messengers and will RADICALISE France’ Thousands of migrants protest,” *Express* (London), October 3, 2016, <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/717210/Migrants-protest-immigrants-will-RADICALISE-France>.

<sup>262</sup> “Debunking the Dogma of Diversity,” YouTube video, 26:58, posted by “Martin Sellner GI,” January 19, 2017, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0\\_-5cfMOsEQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_-5cfMOsEQ).

<sup>263</sup> Generation Identity Éire/Ireland and Northern Ireland, Facebook post, March 4, 2018, <https://www.facebook.com/giEIRE/photos/a.107593893201018.1073741828.101837350443339/152409112052829/?type=3&theater>.



- GI public statement on a protest in Calais, France, March 2016: “The only worthwhile ‘relocation’ of migrants is back to their country of origin.”<sup>264</sup>
- GI public statement on a protest in Calais, France, March 2016: “The socialist regime, like the illegitimate ‘European’ commissioners, must understand that the people will not stand for it anymore and that as long as they will refuse to re-establish the borders - both national and European - they will erect barricades.”<sup>265</sup>

### **Golden Dawn**

- **Summary:** Golden Dawn is a neo-Nazi party that rose from a marginal role in Greek politics to become the third-largest political force in Greece in 2014. Golden Dawn party members have been involved in hundreds of acts of violence against immigrants and leftists across Greece.<sup>266</sup> Golden Dawn openly advocates national socialism, racism, and anti-Semitism, and has adorned its publications and rallies with images of Adolf Hitler, the Third Reich, Rudolf Hess, the Waffen SS, and the swastika.<sup>267</sup> In 1987, Golden Dawn leader Nikolaos Michaloliakos wrote in the party magazine, “We are the faithful soldiers of the National Socialist idea and nothing else.”<sup>268</sup>

Golden Dawn campaigns on a strongly anti-immigration platform. The party blames the “millions of illegal immigrants” and leftist political parties for what it deems “the dissolution of the Greek society.”<sup>269</sup> Golden Dawn seeks “a Greece that belongs to the Greeks.”<sup>270</sup> In a 2012 interview, two Golden Dawn parliamentarians demanded that only people with “Greek blood” should be allowed to participate in elections.<sup>271</sup>

In recent years, Golden Dawn has sought to soften its image in order to appeal to a wider spectrum of voters. When Golden Dawn organizes public events, it now rejects the neo-Nazi label and generally prefers to present itself as a “nationalist” and “patriotic”

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<sup>264</sup> Lizzie Dearden, “Police arrest far-right activists as protesters block bridges with burning tyres to stop refugees entering Calais,” *Independent* (London), March 12, 2016, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/police-arrest-far-right-activists-as-protesters-block-bridges-with-burning-tyres-to-stop-refugees-a6927351.html>.

<sup>265</sup> Lizzie Dearden, “Police arrest far-right activists as protesters block bridges with burning tyres to stop refugees entering Calais,” *Independent* (London), March 12, 2016, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/police-arrest-far-right-activists-as-protesters-block-bridges-with-burning-tyres-to-stop-refugees-a6927351.html>.

<sup>266</sup> Yiannis Baboulias, “Greece’s Neo-Nazis Were Scarier Than Anyone Imagined,” *Foreign Policy*, November 13, 2014, <http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/11/13/greeces-neo-nazis-were-scarier-than-anyone-imagined/>.

<sup>267</sup> Dina Kyriakidou, “Special Report: Greece’s far-right party goes on the offensive,” Reuters, November 12, 2012, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2012/11/12/us-greece-crisis-dawn-idUSBRE8AB09F20121112>.

<sup>268</sup> Michael Taube, “TAUBE: Shunning Greece’s Neo-Nazi ‘Golden Dawn,’” *Washington Times*, October 9, 2013, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/oct/9/taube-shunning-greeces-neo-nazi-golden-dawn-wackos/?page=all>.

<sup>269</sup> “Information,” Golden Dawn, accessed June 26, 2018, <http://www.xryshaygh.com/en/information> (site discontinued).

<sup>270</sup> “Information,” Golden Dawn, accessed June 26, 2018, <http://www.xryshaygh.com/en/information> (site discontinued).

<sup>271</sup> Boris Kálnoky, “Wahlrecht nur für reinrassige Griechen,” *Die Welt*, May 2, 2012, <http://www.welt.de/politik/ausland/article106252273/Wahlrecht-nur-fuer-reinrassige-Griechen.html>.

organization.<sup>272</sup> Golden Dawn leaders have claimed that prior Golden Dawn references to the Nazi Party were “youthful indiscretions.”<sup>273</sup> During the 2014 European elections, many of Golden Dawn’s candidates were middle-class professionals, including university professors, lawyers, surgeons, businesspeople, and a former NATO commander.<sup>274</sup> In January 2015, Golden Dawn won 17 seats in Greece’s parliamentary elections to become the country’s third largest party.<sup>275</sup> Golden Dawn failed to secure the minimum 3 percent threshold in Greece’s July 2019 parliamentary elections.<sup>276</sup>

Nonetheless, Golden Dawn members continue to court controversy over their far-right positions and violent actions. The Greek parliament temporarily banned Golden Dawn in June 2018 after Golden Dawn MP Konstantinos Barbarousis called for a military coup. Barbarousis was subsequently arrested on treason charges.<sup>277</sup> One ex-member of Golden Dawn has claimed that the party discussed plots to overthrow the Greek government using “tanks.”<sup>278</sup> In 2013, Golden Dawn MP George Germenis attempted to strike Athens Mayor George Kaminis, who was protesting Golden Dawn members distributing food packages to ethnic Greeks while intentionally excluding immigrants. Germenis received a suspended sentence in 2018.<sup>279</sup> In 2013, Greek police arrested Golden Dawn leader Nikolaos Michaloliakos and other senior party members on charges of running an illegal organization. The trial is ongoing.<sup>280</sup>

- **Base of Operations:** Greece
- **Website:** <http://xryshaygh.com/gr/> (suspended), <http://www.xryshaygh.com/en> (suspended), <https://xaameriki.wordpress.com/> (suspended)
- **Social Media:** [YouTube](#), [YouTube \(Golden Dawn New York\)](#)

<sup>272</sup> Helen Smith, “SS songs and antisemitism: the week Golden Dawn turned openly Nazi,” *Guardian* (London), June 7, 2014, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/07/greece-golden-dawn-fascism-threat-to-democracy>.

<sup>273</sup> Yiannis Baboulias, “Who is Nikolaos Michaloliakos?” *London Review of Books*, October 3, 2013, <http://www.lrb.co.uk/blog/2013/10/03/yiannis-baboulias/who-is-nikolaos-michaloliakos/>.

<sup>274</sup> Helen Smith, “Golden Dawn ditches boots for suits in European election makeover,” *Guardian* (London), May 23, 2014, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/23/golden-dawn-greece-european-election>.

<sup>275</sup> Laurence Peter, “Greek elections: Jail fails to deter far-right Golden Dawn,” BBC News, January 26, 2015, <http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-eu-30980002>.

<sup>276</sup> “Greece elections: Centre-right regains power under Kyriakos Mitsotakis,” BBC News, July 8, 2019, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-48902766>.

<sup>277</sup> “Greek far-right MP arrested, investigated for treason over coup remark,” Reuters, June 15, 2018, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-greece-macedonia-goldendawn/greek-far-right-mp-arrested-investigated-for-treason-over-coup-remark-idUSKBN1JB25D>.

<sup>278</sup> Yiannis Baboulias, “Greece’s Neo-Nazis Were Scarier Than Anyone Imagined,” *Foreign Policy*, November 13, 2014, <http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/11/13/greeces-neo-nazis-were-scarier-than-anyone-imagined/>.

<sup>279</sup> “Far-right Greek MP gets suspended sentence for mayor assault,” Reuters, March 12, 2018, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-greece-goldendawn-mp/far-right-greek-mp-gets-suspended-sentence-for-mayor-assault-idUSKCN1GO25P>.

<sup>280</sup> Nektaria Stamouli, “Greece Releases Golden Dawn Leader Nikos Michaloliakos From Jail,” *Wall Street Journal*, March 20, 2015, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/greece-to-release-golden-dawn-leader-nikos-michaloliakos-from-jail-1426866104>.

- **Leadership:** Nikolaos Michaloliakos founded Golden Dawn in 1985 and continues to lead the organization.<sup>281</sup>
- **Membership Size and Relevance:** In January 2015, Golden Dawn won 17 seats in Greece's parliamentary elections, becoming the country's third largest party.<sup>282</sup> Golden Dawn failed to secure the minimum 3 percent threshold in Greece's July 2019 parliamentary elections.<sup>283</sup>
- **Recruitment and Propaganda:** Golden Dawn employs a range of strategies to recruit members, including grassroots mobilization. It has attracted widespread appeal, boasting thousands of members and attendants at Golden Dawn rallies.<sup>284</sup> Golden Dawn also works to appeal to Greek expatriates living in Australia, Canada, and the United States.<sup>285</sup> The group also recruits online. According to its website, Golden Dawn New York aims "to counter the lies and propaganda against Golden Dawn in the English speaking world by providing official translations of Golden Dawn articles."<sup>286</sup> Golden Dawn's Greek website outlines a list of beliefs for its members, focusing on National Socialism.<sup>287</sup>

Within Greece, Golden Dawn is heavily focused on recruiting from Greek's youth population. Golden Dawn has a youth club, Galazia Stratia (Blue Army). The group has used bribes, such as cell phones, to recruit younger members.<sup>288</sup> The group has also used gyms, athletic clubs, and martial arts clubs as grounds for recruiting youths. It actively recruits at high schools, and even stands accused of launching an indoctrination course called "National Awakening," aimed at children ages 6-10.<sup>289</sup> According to Greece's education ministry, the course, which taught subjects such as history and religion, aimed

<sup>281</sup> Richard J Evans, "Europe on the verge of a nervous breakdown," *New Statesman*, June 27, 2012, <http://www.newstatesman.com/world-affairs/world-affairs/2012/06/europe-verge-nervous-breakdown>.

<sup>282</sup> Laurence Peter, "Greek elections: Jail fails to deter far-right Golden Dawn," BBC News, January 26, 2015, <http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-eu-30980002>.

<sup>283</sup> "Greece elections: Centre-right regains power under Kyriakos Mitsotakis," BBC News, July 8, 2019, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-48902766>.

<sup>284</sup> Helena Smith, "Greece's Neo Nazi Party Now Has Thousands Of Members Who Believe They Are At War," Business Insider, June 1, 2013, <http://www.businessinsider.com/golden-dawn-has-thousands-of-members-2013-6>.

<sup>285</sup> Nick Squires, Menelaos Tzafalias, and Harriet Alexander, "What is the Golden Dawn trial about?," *Telegraph* (London), April 20, 2015, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/greece/11548387/What-is-the-Golden-Dawn-trial-about.html>.

<sup>286</sup> "About," Golden Dawn New York, accessed June 25, 2018, <https://xaameriki.wordpress.com/about> (site discontinued).

<sup>287</sup> "Information," Golden Dawn, accessed June 26, 2018, <http://www.xryshaygh.com/en/information> (site discontinued).

<sup>288</sup> Lefteris Bidelas and Maria Psara, "Stuff Greek Fascists Like," *Vice*, March 22, 2014, <http://www.vice.com/read/golden-dawn-political-immunity-lift-greece>.

<sup>289</sup> Helena Smith, "Greece's Neo Nazi Party Now Has Thousands Of Members Who Believe They Are At War," Business Insider, June 1, 2013, <http://www.businessinsider.com/golden-dawn-has-thousands-of-members-2013-6>; Gianluca Mezzofiore, "Neo-Nazi Golden Dawn Recruits Children in 'National Awakening' History Course," *International Business Times*, February 28, 2013, <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/golden-dawn-greece-children-recruit-indoctrination-440502>.

to instill a sense of Greek supremacy in youth. The competing Greek party Syriza accused Golden Dawn of “brainwashing little tots with Nazi propaganda.”<sup>290</sup>

As of June 29, 2020, Golden Dawn’s YouTube page had 19,700 subscribers, an increase of more than 3,300 subscribers since July 3, 2018. The account also hosted more than 600 videos and had received more than 14 million views since October 2012.<sup>291</sup> In contrast, Golden Dawn New York’s YouTube page hosted only seven videos and has only 614 subscribers as of June 29, 2020, decreasing from 663 on March 19, 2019.<sup>292</sup> Golden Dawn’s Twitter account had been suspended as of June 24, 2018.<sup>293</sup>

- **Violent Activities:** During a 2015 trial of Golden Dawn members in Greece, prosecutors pointed to evidence of military training and attack battalions that, according to one ex-member of Golden Dawn, were preparing “to overthrow the Greek government.”<sup>294</sup> Evidence from the prosecutors showed Golden Dawn members in military clothing wielding knives, swords, handguns, rifles, and even a bazooka.<sup>295</sup> According to the ex-member of Golden Dawn, “They kept telling us that we’ll break into the parliament with tanks.”<sup>296</sup>
  - On August 24, 2014, Golden Dawn members attacked a gay couple in Athens, seriously injuring one of them.<sup>297</sup>
  - On September 17, 2013, leftist musician Pavlos Fyssas was stabbed to death near the port of Athens. Police later arrested the attacker, who claimed to be a member of Golden Dawn. Police also arrested senior members of Golden Dawn’s leadership, including party leader Nikolaos Michaloliakos.<sup>298</sup>

<sup>290</sup> Gianluca Mezzofiore, “Neo-Nazi Golden Dawn Recruits Children in ‘National Awakening’ History Course,” *International Business Times*, February 28, 2013, <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/golden-dawn-greece-children-recruit-indoctrination-440502>.

<sup>291</sup> Golden Dawn, YouTube page, accessed June 29, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/user/xryshayghcom/featured>.

<sup>292</sup> GoldenDawnDivisionNY, YouTube account, accessed March 19, 2019,

<https://www.youtube.com/user/GoldenDawnDivisionNY/feed>

<sup>293</sup> Golden Dawn, Twitter account, accessed June 24, 2018, <https://twitter.com/#!/xryshaygh>; Golden Dawn homepage, accessed June 24, 2018, <http://www.xryshaygh.com/en> (site discontinued).

<sup>294</sup> “Greece trial of Golden Dawn members begins,” *Al Jazeera*, April 20, 2015, <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/04/greece-trial-golden-dawn-150420081447112.html>; Yiannis Baboulias, “Greece’s Neo-Nazis Were Scarier Than Anyone Imagined,” *Foreign Policy*, November 13, 2014, <http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/11/13/greeces-neo-nazis-were-scarier-than-anyone-imagined/>.

<sup>295</sup> Yiannis Baboulias, “Greece’s Neo-Nazis Were Scarier Than Anyone Imagined,” *Foreign Policy*, November 13, 2014, <http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/11/13/greeces-neo-nazis-were-scarier-than-anyone-imagined/>.

<sup>296</sup> Yiannis Baboulias, “Greece’s Neo-Nazis Were Scarier Than Anyone Imagined,” *Foreign Policy*, November 13, 2014, <http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/11/13/greeces-neo-nazis-were-scarier-than-anyone-imagined/>.

<sup>297</sup> “Rise in Greek anti-gay attacks blamed on Golden Dawn party,” *South China Morning Post*, August 26, 2014, <http://www.scmp.com/news/world/article/1580879/rise-greek-anti-gay-attacks-blamed-golden-dawn-party>.

<sup>298</sup> Nektaria Stamouli, “Greek killing prompts fears of political violence,” *Wall Street Journal*, September 18, 2014, <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424127887323308504579082922836516330>; Omaira Gill, “Greece’s Golden Dawn trial going nowhere fast,” *Deutsche Welle*, April 20, 2016, <http://www.dw.com/en/greeces-golden-dawn-trial-going-nowhere-fast/a-19197580>.

- On July 21, 2013, six members of Golden Dawn posed as police officers and entered a house in Tavros where immigrant workers resided. The Golden Dawn members physically beat them and stole their wallets and work permits.<sup>299</sup>
- In May 2013, Golden Dawn MP George Germentis attempted to strike Athens Mayor George Kaminis, who was protesting Golden Dawn members distributing food packages to ethnic Greeks and intentionally excluding immigrants. Golden Dawn supporters also clashed with police. Germentis received a suspended sentence in 2018.<sup>300</sup>
- On November 1, 2012, around 150 people, including an unidentified number of high-ranking members of Golden Dawn, attacked immigrants and damaged immigrant shops.<sup>301</sup>
- In June 2012, Golden Dawn MP Ilias Kasidiaris physically attacked two female left-wing MPs on a live talk show after they criticized Golden Dawn. Kasidiaris was arrested soon after.<sup>302</sup>
- On October 12, 2012, four members of Golden Dawn attacked a 21-year-old Egyptian, severely beating him with chains and attacking him with a dog. The attack left the victim blind.<sup>303</sup>
- **Rhetoric:**
  - Golden Dawn website, undated: “[Golden Dawn is] against the population distortion, because of the millions of illegal immigrants, and the dissolution of the Greek society that is promoted by the coalition parties and the so called Left. It proposes a National policy for exiting the crisis imposed on our country. It fights for a Greece that belongs to the Greeks.”<sup>304</sup>
  - Ilias Panagiotaros, April 2014: “[Hitler is a] great personality, like Stalin.”<sup>305</sup>
  - Ilias Panagiotaros, 2013: “Golden Dawn wants to become, and will become, like Hezbollah in Lebanon, which is in effect a second government that helps even the last of its poor citizens....”<sup>306</sup>

<sup>299</sup> “Golden Dawn attack home of migrants,” The city at a time of crisis: Map of attacks on migrants in Athens, accessed October 1, 2014, <http://map.crisis-scape.net/reports/view/125>.

<sup>300</sup> “Far-right Greek MP gets suspended sentence for mayor assault,” Reuters, March 12, 2018, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-greece-goldendawn-mp/far-right-greek-mp-gets-suspended-sentence-for-mayor-assault-idUSKCN1GO25P>.

<sup>301</sup> Matthew Boesler, “REPORT: A Huge Golden Dawn Mob Led An Assault On Immigrants In Athens Last Night,” Business Insider, November 1, 2012, <http://www.businessinsider.com/golden-dawn-mob-attack-greek-hairdresser-2012-11>.

<sup>302</sup> “Far-Right Golden Dawn spokesman hits two female MPs on Greek talk show,” *Telegraph* (London), June 7, 2012, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/greece/9316125/Far-Right-Golden-Dawn-spokesman-hits-two-female-MPs-on-Greek-talk-show.html>.

<sup>303</sup> “21 year old blinded by attack by four Golden Dawn members,” The city at a time of crisis: Map of attacks on migrants in Athens, accessed October 1, 2014, <http://map.crisis-scape.net/reports/view/26>.

<sup>304</sup> “Information,” Golden Dawn, accessed June 26, 2018, <http://www.xryshaygh.com/en/information> (site discontinued).

<sup>305</sup> Helena Smith, “Greece’s Golden Dawn party describes Hitler as ‘great personality,’” *Guardian* (London), April 16, 2014, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/apr/16/greece-golden-dawn-hitler>.

<sup>306</sup> Palash Ghosh, “We Seek To Become Like Hezbollah: Greece’s Neo-Nazi Golden Dawn MP,” *International Business Times*, May 23, 2013, <http://www.ibtimes.com/we-seek-become-hezbollah-greeces-neo-nazi-golden-dawn-mp-1276743>.



- Nikolaos Michaloliakos, November 2012: “I have read a lot of books casting doubts on the number of six million Jews... There were no ovens, no gas chambers, it’s a lie.”<sup>307</sup>
- Nikolaos Michaloliakos, August 2012: “We feel disgusted in the parliament. If they want us to, we can abandon it at any given moment and take to the streets. There, they shall see what the Golden Dawn is really about, they will see what battle means, they will see what struggle means, they will see what bayonets sharpened every night mean.”<sup>308</sup>
- Nikolaos Michaloliakos, 1987: “We are the faithful soldiers of the National Socialist idea and nothing else.”<sup>309</sup>

### **Jobbik**

- **Summary:** Jobbik is a neo-fascist Hungarian political party that combines militant ethno-nationalism with anti-Semitism and anti-Roma racism. A Hungarian court ruled in January 2014 that Jobbik may be referred to as “neo-Nazi” in Hungary.<sup>310</sup> Jobbik describes itself as a “principled, conservative and radically patriotic Christian party” whose “fundamental purpose” is the protection of “Hungarian values and interests.”<sup>311</sup> Jobbik rejects “the dead-end Western European multiculturalism” and has pledged to “defend our cultural identity developed over our history.”<sup>312</sup>

A group of nationalist Catholic and Protestant university students established the precursor to Jobbik, the Right-Wing Youth Association, as an alternative to the nationalist, far-right Hungarian Justice and Life Party (MEIP) after MEIP failed to win any seats in the 2002 election.<sup>313</sup> Jobbik was officially founded in October 2003 as a

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<sup>307</sup> Agence France-Presse, “Greek Neo-Nazi Leader Denies Existence of Gas Chambers in WWII Death Camps,” *National Post*, May 15, 2012, <http://news.nationalpost.com/2012/05/15/greek-neo-nazi-leader-denies-existence-of-gas-chambers-in-wwii-death-camps>.

<sup>308</sup> Yiannis Baboulias, “Greece’s Golden Dawn Isn’t a Political Party – It’s More like a Criminal Gang,” *Guardian* (London), September 4, 2012, <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/sep/04/greece-golden-dawn-not-political-party>.

<sup>309</sup> Michael Taube, “TAUBE: Shunning Greece’s Neo-Nazi ‘Golden Dawn,’” *Washington Times*, October 9, 2013, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/oct/9/taube-shunning-greeces-neo-nazi-golden-dawn-wackos/?page=all>.

<sup>310</sup> “Gerichtsurteil in Ungarn: Jobbik darf als Neonazipartei bezeichnet werden,” *Spiegel Online*, January 28, 2014, <http://www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/urteil-in-ungarn-jobbik-darf-als-neonazi-partei-bezeichnet-werden-a-945998.html>.

<sup>311</sup> Jobbik, Facebook, accessed June 25, 2018, <https://www.facebook.com/JobbikEnglish?sk=info>.

<sup>312</sup> “Manifesto on The Guidelines For a Future Jobbik-Led Government,” Jobbik, accessed June 25, 2018, [https://www.jobbik.com/manifesto\\_on\\_the\\_guidelines\\_for\\_a\\_future\\_jobbik\\_led\\_government](https://www.jobbik.com/manifesto_on_the_guidelines_for_a_future_jobbik_led_government).

<sup>313</sup> András Kovács, “The Post-Communist Extreme Right: The Jobbik Party in Hungary,” *Right-Wing Populism in Europe: Politics and Discourse*, eds. Ruth Wodak, Brigitte Mral, Majid KhosraviNik (New York: Bloomsbury, 2013), 224, [https://books.google.com/books?id=Wrw8gC8vCnUC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbv\\_atb#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=Wrw8gC8vCnUC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbv_atb#v=onepage&q&f=false).

political party.<sup>314</sup> In Hungary's April 2018 parliamentary elections, Jobbik came in a distant second to the ruling Fidesz party, earning 19 percent of the vote to receive 26 seats. This marked a 1 percent decrease in votes for Jobbik from the 2014 election but an increase of three additional seats.<sup>315</sup>

Jobbik seeks the "reunification" of the Hungarian nation and a revision of the 1920 Treaty of Trianon, the post-World War I peace treaty between the Allied states and the Kingdom of Hungary that determined the borders of present-day Hungary.<sup>316</sup> In addition to a purported Jewish threat, Jobbik believes that the "Gypsies" are Hungary's largest problem because of "their extremely disproportionate crime rate and indolence."<sup>317</sup>

- **Base of Operations:** Hungary
- **Website:** <https://www.jobbik.com/>, <https://www.jobbik.hu/>
- **Social Media:** [Facebook](#) (site discontinued), [Twitter](#)
- **Leadership:** Gabor Vona resigned as party chair in April 2018 after Jobbik's defeat in Hungary's parliamentary elections that month.<sup>318</sup> Tamás Sneider is Jobbik's president, and Márton Gyöngyösi is its executive vice president and parliamentary faction leader.<sup>319</sup>
- **Membership Size and Relevance:** In Hungary's April 2018 parliamentary elections, Jobbik came in a distant second to the ruling Fidesz party, earning 19 percent of the vote to receive 26 seats. This marked a 1 percent decrease in votes for Jobbik from the 2014 election but an increase of three additional seats.<sup>320</sup> In 2014, Jobbik received 14.7 percent of the votes in European Parliament elections, which gave it three seats.<sup>321</sup>
- **Recruitment and Propaganda:** Jobbik claims to represent the Hungarian people and seeks to restore a sense of nationalism that the party believes had been destroyed under Hungary's former communist regime.<sup>322</sup>

<sup>314</sup> Zselyke Csaky, "Hungary: Jobbik and the 'Enemy Within,'" Freedom House, October 9, 2012, <https://freedomhouse.org/blog/hungary-jobbik-and-%E2%80%98enemy-within%E2%80%99> (site discontinued).

<sup>315</sup> "Tájékoztató adatok a választáson megjelentek számáról és arányáról," National Election Office, April 8, 2018, <http://valasztas.hu/dyn/pv18/szavossz/hu/napind.html> (site discontinued).

<sup>316</sup> "Băscescu spielt die Nationalismus-Karte," EuroTopics.net, March 13, 2014, <http://mobile.eurotopics.net/m-de/ps/top/detail/ARTICLE139989>; Alla Skvartova, Centrum für angewandte Politikforschung an der LMU München, Country Report: Moldova, accessed August 14, 2014, 11-13, [http://www.cap.uni-muenchen.de/download/2003/2003\\_Skvartova.pdf](http://www.cap.uni-muenchen.de/download/2003/2003_Skvartova.pdf).

<sup>317</sup> "Ungarn schützen, das ist unser Ziel: Bededikt Frings für die DS im Gespräch mit Gábor Vona, dem Chef der Ungarischen Garde," in Deutsche Stimme (May 2008): 9.

<sup>318</sup> "Hungary Jobbik leader Vona tenders resignation after election defeat," Reuters, April 8, 2018, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-hungary-election-jobbik/hungary-jobbik-leader-vona-tenders-resignation-after-election-defeat-idUSKBN1HF0Z4>.

<sup>319</sup> "Party leadership - Tamás Sneider and Marton Gyöngyösi," Jobbik, May 6, 2018, [https://www.jobbik.com/party\\_leadership\\_-\\_g%C3%A1bor\\_vona\\_party\\_chairman](https://www.jobbik.com/party_leadership_-_g%C3%A1bor_vona_party_chairman).

<sup>320</sup> "Tájékoztató adatok a választáson megjelentek számáról és arányáról," National Election Office, April 8, 2018, <http://valasztas.hu/dyn/pv18/szavossz/hu/napind.html> (site discontinued).

<sup>321</sup> "Hungary's right-wing dominates EU polls," EUbusiness, May 25, 2014, <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/vote-hungary.w8q>.

<sup>322</sup> "Manifesto on The Guidelines For a Future Jobbik-Led Government," Jobbik, accessed June 25, 2018, [https://www.jobbik.com/manifesto\\_on\\_the\\_guidelines\\_for\\_a\\_future\\_jobbik\\_led\\_government](https://www.jobbik.com/manifesto_on_the_guidelines_for_a_future_jobbik_led_government).

A Hungarian court ruled in January 2014 that Jobbik may be referred to as “neo-Nazi” in Hungary because of its rhetoric.<sup>323</sup> In 2008, Jobbik Chairman Gabor Vona claimed in an interview with a German neo-Nazi journal that “organized Jewry” would try to interfere in the internal affairs of Hungary. He cited “statements of the Jews in Hungary and of international Jewry that the [Hungarian] guard stands in their way and that they want to buy whole Hungary.” Jobbik’s blatant use of the Nazi “Arrow Cross” suggests Jobbik’s pride in Hungary’s Nazi past.<sup>324</sup>

Jobbik maintains a social media presence. As of June 29, 2020, the group’s Twitter account had 8,050 followers, a decrease from the 8,787 followers it had on July 3, 2018.<sup>325</sup> Jobbik’s Facebook account had 5,310 followers as of July 3, 2018.<sup>326</sup> Jobbik’s Facebook account has since been shut down.

- **Violent Activities:** In August 2007, Jobbik created the paramilitary organization Magyar Garda (“Hungarian Guard”) to “carry out the real change of regime and to rescue Hungarians,” according to Vona.<sup>327</sup> According to the U.S. Department of State, the guards wore the uniforms of Hungary’s World War II fascist government and pledged to defend the country from “bloodsuckers.”<sup>328</sup> Hungary’s Metropolitan Court of Appeal disbanded the Hungarian Guard in 2009 for intimidation of Hungary’s Roma community.<sup>329</sup> However, the group has since formed several successor organizations, including the New Hungarian Guard.<sup>330</sup>
  - In April 2009, a member of Magyar Garda stabbed his girlfriend to death and then carved a swastika into her back. He then draped her body in a Nazi flag. He was sentenced to life in prison in 2011.<sup>331</sup>
  - Between 2008 and 2009, four neo-Nazis murdered six Roma in Greece. Two of the attackers were members of Jobbik’s Hungarian Guard who sought to provoke

<sup>323</sup> Gerichtsurteil in Ungarn: Jobbik darf als Neonazipartei bezeichnet werden,” Spiegel Online, January 28, 2014, <http://www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/urteil-in-ungarn-jobbik-darf-als-neonazi-partei-bezeichnet-werden-a-945998.html>.

<sup>324</sup> “Ungarn schützen, das ist unser Ziel: Bededikt Frings für die DS im Gespräch mit Gábor Vona, dem Chef der Ungarischen Garde,” in *Deutsche Stimme* (May 2008): 9.

<sup>325</sup> Jobbik, Twitter page, accessed June 29, 2020, <https://twitter.com/JobbikMM>; Jobbik, Twitter page, accessed July 3, 2018, <https://twitter.com/JobbikMM>.

<sup>326</sup> Jobbik, Facebook page, accessed July 3, 2018, <https://www.facebook.com/pg/JobbikEnglish/about/>.

<sup>327</sup> Siobhán Dowling, “Neo-Fascist Magyar Garda Is Hungary’s Shame,” Spiegel Online, August 27, 2007, <http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/the-world-from-berlin-neo-fascist-magyar-garda-is-hungary-s-shame-a-502184.html>.

<sup>328</sup> “Hungary - International Religious Freedom Report 2008,” U.S. Department of State, 2008, <https://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/irf/2008/108450.htm>.

<sup>329</sup> Gregg Morgan, “Hungary’s Jobbik party hold anti-semitic rally in Budapest after ban attempts fail,” *Telegraph* (London), May 4, 2013, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/hungary/10037377/Hungarys-Jobbik-party-hold-anti-semitic-rally-in-Budapest-after-ban-attempts-fail.html>; Benjamin Novak, “New Hungarian Guard celebrates day of camaraderie in Budapest,” Budapest Post, July 6, 2015, <https://budapestbeacon.com/new-hungarian-guard-celebrates-day-of-camaraderie-in-budapest/>.

<sup>330</sup> Justin Spike, “National Security Committee says right-wing paramilitaries no threat to national security,” Budapest Post, November 23, 2017, [https://budapestbeacon.com/national-security-committee-says-right-wing-paramilitaries-no-threat-national-security/?sf\\_data=all&sf\\_s=hungarian+guard](https://budapestbeacon.com/national-security-committee-says-right-wing-paramilitaries-no-threat-national-security/?sf_data=all&sf_s=hungarian+guard).

<sup>331</sup> Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, “July-December, 2010 International Religious Freedom Report – Hungary,” U.S. Department of State, September 13, 2011, [https://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/irf/2010\\_5/168315.htm](https://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/irf/2010_5/168315.htm).

Romani people into violent reactions. In August 2013, three of the attackers received life sentences while the fourth was sentenced to 13 years in prison.<sup>332</sup>

- **Rhetoric:**

- Jobbik party chairman Gábor Vona during Jobbik protests against a meeting of the World Jewish Congress in Budapest, May 2013: “The Israeli conquerors, these investors, should look for another country in the world for themselves because Hungary is not for sale.”<sup>333</sup>
- Jobbik MP Márton Gyöngyösi during Jobbik protests against a meeting of the World Jewish Congress in Budapest, May 2013: Hungary had “become subjugated to Zionism, it has become a target of colonisation while we, the indigenous people, can play only the role of extras.”<sup>334</sup>
- Jobbik statement on its website regarding Hungarian Nazi collaborator Miklós Horthy, 2011: “The Horthy-era released positive élan for the nation... Under Horthy Hungary had a strong and impressing elite, which pursued the goal of the appeal of the unfair Trianon peace diktat... But since then, we have no national elite any more. During the fifty years of communism we had an internationalist elite and today we have a globalist elite. Neither of them was able and willing to represent national interests.”<sup>335</sup>

### **Lega Nord**

- **Summary:** Lega Nord (“Northern League,” a.k.a. Lega or the League) is a far-right populist Italian political party that rose to prominence in 2018 on policies of anti-immigration and “Italians First.”<sup>336</sup> Its leader, Matteo Salvini, views Italian culture and way of life as “under attack” and “at risk” due to mass immigration.<sup>337</sup> Ahead of Italy’s March 2018 elections, the League promised to deport 400,000 immigrants and instruct asylum courts to disregard all circumstances of an applicant’s journey to Italy.<sup>338</sup> The League received 17 percent of the vote in March 2018 parliamentary elections, and

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<sup>332</sup> Anton Maegerle, “Braunes Killerkommando,” Blick nach Rechts, August 7, 2013,

<http://www.bnr.de/artikel/hintergrund/braunes-killerkommando>.

<sup>333</sup> “Anti-Jewish Rally in Hungary Capital,” BBC News, May 4, 2013, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-22413301>.

<sup>334</sup> “Anti-Jewish Rally in Hungary Capital,” BBC News, May 4, 2013, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-22413301>.

<sup>335</sup> “Eine Tragödie für Europa als Ganzes,” Zurzeit.at, May 16, 2011, <http://archive.today/RbEHD#selection-425.0-425.37>.

<sup>336</sup> Isla Binnie and Steve Scherer, “Matteo Salvini, the everyman leader of Italy’s populist revolt,” Reuters, March 7, 2018, <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-italy-politics-salvini/matteo-salvini-the-everyman-leader-of-italys-populist-revolt-idUKKCN1GJ2MB>.

<sup>337</sup> Isla Binnie and Steve Scherer, “Matteo Salvini, the everyman leader of Italy’s populist revolt,” Reuters, March 7, 2018, <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-italy-politics-salvini/matteo-salvini-the-everyman-leader-of-italys-populist-revolt-idUKKCN1GJ2MB>.

<sup>338</sup> Jane McIntosh, “Who are Italy’s two leading populist parties: Five Star Movement and the League?” Deutsche Welle, March 6, 2018, <http://www.dw.com/en/who-are-italys-two-leading-populist-parties-five-star-movement-and-the-league/a-42838238>.

Salvini became Italy's interior minister.<sup>339</sup> Marine Le Pen, leader of France's far-right National Front political party, called the League's victory "the reawakening of the peoples."<sup>340</sup>

Umberto Bossi founded the League in the 1990s to represent northern Italians. He campaigned on the idea of gaining independence for a northern Italian region he called Padania. In the latter half of the twentieth century, the economic gap widened substantially between the agrarian south of Italy and the industrialized north, and consequently, many southern Italians immigrated to the north.<sup>341</sup> Bossi began to blame southern Italians for northern Italy's economic hardships, regularly demeaning them as lazy parasites living off of hardworking northerners.<sup>342</sup> In 2012, then-League politician Donatella Galli posted on Facebook her desire for three of Italy's volcanoes to destroy southern Italy. She later stated that southerners "should be placed in ovens."<sup>343</sup>

Salvini joined the League's youth wing as a teenager.<sup>344</sup> He took over the party's leadership from Bossi in 2013.<sup>345</sup> In 2014, Salvini expanded the party's reach beyond Italy's northern region and targeted Italy as a whole. The international news organization The Local dubbed him "the rising star of the Italian right."<sup>346</sup> In May 2015 regional elections, the League received 20 percent of the vote in Tuscany. Salvini called the results "proof that the days are over when we were labeled as a crazy far-right party."<sup>347</sup>

Nonetheless, the League has maintained its populist positions, casting the European Union as a threat to Italy's sovereignty while blaming immigrants and minorities for

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<sup>339</sup> Steve Scherer and Isla Binnie, "Italy cries victory as Spain opens port to rescued migrants," Reuters, June 11, 2018, <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-europe-migrants-italy-malta/rescue-boat-drifts-at-sea-as-italy-takes-anti-migrant-stance-idUKKBN1J710B>; Alessio Perrone, "Who is Matteo Salvini, Italy's new radical interior minister?" Al Jazeera, June 25, 2018, <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/matteo-salvini-italy-radical-interior-minister-180624183439451.html>.

<sup>340</sup> Jane McIntosh, "Who are Italy's two leading populist parties: Five Star Movement and the League?" Deutsche Welle, March 6, 2018, <http://www.dw.com/en/who-are-italys-two-leading-populist-parties-five-star-movement-and-the-league/a-42838238>.

<sup>341</sup> "A tale of two economies," *Economist*, May 16, 2015, <https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2015/05/16/a-tale-of-two-economies>; Celestine Bohlen, "North-South Divide in Italy: A Problem for Europe, Too," *New York Times*, November 15, 1996, <https://www.nytimes.com/1996/11/15/world/north-south-divide-in-italy-a-problem-for-europe-too.html>.

<sup>342</sup> Giulia Paravicini, "Italy's far-right jolts back from dead," *Politico*, February 3, 2016, <https://www.politico.eu/article/italys-other-matteo-salvini-northern-league-politicians-media-effettosalvini/>.

<sup>343</sup> Angela Giuffrida, "Deleting southern Italy from map 'is race hate,'" *The Local*, July 31, 2014, <https://www.thelocal.it/20140731/woman-faces-trial-for-racism-against-southern-italians>.

<sup>344</sup> Elizabeth Schumacher, "Matteo Salvini: Italy's far-right success story," *Deutsche Welle*, March 5, 2018, <http://www.dw.com/en/matteo-salvini-italys-far-right-success-story/a-42830366>.

<sup>345</sup> Isla Binnie and Steve Scherer, "Matteo Salvini, the everyman leader of Italy's populist revolt," Reuters, March 7, 2018, <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-italy-politics-salvini/matteo-salvini-the-everyman-leader-of-italys-populist-revolt-idUKKCN1GJ2MB>.

<sup>346</sup> Agence France-Presse, "Italy's Northern League launches southern push," *The Local*, December 20, 2014, <https://www.thelocal.it/20141220/italys-northern-league-launches-southern-conquest>.

<sup>347</sup> Giulia Paravicini, "Italy's far-right jolts back from dead," *Politico*, February 3, 2016, <https://www.politico.eu/article/italys-other-matteo-salvini-northern-league-politicians-media-effettosalvini/>.



diluting the Italian identity. The League believes that the European Union has harmed Italy's economy. Salvini has derided the euro as a "German currency,"<sup>348</sup> labeling it a "crime against humanity."<sup>349</sup> The League's manifesto calls for Italy to exit the European Union unless all relevant treaties are renegotiated to restore Italy's "full and legitimate sovereignty."<sup>350</sup> In 2009, Salvini called for "Milanese-only" train cars following reports of an increased immigrant population in Milan.<sup>351</sup> In September 2014, League politician Andrea Della Puppa posted a series of images to his Facebook account, including one of Adolf Hitler, suggesting that immigrants should be burned to death.<sup>352</sup>

In June 2018, Italy's Roma and Jewish communities condemned Salvini as racist after he called for a census of the Roma community in Italy. Critics compared the proposal to race laws under dictator Benito Mussolini.<sup>353</sup> Earlier in June, Salvini refused to allow a German NGO migrant rescue ship carrying more than 600 people to dock in Italy. Salvini tweeted that "Italy has stopped bowing its head to obey...."<sup>354</sup>

Salvini attempted to collapse the Italian government in August 2019 by pulling his party from the ruling coalition. He had hoped to become prime minister himself in new elections. Instead, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte pulled together a new coalition without the League. Salvini continues to serve in Italy's parliament.<sup>355</sup> Salvini and the League have both seen their national poll numbers fall during the COVID-19 pandemic. In early June 2020, Salvini's approval rating hovered around 30 percent while only 26 percent of Italians said they would vote for the League, decreasing from its 34 percent polling in Europe's 2019 elections. Nonetheless, the League remained the single most popular party in Italy.<sup>356</sup>

- **Base of Operations: Italy**

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<sup>348</sup> Simon Osborne, "'It's a GERMAN currency!' Lega Nord vows to pull Italy from euro 'MISTAKE,'" *Express* (London), February 8, 2018, <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/916123/italian-elections-2018-lega-nord-northern-league-leader-matteo-salvini-eurozone>.

<sup>349</sup> Elizabeth Schumacher, "Matteo Salvini: Italy's far-right success story," *Deutsche Welle*, March 5, 2018, <http://www.dw.com/en/matteo-salvini-italys-far-right-success-story/a-42830366>.

<sup>350</sup> Simon Osborne, "'It's a GERMAN currency!' Lega Nord vows to pull Italy from euro 'MISTAKE,'" *Express* (London), February 8, 2018, <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/916123/italian-elections-2018-lega-nord-northern-league-leader-matteo-salvini-eurozone>.

<sup>351</sup> Elizabeth Schumacher, "Matteo Salvini: Italy's far-right success story," *Deutsche Welle*, March 5, 2018, <http://www.dw.com/en/matteo-salvini-italys-far-right-success-story/a-42830366>.

<sup>352</sup> Rosie Scammell, "'Immigrants should be burned': Italian politician," *The Local*, September 22, 2014, <https://www.thelocal.it/20140922/immigrants-should-be-burned-italian-politician>.

<sup>353</sup> Gianluca Mezzofiore and Delia Gallagher, "Italian interior minister's Roma census announcement causes outrage," *CNN*, June 19, 2018, <https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/19/europe/salvini-roma-census-italy-interior-minister-intl/index.html>.

<sup>354</sup> "Italy's Matteo Salvini shuts ports to migrant rescue ship," *BBC News*, June 11, 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-44432056>.

<sup>355</sup> Gavin Jones and Giselda Vagnoni, "How Italy's 'Captain' Salvini steered his ship onto the rocks," *Reuters*, September 3, 2019, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-politics-salvini-insight/how-italys-captain-salvini-steered-his-ship-onto-the-rocks-idUSKCN1VP0HC>.

<sup>356</sup> EURACTIV.com and Agence France-Presse, "Virus puts brakes on Salvini's far-right message in Italy," *EURACTIV.com*, June 9, 2020, <https://www.euractiv.com/section/elections/news/virus-puts-brakes-on-salvinis-far-right-message-in-italy/>.

- **Website:** <https://www.leganord.org/>
- **Social Media:** [Facebook](#) (Salvini), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) (Salvini)
- **Leadership:** Matteo Salvini took over the leadership of the League from founder Umberto Bossi in 2013.<sup>357</sup>
- **Membership Size and Relevance:** The League won 17 percent of the vote in Italy's March 2018 parliamentary elections, making it the third-largest party in parliament. League leader Matteo Salvini became Italy's interior minister in June 2018 and served in that role until August 2019.<sup>358</sup>
- **Recruitment and Propaganda:** League founder Umberto Bossi castigated southern Italians and called for a separate northern Italian nation. When Salvini took control of the League in 2013, the party polled at 4 percent nationwide, below Italy's electoral threshold. Salvini ended the League's propaganda against southerners, instead promoting the idea of a united Italy that has been taken advantage of by the European Union. By 2016, the League was polling at between 16 percent and 17 percent.<sup>359</sup>

Both the League and Salvini maintain active social media accounts. As of June 29, 2020, Salvini's Twitter account had more than 1,300,000 followers, representing an increase of approximately 500,000 since July 2018.<sup>360</sup> Salvini's Facebook account had 4,266,811 likes as of June 29, 2020, almost doubling from 2,794,237 likes as of July 3, 2018.<sup>361</sup> The League's Facebook account had 741,475 likes as of June 29, 2020, compared with 437,731 likes as of July 3, 2018.<sup>362</sup>

- **Violent Activities:** The League is not directly tied to any violent activities.
- **Rhetoric:**

<sup>357</sup> Isla Binnie and Steve Scherer, "Matteo Salvini, the everyman leader of Italy's populist revolt," Reuters, March 7, 2018, <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-italy-politics-salvini/matteo-salvini-the-everyman-leader-of-italys-populist-revolt-idUKKCN1GJ2MB>.

<sup>358</sup> Steve Scherer and Isla Binnie, "Italy cries victory as Spain opens port to rescued migrants," Reuters, June 11, 2018, <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-europe-migrants-italy-malta/rescue-boat-drifts-at-sea-as-italy-takes-anti-migrant-stance-idUKKBN1J710B>; Alessio Perrone, "Who is Matteo Salvini, Italy's new radical interior minister?" Al Jazeera, June 25, 2018, <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/matteo-salvini-italy-radical-interior-minister-180624183439451.html>; Gavin Jones and Giselda Vagnoni, "How Italy's 'Captain' Salvini steered his ship onto the rocks," Reuters, September 3, 2019, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-politics-salvini-insight/how-italys-captain-salvini-steered-his-ship-onto-the-rocks-idUSKCN1VP0HC>.

<sup>359</sup> Giulia Paravicini, "Italy's far-right jolts back from dead," *Politico*, February 3, 2016, <https://www.politico.eu/article/italys-other-matteo-salvini-northern-league-politicians-media-effettosalvini/>.

<sup>360</sup> Matteo Salvini, Twitter page, accessed June 29, 2020, <https://twitter.com/matteosalvinimi>; Matteo Salvini, Twitter page, accessed July 3, 2018, <https://twitter.com/matteosalvinimi>.

<sup>361</sup> Matteo Salvini, Facebook page, accessed June 29, 2020, [https://www.facebook.com/salviniofficial/?hc\\_ref=ARQa5hN9uCM3E1MwasCHBwREunWb2h3TxL46EqewppxMYY2E-kOJ1CQaPwDcYvOOVdE](https://www.facebook.com/salviniofficial/?hc_ref=ARQa5hN9uCM3E1MwasCHBwREunWb2h3TxL46EqewppxMYY2E-kOJ1CQaPwDcYvOOVdE); Matteo Salvini, Facebook page, accessed July 3, 2018, [https://www.facebook.com/salviniofficial/?hc\\_ref=ARQa5hN9uCM3E1MwasCHBwREunWb2h3TxL46EqewppxMYY2E-kOJ1CQaPwDcYvOOVdE](https://www.facebook.com/salviniofficial/?hc_ref=ARQa5hN9uCM3E1MwasCHBwREunWb2h3TxL46EqewppxMYY2E-kOJ1CQaPwDcYvOOVdE).

<sup>362</sup> Lega, Facebook page, accessed June 29, 2020, <https://www.facebook.com/legasalvinipremier/>; Lega, Facebook page, accessed July 3, 2018, <https://www.facebook.com/legasalvinipremier/>.

- Matteo Salvini, tweet, June 2018: “Italy has stopped bowing its head to obey, this time there are those who say NO.”<sup>363</sup>
- Matteo Salvini in a televised interview, June 18, 2018: “Unfortunately we will have to keep the Italian Roma because we can’t expel them.”<sup>364</sup>
- Matteo Salvini, undated: “We are under attack. Our culture, society, traditions and way of life are at risk.”<sup>365</sup>
- Former League councilor Donatella Galli, 2012: “To me, southerners are like the Jews were to Hitler, and should be placed in ovens.”<sup>366</sup>

### **Les Identitaires**

- **Summary:** Les Identitaires is a far-right anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant French group created in 2003 as Bloc Identitaire to defend the French identity from what it considered harmful foreign influences. The group changed its name in 2016, promising to be a “centre of agitation and training.”<sup>367</sup> Les Identitaires members consider themselves to be patriots and nationalists rather than anti-Muslim or racist. Nonetheless, the group opposes globalization and believes that Muslim immigrants to Europe are invaders who threaten European identity.<sup>368</sup> Les Identitaires’ youth wing, Generation Identity, has spread to five other European regions outside of France.<sup>369</sup>

Les Identitaires has staged numerous demonstrations in and around France’s majority Muslim areas in order to protest what it considers attacks on French values. In 2006, Bloc Identitaires launched a campaign to distribute soup to homeless people in predominately Muslim neighborhoods, although the soup was intentionally made with pork to exclude

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<sup>363</sup> “Italy’s Matteo Salvini shuts ports to migrant rescue ship,” BBC News, June 11, 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-44432056>.

<sup>364</sup> “Italian interior minister wants census of Roma communities,” Reuters, June 18, 2018, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-roma/italian-interior-minister-wants-census-of-roma-communities-idUSKBN1JE2H0>.

<sup>365</sup> Isla Binnie and Steve Scherer, “Matteo Salvini, the everyman leader of Italy’s populist revolt,” Reuters, March 7, 2018, <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-italy-politics-salvini/matteo-salvini-the-everyman-leader-of-italys-populist-revolt-idUKKCN1GJ2MB>.

<sup>366</sup> Angela Giuffrida, “Deleting southern Italy from map ‘is race hate,’” The Local, July 31, 2014, <https://www.thelocal.it/20140731/woman-faces-trial-for-racism-against-southern-italians>.

<sup>367</sup> “Bloc Identitaire becomes Les identitaires,” Les Identitaires website, August 9, 2016, <http://www.les-identitaires.com/2016/08/bloc-identitaire-becomes-identitaires/>.

<sup>368</sup> Associated Press, “French far-right group has message in menu,” Boston.com, December 10, 2011, [http://archive.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2011/12/10/french\\_far\\_right\\_group\\_has\\_message\\_in\\_menu/](http://archive.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2011/12/10/french_far_right_group_has_message_in_menu/).

<sup>369</sup> Generation Identity United Kingdom and Ireland homepage, accessed March 5, 2018, <https://www.generation-identity.org.uk/> (site discontinued); “Meet the IB, Europe’s version of America’s alt-right,” *Economist*, November 12, 2016, <https://www.economist.com/news/europe/21709986-france-austria-identitarian-movement-gives-xenophobia-youthful-edge-meet-ib>; Haydn Rippon, “Occupy le mosque: France’s new radical nativism,” *The Conversation*, November 5, 2012, <https://theconversation.com/occupy-le-mosque-frances-new-radical-nativism-10368>.

Muslims and Jews.<sup>370</sup> French authorities shut down the soup kitchens in February 2006, declaring that they intentionally discriminated against Muslims and Jews.<sup>371</sup>

In June 2010, Bloc Identitaire held a pork sausage party in Paris at the Arc de Triomphe. The event, which was originally planned to take place outside of a mosque, was moved after police banned the group from rallying outside of the mosque on grounds of maintaining public order. An estimated 7,000 people registered to attend through Facebook.<sup>372</sup> In 2011, the group staged a “march of pigs” protest in French neighborhoods with large Muslim populations. The Identitarians feasted on wine and pork, both of which are prohibited under Islamic dietary laws, claiming that such things would soon be illegal in France because of Muslim immigration.<sup>373</sup>

In 2007, Bloc Identitaire co-founder Philippe Vardon was fined and imprisoned for incitement to discrimination after the Identitarian Youth wing—which he led at the time—distributed pamphlets casting Muslim immigrants as rapists.<sup>374</sup>

Though Bloc Identitaire became a political party in 2009, it considered the far-right National Front party a political ally and distanced itself from political races where it might challenge the National Front. In 2016, the group changed its name to Les Identitaires, alleging that it would act as a “centre of agitation and training” and a “launch pad of the main identity offensives.”<sup>375</sup> The group continues to publish propaganda and organize events.<sup>376</sup>

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<sup>370</sup> “French crack down on ‘racist soup,’” BBC News, January 25, 2006,

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4644766.stm>.

<sup>371</sup> Kim Willsher, “France’s ‘racist’ soup kitchens shut down,” *Telegraph* (London), February 19, 2006, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/france/1510908/Frances-racist-soup-kitchens-shut-down.html>;

“Pork soup handouts not racist - French judge,” *Guardian* (London), January 2, 2007,

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2007/jan/02/france>; Adam Jones, “Pig soup off menu for Paris homeless,” *Financial Times*, January 7, 2007, <https://www.ft.com/content/e1900504-9e81-11d1-bd-ac03-0000779e2340>.

<sup>372</sup> Robert Marquand, “Facebook draws 7,000 to anti-Muslim pork sausage party in Paris,” *Christian Science Monitor*, June 17, 2010, <https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2010/0617/Facebook-draws-7-000-to-anti-Muslim-pork-sausage-party-in-Paris>.

<sup>373</sup> Elaine Ganley, “French radicals get respect in Le Pen’s presidential race,” Associated Press, April 3, 2017, <https://apnews.com/bc2f5b9d6dea47838e7052d3a27a3729>; Associated Press, “French far-right group has message in menu,” Boston.com, December 10, 2011,

[http://archive.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2011/12/10/french\\_far\\_right\\_group\\_has\\_message\\_in\\_menu/](http://archive.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2011/12/10/french_far_right_group_has_message_in_menu/).

<sup>374</sup> “How to write history like an identitarian,” Southern Poverty Law Center, February 14, 2018, <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2018/02/14/how-write-history-identitarian>; Jon Henley, “France’s neo-Nazi breeding ground,” *Guardian* (London), July 20, 2002,

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2002/jul/20/thefarright.france>; Philip Delves Broughton, “French neo-Nazi group faces ban,” *Telegraph* (London), July 20, 2002,

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/france/1403056/French-neo-Nazi-group-faces-ban.html>.

<sup>375</sup> “Bloc Identitaire becomes Les identitaires,” Les Identitaires website, August 9, 2016, <http://www.les-identitaires.com/2016/08/bloc-identitaire-becomes-identitaires/>.

<sup>376</sup> “Articles,” Les Identitaires website, accessed April 28, 2020, <https://www.les-identitaires.com/identite-europeenne/articles/>.

- **Base of Operations:** Nice, France<sup>377</sup>
- **Website:** <http://www.les-identitaires.com/>
- **Social Media:** [Facebook](#) (discontinued), [Twitter](#), [Twitter \(Philippe Vardon\)](#), [YouTube](#)
- **Leadership:** Fabrice Robert and Philippe Vardon founded Bloc Identitaire in 2003.<sup>378</sup> Robert and Jean-David Cattin took over the leadership of Les Identitaires in 2016.<sup>379</sup> Vardon reportedly led Les Identitaires as of April 2017.<sup>380</sup>
- **Membership Size and Relevance:** Les Identitaires has estimated its membership at around 4,000, but authorities doubt the veracity of the group's numbers.<sup>381</sup> Though French far-right political party National Front has denied ties to Les Identitaires, it has reportedly looked to the group as an "idea box."<sup>382</sup> Les Identitaires leader Philippe Vardon is also a regional councilor for the National Front, and worked on the social media team of National Front leader Marine Le Pen's presidential campaign in 2017.<sup>383</sup>
- **Recruitment and Propaganda:** As of June 29, 2020, the group's YouTube page had 356 subscribers and five videos that had collectively been viewed 15,704 times, compared with 198 subscribers and five videos that had collectively received over 12,478 views as of July 3, 2018.<sup>384</sup> The group had 13,800 followers on Twitter as of June 29, 2020, representing a small increase of only 600 since July 3, 2018.<sup>385</sup> The group's Facebook page had more than 58,000 followers as of March 15, 2018, but was shut down as of July 3, 2018.<sup>386</sup>

Les Identitaires requests donations through its website to fund its propaganda materials, meetings, training, and travel.<sup>387</sup> The group also shares a "Boutique" webstore with its youth wing, Generation Identity. The online store sells shirts, flags, and stickers with

<sup>377</sup> Les Identitaires, Facebook page, accessed March 15, 2018, <https://www.facebook.com/lesidentitaires>.

<sup>378</sup> "How to write history like an identitarian," Southern Poverty Law Center, February 14, 2018, <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2018/02/14/how-write-history-identitarian>.

<sup>379</sup> "Bloc Identitaire becomes Les identitaires," Les Identitaires, August 9, 2016, <http://www.les-identitaires.com/2016/08/bloc-identitaire-becomes-identitaires/>.

<sup>380</sup> Elaine Ganley, "French radicals get respect in Le Pen's presidential race," Associated Press, April 3, 2017, <https://apnews.com/bc2f5b9d6dea47838e7052d3a27a3729>.

<sup>381</sup> Associated Press, "French far-right group has message in menu," Boston.com, December 10, 2011, [http://archive.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2011/12/10/french\\_far\\_right\\_group\\_has\\_message\\_in\\_menu/](http://archive.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2011/12/10/french_far_right_group_has_message_in_menu/).

<sup>382</sup> Associated Press, "French far-right group has message in menu," Boston.com, December 10, 2011, [http://archive.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2011/12/10/french\\_far\\_right\\_group\\_has\\_message\\_in\\_menu/](http://archive.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2011/12/10/french_far_right_group_has_message_in_menu/).

<sup>383</sup> Elaine Ganley, "French radicals get respect in Le Pen's presidential race," Associated Press, April 3, 2017, <https://apnews.com/bc2f5b9d6dea47838e7052d3a27a3729>; Nicolas Vinocur, "Marine Le Pen's internet army," *Politico*, February 12, 2017, <https://www.politico.eu/article/marine-le-pens-internet-army-far-right-trolls-social-media/>.

<sup>384</sup> Les Identitaires, YouTube channel, accessed June 29, 2020, [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpXCfMn2gE\\_9zYrREWHmLcQ/featured](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpXCfMn2gE_9zYrREWHmLcQ/featured); Les Identitaires, YouTube channel, accessed July 3, 2018, [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpXCfMn2gE\\_9zYrREWHmLcQ/featured](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpXCfMn2gE_9zYrREWHmLcQ/featured).

<sup>385</sup> Les Identitaires, Twitter page, accessed June 29, 2020, [https://twitter.com/les\\_ids](https://twitter.com/les_ids); Les Identitaires, Twitter page, accessed July 3, 2018, [https://twitter.com/les\\_ids](https://twitter.com/les_ids).

<sup>386</sup> Les Identitaires, Facebook page, accessed March 15, 2018, <https://www.facebook.com/lesidentitaires>; Les Identitaires, Facebook page, accessed July 3, 2018, <https://www.facebook.com/lesidentitaires>.

<sup>387</sup> "Nous soutenir," Les Identitaires website, accessed April 28, 2020, <https://www.les-identitaires.com/soutenir-les-identitaires/>.



slogans such as “On est chez nous” (“We are home”) and “Defend Europe.”<sup>388</sup> The site also sells *Identitaires* magazine, a glossy magazine that reports on the activities of Les Identitaires and Generation Identity.<sup>389</sup>

- **Violent Activities:** Les Identitaires officially rejects violence, but its protests have at times devolved into violent confrontations with counter-protesters.
  - A 2011 protest in Lyon, France, turned violent and had to be broken up by police.<sup>390</sup>
  - In 2014, Vardon received a six-month prison sentence for a physical altercation with three Magrebian men. Vardon alleged that they started the fight, while they alleged that he attacked them with teargas after making racial slurs. All four received prison sentences.<sup>391</sup>
- **Rhetoric:**
  - Les Identitaires statement on the October 1, 2017, stabbing attack in Marseille, France, October 2, 2017: “By its laxity and lack of rigor in the expulsion of illegal immigrants, the French state endangers its citizens ... While Islamic terrorists have declared war on Europe and especially France, such lightness is criminal!”<sup>392</sup>
  - Les Identitaires statement on its name change, August 9, 2016: “Les Identitaires will be a centre of agitation and training. Being the only one able to deliver an identity label, it will be the launch pad of the main identity offensives.”<sup>393</sup>
  - Bloc Identitaire member Jean-Christophe Oberlaender, December 2011: “The combat is urgent. We don’t have the choice.”<sup>394</sup>
  - Bloc Identitaire member Jean-Christophe Oberlaender, December 2011: “Today, it’s the Arabs. If it’s the Chinese tomorrow, I’ll combat the Chinese.”<sup>395</sup>

## National Action

- **Summary:** National Action is a British far-right, neo-Nazi, white supremacist group that emerged in 2013.<sup>396</sup> The group, which aims to enact its vision that “Britain should be for

<sup>388</sup> Boutique Identitaire, accessed March 6, 2018, <http://www.boutique-identitaire.com/gb/>.

<sup>389</sup> “Revues,” Boutique Identitaire, accessed March 15, 2018, <http://www.boutique-identitaire.com/fr/18-revues>.

<sup>390</sup> Associated Press, “French far-right group has message in menu,” Boston.com, December 10, 2011, [http://archive.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2011/12/10/french\\_far\\_right\\_group\\_has\\_message\\_in\\_menu/](http://archive.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2011/12/10/french_far_right_group_has_message_in_menu/).

<sup>391</sup> “L’élú FN Philippe Vardon condamné à six mois de prison ferme après une rixe,” Nice Matin, October 4, 2016, <http://www.nicematin.com/faits-divers/lelu-fn-philippe-vardon-condamne-a-six-mois-de-prison-ferme-apres-une-rix-82541>; “How to write history like an identitarian,” Southern Poverty Law Center, February 14, 2018, <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2018/02/14/how-write-history-identitarian>.

<sup>392</sup> “Le terroriste islamiste de Marseille était clandestin !,” Les Identitaires website, October 2, 2017, <http://www.les-identitaires.com/2017/10/terroriste-islamiste-de-marseille-etait-clandestin/>.

<sup>393</sup> “Bloc Identitaire becomes Les identitaires,” Les Identitaires website, August 9, 2016, <http://www.les-identitaires.com/2016/08/bloc-identitaire-becomes-identitaires/>.

<sup>394</sup> Associated Press, “French far-right group has message in menu,” Boston.com, December 10, 2011, [http://archive.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2011/12/10/french\\_far\\_right\\_group\\_has\\_message\\_in\\_menu/](http://archive.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2011/12/10/french_far_right_group_has_message_in_menu/).

<sup>395</sup> Associated Press, “French far-right group has message in menu,” Boston.com, December 10, 2011, [http://archive.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2011/12/10/french\\_far\\_right\\_group\\_has\\_message\\_in\\_menu/](http://archive.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2011/12/10/french_far_right_group_has_message_in_menu/).

<sup>396</sup> Tom Porter, “New UK Far-Right Group National Action Led By Student and Former Double-Glazing Salesman,” International Business Times, June 8, 2014, <https://www.ibtimes.co.uk/new-uk-far-right-group-national->

British people,”<sup>397</sup> has held rallies and demonstrations at which supporters have declared that “Hitler was right” and warned against “the disease of international Jewry,” which will eventually end “in the chambers”—referring to Nazi gas chambers.<sup>398</sup> During a 2014 demonstration in Liverpool, National Action members distributed pamphlets calling to “Cleanse Britain of parasites. The white man is on the march – white power.”<sup>399</sup> The British government designated National Action as a terrorist group in 2016, marking the first time that membership of a far-right group had been prohibited in the United Kingdom since World War II.<sup>400</sup>

National Action praised the June 2016 murder of Member of Parliament Jo Cox by the far-right ultra-nationalist Thomas Mair. National Action members reportedly adopted the extremist language that Mair used during his trial, calling for “death to traitors, freedom for Britain.” The phrase appeared on National Action’s website before the site was removed.<sup>401</sup>

British police reportedly arrested 22 members of National Action throughout 2016.<sup>402</sup> That December, then-U.K. Home Secretary Amber Rudd banned National Action, officially classifying the group as a terrorist organization and outlawing membership and support of the group. Rudd declared National Action to be “a racist, antisemitic and homophobic organization which stirs up hatred, glorifies violence and promotes a vile ideology...It has absolutely no place in a Britain that works for everyone.”<sup>403</sup> Despite the

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[action-led-by-student-former-double-glazing-salesman-1451795](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/12/neo-nazi-group-national-action-banned-by-uk-home-secretary); Matt Quinton, “‘THERE WILL BE VIOLENCE’ Vile ‘New Hitler Youth’ threaten gun violence and Jewish genocide as they recruit impressionable supporters online,” *Sun* (London), December 12, 2016, <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/2377346/vile-new-hitler-youth-threaten-gun-violence-and-jewish-genocide-as-they-recruit-impressionable-supporters-online/>.

<sup>397</sup> Lucy Sherriff, “Meet New Neo-Nazi Group National Action Which Just Wants To ‘Piss People Off,’” *Huffington Post*, June 3, 2014, [https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/03/06/new-neo-nazi-group-national-action\\_n\\_4910260.html?guccounter=1](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/03/06/new-neo-nazi-group-national-action_n_4910260.html?guccounter=1).

<sup>398</sup> Jessica Elgot, “Neo-Nazi group National Action banned by UK home secretary,” *Guardian* (London), December 12, 2016, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/12/neo-nazi-group-national-action-banned-by-uk-home-secretary>; Lucy Sherriff, “Meet New Neo-Nazi Group National Action Which Just Wants To ‘Piss People Off,’” *Huffington Post*, June 3, 2014, [https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/03/06/new-neo-nazi-group-national-action\\_n\\_4910260.html?guccounter=1](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/03/06/new-neo-nazi-group-national-action_n_4910260.html?guccounter=1).

<sup>399</sup> Tom Porter, “New UK Far-Right Group National Action Led By Student and Former Double-Glazing Salesman,” *International Business Times*, June 8, 2014, <https://www.ibtimes.co.uk/new-uk-far-right-group-national-action-led-by-student-former-double-glazing-salesman-1451795>.

<sup>400</sup> Jessica Elgot, “Neo-Nazi group National Action banned by UK home secretary,” *Guardian* (London), December 12, 2016, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/12/neo-nazi-group-national-action-banned-by-uk-home-secretary>.

<sup>401</sup> Richard Vernalls, “National Action: Alleged neo-nazi group member had ‘get banged’ image of murdered MP Jo Cox,” *Independent* (London), March 15, 2018, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/national-action-soldiers-neonazi-terrorism-jo-cox-white-vehvilainen-barrett-court-a8256646.html>.

<sup>402</sup> Sophie Jamieson and Victoria Ward, “Three men including two soldiers charged with being members of banned neo-Nazi group National Action,” *Telegraph* (London), September 11, 2017, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/09/11/three-men-charged-members-banned-neo-nazi-group-national-action/>.

<sup>403</sup> Jessica Elgot, “Neo-Nazi group National Action banned by UK home secretary,” *Guardian* (London), December 12, 2016, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/12/neo-nazi-group-national-action-banned-by-uk-home-secretary>.

proscription, National Action has not disbanded. In January 2018, British police arrested six suspected National Action members. According to whistleblower Robbie Mullen during the suspects' June 2018 trial, the group has maintained its organizational structure and continued to meet without the official label of National Action. He further described combat training camps where members learned hand-to-hand fighting.<sup>404</sup> Mullen described plans to kill a Labour Party parliamentarian and preparation for a so-called "white jihad."<sup>405</sup>

- **Base of Operations:** United Kingdom
- **Website:** <http://nationalaction.info/> (decommissioned)
- **Social Media:** National Action previously used Facebook, Twitter, and VK, but its accounts have since been shut down.<sup>406</sup>
- **Leadership:** Benjamin Raymond was revealed as National Action's leader and Alex Davies as the group's co-leader in 2014.<sup>407</sup> During the 2018 trial of alleged National Action member Jack Renshaw, former member Robbie Mullen testified that Christopher Lythgoe led the group and organized combat training.<sup>408</sup>
- **Membership Size and Relevance:** The membership size is not determined.
- **Recruitment and Propaganda:** National Action initially targeted students, particularly between the ages of 16 and 25. The group was "a general reaction to the malaise in the current scene of the British right," according to one of its members.<sup>409</sup> An insider told the British *Sun* newspaper that meetings would attract about 30 "youngsters," many of whom weren't even old enough to drive or go to bars.<sup>410</sup> In June 2016, National Action held a Miss Hitler contest to raise awareness of female white supremacists. The identity of the Scottish woman who won the contest was concealed, but when asked by National

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<sup>404</sup> Charlie Bayliss, "National Action 'members attended terror-style training camps to learn judo, kickboxing and street fighting martial arts for upcoming race war,'" *Daily Mail* (London), June 13, 2018, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5840925/National-Action-members-attended-terror-style-training-camps-learn-MMA.html>.

<sup>405</sup> "Banned neo-Nazi group National Action 'kept meeting,'" BBC News, June 14, 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-44489796>.

<sup>406</sup> Matt Quinton, "'THERE WILL BE VIOLENCE' Vile 'New Hitler Youth' threaten gun violence and Jewish genocide as they recruit impressionable supporters online," *Sun* (London), December 12, 2016, <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/2377346/vile-new-hitler-youth-threaten-gun-violence-and-jewish-genocide-as-they-recruit-impressionable-supporters-online/>.

<sup>407</sup> Tom Porter, "New UK Far-Right Group National Action Led By Student and Former Double-Glazing Salesman," *International Business Times*, June 8, 2014, <https://www.ibtimes.co.uk/new-uk-far-right-group-national-action-led-by-student-former-double-glazing-salesman-1451795>.

<sup>408</sup> Charlie Bayliss, "National Action 'members attended terror-style training camps to learn judo, kickboxing and street fighting martial arts for upcoming race war,'" *Daily Mail* (London), June 13, 2018, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5840925/National-Action-members-attended-terror-style-training-camps-learn-MMA.html>.

<sup>409</sup> Lucy Sherriff, "Meet New Neo-Nazi Group National Action Which Just Wants To 'Piss People Off,'" *Huffington Post*, June 3, 2014, [https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/03/06/new-neo-nazi-group-national-action\\_n\\_4910260.html?guccounter=1](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/03/06/new-neo-nazi-group-national-action_n_4910260.html?guccounter=1).

<sup>410</sup> Matt Quinton, "'THERE WILL BE VIOLENCE' Vile 'New Hitler Youth' threaten gun violence and Jewish genocide as they recruit impressionable supporters online," *Sun* (London), December 12, 2016, <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/2377346/vile-new-hitler-youth-threaten-gun-violence-and-jewish-genocide-as-they-recruit-impressionable-supporters-online/>.

Action's website whom she'd like to kill, she responded that she would put German Chancellor Angela Merkel "in one of her camps and let her pet refugees do the rest."<sup>411</sup>

In March 2018, British Member of Parliament Yvette Cooper accused YouTube of complicity for failing to remove a video of a National Action rally from 2016. Cooper flagged the video at least seven times with no action taken by YouTube.<sup>412</sup>

- **Violent Activities:** National Action has not been linked to specific violent attacks. Nonetheless, the group's rhetoric threatens violence to initiate its belief that "Britain should be for British people,"<sup>413</sup> and some of its members allegedly attend military-style training camps in preparation for violence, where judo, kickboxing, and street fighting are reportedly taught.<sup>414</sup> During his 2018 trial, alleged National Action member Jack Renshaw admitted to buying a knife in order to kill Labour MP Rosie Cooper.<sup>415</sup>
- **Rhetoric:**
  - Miss Hitler contest winner statement on National Action's website, June 2016: "Eventually the Jewish propaganda became too obvious to ignore and so I became involved with NA."<sup>416</sup>
  - Spokesman Jack Renshaw speaking at a far-right rally, 2016: "These invaders, these parasites, they're not just going to roll over and let us remove them from our country. They will put up a fight and we need the killer instinct."<sup>417</sup>
  - National Action member Benjamin Raymond in an undated 2014 blog post: "There are non-whites and Jews in my country who all need to be exterminated. As a teenager, Mein Kampf changed my life. I am not ashamed to say I love Hitler."<sup>418</sup>

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<sup>411</sup> Rachael Pells, "Scottish woman named 'Miss Hitler 2016' in neo-Nazi beauty pageant," *Independent* (London), June 30, 2016, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/scottish-woman-named-miss-hitler-2016-neo-nazi-beauty-pageant-a7112216.html>.

<sup>412</sup> "YouTube attacked over Neo-Nazi National Action video," BBC News, March 7, 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-43319975>.

<sup>413</sup> Lucy Sherriff, "Meet New Neo-Nazi Group National Action Which Just Wants To 'Piss People Off,'" Huffington Post, June 3, 2014, [https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/03/06/new-neo-nazi-group-national-action\\_n\\_4910260.html?guccounter=1](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/03/06/new-neo-nazi-group-national-action_n_4910260.html?guccounter=1).

<sup>414</sup> Charlie Bayliss, "National Action 'members attended terror-style training camps to learn judo, kickboxing and street fighting martial arts for upcoming race war,'" *Daily Mail* (London), June 13, 2018, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5840925/National-Action-members-attended-terror-style-training-camps-learn-MMA.html>.

<sup>415</sup> "Man pleads guilty over plot to murder MP Rosie Cooper," Sky News, June 12, 2018, <https://news.sky.com/story/man-pleads-guilty-over-plot-to-murder-mp-rosie-cooper-11402412>.

<sup>416</sup> Rachael Pells, "Scottish woman named 'Miss Hitler 2016' in neo-Nazi beauty pageant," *Independent* (London), June 30, 2016, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/scottish-woman-named-miss-hitler-2016-neo-nazi-beauty-pageant-a7112216.html>.

<sup>417</sup> Matt Quinton, "'THERE WILL BE VIOLENCE' Vile 'New Hitler Youth' threaten gun violence and Jewish genocide as they recruit impressionable supporters online," *Sun* (London), December 12, 2016, <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/2377346/vile-new-hitler-youth-threaten-gun-violence-and-jewish-genocide-as-they-recruit-impressionable-supporters-online/>.

<sup>418</sup> Tom Porter, "New UK Far-Right Group National Action Led By Student and Former Double-Glazing Salesman," *International Business Times*, June 8, 2014, <https://www.ibtimes.co.uk/new-uk-far-right-group-national-action-led-by-student-former-double-glazing-salesman-1451795>.

- Unidentified National Action member to Huffington Post answering a question about immigrants, 2014: “It’s not as if we don’t have a problem with them being here because ideally we’d want to send them all back. But our vitriol is not for them, it’s for the people who brought them here in the first place. Britain should be for British people.”<sup>419</sup>
- Unidentified National Action member to Huffington Post, 2014: “It’s far easier to assimilate a white person than a black person. With coloured people we’d say big no to them coming over. But with [white people] we’d be a bit more lenient.”<sup>420</sup>
- National Action website, 2014: “Educated readers will agree that there is no legitimate reason to not be a racist or an anti-Semite in 2014.”<sup>421</sup>
- National Action website, 2014: “Weakness on the Jewish question is simply unforgivable, ignorance is inexcusable, the Jew has a name and it glares you in the face when discussing any world problems.”<sup>422</sup>

### **Nationalist Social Club (NSC)**

- **Summary:** The Nationalist Social Club (NSC) is reportedly one of the largest and most active neo-Nazi groups in the United States and has established a presence in Germany, Hungary, and Bulgaria.<sup>423</sup> A German member identified only as Paolo has claimed NSC is in the beginning stages and trying to build up its network.<sup>424</sup> NSC was founded in December 2019 in Massachusetts and comprises small independent cells around the world.<sup>425</sup> NSC members believe they are in a state of war against non-Aryans,

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<sup>419</sup> Lucy Sherriff, “Meet New Neo-Nazi Group National Action Which Just Wants To ‘Piss People Off,’” Huffington Post, June 3, 2014, [https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/03/06/new-neo-nazi-group-national-action\\_n\\_4910260.html?guccounter=1](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/03/06/new-neo-nazi-group-national-action_n_4910260.html?guccounter=1).

<sup>420</sup> Lucy Sherriff, “Meet New Neo-Nazi Group National Action Which Just Wants To ‘Piss People Off,’” Huffington Post, June 3, 2014, [https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/03/06/new-neo-nazi-group-national-action\\_n\\_4910260.html?guccounter=1](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/03/06/new-neo-nazi-group-national-action_n_4910260.html?guccounter=1).

<sup>421</sup> Lucy Sherriff, “Meet New Neo-Nazi Group National Action Which Just Wants To ‘Piss People Off,’” Huffington Post, June 3, 2014, [https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/03/06/new-neo-nazi-group-national-action\\_n\\_4910260.html?guccounter=1](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/03/06/new-neo-nazi-group-national-action_n_4910260.html?guccounter=1).

<sup>422</sup> Lucy Sherriff, “Meet New Neo-Nazi Group National Action Which Just Wants To ‘Piss People Off,’” Huffington Post, June 3, 2014, [https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/03/06/new-neo-nazi-group-national-action\\_n\\_4910260.html?guccounter=1](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/03/06/new-neo-nazi-group-national-action_n_4910260.html?guccounter=1).

<sup>423</sup> Associated Press, “Police line the barricades separating ‘Super Happy Fun America’ demonstration, group of protestors,” Boston 25 News, June 28, 2020, <https://www.boston25news.com/news/pro-police-rally-counterprotesters-face-off-boston/DYLLASKQ3FB4VBZUEX4UHE5SC4/>; Russell Harris, “Neo-Nazi ‘Slap-Tags’ Found On Rail-Trail In Pepperell,” *Groton Herald*, November 5, 2020, <http://www.grotonherald.com/news/neo-nazi-%E2%80%98slap-tags%E2%80%99-found-rail-trail-pepperell>; “Online ISIS Supporters Celebrate Vienna Attack,” European Centre for Counterterrorism, November 14, 2020, <https://en.europarabct.com/?p=47921>; Quentin Augusto, “New Far-Right Group ‘NSC 131 Active in Germany,’” Belltower.news, September 18, 2020, <https://www.belltower.news/police-raids-in-hesse-new-far-right-group-nsc-131-active-in-germany-104581/>; “Online ISIS Supporters Celebrate Vienna Attack,” European Centre for Counterterrorism, November 14, 2020, <https://en.europarabct.com/?p=47921>.

<sup>424</sup> Quentin Augusto, “New Far-Right Group ‘NSC 131 Active in Germany,’” Belltower.news, September 18, 2020, <https://www.belltower.news/police-raids-in-hesse-new-far-right-group-nsc-131-active-in-germany-104581/>.

<sup>425</sup> Russell Harris, “Neo-Nazi ‘Slap-Tags’ Found On Rail-Trail In Pepperell,” *Groton Herald*, November 5, 2020, <http://www.grotonherald.com/news/neo-nazi-%E2%80%98slap-tags%E2%80%99-found-rail-trail-pepperell>.



particularly Jews.<sup>426</sup> NSC's alleged goal is to create an underground resistance network against its ideological enemies.<sup>427</sup> To this end, NSC members train in physical combat and firearms.<sup>428</sup> NSC views itself as a protector of white people.<sup>429</sup>

NSC chapters act independently of each other and share a loose network affiliation. The group has no central hierarchy. Each chapter acts under its own guidance and rules.<sup>430</sup> The NSC maintains this informal structure to avoid infiltration. Chapter autonomy also allows each chapter to address individual regional needs and develop its own tactics.<sup>431</sup> Known NSC tactics include antagonizing social-justice protesters, vandalism, and posting stickers and other propaganda.<sup>432</sup> NSC members have joined right-wing and pro-police rallies where they have displayed Nazi flags and symbols, as well as engaged in physical altercations.<sup>433</sup> In December 2020, NSC New England announced it was ending communication with all other NSC chapters to focus on the New England region. The announcement confirmed all other NSC chapters would continue autonomously.<sup>434</sup>

- **Base of Operations:** NSC was founded in eastern Massachusetts in the United States and has chapters in at least 16 states in that country. NSC is also active in Germany, Hungary, and Bulgaria.<sup>435</sup>
- **Website:** Not determined.

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<sup>426</sup> NSC, Telegram channel, August 31, 2020.

<sup>427</sup> Russell Harris, "Neo-Nazi 'Slap-Tags' Found On Rail-Trail In Pepperell," *Groton Herald*, November 5, 2020, <http://www.grotonherald.com/news/neo-nazi-%E2%80%98slap-tags%E2%80%99-found-rail-trail-pepperell>.

<sup>428</sup> "Online ISIS Supporters Celebrate Vienna Attack," European Centre for Counterterrorism, November 14, 2020, <https://en.europarabct.com/?p=47921>.

<sup>429</sup> Quentin Augusto, "New Far-Right Group 'NSC 131 Active in Germany,'" *Belltower.news*, September 18, 2020, <https://www.belltower.news/police-raids-in-hesse-new-far-right-group-nsc-131-active-in-germany-104581/>.

<sup>430</sup> NSC New England, Telegram channel, August 24, 2020.

<sup>431</sup> NSC, Telegram channel, August 27, 2020.

<sup>432</sup> Associated Press, "Police line the barricades separating 'Super Happy Fun America' demonstration, group of protestors," *Boston 25 News*, June 28, 2020, <https://www.boston25news.com/news/pro-police-rally-counterprotesters-face-off-boston/DYLLASKQ3FB4VBZUEX4UHE5SC4/>; "Protests against racial inequality sweep across America," *Reuters*, July 5, 2020, <https://www.reuters.com/news/picture/protests-against-racial-inequality-sweep-idUSRTS3GIC4>; Steph Solis, "Nazi symbol spotted at Massachusetts State House pro-police rally draws scrutiny," *MassLive*, June 28, 2020, <https://www.masslive.com/politics/2020/06/nazi-symbol-spotted-at-massachusetts-state-house-pro-police-rally-draws-scrutiny.html>.

<sup>433</sup> Associated Press, "Police line the barricades separating 'Super Happy Fun America' demonstration, group of protestors," *Boston 25 News*, June 28, 2020, <https://www.boston25news.com/news/pro-police-rally-counterprotesters-face-off-boston/DYLLASKQ3FB4VBZUEX4UHE5SC4/>; "Protests against racial inequality sweep across America," *Reuters*, July 5, 2020, <https://www.reuters.com/news/picture/protests-against-racial-inequality-sweep-idUSRTS3GIC4>; Steph Solis, "Nazi symbol spotted at Massachusetts State House pro-police rally draws scrutiny," *MassLive*, June 28, 2020, <https://www.masslive.com/politics/2020/06/nazi-symbol-spotted-at-massachusetts-state-house-pro-police-rally-draws-scrutiny.html>.

<sup>434</sup> NSC, Telegram channel, December 29, 2020.

<sup>435</sup> Russell Harris, "Neo-Nazi 'Slap-Tags' Found On Rail-Trail In Pepperell," *Groton Herald*, November 5, 2020, <http://www.grotonherald.com/news/neo-nazi-%E2%80%98slap-tags%E2%80%99-found-rail-trail-pepperell>; "Online ISIS Supporters Celebrate Vienna Attack," European Centre for Counterterrorism, November 14, 2020, <https://en.europarabct.com/?p=47921>; Quentin Augusto, "New Far-Right Group 'NSC 131 Active in Germany,'" *Belltower.news*, September 18, 2020, <https://www.belltower.news/police-raids-in-hesse-new-far-right-group-nsc-131-active-in-germany-104581/>; "Online ISIS Supporters Celebrate Vienna Attack," European Centre for Counterterrorism, November 14, 2020, <https://en.europarabct.com/?p=47921>.

- **Social Media Presence:** Instagram, Telegram, Twitter
- **Leadership:** NSC operates as a leaderless, decentralized organization. Chris Hood is the NSC’s alleged founder and leader.<sup>436</sup> An individual identified only as “Paulo” founded the German chapter of NSC.<sup>437</sup>
- **Membership Size and Relevance:** NSC’s exact membership size is unknown but reportedly large. Some NSC members also belong or previously belonged to other U.S.-centered hate groups, as well as transnational groups such as The Base.<sup>438</sup>
- **Recruitment and Propaganda:** Clad in black t-shirts emblazoned with “Nationalist Social Club,” NSC members have been photographed at right-wing and pro-police rallies, though they promote their own anti-police ideology. Men wearing NSC shirts have also counter-protested liberal causes such as Black Lives Matter.<sup>439</sup> Members have pasted NSC stickers and other propaganda materials on public and private property.<sup>440</sup>

NSC’s logo replaces the “S” in its initials with an SS lightning bolt. NSC’s propaganda also includes the number 131 and at times refers to the group as NSC-131 or 131 Crew. The number correlates to the letters ACA for anti-communist action.<sup>441</sup>

NSC is active on multiple social media channels, such as Twitter, Telegram, and Instagram. CEP has identified at least three NSC Twitter accounts that have since been suspended. NSC’s Telegram channels provide a contact person who refers potential recruits to their closest NSC chapter. Each chapter has its own objectives upon which it judges potential members.<sup>442</sup> NSC specifically targets white males for recruitment.<sup>443</sup>

- **Violent Activities:** NSC members have stockpiled weapons and undergone physical training for future confrontations.<sup>444</sup> In September 2020, German police raided multiple

<sup>436</sup> Dave Copeland, “MA Hate Group Founder No Longer Lives In Malden: Police Chief,” Patch, January 8, 2021, <https://patch.com/massachusetts/malden/ma-hate-group-founder-no-longer-lives-malden-police-chief>.

<sup>437</sup> Quentin Augusto, “New Far-Right Group ‘NSC 131 Active in Germany,’” Belltower.news, September 18, 2020, <https://www.belltower.news/police-raids-in-hesse-new-far-right-group-nsc-131-active-in-germany-104581/>.

<sup>438</sup> Russell Harris, “Neo-Nazi ‘Slap-Tags’ Found On Rail-Trail In Pepperell,” *Groton Herald*, November 5, 2020, <http://www.grotonherald.com/news/neo-nazi-%E2%80%98slap-tags%E2%80%99-found-rail-trail-pepperell>.

<sup>439</sup> Associated Press, “Police line the barricades separating ‘Super Happy Fun America’ demonstration, group of protestors,” Boston 25 News, June 28, 2020, <https://www.boston25news.com/news/pro-police-rally-counterprotesters-face-off-boston/DYLLASKQ3FB4VBZUEX4UHE5SC4/>; “Protests against racial inequality sweep across America,” Reuters, July 5, 2020, <https://www.reuters.com/news/picture/protests-against-racial-inequality-sweep-idUSRTS3GIC4>; Keiko Hiromi, “PHOTO RECAP: WHITE NATIONALISTS BACK THE BLUE IN BOSTON,” DigBoston, June 30, 2020, <https://digboston.com/photo-recap-white-nationalists-back-the-blue-in-boston/>.

<sup>440</sup> Russell Harris, “Neo-Nazi ‘Slap-Tags’ Found On Rail-Trail In Pepperell,” *Groton Herald*, November 5, 2020, <http://www.grotonherald.com/news/neo-nazi-%E2%80%98slap-tags%E2%80%99-found-rail-trail-pepperell>.

<sup>441</sup> Russell Harris, “Neo-Nazi ‘Slap-Tags’ Found On Rail-Trail In Pepperell,” *Groton Herald*, November 5, 2020, <http://www.grotonherald.com/news/neo-nazi-%E2%80%98slap-tags%E2%80%99-found-rail-trail-pepperell>.

<sup>442</sup> NSC New England, Telegram channel, August 24, 2020.

<sup>443</sup> NSC, Telegram channel, August 24, 2020.

<sup>444</sup> Quentin Augusto, “New Far-Right Group ‘NSC 131 Active in Germany,’” Belltower.news, September 18, 2020, <https://www.belltower.news/police-raids-in-hesse-new-far-right-group-nsc-131-active-in-germany-104581/>.

homes, including that of an NSC member, and seized “weapons and Nazi paraphernalia.”<sup>445</sup>

- **Rhetoric:**

- Telegram, January 5, 2021: “NSC New England is in Washington DC to ensure white safety. We are not here to support Donald Trump. Contact us if you’d like to get involved!”<sup>446</sup>
- Telegram, August 31, 2020: “Our folk are in a state of war with a hostile (((system))), and now is the time to put our differences aside and face our common enemy as a unified front.”<sup>447</sup>
- Telegram, August 27, 2020: “There is no one size fits all solution to the problems that face our people. Every nation, every community, every street may require a multitude of different tactics to revert it into a favorable environment for our posterity. The clubs of NSC recognize this, and that’s why each club is granted the autonomy to address its regions issues whichever way is most efficient, all while retaining the tangible support from the other clubs worldwide.”<sup>448</sup>
- Telegram, August 24, 2020: “Start or join a club - the option is yours. Either way, 131 will support you if you are a white male of the nationalist worldview & dedicated to action. Always anonymous, always autonomous.”<sup>449</sup>
- Telegram, August 24, 2020: Each club is able to sculpt its image and set its objectives to the community/region it serves to be most effective, as its local affiliates know said community/region best. This allows us to organize our people against our collective enemies WORLDWIDE - there is nowhere in the white world an NSC can’t be established.”<sup>450</sup>
- NSC member in Germany identified as Paulo, Telegram, undated: “We are only at the beginning and are in the process of building up to find people and network.”<sup>451</sup>

### **Nordic Resistance Movement**

- **Summary:** Formed by neo-Nazi nationalists in Sweden in 1997, the Nordic Resistance Movement (Nordiska motståndsrörelsen, or NRM) is a transnational, neo-Nazi organization with official chapters operating in Sweden, Finland, and Norway. The NRM also draws support from neo-Nazis in Denmark and Iceland, though the group has failed

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<sup>445</sup> “Hessische Polizei stellt Waffen und NS-Devotionalien sicher,” Hessian Ministry of the Interior and for Sport, September 17, 2020, <https://innen.hessen.de/presse/pressemitteilung/hessische-polizei-stellt-waffen-und-ns-devotionalien-sicher>.

<sup>446</sup> NSC, Telegram channel, January 5, 2021.

<sup>447</sup> NSC, Telegram channel, August 31, 2020.

<sup>448</sup> NSC, Telegram channel, August 27, 2020.

<sup>449</sup> NSC, Telegram channel, August 24, 2020.

<sup>450</sup> NSC New England, Telegram channel, August 24, 2020.

<sup>451</sup> Quentin Augusto, “New Far-Right Group ‘NSC 131 Active in Germany,’” Belltower.news, September 18, 2020, <https://www.belltower.news/police-raids-in-hesse-new-far-right-group-nsc-131-active-in-germany-104581/>.

to establish formal branches in those countries.<sup>452</sup> A 2017 report by European anti-racism organization Expo named NRM as the primary force responsible for a rise in neo-Nazi activity in Sweden in 2016.<sup>453</sup>

The NRM subscribes to a nationalist socialist, or neo-Nazi, ideology that is avowedly anti-Semitic, anti-gay, anti-immigrant, pro-white, and pro-Hitler. The NRM has held numerous anti-immigration rallies, and has hung signs throughout Sweden, Finland, and Norway reading “Refugees Are Not Welcome.”<sup>454</sup> In its 2015 party platform “Our Path,” the NRM warns that the Nordic states—as well as the entire Western world—are controlled by the “global Zionist elite.”<sup>455</sup> The NRM thus seeks to “regain power” from that elite and unite the Nordic states into a “Nordic Nation” able to “assert itself militarily, economically and culturally.”<sup>456</sup>

NRM members reportedly receive martial arts training and are educated on how to respond if fighting arises in the streets.<sup>457</sup> In addition, the group previously sold a knife inscribed with the maxim “The struggle demands more than only words.”<sup>458</sup> In a 2016 interview, NRM-Sweden leader Simon Lindberg said that he joined the group because its members are “strong in the streets, they dare to fight back the scum.”<sup>459</sup> However, Swedish prosecutors believe that three NRM-Sweden members—charged in June 2017 in connection to three bombings on a far-left café and two refugee centers in November 2016 and January 2017—were “dissatisfied” that NRM leadership had not wanted to use violence “to the same extent” as the three men. Prosecutors believe that two of those men

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<sup>452</sup> Øyvind Strømme, “New report: Neo-Nazis in the North,” Hate Speech International, March 24, 2017, <https://www.hate-speech.org/new-report-neo-nazis-in-the-north/>; “Our Path: New Politics for a New Time,” Frihetskamp, 2015, <https://www.frihetskamp.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Our-Path.pdf>; Bradford Hanson, “An Interview With Simon Lindberg, Leader of the Nordic Resistance Movement,” National Vanguard, June 7, 2016, <http://nationalvanguard.org/2016/06/an-interview-with-simon-lindberg-leader-of-the-nordic-resistance-movement/>.

<sup>453</sup> Lee Roden, “2016 saw a surge in neo-Nazi activity in Sweden: here's why,” The Local (Stockholm), May 5, 2017, <https://www.thelocal.se/20170505/2016-saw-a-surge-in-neo-nazi-activity-in-sweden-heres-why>.

<sup>454</sup> Haakon Forwald, “— Et seiersår for Den nordiske motstandsbevegelsen!,” Frihetskamp, January 8, 2017, <https://www.frihetskamp.net/et-seiersar-for-den-nordiske-motstandsbevegelsen/>; “Så våldsamma är nazisterna i Nordiska motståndsrörelsen,” Expo Idag, December 9, 2016, [http://expo.se/2016/sa-valdsamma-ar-nazisterna-i-nordiska-motstandsrorelsen\\_7198.html](http://expo.se/2016/sa-valdsamma-ar-nazisterna-i-nordiska-motstandsrorelsen_7198.html); David Charter and Isaak Bowers, “Neo-Nazis on the march in Sweden,” *Times* (London), December 12, 2016, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/world/dcnazi-3dwxnps2g>.

<sup>455</sup> “Our Path: New Politics for a New Time,” Frihetskamp, 2015, <https://www.frihetskamp.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Our-Path.pdf>.

<sup>456</sup> “Our Path: New Politics for a New Time,” Frihetskamp, 2015, <https://www.frihetskamp.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Our-Path.pdf>.

<sup>457</sup> David Charter and Isaak Bowers, “Neo-Nazis on the march in Sweden,” *Times* (London), December 12, 2016, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/world/dcnazi-3dwxnps2g>; Øyvind Strømme, “New report: Neo-Nazis in the North,” Hate Speech International, March 24, 2017, <https://www.hate-speech.org/new-report-neo-nazis-in-the-north/>.

<sup>458</sup> David Charter and Isaak Bowers, “Neo-Nazis on the march in Sweden,” *Times* (London), December 12, 2016, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/world/dcnazi-3dwxnps2g>.

<sup>459</sup> Bradford Hanson, “An Interview With Simon Lindberg, Leader of the Nordic Resistance Movement,” National Vanguard, June 7, 2016, <http://nationalvanguard.org/2016/06/an-interview-with-simon-lindberg-leader-of-the-nordic-resistance-movement/>.

had received military training in Russia before returning to Sweden to carry out the bombings, though it is unclear from whom they received training.<sup>460</sup>

NRM-Sweden officially registered as a political party in July 2015 under the name “Nordiska motståndsrörelsen”—the same name used for the larger NRM-Sweden movement. The group was inspired to enter politics after one of its key members, Pär Öberg, was elected in 2014 as a write-in candidate for the Sweden Democrats party in the Ludvika municipality’s local elections.<sup>461</sup> However, NRM-Sweden is not believed to have made political gains, and the movement is reported to lend most of its efforts to extra-parliamentary activities, such as violence, intimidation, and crime.<sup>462</sup> Finland banned the NRM in November 2017, but the group has continued to stage demonstrations there while appealing the decision.<sup>463</sup>

- **Base of Operations:** Sweden, Finland, and Norway<sup>464</sup>
- **Website:** <http://www.nordiska-motstandsrörelsen.se/>; <https://www.frihetskamp.net/>
- **Social Media:** [Twitter](#) (suspended), [Twitter \(Frihetskamp Media\)](#) (suspended), [Twitter \(Simon Lindberg\)](#) (suspended), [Vimeo \(Frihetskamp Media\)](#) (suspended), [VK](#), [VK \(Frihetskamp Media\)](#), [YouTube](#) (suspended), [YouTube \(Frihetskamp Media\)](#) (suspended)
- **Leadership:** Simon Lindberg is the leader of NRM-Sweden.<sup>465</sup> Emil Hagberg is the spokesman of NRM-Sweden.<sup>466</sup> Haakon Forwald is the leader of NRM-Norway.<sup>467</sup>

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<sup>460</sup> Associated Press, “Sweden charges right-wing extremists over bomb attacks,” *USA Today*, June 9, 2017, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/06/09/sweden-charges-bomb-attacks/102662582/>; “Two men charged over refugee home blast ‘received military training in Russia,’” *The Local* (Stockholm), June 9, 2017, <https://www.thelocal.se/20170609/gothenburg-sweden-two-men-charged-over-refugee-home-bomb-attack-received-military-training-in-russia>.

<sup>461</sup> “Nazister bildar parti,” *Expo Idag*, October 2, 2014, [http://expo.se/2014/nazister-bildar-parti\\_6663.html](http://expo.se/2014/nazister-bildar-parti_6663.html); Øyvind Strømme, “New report: Neo-Nazis in the North,” *Hate Speech International*, March 24, 2017, <https://www.hate-speech.org/new-report-neo-nazis-in-the-north/>.

<sup>462</sup> Nick Fagge, “Neo-Nazis thugs warn of a ‘year of violence’ following attacks on child migrants at train station in Sweden,” *Daily Mail* (London), February 3, 2016, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3426413/Neo-Nazis-warn-year-violence-following-attacks-child-migrants-train-station-Sweden.html>.

<sup>463</sup> “Neo-Nazis Protest Outside Helsinki School,” *News Now*, April 25, 2018, <http://newsnowfinland.fi/domestic/neo-nazis-protest-outside-helsinki-school>.

<sup>464</sup> Øyvind Strømme, “New report: Neo-Nazis in the North,” *Hate Speech International*, March 24, 2017, <https://www.hate-speech.org/new-report-neo-nazis-in-the-north/>; “Our Path: New Politics for a New Time,” *Frihetskamp Media*, 2015, <https://www.frihetskamp.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Our-Path.pdf>; Bradford Hanson, “An Interview With Simon Lindberg, Leader of the Nordic Resistance Movement,” *National Vanguard*, June 7, 2016, <http://nationalvanguard.org/2016/06/an-interview-with-simon-lindberg-leader-of-the-nordic-resistance-movement/>.

<sup>465</sup> “Our Path: New Politics for a New Time,” *Nordic Resistance Movement*, 2015, 9, <https://www.frihetskamp.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Our-Path.pdf>.

<sup>466</sup> Øyvind Strømme, “New report: Neo-Nazis in the North,” *Hate Speech International*, March 24, 2017, <https://www.hate-speech.org/new-report-neo-nazis-in-the-north/>.

<sup>467</sup> Ståle Hansen, “Nå marsjerer de i gatene igjen,” *NRK*, February 27, 2017, <https://www.nrk.no/dokumentar/xl/na-marsjerer-de-i-gatene-igjen-1.13394305>; “Haakon Forwald,” *Frihetskamp*, accessed May 26, 2017, <https://www.frihetskamp.net/author/haakon/>.



Tommy Olsen is the deputy leader of NRM-Norway.<sup>468</sup> Otto Rutanen is the leader of NRM-Finland.<sup>469</sup> Antti Niemi is the deputy leader of NRM-Finland.<sup>470</sup>

- **Membership Size and Relevance:** The NRM is believed to comprise between 250 to 300 core members spread throughout Sweden, Norway, and Finland—though the group may attract many more sympathizers.<sup>471</sup> In November 2016, NRM-Sweden alone drew a total of 600 demonstrators in its largest rally to date.<sup>472</sup> According to a May 2015 estimate by the Finnish-owned media outlet Yle, NRM-Finland is comprised of approximately 60 to 70 core members.<sup>473</sup> The Norwegian-owned NRK media company reported in February 2017 that each country’s branch contains “a dozen” core activists.<sup>474</sup>

NRM’s YouTube page had 11,444 subscribers as of March 19, 2019.<sup>475</sup> Frihetskamp Media’s YouTube page had 685 subscribers as of the same date.<sup>476</sup> Both accounts have since been deleted.

**Recruitment and Propaganda:** In recent years, the NRM has capitalized on the influx of refugees from the Middle East and North Africa in an attempt to spread fear, recruit, and further its agenda. According to the anti-racism organization Expo, NRM-Sweden has grown more than one-third in size since the beginning of 2015 by advocating against Sweden’s open-door policy to Muslim asylum seekers through anti-immigration rallies and signs throughout Sweden, Finland, and Norway.<sup>477</sup> The NRM also produces manuals,

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<sup>468</sup> Ståle Hansen, “Nå marsjerer de i gatene igjen,” NRK, February 27, 2017, <https://www.nrk.no/dokumentar/xl/na-marsjerer-de-i-gatene-igjen-1.13394305>.

<sup>469</sup> Marko Hiettiko, “Miehet, jotka johtavat natsiliikettä,” Yle, May 15, 2016, <https://yle.fi/aihe/artikkeli/2016/05/15/miehet-jotka-johtavat-natsiliiketta>.

<sup>470</sup> Marko Hiettiko, “Miehet, jotka johtavat natsiliikettä,” Yle, May 15, 2016, <https://yle.fi/aihe/artikkeli/2016/05/15/miehet-jotka-johtavat-natsiliiketta>.

<sup>471</sup> Øyvind Strømmen, “New report: Neo-Nazis in the North,” Hate Speech International, March 24, 2017, <https://www.hate-speech.org/new-report-neo-nazis-in-the-north/>.

<sup>472</sup> David Charter and Isaak Bowers, “Neo-Nazis on the march in Sweden,” *Times* (London), December 12, 2016, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/world/dcnazi-3dwxnps2g>.

<sup>473</sup> “Repentant Nazi: ‘What I was doing was crazy,’” Yle Uutiset, May 15, 2016, [http://yle.fi/uutiset/osasto/news/repentant\\_nazi\\_what\\_i\\_was\\_doing\\_was\\_crazy/8881468](http://yle.fi/uutiset/osasto/news/repentant_nazi_what_i_was_doing_was_crazy/8881468); Fanny Malinen, “The Failure of The State And The Rise Of Fascism,” Novara Media, December 11, 2016, <http://novaramedia.com/2016/12/11/the-failure-of-the-state-and-the-rise-of-fascism/>.

<sup>474</sup> Ståle Hansen, “Nå marsjerer de i gatene igjen,” NRK, February 27, 2017, <https://www.nrk.no/dokumentar/xl/na-marsjerer-de-i-gatene-igjen-1.13394305>.

<sup>475</sup> Nordiska motståndsrörelsen, YouTube account, accessed March 19, 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/user/MotstandsMedia>.

<sup>476</sup> Frihetskamp Media, YouTube account, accessed March 19, 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ5uD8c4600b38XGuVQoN9Q>.

<sup>477</sup> Haakon Forwald, “— Et seiersår for Den nordiske motstandsbevegelsen!,” Frihetskamp, January 8, 2017, <https://www.frihetskamp.net/et-seiersar-for-den-nordiske-motstandsbevegelsen/>; “Så våldsamma är nazisterna i Nordiska motståndsrörelsen,” Expo Idag, December 9, 2016, <http://expo.se/2016/sa-valdsamma-ar-nazisterna-i-nordiska-motstandsrorelsen-7198.html>; David Charter and Isaak Bowers, “Neo-Nazis on the march in Sweden,” *Times* (London), December 12, 2016, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/world/dcnazi-3dwxnps2g>.

stickers, leaflets, and flyers, which it distributes at rallies, on the streets, and in mailboxes.<sup>478</sup>

The NRM has noted that all of its funding comes from “member donations and sympathetic individuals and organizations.”<sup>479</sup> The NRM specifically requests donations through Frihetskamp, the news website owned and operated by the group’s Norwegian branch.<sup>480</sup>

NRM’s Twitter account had approximately 13,700 followers as of July 3, 2018.<sup>481</sup> Frihetskamp Media’s Twitter account had 729 followers, and its YouTube account had 651 subscribers and hosted more than 40 videos, which had collectively received more than 104,000 views.<sup>482</sup> NRM’s YouTube account had more than 11,600 subscribers and hosted more than 400 videos, which had collectively received more than 6.4 million views. Between June 24, 2018, and July 3, 2018, NRM’s YouTube account gained 600 subscribers.<sup>483</sup> NRM’s YouTube and Twitter accounts have since been deleted. NRM-Norway’s news website Frihetskamp claims that it receives at least 60,000 unique visitors each month.<sup>484</sup> The site also claims it “dares to challenge the old, often Jewish owned and/or controlled, mass media empires.”<sup>485</sup>

- **Violent Activities:** NRM leaders and members have carried out numerous attacks against gay people, Muslim asylum seekers, and the group’s ideological adversaries. In 2017, the European NGO Expo found that a quarter of NRM’s members had been convicted of violent crime.<sup>486</sup>
  - On January 25, 2017, Swedish authorities discovered an IED—which had failed to detonate—outside of a Gothenberg compound housing refugees. Authorities believed the incident was linked to the November 11, 2016, bombing at the Syndikaliskt Forum Kafe as well as the January 5, 2017, bombing of the refugee

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<sup>478</sup> “Our Path: New Politics for a New Time,” Frihetskamp, 2015, <https://www.frihetskamp.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Our-Path.pdf>; Haakon Forwald, “– Et seiersår for Den nordiske motstandsbevegelsen!,” Frihetskamp, January 8, 2017, <https://www.frihetskamp.net/et-seiersar-for-den-nordiske-motstandsbevegelsen/>.

<sup>479</sup> “Our Path: New Politics for a New Time,” Frihetskamp, 2015, <https://www.frihetskamp.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Our-Path.pdf>.

<sup>480</sup> “Information in English,” Frihetskamp, accessed June 25, 2018, <https://www.frihetskamp.net/information-in-english/>.

<sup>481</sup> Nordfront, Twitter page, accessed July 3, 2018, <https://twitter.com/nordfront>.

<sup>482</sup> Frihetskamp Media, Twitter page, accessed July 3, 2018, <https://twitter.com/FrihetskampNet>; Frihetskamp Media, YouTube page, accessed July 3, 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ5uD8c4600b38XGuVQoN9Q/feed>.

<sup>483</sup> Nordiska motståndsrörelsen, YouTube page, accessed July 3, 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/user/MotstandsMedia/featured>.

<sup>484</sup> “Information in English,” Frihetskamp, accessed June 25, 2018, <https://www.frihetskamp.net/information-in-english/>.

<sup>485</sup> “Information in English,” Frihetskamp, accessed June 25, 2018, <https://www.frihetskamp.net/information-in-english/>.

<sup>486</sup> Lee Roden, “2016 saw a surge in neo-Nazi activity in Sweden: here's why,” The Local (Stockholm), May 5, 2017, <https://www.thelocal.se/20170505/2016-saw-a-surge-in-neo-nazi-activity-in-sweden-heres-why>.

lodging center.<sup>487</sup> In June 2017, Swedish prosecutors charged three unnamed NRM-Sweden members in connection to the far-left café and refugee center bombings.<sup>488</sup>

- On January 5, 2017, individuals allegedly associated with NRM-Sweden detonated homemade bombs outside of a refugee lodging center in Gothenberg, injuring an immigration officer.<sup>489</sup>
- On November 11, 2016, individuals allegedly associated with NRM-Sweden detonated a bomb at the Syndikaliskt Forum Kafe in Gothenberg, though no one was injured or killed in the attack.<sup>490</sup>
- On December 17, 2013, at least 30 NRM-Sweden members carrying smoking flares attacked participants of a peaceful, anti-racism demonstration in the Stockholm suburb of Kärrtorp. Four people were injured in the ensuing clashes, which also resulted in the arrests of 28. In June 2014, a Swedish court sentenced four NRM-Sweden members, including spokesman Emil Hagberg, to between six and eight months in prison for instigating the December riots.<sup>491</sup>
- In July 2010, police arrested several NRM-Sweden members after they attacked guards during an NRM demonstration at a music festival in the Swedish city of Piteå.<sup>492</sup>

● **Rhetoric:**

- NRM Website, June 2017: “The homolobby promotes popular enemy decadence and anti-culture, which helps to undermine and dissolve the natural structures of society. Thus, the very premise of a further existence for our people.”<sup>493</sup>

<sup>487</sup> Agence France-Presse, “Swedish neo-Nazis held over Gothenburg refugee centre blast,” The Local (Stockholm), February 3, 2017, <https://www.thelocal.se/20170203/swedish-neo-nazis-held-over-gothenburg-refugee-centre-blast>.

<sup>488</sup> “Sweden charges right-wing extremists over bomb attacks,” Associated Press, June 9, 2017, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/06/09/sweden-charges-bomb-attacks/102662582/>; “Two men charged over refugee home blast ‘received military training in Russia,’” The Local (Stockholm), June 9, 2017, <https://www.thelocal.se/20170609/gothenburg-sweden-two-men-charged-over-refugee-home-bomb-attack-received-military-training-in-russia>.

<sup>489</sup> Agence France-Presse, “Swedish neo-Nazis held over Gothenburg refugee centre blast,” The Local (Stockholm), February 3, 2017, <https://www.thelocal.se/20170203/swedish-neo-nazis-held-over-gothenburg-refugee-centre-blast>.

<sup>490</sup> “Neo-Nazi held over Gothenburg bomb,” Radio Sweden, January 20, 2017, <http://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=2054&artikel=6612911>; “Ledande nazist häktad för sprängattentat,” *Expressen* (Stockholm), January 20, 2017, <http://www.expressen.se/gt/ledande-nazist-haktad-for-sprangattentat/>.

<sup>491</sup> Hampus Anderson, “Swedish Neo-Nazis Had a Fight in the Woods,” *Vice*, December 17, 2013, [https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/watching-swedish-neo-nazis-fighting-in-the-woods](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/watching-swedish-neo-nazis-fighting-in-the-woods); “Kärrtorp clashes: Four neo-Nazis jailed,” The Local (Stockholm), June 5, 2014, <https://www.thelocal.se/20140605/karrtorp-clashes-four-neo-nazis-jailed>; “De leder den svenska nazist rörelsen,” *Expressen* (Stockholm), February 9, 2015, <http://www.expressen.se/nyheter/de-leder-den-svenska-nazist-rorelsen-1/>; “Nazi group attacks peaceful rally: two stabbed,” Radio Sweden, December 15, 2013, <http://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=2054&artikel=5734086>.

<sup>492</sup> “Nazistdemonstration urartade i Piteå,” *Svenska Dagbladet*, June 30, 2010, <http://www.dn.se/nyheter/sverige/nazistdemonstrationurartade-i-pitea/> (site discontinued).

<sup>493</sup> Redaksjonen, “Knus homolobbyen!,” Nordic Resistance Movement, June 6, 2017, <https://www.frihetskamp.net/alt-du-trenger-a-vite-om-demonstrasjonen-i-fredrikstad/>.

- NRM Manual, August 2016: “The [NRM] has gone to battle against the enemies of the Nordic region, and continuously fights for the freedom and survival of the Nordic people - in a future free and united nation-socialist Nordic region.”<sup>494</sup>
- NRM-Sweden spokesman Emil Hagberg in an interview with London’s *Daily Mail*, February 2016: “We are National Socialists [Nazis]. Our main aim is the protection of Sweden’s [white] people and culture. We don’t want our [white] people to disappear from the earth. People come to us because they see the streets are full of Somalis and Syrians and they are starting to listen to us because we have been warning of the dangers of immigration for years.”<sup>495</sup>
- NRM-Sweden leader Simon Lindberg in an interview with *National Vanguard*, June 2016: “[NRM members are] strong in the streets, they dare to fight back the scum.”<sup>496</sup>
- NRM-Sweden official statement praising an attack on refugee children by a mob of Swedish nationalists in Stockholm’s central train station, January 2016: “Police have clearly shown that they lack the means to stave off [the refugees’] rampage, and we now see no other alternative than to ourselves hand out the punishments they deserve.”<sup>497</sup>
- Party platform, 2015: “From our point of view, National Socialism [Nazism], [as] proven during the short time it held power in Germany, has been the only form of government that has significantly threatened the destructive forces [i.e. Zionism] that rule the world. From 1945 until today, these same destructive forces have continually conducted political genocide against the Nordic and ethnic peoples of Europe. They recognize National Socialism as the chief enemy of their worldview, because it delivers a strategy of survival for our race....”<sup>498</sup>

### Order of Nine Angles

- **Summary:**

The Order of Nine Angles (ONA or O9A) is U.K.-based Nazi, Satanist occult group founded in the 1970s. The group reveres Adolf Hitler and imbues Nazi symbology with mystical meaning.<sup>499</sup> ONA heralds Nazi Germany as the pinnacle of societal development

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<sup>494</sup> Redaksjonen, “Aktivisthåndboken er lansert og tilgjengelig for salg!,” *Frihetskamp*, August 26, 2016, <https://www.frihetskamp.net/aktivisthandboken-er-lansert-og-tilgjengelig-for-salg/>.

<sup>495</sup> Nick Fagge, “Neo-Nazis thugs warn of a ‘year of violence’ following attacks on child migrants at train station in Sweden,” *Daily Mail* (London), February 3, 2016, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3426413/Neo-Nazis-warn-year-violence-following-attacks-child-migrants-train-station-Sweden.html>.

<sup>496</sup> Bradford Hanson, “An Interview With Simon Lindberg, Leader of the Nordic Resistance Movement,” *National Vanguard*, June 7, 2016, <http://nationalvanguard.org/2016/06/an-interview-with-simon-lindberg-leader-of-the-nordic-resistance-movement/>.

<sup>497</sup> Samuel Osborne, “‘Hundreds’ of masked men beat refugee children in Stockholm,” *Independent* (London), January 30, 2016, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/hundreds-of-masked-men-beat-refugee-children-in-stockholm-a6843451.html>.

<sup>498</sup> “Our Path: New Politics for a New Time,” *Frihetskamp*, 2015, <https://www.frihetskamp.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Our-Path.pdf>.

<sup>499</sup> Daniel De Simone, “Order of Nine Angles: What is this obscure Nazi Satanist group?,” *BBC News*, June 23, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-53141759>.

and deifies Adolf Hitler. The U.S. Department of Justice has noted ONA's "Satanic, anarchist, neo-fascist, neo-Nazi, and anti-Semitic beliefs."<sup>500</sup> ONA has affiliated groups in the United States, Australia, and Europe.<sup>501</sup>

ONA is an accelerationist group that seeks the "breakdown and the downfall of existing societies" and their replacement with "new tribal societies."<sup>502</sup> It believes society has become corrupted by Judeo-Christian beliefs.<sup>503</sup> ONA thus believes society must be destroyed and replaced with a new fascist order based on social Darwinism and Satanism, a Satanic Empire. The group views modern societal norms and morality as signs of decay.<sup>504</sup>

ONA promotes what it calls an esoteric philosophy focused on the hidden, inner nature of beings rather than the outer nature.<sup>505</sup> ONA intends to use its "Dark Tradition" to create a "new, more evolved, human species" centered on this new tribalistic society.<sup>506</sup> Unlike other neo-Nazi groups, ONA also supports violent jihadist terrorism, in line with its accelerationist philosophy to support the destruction of the current world order. In addition to its veneration of Hitler, the group has praised Osama bin Laden.<sup>507</sup> Some of its texts also employ Islamic terminology, though the group is firmly Satanist.<sup>508</sup>

ONA encourages its member to infiltrate military and Christian organizations to subvert them from within. Among the activities ONA promotes are pedophilia and sexual crimes, which the group views as methods of undermining society.<sup>509</sup> ONA members have been involved in several violent terrorist plots. In 2019, for example, a 16-year-old British boy from Durham, England, became the youngest individual in the country to be convicted of planning a terror attack. The boy was reportedly partially influenced by ONA.<sup>510</sup> In June 2020, American authorities arrested U.S. soldier Ethan Melzer, who was planning an

<sup>500</sup> "United States of America v. Ethan Phelan Melzer, a/k/a 'Etil Reggad,' Defendant," U.S. Department of Justice, June 4, 2020, 7, <https://www.justice.gov/file/1287701/download>.

<sup>501</sup> Nick Lowles, "Order of Nine Angles," Hope Not Hate, February 16, 2019, <https://www.hopenothate.org.uk/2019/02/16/state-of-hate-2019-order-of-nine-angles/>.

<sup>502</sup> "Frequently Asked Questions About The Order of Nine Angles – Version 4.01," Lapis Philosophicus, accessed June 24, 2020, <https://lapisphilosophicus.wordpress.com/about-2/ona-faq/>.

<sup>503</sup> "United States of America v. Ethan Phelan Melzer, a/k/a 'Etil Reggad,' Defendant," U.S. Department of Justice, June 4, 2020, 7, <https://www.justice.gov/file/1287701/download>.

<sup>504</sup> Daniel De Simone, "Order of Nine Angles: What is this obscure Nazi Satanist group?," BBC News, June 23, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-53141759>.

<sup>505</sup> "The Esoteric Philosophy Of The Order Of The Nine Angles – An Introduction," Order of the Nine Angles, accessed June 25, 2020.

<sup>506</sup> "Frequently Asked Questions About The Order of Nine Angles – Version 4.01," Lapis Philosophicus, accessed June 24, 2020, <https://lapisphilosophicus.wordpress.com/about-2/ona-faq/>.

<sup>507</sup> "United States of America v. Ethan Phelan Melzer, a/k/a 'Etil Reggad,' Defendant," U.S. Department of Justice, June 4, 2020, 7, <https://www.justice.gov/file/1287701/download>.

<sup>508</sup> *The Rape Anthology* (The Chaos Press, 2019), 198.

<sup>509</sup> Daniel De Simone, "Order of Nine Angles: What is this obscure Nazi Satanist group?," BBC News, June 23, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-53141759>.

<sup>510</sup> Daniel De Simone, "Order of Nine Angles: What is this obscure Nazi Satanist group?," BBC News, June 23, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-53141759>; Daniel De Simone, "Durham teen neo-Nazi became 'living dead,'" BBC News, November 22, 2019, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-50397477>.



attack on his own unit stationed in Italy. Melzer had been communicating online with members of ONA.<sup>511</sup>

ONA founder David Myatt is a former member of Combat 18 and a former leader of Britain's neo-Nazi National Socialist Movement (NSM). Myatt reportedly influenced NSM member David Copeland, who set off multiple nail bombs around London in the spring of 1999, killing three people and injuring 139 in the hope of starting a race war.<sup>512</sup> In 2006, Myatt converted to an extreme form of Islam and supported killing Muslim apostates. He claimed that the far right was incapable of bringing out societal revolution and Islam was the answer.<sup>513</sup>

ONA's influence can be seen in neo-Nazi groups such as the U.S.-based group Atomwaffen Division and its U.K.-based offshoot Sonnenkrieg Division.<sup>514</sup> Other far-right groups condemned AWD as a cult front for ONA. In January 2018, a former AWD member wrote online that the group had been infiltrated by Satanists. According to leaked chat transcripts, several AWD members resigned as of March 2018 because of the growing occult fixation, while others embraced the satanic imagery.<sup>515</sup> ONA founder Myatt wrote the book *Hostia: Secret Teachings of the Order of Nine Angles*, which details ONA's beliefs and was available through AWD's website. AWD officially disbanded in March 2020.<sup>516</sup>

In 2019, U.K. authorities separately arrested four teenagers who cited accelerationism and Satanism as their influences.<sup>517</sup> In March 2020, some British lawmakers began

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<sup>511</sup> Alan Feuer, "U.S. Army Soldier Charged in Neo-Nazi Plot to Attack Fellow Troops," *New York Times*, June 22, 2020, [https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/22/nyregion/ethan-melzer-neo-nazi-attack.html?utm\\_source=iterable&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=1307907](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/22/nyregion/ethan-melzer-neo-nazi-attack.html?utm_source=iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=1307907); Pete Williams, Jonathan Dienst, and Courtney Kube, "Army soldier charged with giving classified info to neo-Nazi group," NBC News, June 22, 2020, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/military/army-soldier-charged-giving-classified-info-neo-nazi-group-n1231766>.

<sup>512</sup> Sarah Lee, "London nail bombings remembered 20 years on," BBC News, April 30, 2019, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-47216594>; Andrew Buncombe and Terri Judd, "'Hate-filled' nail bomber is jailed for life," *Independent* (Dublin), July 1, 2000, <https://www.independent.ie/world-news/hate-filled-bomber-gets-six-life-sentences-26112880.html>.

<sup>513</sup> Nicola Woolcock and Dominic Kennedy, "What the neo Nazi fanatic did next: switched to Islam," *Times* (London), April 24, 2006, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/what-the-neo-nazi-fanatic-did-next-switched-to-islam-qv3ph5k0jv8>.

<sup>514</sup> Daniel De Simone, "Order of Nine Angles: What is this obscure Nazi Satanist group?," BBC News, June 23, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-53141759>.

<sup>515</sup> Kelly Weill, "Satanism Drama Is Tearing Apart the Murderous Neo-Nazi Group Atomwaffen," *Daily Beast*, March 21, 2018, <https://www.thedailybeast.com/satanism-drama-is-tearing-apart-the-murderous-neo-nazi-group-atomwaffen>.

<sup>516</sup> Universal Order, accessed July 25, 2019, <https://siegekultur.info/> (site discontinued); Ben Makuch, "Audio Recording Claims Neo-Nazi Terror Group Is Disbanding," *Vice*, March 14, 2020, [https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/qjdnam/audio-recording-claims-neo-nazi-terror-group-is-disbanding](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/qjdnam/audio-recording-claims-neo-nazi-terror-group-is-disbanding).

<sup>517</sup> Daniel De Simone, "Durham teen neo-Nazi became 'living dead,'" BBC News, November 22, 2019, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-50397477>.

calling for ONA to be banned.<sup>518</sup> Those calls gained further traction three months later following the arrest of an ONA-linked U.S. soldier who was planning to attack his own military unit.<sup>519</sup> According to British Labour parliamentarian Yvette Cooper, ONA's "combination of Nazi-Satanism, extreme violence and sexual abuse makes it particularly troubling and action needs to be taken to prevent them grooming and radicalizing other people."<sup>520</sup>

- **Base of Operations:** United Kingdom
- **Website:** <https://lapisphilosophicus.wordpress.com/>
- **Social Media:** Not determined.
- **Leadership:** David Myatt, a.k.a. Anton Long and Abdul-Aziz ibn Myatt, is the founder of ONA.<sup>521</sup> ONA claims Anton Long may or may not have been multiple people.<sup>522</sup> Richard Moulton, a.k.a. Christos Beast, is said to have taken over the group's leadership in the 1990s, resigned in 2001, and returned to ONA in 2008.<sup>523</sup> Moulton disputes that he was ever a leader and claims he now rejects the group's ideology.<sup>524</sup> Myatt claims to have left ONA but still maintains a relationship with the organization.<sup>525</sup> ONA's central administration now appears to rotate.<sup>526</sup>
- **Membership Size and Relevance:** ONA does not maintain public membership rolls. It organizes into interconnected chapters while the central administration appears to rotate. ONA has been linked to or inspired multiple terror plots.<sup>527</sup> ONA requires its recruits to self-initiate through violent and physically challenging acts.<sup>528</sup>

<sup>518</sup> Daniel De Simone, "UK Nazi Satanist group should be outlawed, campaigners urge," BBC News, March 2, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-51682760>.

<sup>519</sup> Pete Williams, Jonathan Dienst, and Courtney Kube, "Army soldier charged with giving classified info to neo-Nazi group," NBC News, June 22, 2020, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/military/army-soldier-charged-giving-classified-info-neo-nazi-group-n1231766>.

<sup>520</sup> Daniel De Simone, "UK Nazi Satanist group should be outlawed, campaigners urge," BBC News, March 2, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-51682760>.

<sup>521</sup> "Atomwaffen Division," Anti-Defamation League, accessed June 24, 2020, <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/atomwaffen-division-awd>; Pierre Vaux, "Marine Le Pen's Closest Advisor Comes Out of the Shadows In Donetsk," Daily Beast, last updated April 14, 2017, <https://www.thedailybeast.com/marine-le-pens-closest-advisor-comes-out-of-the-shadows-in-donetsk>.

<sup>522</sup> "Frequently Asked Questions About The Order of Nine Angles – Version 4.01," Lapis Philosophicus, accessed June 24, 2020, <https://lapisphilosophicus.wordpress.com/about-2/ona-faq/>.

<sup>523</sup> Nick Lowles, "Order of Nine Angles," Hope Not Hate, February 16, 2019, <https://www.hopenothate.org.uk/2019/02/16/state-of-hate-2019-order-of-nine-angles/>.

<sup>524</sup> "Resolution Statement – 06622-20 Moulton v Sunday Mail," Independent Press Standards Organisation, accessed January 8, 2021, <https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=06622-20>.

<sup>525</sup> Nick Lowles, "Order of Nine Angles," Hope Not Hate, February 16, 2019, <https://www.hopenothate.org.uk/2019/02/16/state-of-hate-2019-order-of-nine-angles/>.

<sup>526</sup> Linda Givertash, "U.S. soldier's alleged connection to satanic Nazi extremist group renews calls to ban it," NBC News, June 26, 2020, [https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/u-s-soldier-s-alleged-connection-satanic-nazi-extremist-group-n1231851?utm\\_source=iterable&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=1314154](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/u-s-soldier-s-alleged-connection-satanic-nazi-extremist-group-n1231851?utm_source=iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=1314154).

<sup>527</sup> Linda Givertash, "U.S. soldier's alleged connection to satanic Nazi extremist group renews calls to ban it," NBC News, June 26, 2020, [https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/u-s-soldier-s-alleged-connection-satanic-nazi-extremist-group-n1231851?utm\\_source=iterable&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=1314154](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/u-s-soldier-s-alleged-connection-satanic-nazi-extremist-group-n1231851?utm_source=iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=1314154).

<sup>528</sup> "United States of America v. Ethan Phelan Melzer, a/k/a 'Etil Reggad,' Defendant," U.S. Department of Justice, June 4, 2020, 8, <https://www.justice.gov/file/1287701/download>.

- **Recruitment and Propaganda:** ONA does not welcome recruits who seek out the organization. Instead, it claims that membership is earned through “a life-long commitment to personal, esoteric, and Aeonic change/development/evolution.”<sup>529</sup> ONA seeks recruits who share “similar, sinister, subversive interests, aims, and life-styles, together with the desire to co-operate when it is beneficial to them and the pursuit of our shared aims.”<sup>530</sup> ONA offers two methods to join: a guided and an unguided way. The unguided way asks potential recruits to immerse themselves in ONA texts and start living their lives according to ONA philosophies. The guided method is to seek out an ONA member and follow his guidance and training.<sup>531</sup>

ONA divides society into two groups, esoteric and mundane. Esoteric refers to the occult and those practicing it, primarily followers of ONA. Mundane refers to everybody else “who do not associate with our sinister tribes, our traditional nexions, or who do not share our sinister ethos, or our sinister way of life.”<sup>532</sup> ONA literature is replete with references to “esoteric” and “sinister,” words ONA uses as primary descriptions of its philosophies. ONA seeks to create “sinister Adepts” who practice the “sinister dialectic” in order to create its new societies.<sup>533</sup> ONA considers the word sinister as a replacement for satanic. While ONA is a satanic organization, it believes the word itself has been coopted by others who do not follow what ONA considers traditional Satanism. They thus use the word sinister to represent their form of what they consider traditional Satanism.<sup>534</sup>

ONA members, including founder David Myatt, have written numerous books and articles about ONA’s beliefs. However, the group has since shifted to focus its propaganda online through Telegram, Instagram, and other platforms.<sup>535</sup> ONA-related channels on these platforms include Rapewaffen Division Channel and Order of the 9 Rapes Chat.<sup>536</sup> U.S. Army Private Ethan Melzer allegedly communicated with ONA members through the Rapewaffen Division Channel to plan an attack on U.S. soldiers.<sup>537</sup>

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<sup>529</sup> “Frequently Asked Questions About The Order of Nine Angles – Version 4.01,” Lapis Philosophicus, accessed June 24, 2020, <https://lapisphilosophicus.wordpress.com/about-2/ona-faq/>.

<sup>530</sup> “United States of America v. Ethan Phelan Melzer, a/k/a ‘Etil Reggad,’ Defendant,” U.S. Department of Justice, June 4, 2020, 6, <https://www.justice.gov/file/1287701/download>.

<sup>531</sup> “Frequently Asked Questions About The Order of Nine Angles – Version 4.01,” Lapis Philosophicus, accessed June 24, 2020, <https://lapisphilosophicus.wordpress.com/about-2/ona-faq/>.

<sup>532</sup> “Frequently Asked Questions About The Order of Nine Angles – Version 4.01,” Lapis Philosophicus, accessed June 24, 2020, <https://lapisphilosophicus.wordpress.com/about-2/ona-faq/>.

<sup>533</sup> “Frequently Asked Questions About The Order of Nine Angles – Version 4.01,” Lapis Philosophicus, accessed June 24, 2020, <https://lapisphilosophicus.wordpress.com/about-2/ona-faq/>.

<sup>534</sup> “Frequently Asked Questions About The Order of Nine Angles – Version 4.01,” Lapis Philosophicus, accessed June 24, 2020, <https://lapisphilosophicus.wordpress.com/about-2/ona-faq/>.

<sup>535</sup> Linda Givetaash, “U.S. soldier’s alleged connection to satanic Nazi extremist group renews calls to ban it,” NBC News, June 26, 2020, [https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/u-s-soldier-s-alleged-connection-satanic-nazi-extremist-group-n1231851?utm\\_source=iterable&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=1314154](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/u-s-soldier-s-alleged-connection-satanic-nazi-extremist-group-n1231851?utm_source=iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=1314154).

<sup>536</sup> “United States of America v. Ethan Phelan Melzer, a/k/a ‘Etil Reggad,’ Defendant,” U.S. Department of Justice, June 4, 2020, 8, <https://www.justice.gov/file/1287701/download>.

<sup>537</sup> “United States of America v. Ethan Phelan Melzer, a/k/a ‘Etil Reggad,’ Defendant,” U.S. Department of Justice, June 4, 2020, 9, <https://www.justice.gov/file/1287701/download>.

An “authorized” ONA blog on WordPress called Lapis Philosophicus has collected ONA written materials from 1985 through 2012. Lapis Philosophicus translates to the jewel of the alchemist, which a sorcerer or sorceress needs to use the Dark Arts to discover.<sup>538</sup>

ONA literature promotes subversive activities such as human sacrifice and the rape of women and children. ONA refers to human sacrifice as culling, which ONA claims is necessary and distinguishes ONA members from the mundane.<sup>539</sup> One piece of propaganda the group produced is called *The Rape Anthology*, a collection of ONA writings praising Hitler, Satan, and rape, while employing Islamic terminology and demonizing Jews and minorities. Some of the essays suggest that rape is necessary for the ascension of the *Urbemensch* (German for “superman”) and all should strive for “spiritual arousal from violent sexual rape.”<sup>540</sup> Another claims Allah created HIV/AIDS to allow the “phallic warrior to permanently leave his mark on the world.”<sup>541</sup>

- **Violent Activities:**

- In October 2018, a 16-year-old British boy from Durham, England, declared himself an accelerationist and began searching for targets for a terror attack. The boy was reportedly partially influenced by ONA. The boy initially followed the white supremacist group National Action, which was outlawed in 2016. Police arrested the boy in March 2019. Later that year, he became the youngest individual in the country to be convicted of planning a terror attack.<sup>542</sup>
- In May 2020, American authorities broke up a plot by U.S. soldier Ethan Melzer, who was planning an attack on his own unit while it was stationed in Italy. Melzer began communicating online with members of ONA and the affiliated Rapewaffen Division in April and provided details on his unit’s movements and planned redeployment to Turkey. Authorities discovered the plot in May and took Melzer into custody. He confessed on May 30 and was arrested in June. Melzer reportedly joined ONA in 2019, a year after enlisting in the U.S. Army.<sup>543</sup>

- **Rhetoric:**

- David Myatt, 2006: “There will not be an uprising, a revolution, in any Western nation, by nationalists, racial nationalists, or National Socialists — because these

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<sup>538</sup> “About This Blog,” Lapis Philosophicus, accessed June 25, 2020,

<https://lapisphilosophicus.wordpress.com/about-2/>.

<sup>539</sup> “Frequently Asked Questions About The Order of Nine Angles – Version 4.01,” Lapis Philosophicus, accessed June 24, 2020, <https://lapisphilosophicus.wordpress.com/about-2/ona-faq/>.

<sup>540</sup> *The Rape Anthology* (The Chaos Press, 2019), 199.

<sup>541</sup> *The Rape Anthology* (The Chaos Press, 2019), 198.

<sup>542</sup> Daniel De Simone, “Order of Nine Angles: What is this obscure Nazi Satanist group?,” BBC News, June 23, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-53141759>; Daniel De Simone, “Durham teen neo-Nazi became ‘living dead,’” BBC News, November 22, 2019, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-50397477>.

<sup>543</sup> Alan Feuer, “U.S. Army Soldier Charged in Neo-Nazi Plot to Attack Fellow Troops,” *New York Times*, June 22, 2020, [https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/22/nyregion/ethan-melzer-neo-nazi-attack.html?utm\\_source=iterable&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=1307907](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/22/nyregion/ethan-melzer-neo-nazi-attack.html?utm_source=iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=1307907); Pete Williams, Jonathan Dienst, and Courtney Kube, “Army soldier charged with giving classified info to neo-Nazi group,” NBC News, June 22, 2020, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/military/army-soldier-charged-giving-classified-info-neo-nazi-group-n1231766>; “United States of America v. Ethan Phelan Melzer, a/k/a ‘Etil Reggad,’ Defendant,” U.S. Department of Justice, June 4, 2020, 9, <https://www.justice.gov/file/1287701/download>.

people lack the desire, the motivation, the ethos, to do this and because they do not have the support of even a large minority of their own folk. If these nationalists, or some of them, desire to aid us, to help us . . . they can do the right thing, the honourable thing, and convert, revert, to Islam — accepting the superiority of Islam over and above each and every way of the West.”<sup>544</sup>

- David Myatt, 2005: “From the get-go the ONA have propagated holocaust revisionism, have praised Hitler, have encouraged members to join NS groups, with one of their core principles being, to quote Professor Monette, ‘the Way of Defiance of and Practical Opposition to Magian Abstractions’. This principle refers to the ONA’s opposition to what it perceives as illegitimate Magian (western Judaeo-Christian) control of global culture and economics.”<sup>545</sup>
- David Myatt, 2005: “Magian is ONA code for ZOG [Zionist Occupation Government – a phrase to describe the Jewish control of the state that became widely adopted by nazis in the 1980s and 90s].”<sup>546</sup>
- David Myatt, undated: Myatt has tried to “create some things which can disrupt our societies and which can lead to the creation of strong, really dangerous, ruthless individuals.”<sup>547</sup>
- ONA Frequently Asked Questions, undated: “Three of the primary aims of the ONA are:

“(1) to use our Dark Tradition to create sinister Adepts and, over a long period of causal Time, aid and enhance and create that new, more evolved, human species of which genuine Sinister Adepts may be considered to be the phenotype;

“(2) to use the sinister dialectic (and thus Aeonic Magick and genuine Sinister Arts) to aid and enhance and make possible entirely new types of societies for human beings, with these new societies being based on new tribes and a tribal way of living where the only law is that of our kindred honour;

“(3) to aid, encourage, and bring about – by practical and esoteric means (such as Dark Sorcery) – the breakdown and the downfall of existing societies, and thus to replace the tyranny of nations and States – and their impersonal governments – by our new tribal societies.”<sup>548</sup>

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<sup>544</sup> Nicola Woolcock and Dominic Kennedy, “What the neo Nazi fanatic did next: switched to Islam,” *Times* (London), April 24, 2006, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/what-the-neo-nazi-fanatic-did-next-switched-to-islam-qv3ph5k0jv8>.

<sup>545</sup> Nick Lowles, “Order of Nine Angles,” Hope Not Hate, February 16, 2019, <https://www.hopenothate.org.uk/2019/02/16/state-of-hate-2019-order-of-nine-angles/>.

<sup>546</sup> Nick Lowles, “Order of Nine Angles,” Hope Not Hate, February 16, 2019, <https://www.hopenothate.org.uk/2019/02/16/state-of-hate-2019-order-of-nine-angles/>.

<sup>547</sup> Nick Lowles, “A Nazi-satanist cult is fuelling far-right groups – overlooked by the UK authorities,” *New Statesman* (London), March 4, 2020, <https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/uk/2020/03/nazi-satanist-cult-fuelling-far-right-terrorist-groups-overlooked-uk-authorities-order-nine-angles>.

<sup>548</sup> “Frequently Asked Questions About The Order of Nine Angles – Version 4.01,” Lapis Philosophicus, accessed June 24, 2020, <https://lapisphilosophicus.wordpress.com/about-2/ona-faq/>.



- ONA propaganda, undated: Nazi Germany is a “practical expression of Satanic spirit . . . a burst of Luciferian light – of zest and power – in an otherwise Nazarene, pacified, and boring world.”<sup>549</sup>
- ONA text *The Mass Heresy*, undated: “Adolf Hitler was sent by our gods to guide us to greatness  
We believe in the inequality of races and in the right of the Aryan to live according to the law of the folk  
We acknowledge that the story of the Jewish ‘[H]olocaust’ is a lie to keep our race in chains and express our desire to see the truth revealed  
We believe in justice for our oppressed comrades and seek an end to the world-wide persecution of NationalSocialists[.]”<sup>550</sup>
- ONA text *The Rape Anthology*, undated: “Listen thus, Judeowhite children of Israel – to free yourself from your yoke of ‘morality’ and ‘decency’, and to redeem your sins in the eyes of Shaytaan, you must become the spear that tears through virgin hymen, you must become the phallic warrior, you must experience spiritual arousal from violent sexual rape.”<sup>551</sup>

### **Sonnenkrieg Division**

- **Summary:**

Sonnenkrieg Division (SKD) is the British chapter of the U.S.-based Atomwaffen Division (AWD). AWD is a neo-Nazi organization that seeks the creation of a National Socialist government through a violent “white revolution,” and believes that a race war is inevitable.<sup>552</sup>

SKD follows a neo-Nazi ideology promoted by James Mason, a former American Nazi Party member and a follower of cult leader Charles Manson.<sup>553</sup> During the 1980s, Mason wrote a series of pro-Manson and pro-Nazi newsletters that he called *Siege* and later

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<sup>549</sup> “United States of America v. Ethan Phelan Melzer, a/k/a ‘Etil Reggad,’ Defendant,” U.S. Department of Justice, June 4, 2020, 7, <https://www.justice.gov/file/1287701/download>.

<sup>550</sup> “United States of America v. Ethan Phelan Melzer, a/k/a ‘Etil Reggad,’ Defendant,” U.S. Department of Justice, June 4, 2020, 7, <https://www.justice.gov/file/1287701/download>.

<sup>551</sup> *The Rape Anthology* (The Chaos Press, 2019), 199.

<sup>552</sup> Matt Lebovic, “Inside ‘Atomwaffen,’ where Blaze Bernstein’s alleged killer trained for race war,” Times of Israel, January 29, 2018, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/inside-atomwaffen-where-blaze-bernsteins-alleged-killer-trained-for-race-war/>; A.C. Thompson, Ali Winston, and Jake Hanrahan, “Inside Atomwaffen As It Celebrates a Member for Allegedly Killing a Gay Jewish College Student,” ProPublica, last updated August 3, 2018, <https://www.propublica.org/article/atomwaffen-division-inside-white-hate-group>; “SIEGE! THE LEFT-RIGHT SPECTRUM - ATOMWAFFEN DIVISION SPECIAL,” Bitchute video, 4:01, posted August 29, 2017, <https://www.bitchute.com/video/eFLaKY5ePJxO/>; “#RESISTRACIALECLIPSE - ATOMWAFFEN DIVISION,” Bitchute video, 2:01, posted September 14, 2017, <https://www.bitchute.com/video/pwgBtaUkUGn4/>.

<sup>553</sup> Matt Lebovic, “Inside ‘Atomwaffen,’ where Blaze Bernstein’s alleged killer trained for race war,” Times of Israel, January 29, 2018, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/inside-atomwaffen-where-blaze-bernsteins-alleged-killer-trained-for-race-war/>.

compiled into a book of the same name.<sup>554</sup> Users on the now-defunct fascist web forum IronMarch formed AWD after discovering *Siege*. They based AWD's ideology on Mason's ideas of autonomous terror cells fighting a guerilla war against "the system."<sup>555</sup>

SKD formed in 2018 as a British offshoot of AWD.<sup>556</sup> Private messages exchanged online by SKD group members in 2018 labeled the United Kingdom's Prince Harry a "race traitor" for marrying a mixed-race woman and called for him to be shot.<sup>557</sup> In other private online messages, alleged leader Andrew Dymock called for police officers to be raped and killed.<sup>558</sup> Group members have also called for white women who date non-white men to be hanged.<sup>559</sup>

Dymock was arrested in December 2018 on terror offenses. Both Dymock and SKD member Oskar Dunn-Koczorowski formerly belonged to System Resistance Network, an alias of the banned British white supremacist group National Action.<sup>560</sup> In June 2019, Dunn-Koczorowski and Michal Szewczuk were imprisoned for terror offenses.<sup>561</sup>

In 2015, members of the far-right IronMarch online forum formed the neo-Nazi group Atomwaffen Division (AWD). AWD has since been linked to multiple murders around the United States as well as racist, homophobic, and anti-Semitic protests. On January 2, 2018, AWD member Sam Woodward allegedly murdered gay, Jewish college student Blaze Bernstein, an act AWD celebrated.<sup>562</sup> In 2015, AWD members republished *Siege* and began to popularize it online through the creation of an online subculture called Siege Culture, an umbrella brand publicized across social media, podcasts, and chatrooms dedicated to Mason's book. At the center of Siege Culture is the website Siegekultur.info,

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<sup>554</sup> A.C. Thompson, Ali Winston, and Jake Hanrahan, "Inside Atomwaffen As It Celebrates a Member for Allegedly Killing a Gay Jewish College Student," ProPublica, last updated August 3, 2018, <https://www.propublica.org/article/atomwaffen-division-inside-white-hate-group>.

<sup>555</sup> "Worldview," Universal Order, accessed August 16, 2018, <http://siegeculture.biz/worldview/> (site discontinued).

<sup>556</sup> Jamie Grierson, "UK to ban neo-Nazi Sonnenkrieg Division as a terrorist group," *Guardian* (London), February 24, 2020, <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/feb/24/uk-ban-neo-nazi-sonnenkrieg-division-terrorist-group>.

<sup>557</sup> Daniel Sandford and Daniel De Simone, "British Neo-Nazis suggest Prince Harry should be shot," BBC News, December 5, 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46460442>; "Extremist neo-Nazi group to be banned under terror laws," BBC News, February 24, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-51618248>.

<sup>558</sup> Daniel Sandford and Daniel De Simone, "British Neo-Nazis suggest Prince Harry should be shot," BBC News, December 5, 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46460442>.

<sup>559</sup> Richard Ford, "Terror ban for Sonnenkrieg Division neo-Nazis who branded Prince Harry a race traitor," *The Times* (London), February 24, 2020, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/terror-ban-for-sonnenkrieg-division-neo-nazis-who-branded-prince-harry-a-race-traitor-09zf3l3tb>.

<sup>560</sup> Daniel Sandford and Daniel De Simone, "British Neo-Nazis suggest Prince Harry should be shot," BBC News, December 5, 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46460442>; "Extremist neo-Nazi group to be banned under terror laws," BBC News, February 24, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-51618248>.

<sup>561</sup> Press Association, "Teenager who called Prince Harry a 'race traitor' sentenced," *Guardian* (London), June 18, 2019, <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jun/18/michal-szewczuk-sentenced-prince-harry-online-post-far-right>.

<sup>562</sup> A.C. Thompson, Ali Winston, and Jake Hanrahan, "Inside Atomwaffen As It Celebrates a Member for Allegedly Killing a Gay Jewish College Student," ProPublica, last updated August 3, 2018, <https://www.propublica.org/article/atomwaffen-division-inside-white-hate-group>.

which also bears the branding of Mason's Universal Order movement. Throughout *Siege*, Mason describes the Universal Order as an American descendent of Nazism.<sup>563</sup>

- **Base of Operations:** United Kingdom
- **Website:** N/A
- **Social Media:** Gab (defunct)
- **Leadership:** Andrew Dymock was the reported leader of SKD.<sup>564</sup>
- **Membership Size and Relevance:** The group reportedly had 10 to 15 members in Europe as of 2018.<sup>565</sup> The United Kingdom banned SKD in February 2020.<sup>566</sup>
- **Recruitment and Propaganda:** SKD members initially communicated through an online gaming forum. The group has posted violent images on social media praising Norwegian terrorist Anders Breivik and calling for violence.<sup>567</sup>

Like AWD, SKD is inspired by *Siege*, the anthology of violent pro-Nazi and pro-Charles Manson essays written by American neo-Nazi James Mason in the 1980s and first published as a single volume in 1992.<sup>568</sup> Dymock has called SKD "full on Universal Order," referring to Mason's pro-Nazi and pro-Manson ideology.<sup>569</sup> Dymock has compared SKD to AWD but noted SKD has fewer guns.<sup>570</sup>

- **Violent Activities:** SKD has not claimed credit for specific violent activities, but members have been linked to calls for violence.<sup>571</sup>
- **Rhetoric:**
  - Andrew Dymock, undated: SKD is like "atomwaffen with less guns."<sup>572</sup>
  - Andrew Dymock, undated: "kill all police officers."<sup>573</sup>

<sup>563</sup> James Mason, *Siege* (IronMarch.org, 2015), 398, 437.

<sup>564</sup> Daniel Sandford and Daniel De Simone, "British Neo-Nazis suggest Prince Harry should be shot," BBC News, December 5, 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46460442>.

<sup>565</sup> Daniel Sandford and Daniel De Simone, "British Neo-Nazis suggest Prince Harry should be shot," BBC News, December 5, 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46460442>.

<sup>566</sup> "Extremist neo-Nazi group to be banned under terror laws," BBC News, February 24, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-51618248>.

<sup>567</sup> Daniel Sandford and Daniel De Simone, "British Neo-Nazis suggest Prince Harry should be shot," BBC News, December 5, 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46460442>.

<sup>568</sup> "Guide to the James N. Mason Collection – Papers of James N. Mason," Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas Libraries, accessed December 19, 2018, <http://etext.ku.edu/view?docId=ksrlead/ksrl.kc.masonjames.xml>.

<sup>569</sup> Daniel Sandford and Daniel De Simone, "British Neo-Nazis suggest Prince Harry should be shot," BBC News, December 5, 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46460442>.

<sup>570</sup> Daniel Sandford and Daniel De Simone, "British Neo-Nazis suggest Prince Harry should be shot," BBC News, December 5, 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46460442>.

<sup>571</sup> Daniel Sandford and Daniel De Simone, "British Neo-Nazis suggest Prince Harry should be shot," BBC News, December 5, 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46460442>.

<sup>572</sup> Daniel Sandford and Daniel De Simone, "British Neo-Nazis suggest Prince Harry should be shot," BBC News, December 5, 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46460442>.

<sup>573</sup> Daniel Sandford and Daniel De Simone, "British Neo-Nazis suggest Prince Harry should be shot," BBC News, December 5, 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46460442>.