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Report 2018



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR
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Concept of the journalist as the enemy - looking back at 2018

A report by Pauline Betché for the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom

I. *Twenty-six physical attacks on journalists in the year 2018*

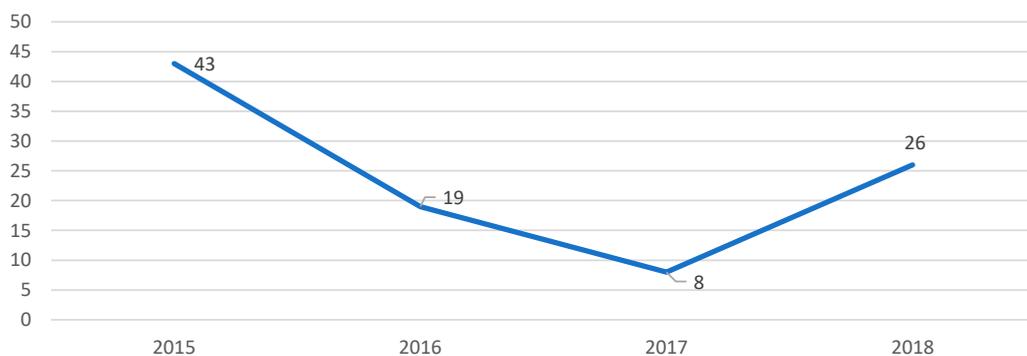
For journalists, the year 2018 was troubled: the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF) verified in total 26 violent attacks. The number of cases has not been so high since 2015: 43 physical assaults were registered in that year, and the following year the number decreased to 19. In 2017, the ECPMF documented eight attacks. The past year shows a worrying development with the increase to 26 cases. The autumn protests in Chemnitz marked a new low. In terms of the level of violence against journalists in recent decades in Germany, they were unique: in less than a month, 10 attacks took place – nine of them on one day.

With the exception of four assaults, all were from perpetrators with a politically right-wing background. Twenty out of 22 cases happened at or near political gatherings. In one case, a journalist was attacked by left-wing environmental activists during protests at Hambach Forest. In the other three cases, a political motivation was not clear, but still cannot be ruled out. Once again, in the fourth year of the ECPMF's investigations, the word 'lying press' manifested itself with journalists presented as the enemy by followers of right-wing ideologies.

Everyone who can be identified as a journalist must reckon with violence at political gatherings. In 2018, 22 of the 26 attacks happened to journalists while they were taking photographs, filming or carrying cameras. The reason for this is that journalists can mainly be identified by the fact that they have cameras.

What's more, eye-witness videos and [police reports](#) confirm that many of the more recent aggressors felt they were being provoked because the so-called 'lying press' were taking photos of them. This was especially the case when the demonstrators were being filmed against their will.

Assaults on journalists 2015-2018



Source: ECPMF

After four years of ECPMF research – and altogether 96 verified physical attacks from 2015 to 2018 – the earlier findings are confirmed: the 'lying press' slander and the actions it provokes endanger free reporting.

Insults such as "[Shut your gob, lying press](#)", massive intimidation and even death threats are hurled at journalists. It has gotten so bad that the ECPMF has meanwhile stopped systematically counting severe threats, because there are too many. Yet unanimous reports from journalists who are attacked are confirmed by the worrying dissemination of defamatory statements on the street and the internet.

II. An overview of the year 2018

Already in January 2018, we saw how dangerous it can be to report on political gatherings. At a demonstration by right-wing extremists [in Cottbus](#), neo-Nazi hooligans first sent journalist Ney Sommerfeld's camera flying and then more thugs beat her up, and she reported it to the police.

In April, when two freelance journalists were photographing the house of neo-Nazi leader Thorsten Heise in Fretterode, Thuringia, masked attackers followed them and forced their car off the road. Then they stole their camera kit and stabbed one of the journalists with a knife, [as one of the victims explained](#).

In June, a journalist was hit in the face at a neo-Nazi festival at Themar, Thuringia. Also in the first half of the year: a specialist journalist's camera was attacked at the Kyffhäuser meeting of the right-wing political party Alternative für Deutschland (AfD).

The protests and marches after the violent death of a man on 26. August in Chemnitz showed how unpredictable the threatening nature of these events can be. Reporters and photographers were beaten, trampled on, spat upon, shoved, and in some cases even hit with objects or weapons. In terms of the frequency and force of the attacks in Chemnitz, it seems appropriate to speak of a new level of violence.

By contrast, the last quarter of the year saw fewer incidents. The ECPMF verified three attacks between October and December, none of them in or near political gatherings. In one case, young people threw firecrackers [at an Israeli journalist](#) in the Neukölln district of Berlin. The two other cases involved TV journalists who were physically attacked whilst filming: one team from the ARD 'Monitor' magazine programme was filming at a conference for climate change deniers and was [physically attacked](#) by the president of the organisation that had staged the event. In the other case, journalists from Sat1 were filming a report at a car showroom in Wuppertal when masked attackers beat up the camera operator, [knocking him to the ground](#).

III. More big right-wing demonstrations – more attacks

The decrease in the number of attacks in 2016 and in 2017, with 'only' eight cases registered in the latter, seemed to indicate that things were generally calming down. But in fact, this trend was not sustained. It can mainly be explained by the smaller number of big demonstrations and opportunities for confrontations provided in those two years.

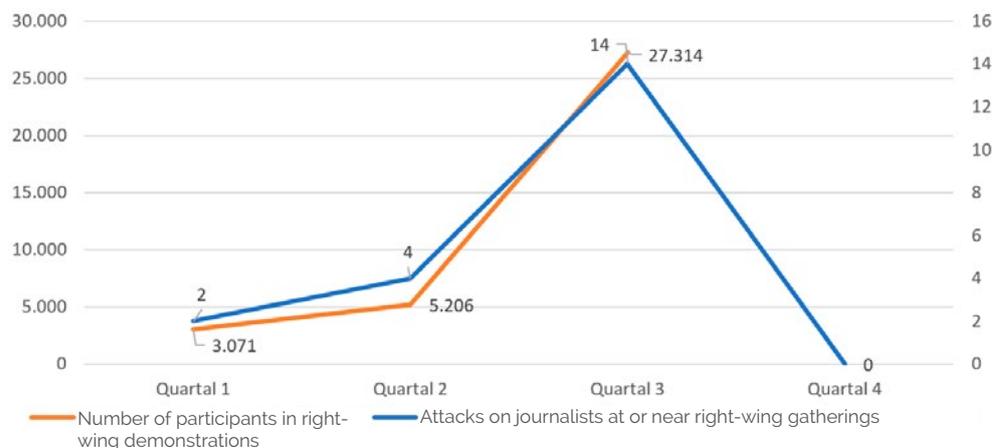
In comparison to 2017, the number of participants in right-wing demonstrations in Germany markedly increased in 2018. This is confirmed in written responses received from the federal government. In all of 2017, some 14,300 people took part in around 190 extreme right-wing or right-wing populist marches. On the other hand, the number of participants more than doubled just in the first three quarters of 2018: around 35,600 people took part in 140 gatherings.

In the third quarter of 2018, the number of such demonstrators reached a peak: from July to September, around 27,300 people heeded the call to join right-wing protests. Amongst them were 19,700 people who joined the citizens' movement 'Pro Chemnitz', which since January 2019 has been officially classified as [having an 'extremist tendency'](#).

Besides Chemnitz, there were large right-wing gatherings – with more than 400 participants – in Berlin, Plauen, Köthen and Halle during the last quarter of 2018.

If you put the number of participants in right-wing demonstrations in the first three quarters of 2018 next to the number of ECPMF-verified attacks on journalists at or near political demonstrations, you can see a clear relationship. Wherever there are more people at a right-wing demonstration, there are also more attacks on journalists.

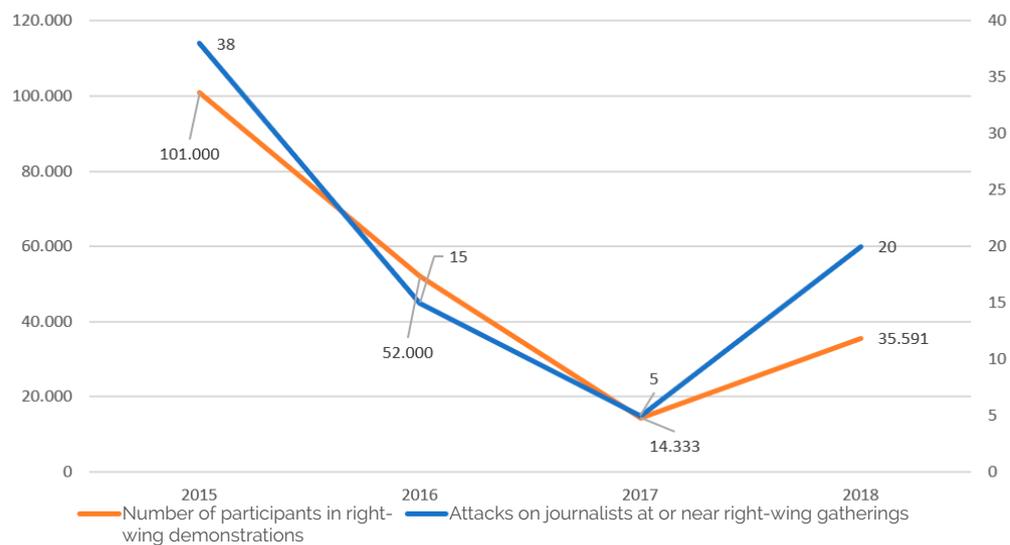
Comparison of participation in right-wing demonstrations and right-wing attacks on journalists 2018



Source: ECPMF; BT-Drucks. 19/2431, 19/3752, 19/5486.

The figures can also be compared for the entire survey period, from 2015 to 2018. Whilst in 2015 both the number of attacks from right-wingers and the number of participants in right-wing demonstrations were at a record high, the trend decreased in 2016 and 2017. In these years, fewer demonstrations attracted fewer people, and therefore fewer reporters went to cover them.

Comparison of participation in right-wing demonstrations and right-wing attacks on journalists 2015-2018



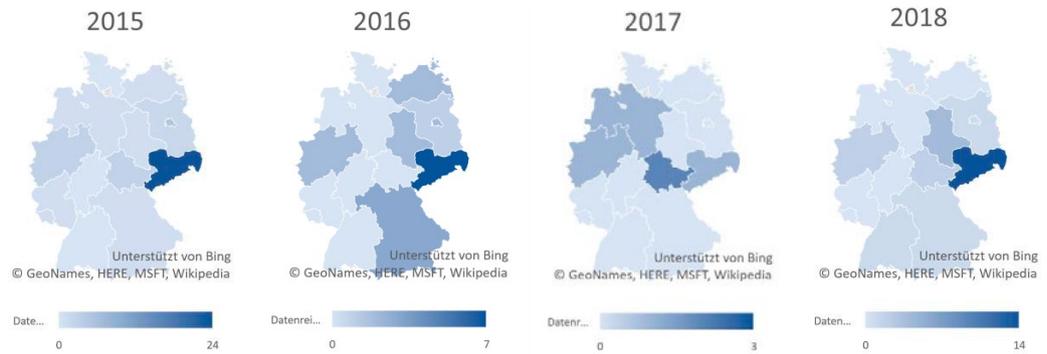
Source: ECPMF; BT-Drucks. 18/4846, 18/5688, 18/6555, 18/7448, 18/8368, 18/9312, 18/10214, 18/11267, 18/12268, 18/13243, 19/137, 19/890, 19/2431, 19/3752, 19/5486.

IV. Is it always Saxony? A four-year comparison of the German federal states

In 2018, too, journalists working in Saxony were the ones who were attacked the most. Fourteen attacks – more than half of the total for Germany – were verified in Saxony. The ECPMF documented four attacks in Saxony-Anhalt, two each in North Rhine-Westphalia and Thuringia, and one each in Brandenburg, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, and Bavaria.

That means that Saxony has taken a shameful leading role since the ECPMF started investigating these attacks across Germany in 2015. Only in 2017 did Thuringia (two attacks) overtake Saxony (one case).

This distribution of cases can mostly be explained by the events in the Saxon city of Chemnitz in 2018. Eleven incidents occurred during the so-called 'funeral processions' and the ongoing protests that [climaxed in violent rioting](#). The demon-

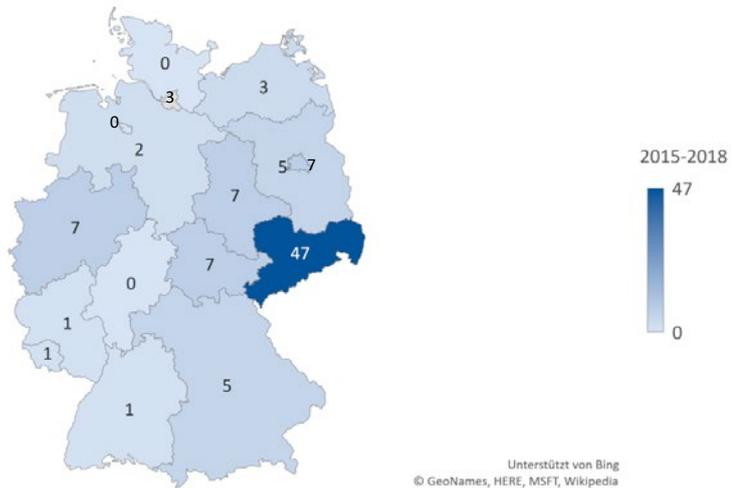


Source: ECPMF

strations by right-wing activists over several days led to accusations that the Saxon authorities had for decades ignored or underestimated the problem of right-wing extremism. In Chemnitz, the potential for aggression from a new alliance of right-wing populists against the so-called 'lying press' and extreme right-wing enemies of the press became apparent.

The comparison over four years further confirms the unique position of Saxony: almost half of the verified assaults across the whole of Germany, 47 out of 96, were committed in Saxony.

Assaults 2015-2018



Nevertheless, this is not enough to assert, as a series of journalists did on Twitter, that the Saxon government or Saxony in general has a democratic deficit.

Surveys show that in East Germany, there is comparatively less trust in the [media](#) and in [democracy](#). That also comes from the fact that many citizens feel that they are presented in a one-sided manner by the regional press, and that the reality of their living conditions is glossed over. Here we see manifested, just three decades after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the different living conditions in East and West.

That should not provide an excuse for Saxony-bashing, and these findings do not explain away the acts of violence. It is more productive to look at the specific characteristics of the main political movements that are to be found in the Free State of Saxony. The example of Saxony shows what can happen elsewhere too, if extreme right-wing developments are ignored and inadequate protection is provided for journalists at demonstrations.

V. The dangerous harmony between neo-Nazis and 'concerned citizens'

Before the advent of Pegida in Dresden and its affiliates across Germany (2014), it was mainly specialist correspondents who were targeted by neo-Nazis. Already at that time, right-wing extremists showed themselves to be aggressive and ready to commit violence.

Since the Pegida movement came to public attention, that situation has changed. Now all journalists who go to report on such demonstrations are indiscriminately threatened with potential violence. The analysis from years 2015 and 2016 shows that many of those convicted of these offences had previously been convicted of politically motivated offences. The starting point for many of the assaults was not the typical neo-Nazi events, but Pegida or AfD gatherings supposedly appealing to the right-wing citizens' movement.

It was already difficult to differentiate between 'concerned citizens' here, 'neo Nazis' there, and in the face of the events in Chemnitz at the end of August and 1. September 2018, it became impossible. By May 2017 at the latest, the [solidarity between Pegida and the AfD](#) was underway, and was then completed on this occasion by the inclusion of the right-wing extremists 'Pro Chemnitz' and the 'Identitarian Movement'. Now neo-Nazis giving the Hitler salute marched side by side with 'enraged citizens'.

For journalists, that means it's hard to estimate the level of risk, as Ney Sommerfeld says:

"Piled on top of insulting speeches in which there is incitement to resistance against the so-called 'lying press', demonstrators who look more like regular citizens are more likely to lash out than someone who is firmly anchored in the right-wing extremist structure. That makes

the situation particularly dangerous. The fact that there are also elderly people at these demonstrations is no reason to feel reassured – on the contrary, I sometimes have the feeling that while the neo-Nazis turn to violence with a clear ideology and a deliberate strategy, the so-called ‘citizens’ who you don’t notice at first are more likely to act impulsively.”

Meanwhile, there is hardly any difference in the potential for aggression of ‘enraged citizens’ and the armed neo-Nazis and right-wing extremists who have been attacking journalists in their own circles for decades. It is not possible to make a distinction between the two groups of attackers, and the result is the same: journalists are attacked or at least threatened simply for doing their job.

VI. Demands: better protection and clearer guidelines

Numerous journalists continue to criticise the police for the inadequacy of protection at demonstrations, without which they cannot report freely. Yet the problem is complicated, because various factors have an influence on it: the acute level of threat, the police officers’ inadequate knowledge of journalists’ rights, and the fact that the security forces are short-staffed. Meanwhile, it has become clear that permanent hostilities, threatening gestures and actual attacks on journalists leave their mark. Some media outlets and editorial teams will only send reporters to cover demonstrations with personal bodyguards. The precarious security situation and the feeling of being physically at risk inhibits or hampers the reporting process, as Ney Sommerfeld further explains:

“Of course this also affects our journalistic work. I’m not going back to Cottbus – and if there are no local reporters on the scene, then sometime soon no one will go there anymore. Of course this is a big problem.”

We can already see a massive chilling effect, as Sven Gösmann, Editor-in-Chief of the dpa press agency, told the ECPMF in an interview:

“This is intimidation of media workers: when they know that their reporting can have personal consequences for them, it is a big problem.”

Still, there has been some traction on the political side: in September 2018, the Interior Minister for the Federal States published a [joint declaration](#) through the German Press Council, in which they emphasised the need for an intensive dialogue between the press and the security forces. In addition, Holger Stahlknecht, the then-chair of the Conference of Interior Ministers, promised to bring back the Germany-wide ground rules that were agreed in the 90s for relations between media and police, and to strengthen civil servants' awareness of them.

In some places, improvements can be observed after parts of the police, especially in 2015, had been overburdened or even disinterested in protecting journalists. Many police chiefs have appointed additional contacts for the press at political demonstrations. That counts as progress, especially in Saxony. To ensure press freedom and above all the safety of media workers, a clear stance is needed, says dpa Editor-in-Chief Gösmann. In the ECPMF interview, he turns to Chemnitz:

“I wanted a clear recognition from Saxony's First Minister that press freedom not only should, but must be protected, with an appropriate order to his Interior Minister and to the police authorities of the federal state. I don't have the impression that press freedom is given the priority that it should be given.”

In addition, he would like to see a clearer rejection (of violence) from society: “It would be nice if the friends of press freedom, who after all are in the majority, would articulate this rejection more clearly.”

After all, free reporting can only succeed when media workers are able to deliver pictures, narrate events and draw conclusions without having to fear personal consequences or physical hindrances.

VII. Conclusions from 2018

The abrupt increase of violent attacks against journalists shows that the threats related to 'lying press' accusations only temporarily decreased, in 2016 and 2017. A small percentage of Germans bought into the idea of a 'lying press' with the rise and strengthening of the AfD and Pegida after 2014. According to social scientific research, these movements reduced the threshold at which people who would not classify as extremists commit violence against journalists. However, one can no longer distinguish the propensity to commit violence between extremists and a small number of normally socialised people who are supporters of either the AfD or Pegida. The rate between the number of participants in right-wing demonstrations and attacks against journalists clearly demonstrates that as the number of right-wing demonstrations grows, so do such incidences.

The year 2018 showed that it only takes one event to cause an eruption in violence against journalists. This event happened in Chemnitz, where there were more cases of attacks against journalists in a single round of demonstrations than in the two previous years. 'Lying press' slander clearly resulted in the channelling of right-wing aggression towards their concept of the enemy.

Moreover, one could distinguish two forms of violence taking place in large right-wing demonstrations. First, radicalised right-wing extremists strategically directed attacks against journalists (as in the Frettrode case). Second, there were spontaneous attacks by demonstrators; although hard to predict, they represented the clear materialisation of hatred against the media. In Chemnitz, one sees a particular increase in the latter form of violence.

According to journalist Ney Sommerfeld, "the year 2018 was a year of massive racialisation within the right-wing scene. The political atmosphere was already very aggressive, but 2018 saw things getting worse." Such radicalisation is expressed in the fact that the already established neo-Nazis are seeking to further sharpen their profile, and therefore to distance themselves from the 'regular citizen' camp. At the same time, demonstrations have gotten an increasingly racist turnout that is susceptible to inflammatory slogans.

Contacted by the ECPMF, one TV reporter attacked in the Chemnitz protests provided the following conclusion:

"The physical attacks in Chemnitz were for me the culmination of something that started in 2014. I had always expected it would eventually come to that, as the perception of us journalists has been getting worse. I hope that we have

hit rock-bottom, and that 2019 will be a calmer year, even though it is an election year.”

The consequences brought by the dangers faced by journalists in the field are that media outlets must hire security personnel to protect their correspondents. Another consequence is that many journalists choose not to cover right-wing demonstrations for fear of becoming targets of violence. This is especially true for independent journalists, who have no employer who protects them. Should the situation remain this way, the ECPMF believes that differentiated and diverse reporting will be hardly possible. This also endangers freedom of the press as enshrined in the German Constitution.

VIII. *Outlook for 2019: possibilities for containment and new mobilisation*

In January 2019, supporters of the right-wing extremist 'Identitarian Movement' attacked and [injured a journalist of the Berlin-based Tageszeitung](#) in a nationwide campaign against media outlets. This revealed a hitherto unknown degree of organisation. There had been occasional attacks on editorial offices in past years, as well as [intimidation campaigns against media outlets](#). Even attacks from perpetrators who supposedly acted only after feeling 'provoked' by certain work by journalists cannot be dismissed as individual instances – attacks by the identitarians point to a 'professionalisation' of violence, which is far from affective behaviour.

Based on the findings collected so far, the current trend is largely based on three factors:

- a. the number of demonstrations and participants belonging to the right-wing spectrum, and thus the degree of right-wing mobilisation;
- b. the readiness of journalists and their editorial offices to report on these developments in the field;
- c. the ability of the police to ensure such reporting can be done safely. This includes training as well as sufficient availability of police officers.

At the political level, one can expect changes in at least three federal states: Brandenburg, Saxony and Thuringia. With the upcoming state parliamentary elections, political restructuring is likely in all three of these East German states, [as shown by some of the latest polls](#). They predict that the AfD can hit the 20 percent mark, which would redesign the parliamentary space, and likely result in even stronger mobilisation within the right-wing spectrum. One can already expect protests and counter protests during the election campaigns, along with high participation rates and increased tensions.

This makes it all the more important for security forces to keep potentially violent actors away from peaceful participants, so that journalists remain effectively protected. Crucially, the Interior Ministry has promised to train police authorities and to put press law visibly on the agenda.

Thus, the ECPMF concludes that:

1. Political demonstrations with many participants pose a high security risk for journalists.
2. Violence against journalists mainly originates from right-wing perpetrators.
3. It is difficult to distinguish between neo-Nazis and 'concerned citizens' in terms of their potential for aggression.
4. An event like the one in Chemnitz is enough for the escalation of violence to unprecedented levels.
5. Cameras are a distinguishing feature for journalists, which signals them as targets.
6. In addition to planned and targeted attacks by right-wing extremists, spontaneous acts of violence from the circle of right-wing demonstrators have become more frequent.

IX. Fallübersicht

Physical Attacks 2015

date (DD.MM.YY)	city	state	camera	incident	violence	right wing / left wing / other	sources	source 2	confirmation
07.01.2015	Dortmund	NW	Y	On January 7 2015 a 46 year old female journalist got attacked by a Neonazi within the context of an Information event for a planned refugee camp. The 24-year old Neonazi was accused to snatch away the mobile phone of the journalist.	PUSH	RIGHT	http://blog.zeit.de/stoerung-smelder/2015/07/06/dortmunder-neonazi-nach-angriff-auf-journalist-verurteilt_19626	http://nordstadtblogger.de/dortmunder-neonazi-muss-sich-fuer-angriffe-auf-journalisten-und-polizisten-vor-gericht-verantworten/	Y
12.01.2015	Saarbrücken	SL	Y	During a Saargida-Demonstration a cameraman from SR was attacked and injured.	Y	RIGHT	SR		N
14.01.2015	Hannover	NI	Y	On January 14 a free photographer was attacked during a Hagida demonstration by a demonstrator in Hannover. His camera got damaged.	Y	RIGHT	http://www.bnr.de/artikel/aktuelle-meldungen/hagida-gescheitert	http://www.bnr.de/artikel/aktuelle-meldungen/hagida-gescheitert	N
21.01.2015	Leipzig	SN	Y	During a Legida-Demonstration, a photographer was hit and his camera got damaged.	HIT	RIGHT	Drs.-Nr. 6/3528	https://twitter.com/bjokie/status/557982297367248898	Y
21.01.2015	Leipzig	SN	N	Merten Waage, editor of radio mephisto 97.6 is spit on, threatened and persecuted by participants of Legida-demonstration. Read the full ECPMF-interview with Merten Waage about the incident and its consequences here. Radio mephisto 97.6 made the footage available to the public:	SPIT	RIGHT	Merten Waage, ECPMF-Interview	https://soundcloud.com/mephisto976/an-griff-von-legida-auf-journalisten-in-leipzigmp3	footage and police
21.01.2015	München	BY	Y	On January 21 a free video reporter was hit by a bottle and hit on a Bagida-demonstration in Munich.	WEAPON	LEFT	Reporter Ohne Grenzen		N
23.01.2015	Nordhausen	TH	N	On January 23 a person tried to push a journalist driving in his car a side the street. After that the person hit him in the face.	HIT	U	http://www.thueringer-allgemeine.de/web/zgt/leben/blaulicht/detail/-/specific/Journalist-auf-A-38-abgedraengt-und-taetlich-angegriffen-600254857		N
24.01.2015	Angermünde	BB	Y	A camera-man of Public Service Broadcaster RBB is attacked with a flag-pole or a rolled banner while reporting from an Anti-refugee-demonstration. He is not injured.	HIT	RIGHT	http://www.opferperspektive.de/rechte-angriffe/chronologie-rechter-angriffe/angermuende	ECPMF	N
26.01.2015	Duisburg	NW	Y	A camera crew of WDR (First German Television) is threatened by participants of a Dügida-demonstration, the camera man is dazzled with a lazer pointer.	WEAPON	RIGHT	http://waz.m.derwesten.de/:s=iK3_liBAvGW0oT-LKjpuUC39/dw/staedte/duisburg/staedte/duisburg/protest-gegen-pegida-und-duegida-aufmaersche-in-duisburg-und-dues-seldorf-id10275706.html?service=mobile	https://twitter.com/Sabberschnauze/status/559774293043978240	N
09.03.2015	Dortmund	NW	Y	Three disguised aggressors throw stones on photographer Marcus Arndt, hitting him twice at neck and body. They stop and flew when he points his blank gun on them. The investigation was dropped by 19.06.2015	WEAPON	RIGHT	http://nordstadtblogger.de/journalist-nach-neonazi-mahnwache-in-dortmund-angegriffen-polizei-nimmt-die-todesdrohungen-sehr-ernst/	http://www.spiegel.de/panorama/justiz/dortmund-neonazis-sollen-journalisten-angegriffen-haben-a-1022731.html	N
16.03.2015	Berlin	BE	Y	On 16 March 2015 a photographer was attacked during a "BÄRGIDA" demonstration. The photographer fell down the stairs and was hurt. The police arrested the attacker.	HIT	RIGHT	http://www.berlin.de/polizei/polizeimeldungen/pressemitteilung.280465.php	http://www.bz-berlin.de/tatort/fotograf-bei-baergida-demo-verletzt	Y
27.04.2015	Berlin	BE	Y	A photographer and videojournalist of newsagency "berlintürk" is attacked at a demonstration of BärGida with the words "shitty wog" with a flagstaff and injured. The offender was detained.	WEAPON	RIGHT	http://www.bz-berlin.de/tatort/tuerkischer-journalist-bei-baergida-demo-attackiert	https://jfa.de/blog/tag/rassistischer-angriff/	Y
01.05.2015	Freital	SN	Y	On May 1st a photographer was threatened and hit during a demonstration against asylum seekers in Freital	HIT	RIGHT	http://www.andi-szabo.de/blog/2015/12/ueber-25-uebergriffe-auf-journalisten-in-sachsen/	http://www.netz-gegen-nazis.de/artikel/freit-al-eskaliert-der-hass-gegen-fl%C3%BChtlinge-gesch%C3%BCrt-wird-er-auch-im-netz-10446	Y
02.05.2015	Erfurt	TH	U	On May 2nd a free journalist was hit during a Neonazi-assembly by a right-wing extremist in Erfurt.	HIT	RIGHT	Reporter Ohne Grenzen		N
08.05.2015	Freital	SN	Y	On May 8 a photographer was beaten during a demonstration	HIT	RIGHT	http://www.netz-gegen-nazis.de/artikel/freit-al-eskaliert-der-hass-gegen-fl%C3%BChtlinge-gesch%C3%BCrt-wird-er-auch-im-netz-10446	http://www.andi-szabo.de/blog/2015/12/ueber-25-uebergriffe-auf-journalisten-in-sachsen/	N
08.06.2015	Wurzen	SN	Y	On June 6 a photographer is threatened and beaten at a Pegida demonstration.	HIT	RIGHT	http://www.raa-sachsen.de/index.php/chronik-details/wurzen-2447.html	http://www.andi-szabo.de/blog/2015/12/ueber-25-uebergriffe-auf-journalisten-in-sachsen/	N
15.06.2015	Dresden	SN	Y	On June 16 a DNN-Reporter was hit and pushed during a Pegida-Demonstration. The attackers are unknown.	HIT	RIGHT	Drs.-Nr. 6/3528	http://www.dnn.de/Dresden/Lokales/Gegendemonstranten-und-Journalist-bei-Pegida-Demonstration-bedaengt	Y
24.07.2015	Dresden	SN	Y	On July 24 a ZDF-camera team was threatened pestered during a right wing riot	Y	RIGHT	Drs.-Nr. 6/3528	http://www.andi-szabo.de/blog/2015/12/ueber-25-uebergriffe-auf-journalisten-in-sachsen/	Y
31.07.2015	Freital	SN	Y	A photographer is beaten at a demonstration.	HIT	RIGHT	http://www.andi-szabo.de/blog/2015/12/ueber-25-uebergriffe-auf-journalisten-in-sachsen/	Drs.-Nr. 6/3528	N
21.08.2015	Heidenau	SN	U	During right-wing protests in Heidenau stones and bottles have been thrown onto journalists.	WEAPON	RIGHT	Generalstaatsanwaltschaft Dresden		Y
08.09.2015	Dresden	SN	Y	A photographer of 'dpa' is insulted and smashed to the ground by while reporting from a refugee site in the Saxony capital. His camera was destroyed, his car damaged. The offender was arrested.	HIT	RIGHT	Drs.-Nr. 6/3528	http://www.andi-szabo.de/blog/2015/12/ueber-25-uebergriffe-auf-journalisten-in-sachsen/	Y

date (DD. MM.YY)	city	state	camera	incident	violence	right wing / left wing / other	sources	source 2	confirmation
25.09.2015	Stralsund	MV	Y	During a MVgidA Demonstration a free cameraman was physically attacked	HIT	RIGHT	http://www.presseportal.de/blau-licht/pm/108767/3132109	NDR	NDR and Polizei Neu-brandenburg and Staatsan-waltschaft Stralsund
28.09.2015	Dresden	SN	Y	A Journalist of MDR is kicked by a participant of a Pegida-demonstration.	KICK	RIGHT	Drs.-Nr. 6/3528	http://www.andi-szabo.de/blog/2015/12/ue-ber-25-uebergrieffe-auf-journalisten-in-sachsen/	N
28.09.2015	Dresden	SN	Y	A reporter of 'Dresdner Neueste Nachrichten' is hit in the face by a participant of a Pegida-demonstration.	HIT	RIGHT	Drs.-Nr. 6/3528	http://www.dnn.de/Dresden/Lokales/Die-Hemmschwelle-bei-Pegida-sinkt	police
03.10.2015	Jena	TH	Y	On October 3rd 2015 a journalist got attacked during a Neonazi-demonstration in Jena with ca. 200 participants. Before that, people got encouraged to hinder journalists to take photos. Lense and camera cabinet got damaged, the victim got hurt on his hand. The victim complaint because of damage on property and bodily harm.	HIT	RIGHT	http://www.ezra.de/chronik/chronik-2015/	ECPMF	N
09.10.2015	Dresden	SN	U	On October 9 a reporter was hit by a stone during a right-wing protest against asylum seekers	WEAP-ON	RIGHT	http://www.andi-szabo.de/blog/2015/12/ue-ber-25-uebergrieffe-auf-journalisten-in-sachsen/		N
12.10.2015	Leipzig	SN	Y	A photographer is smashed to the ground at a Legida-demonstration.	HIT	RIGHT	http://www.andi-szabo.de/blog/2015/12/ue-ber-25-uebergrieffe-auf-journalisten-in-sachsen/	Drs.-Nr. 6/3528	Y
12.10.2015	Dresden	SN	Y	On october 12 a photographer from DNN was spit on during a PEGIDA demonstration	SPIT	RIGHT	https://twitter.com/streetcoverage/status/653628549958643712	Drs.-Nr. 6/3528	N
15.10.2015	Dresden	SN	Y	The Twitter-journalists of 'Straßengezwitscher' report that they are oppressed and hit on their camera by participants of a right wing demonstration.	HIT	RIGHT	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PXjR5aRK8M	http://www.tagesspiegel.de/politik/saechsisches-twitter-projekt-gegen-rassismus-strassengezwitscher-erhaelt-preis-fuer-zivilcourage/12172706.html	police and footage
19.10.2015	Dresden	SN	U	Alexej Hock, twitter-Journalist of 'Strassengezwitscher' is kicked in the back while reporting from a Pegida-Demonstration.	KICK	RIGHT	Drs.-Nr. 6/3528	Seigert, Svenja/Zappner, Jan: Angst ist das falsche Wort. In: Der Journalist, 12/2015, S. 13-14	N
19.10.2015	Dresden	SN	Y	Jaafar Abdul Karim, Reporter of 'Deutsche Welle', is oppressed, insulted as "Kanake" ("wog") and hit in the neck by participants of a Pegida demonstration. The offenders have not been identified.	HIT	RIGHT	http://www.dw.com/de/jaafars-vide-oblog-3-hass-und-hetze/a-18791604	Drs.-Nr. 6/3528	N
19.10.2015	Dresden	SN	Y	Jose Sequeira, camera man of Ruptly Video agency, is attacked at Pegida-Demonstration at Dresden. Sequiera's equipment is smashed to the ground and later he is physically attacked from six or seven persons, hitting him on head and neck.	HIT	RIGHT	https://www.rt.com/news/319106-ruptly-cameraman-attack-pegida/	Drs.-Nr. 6/3528	N
19.10.2015	Dresden	SN	N	On October 19 a hired engineer from Deutschlandradio was attacked in front of a mobile unit after the actual Pegida-demonstration by a counter-demonstrator and accused to support Pegida through reporting about it. He also spit at him and another female reporter and then kicked the mobile unit. Then, the engineer wanted to stop the aggressor and was hit in the face.	HIT	LEFT	https://www.reporter-ohne-grenzen.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/meldung/uebergrieffe-in-dresden-am-pegida-jahrestag/	Drs.-Nr. 6/3528	Y
24.10.2015	Magdeburg	ST	U	During a match of Mageburg and Wehen Wiesbaden, a MDR-journalist got pushed and threatened.	PUSH	U	MDR		N
29.10.2015	Mainz	RP	Y	On Ocotber 29 a cameraman who works for SWR was attacked by a demonstrator. A microphone was damaged	OTHER	RIGHT	SWR		N
30.10.2015	Berlin	BE	N	Helmut Schumann, columnist of 'Der Tagesspiegel' is punched and insulted, while he walks privately through his Berlin Charlottenburg-neighbourhood. The aggressor is supposed to have shouted: "Schumann, you leftist bastard" when hitting him from behind. There are no witnesses.	HIT	RIGHT	http://www.tagesspiegel.de/berlin/polizei-justiz/rechte-gewalt-tagesspiegel-autor-helmut-schumann-angegriffen/12530448.html	http://www.sueddeutsche.de/medien/berlin-journalist-wegen-pegida-kritik-niedergeschlagen-12719258	N
02.11.2015	Chemnitz	SN	Y	A photographer who covered a demonstration of Pegida and counter demonstrations is followed by several unidentified men. In front of his car they attacked him with pepper spray. He was not injured. The attacker is unknown.	WEAP-ON	RIGHT	http://www.polizei.sachsen.de/de/MI_2015_39100.htm?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter	Drs.-Nr. 6/3528	N
02.11.2015	Berlin	BE	Y	On November 2nd the video reporter Martin Heller and his colleagues were attacked during a NPD demonstration	PUSH	RIGHT	http://www.spiegel.de/kultur/gesellschaft/welt-reporter-bei-neonazi-demo-angegriffen-a-1060811.html , http://meedia.de/2015/11/02/welt-reporter-bei-neonazi-demo-attackiert-kolumnist-auf-strasse-niedergeschlagen/	https://www.welt.de/politik/video148365295/Hier-greift-ein-NPD-Anhaenger-unser-Kamerateam-an.html	footage
07.11.2015	Berlin	BE	Y	Kaveh Rostamkhani, freelance photographer, was insulted and oppressed while covering the demonstration of AfD. Police intervened.	PUSH	RIGHT	http://kaveh-rk.net/alles-gute-deutschland-ein-protokoll/	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEUccxfnrgk	footage
17.11.2015	Rathenow	BB	Y	During a edmonstration of 'Bürgerbündnis Havelland' a free photo journalist was attacked. His camera got damaged.	OTHER	RIGHT	http://www.pnn.de/brandenburg-berlin/1025548/	gegenrede.info	Y
23.11.2015	Dresden	SN	Y	Camera-man Dmitri Volkov, working for First Russian Television is attacked at Pegida-demonstration. He suffers a broken bone near to his eye and needs surgery.	HIT	RIGHT	http://www.polizei.sachsen.de/de/MI_2015_39422.htm	http://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/pegida-kameramann-verletzt-a-1064239.html	police

date (DD. MM.YY)	city	state	camera	incident	violence	right wing / left wing / other	sources	source 2	confirmation
25.11.2015	Dresden	SN	Y	On November 25 a cameraman was hit by a Pegida Demonstrator and had to go to the hospital.	HIT	RIGHT	https://www.polizeibericht-dresden.de/bericht/17727-polizeibericht-dresden-polizeinsatz-zum-heutigen-versammlungsgeschehen	http://www.andi-szabo.de/blog/2015/12/ueber-25-uebergriffe-auf-journalisten-in-sachsen/	N
25.11.2015	Cottbus	SN	Y	ZDF-Reporter Britta Hilpert and her team are pushed around by several participants of Demonstration of AFD (Alternative für Deutschland). Police intervened directly.	PUSH	RIGHT	http://meedia.de/2015/11/27/zdf-zeigt-video-rohmaterial-des-uebergriffs-auf-eine-reporterin-bei-afd-demo/	https://twitter.com/ZDFheute/status/670141564337819648	police and footage

Physical Attacks 2016

date (DD. MM.YY)	city	state	camera	incident	violence	right wing / left wing / other	sources	source 2	confirmation
27.01.2016	Magdeburg	ST	Y	A camera-team of MDR and a cameraman of ZDF is attacked with pepper-spray while covering a demonstration of AFD-party, a technician and a security-man were injured. The offender was filmed, while he attacked and detained by police. The attack was announced by police.	WEAPON	RIGHT	http://www.mdr.de/mdr-info/afd-magdeburg-angriffe-auf-journalisten100_zc-885afaa7_zs-5d851339.html	http://www.heute.de/kamerateams-von-mdr-und-zdf-bei-afd-demo-in-magdeburg-angegriffen-42002866.html	Y
28.01.2016	München	BY	Y	A reporter of the BR which covered the PEGIDA Demonstration in Munich were hindered by his work. His camera got damaged. Videofootage on the folling link below (Incident in 4:30 min)	Y	RIGHT	http://www.br.de/mediathek/video/sendungen/quer/160128-quer-pegida-102.html	http://www.bjv.de/news/linktipps-zum-the-ma-rechtsextremismus	footage
30.01.2016	Rostock	MV	U	During a demonstration against a refugee camp a journalist got attacked by an demonstration participant with a beer bottle. The police investigates.	WEAPON	RIGHT	http://www.ostsee-zeitung.de/Region-Rostock/Rostock/Journalisten-bei-Anti-Fluechtlingsdemo-attackiert	https://www.rostock-heute.de/proteste-fluechtlingsunterkunft-lichten-hagen/84673	N
01.02.2016	Leipzig	SN	Y	A journalist of the online newspaper (L-IZ) and other reporters got hindered to cover the demonstration. The L-IZ reporter got attacked by an participant. The police acts aggressive against journalist (vide0 footage)	WEAPON	RIGHT	http://www.l-iz.de/leben/gesellschaft/2016/02/legida-videos-einschuechterungsversuche-und-ein-angrif..	http://www.neues-deutschland.de/artikel/1000278.legida-anhaenger-attackieren-journalisten.html	Y
22.02.2016	Grevesmühlen	MV	Y	A photojournalist got beaten up by a participant of the MVgida demonstration (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern). The journalist got injured. The police investigates.	HIT	RIGHT	http://www.t-online.de/nachrichten/deutschland/gesellschaft/id_77057104/mvgida-demo-grevesmuehlen-demonstrant-schlaegt-reporter.html	http://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/grevesmuehlen-mvgida-demonstrant-verletzt-reporter-a-1078814.html	N
23.02.2016	Rathenow	BB	Y	A photographer is attacked with an laser-pointer while working on a demonstration of right-wing extremists.	WEAPON	RIGHT	http://www.pnn.de/brandenburg-berlin/1053361/	https://presseservicern.wordpress.com/2016/02/24/rathenow-nutzen-neonazis-buergerbuendnis-marsch-fuer-horst-wessel-gedenken/	Y
12.03.2016	Berlin	BE	Y	A freelance video journalist is physically attacked on site of the demonstration "We for Germany - We are the people . Merkel has to leave". The aggressors are not caught, no denouncement is made by police.	HIT	RIGHT	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3TySovxK00		Footage
13.03.2016	Nürnberg	BY	Y	A photojournalist got attacked by an AFD-Demonstration participant. The police took him in to custody	Y	RIGHT	https://www.br.de/nachrichten/mittelfranken/inhalt/afd-nuernberg-demo-br-100.html		Yes by police and attorney
09.04.2016	Magdeburg	ST	Y	A photographer is hit in the face by demonstrators of the right-wing-extremist gathering "Gemeinsam stark" ("Strong together"). The police intervened immediately and detains one of the aggressors.	HIT	RIGHT	http://www.focus.de/politik/deutschland/riesiges-polizeiaufgebot-hakenkreuz-shirts-zu-sehen-aggressive-stimmung-bei-hooligan-demo-in-magdeburg_id_5423216.html	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yA2wOk_P2JM	Footage
22.04.2016	Unna	NW	Y	The photographer Felix Huesmann is attacked while reporting from a demonstration of Alternative für Deutschland (AFD) in Unna. After he documented an attack of demonstrators on an (unnamed) photographer he is pushed around himself and his camera is grabbed by the attackers and disappears in the crowd. The two robbers are detained later and recieved an announcement on robbery. Huesmann got his camera back from police after the demonstration.	PUSH	RIGHT	http://www.vice.com/de/read/ich-wurde-von-einem-afd-demonstranten-beraubt	http://www.presseportal.de/blaulicht/pm/65856/3309121	Y
27.08.2016	Leipzig	SN	U	A journalist of Zeit Online Blog "Störungsmelder" is injured by a bottle that has been thrown from a gathering of right wing extremists in Leipzig in the environment of demonstrations concerning a public free-fight-event.	WEAPON	RIGHT	http://www.lvz.de/Leipzig/Polizeiticker/Polizeiticker-Leipzig/1000-Demonstranten-gegen-Rechts-IFC-Teilnehmer-attackieren-Journalisten	https://twitter.com/stoerungsblog/status/769595355633778688?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw	police
04.09.2016	München	BY	Y	Two photographers are physically attacked by right wing activists in Munich. One extremist first tries to kick a photographer, afterwards he is hit in the face. Another photographer is spit on in the environment of the election-party	HIT	RIGHT	https://www.welt.de/politik/deutschland/article157962437/Pruegelei-bei-AFD-Wahlparty-in-Muenchen.html	http://blog.zeit.de/stoerungsmelder/2016/09/05/gewaltausbruch-bei-afd-wahlparty-in-muenchen_22309	footage and staatsanwaltschaft
15.09.2016	Bautzen	SN	Y	An anti-refugee protestor hits a filming journalist on his arm while he is covering the demonstration.	HIT	RIGHT	http://www.lvz.de/Mitteldeutschland/Polizeiticker-Mitteldeutschland/Erneut-unruhige-Nacht-in-Bautzen-Rechte-sagen-Demo-am-Freitag-ab	https://www.polizei.sachsen.de/de/MI_2016_44876.htm	by police
19.09.2016	Dresden	SN	U	A reporter of Sächsische Zeitung is persecuted by three men that before were following a Pegida demonstration, is then threatened and grabbed on. testimonies call the police, the aggressors fled. They are later identified. Police stated that it is likely that the attack happened due to coverage of the reporter about a court trial, where one of the aggressors was involved.	HOLD	RIGHT	http://www.sz-online.de/nachrichten/uebergriffe-auf-sz-reporter-3500142.html		Y

date (DD. MM.YY)	city	state	camera	incident	violence	right wing / left wing / other	sources	source 2	confirmation
07.10.2016	Bautzen	SN	Y	The photographer Björn Kiezmann is attacked by right-wing demonstrators. His camera is hit in his face and got damaged	KICK	RIGHT	http://www.augenzeugen.info/bjoern-kienzmann-polizei-will-neonazis-bei-bautzen-aufmarsch-nicht-stoeren/	Mail Pol Görlitz	by police

Physical Attacks 2017

date (DD. MM.YY)	city	state	camera	incident	violence	right wing / left wing / other	sources	source 2	confirmation
16.01.2017	Erfurt	TH	Y	A team from MDR was attacked while filming for a report. The camera operator explained that the defendant had grabbed him by the collar and threatened to punch his face in if he had been filmed. In addition, one of the men is said to have drawn a baton. The men then suddenly let go of him and his assistant.	WEAPON	RIGHT	ECPMF Interview	https://www.mdr.de/investigativ/urteil-an-greifer-mdr-team-erfurt-100.html	Y by police and court
20.02.2017	Dresden	SN	Y	A participant rammed his elbow into the ribs of a journalist who was filming a 'Monday walk' of Pegida. Other participants threatened and insulted the journalist.	HIT	RIGHT	http://www.augenzeugen.info/journalist-thilo-schmidt-ellenbogen-mit-wucht-in-die-seite-gerammt/	SWR	N
01.04.2017	Göttingen	NI	Y	Activists attacked a photojournalist after an event in Göttingen. During a subsequent spontaneous demonstration in nearby Friedland, they struck them as they were live-streaming on Facebook.	HIT	RIGHT	http://www.taz.de/!5459372/		Y by footage
06.07.2017	Hamburg	HH	Y	Journalist Marcus DiPaola was pushed and knocked to the ground during his video recordings for Heavy.com magazine. Several people insulted him as a 'Nazi', after another blogger published a picture of DiPaola and others with a sympathizer of the 'Identitarian Movement'. Moreover, the journalist Max Bachmann was later knocked to the ground and injured his knees. Several times DiPaola and his team were called Nazis, and then left afterwards.	PUSH	LEFT	https://heavy.com/news/2017/07/journalist-attacked-g20-protest-pov/	https://meedia.de/2017/07/10/nach-hetzjagd-vor-wuerfen-beim-g20-zeit-online-trennt-sich-von-stoerungsmelder-autor-soeren-kohlhuber/	Y by footage
07.07.2017	Hamburg	HH	Y	During the G20 demonstrations in Hamburg, a hooded man attacked journalist Martin Kaul. The attacker threw himself at the journalist so that he passed out for a short time. His watch and glasses were stolen.	PUSH	LEFT	https://www.deutschlandfunk.de/journalisten-beim-g20-gipfel-der-hat-mir-einen-auf-die-2907.de.html?dram:article_id=390655	https://www.tagesspiegel.de/medien/nominierte-fuer-den-journalistenpreis-der-lange-ater-berichten-wo-es-unuebersichtlich-wird/20576904.html	N
07.07.2017	Hamburg	HH	Y	Israeli journalist Oren Ziv was attacked during G20 protests and knocked down. His camera was stolen.	HIT	LEFT	https://www.jungewelt.de/artikel/314940.solidarit%C3%A4t		N
13.08.2017	Düsseldorf	NW	Y	A photographer was kicked during a demonstration in Düsseldorf against the North-Rhine Westphalia opening of the AfD's Bundestag election campaign.	KICK	RIGHT	https://www.nrz.de/staedte/duesseldorf/koerperverletzung-bei-demo-anzeige-gegen-afd-mitglied-id211578263.html		Y by police
12.09.2017	Jena	TH	Y	Visitors of an AfD rally in Jena hit a journalist's camera. A video shows how first an older man and later another participant of the AfD event hit the journalist's camera and forced him to stop filming.	HIT	RIGHT	https://twitter.com/jan_wiebe/status/907655974219116551	https://www.neues-deutschland.de/artikel/1063611menschen-protestieren-gegen-afd-veranstaltung-in-jena.html	Y by footage

Physical Attacks 2018

date (DD. MM.YY)	city	state	camera	incident	violence	right wing / left wing / other	sources	source 2	confirmation
20.01.2018	Cottbus	BB	Y	A photojournalist and her colleague were attacked during the extreme right-wing demonstration 'Zukunft Heimat' in Cottbus. The journalist wanted to film an incident in which two men insulted another colleague and prevented her from working. Then, the two attackers turned around and one of them struck at her camera, which remained undamaged. He also spat at her and her colleague. Later, a man approached her and pushed the journalist from an elevation. She remained unharmed. She reported the second attack to the police.	SPIT	RIGHT	ECPMF Interview	https://blog.zeit.de/stoerungsmelder/2018/01/22/ich-versuche-mich-von-dem-angriff-nicht-einschuechtern-zu-lassen_25406	Y by police
13.02.2018	Dresden	SN	Y	During a demonstration at Dresden's Altstadt, a journalist was pushed and beaten in the midst of verbal attacks.	PUSH	RIGHT	https://twitter.com/streetcoverage/status/963507093599813633	http://www.augenzeugen.info/polizei-dresden-in-der-kritik/	Y by witness, footage
20.04.2018	Ostritz	SN	Y	During a neo-Nazi festival in Ostritz, Saxony, a reporter of the magazine 'Spiegel Online' was attacked by a participant. She damaged the camera's microphone. According to the police, a wrangling ensued, in which the journalist's equipment was damaged.	OTHER	RIGHT	https://twitter.com/jgfeldmann/status/987428639984816129	https://www.polizei.sachsen.de/de/MI_2017_56352.htm	Y by police
29.04.2018	Hohengandern/Eichsfeld	TH	Y	After taking photographs and film footage of property from NPD member Thorsten Heise, two freelance journalists were attacked by two masked men in their car. The BMW was damaged and the two journalists slightly injured. The masked men robbed the photographic equipment from the car and escaped. One of the journalists had a laceration on his head, incurred by a blow with a wrench; the other journalist was stabbed in his thigh by one of the right-wing attackers. The attackers blew out the BMW's tires and smashed its windows.	WEAPON	RIGHT	https://www.presseportal.de/blaulicht/pm/126723/3930499	https://www.zeit.de/gesellschaft/zeitgeschehen/2018-04/thueringen-journalisten-mpd-uebergreif-rechtsextremismus-verdacht	Y by police

date (DD.MM.YY)	city	state	camera	incident	violence	right wing / left wing / other	sources	source 2	confirmation
12.05.2018	Stuttgart	BW	Y	Several journalists were attacked during a rally of the AfD youth organization in Stuttgart. A woman suddenly hit the camera of a freelance photographer several times with a large poster while he was taking pictures. At the same time, three other right-wing attackers attempted to capture another journalist of the 'Beobachter News' magazine. This journalist continued to document what was happening with his camera. At that point, an AfD supporter first struck the journalist with a short blow to the abdominal region and then deliberately knocked the camera out of his hand. The camera fell to the ground and broke.	HIT	RIGHT	http://www.beobachternews.de/2018/05/27/ein-angriff-auf-pressevertreter-ist-keine-lappalie/	https://medien-kunst-industrie-bawue.verdi.de/themen/nachrichten/++co++64a90aa8-600e-11e8-afd4-525400f67940	Y by police
08.06.2018	Themar	TH	Y	A journalist was attacked at a neo-Nazi meeting in the southern Thuringian Themar. A visitor hit a photojournalist in the face late Friday evening.	HIT	RIGHT	http://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/themar-journalist-bei-neonazi-festival-angegriffen-a-1212091.html	https://www.presseportal.de/blaulicht/pm/125951/3966204	Y by police
23.06.2018	Kyffhäuser	ST	Y	In the run-up to an AfD event in Saxony-Anhalt, two specialised journalists were attacked and threatened. One journalist's camera was hit. The other journalist was pushed and the camera jerked from him.	HIT	RIGHT	https://meedia.de/2018/06/26/zwei-journalisten-bei-kyffhaeuser-treffen-von-rechtsnationalen-afd-fluegel-angegriffen/?utm_campaign=NEWSLETTER_MIT-TAG&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQKMyjgopz8	Y by footage
25.08.2018	Dresden	SN	Y	During an event of the 'Identitarian Movement' in Dresden, a participant attacked a 'Spiegel TV' cameraman. He grabbed his camera and pushed it away.	OTHER	RIGHT	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2ut6EqGuFk	https://blog.zeit.de/stoerungsmelder/2018/08/26/gewalt-gegen-journalisten-auf-identitaerer-veranstaltung_27027	Y by footage
27.08.2018	Chemnitz	SN	Y	After the end of a demonstration in Chemnitz, a journalist's mobile phone was knocked out of his hand on the way back, suffering damage.	HIT	RIGHT	https://twitter.com/johannesgrunert/status/1034163244817174528	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YP_RYG_hLgQ	Y by footage
01.09.2018	Chemnitz	SN	Y	A team from the ARD magazine 'Monitor' was attacked during a demonstration in Chemnitz. The camera was knocked out of the hand of a journalist and damaged.	HIT	RIGHT	http://mediathek.daserste.de/Monitor/Monitor-vom-06-09-2018/Video?bcas-tid=438224&documentid=55823802	Email-Befragung	Y by footage
01.09.2018	Chemnitz	SN	Y	An MDR camera team was attacked and injured while filming in a private apartment. In a video shared by MDR via Twitter, one of the journalists recounts that the reporters rang the doorbell at a local residence and asked if they could film from the balcony. During the shoot on the balcony, a man suddenly came into the apartment and attacked the two reporters. During the attack, a reporter was pushed down the stairs and his camera destroyed. He had to receive medical attention.	PUSH	U	https://www.tagesschau.de/inland/chemnitz-uebergreif-101.html	https://twitter.com/mdrde/status/1035921223144927233?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwgr%5E373939313b73706563696669635f73706f7274735f616374696f6e&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.welt.de%2Fpolitik%2Fdeutschland%2Farticle181390828%2FPolizei-bestaetigt-Anzeige-Kamerateam-vom-MDR-soll-in-Chemnitz-angegriffen-worden-sein.html	Y by police
01.09.2018	Chemnitz	SN	Y	A reporter had her camera knocked out of her hand after a demonstration in Chemnitz. The suspension of the microphone broke. She was also pushed, and been insulted and threatened.	PUSH	RIGHT	https://www.tagesschau.de/inland/chemnitz-uebergreif-101.html	https://twitter.com/georgrestle/status/1036142732094459904?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwgr%5E373939313b73706563696669635f73706f7274735f616374696f6e&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.tagesschau.de%2Finland%2Fchemnitz-uebergreif-101.html	Y by witness
01.09.2018	Chemnitz	SN	Y	A journalist from 'Zeit Online' got his camera hit and the attacker tried to push him and a colleague into a back alley.	HIT	RIGHT	https://www.tagesschau.de/inland/chemnitz-uebergreif-101.html	https://twitter.com/PatrickGensing/status/1036131551774470144	Y by footage
01.09.2018	Chemnitz	SN	Y	A camera crew from the Twitter project 'Straßengezwitscher' was attacked by a participant with crutches during a demonstration in Chemnitz. The man hit the person shooting the film.	HIT	RIGHT	https://www.tagesschau.de/inland/chemnitz-uebergreif-101.html	https://twitter.com/streetcoverage/status/1035979837251510273	Y by footage
01.09.2018	Chemnitz	SN	Y	A reporter from the TV magazine 'Spiegel TV' and her camera operator were attacked when trying to collect material for a report following the Chemnitz demonstrations. A man threw himself at the camera operator while a woman tried to snatch the camera from his hand.	HIT	RIGHT	https://www.stern.de/politik/deutschland/journalisten-angegriffen--stern-tv-reporterin-schildert-attacken-8340536.html	https://twitter.com/streetcoverage/status/1035973661956743169	Y by footage
01.09.2018	Chemnitz	SN	Y	A journalist of the Funke Media Group was attacked during a right-wing rally in Chemnitz. A video shows her camera going down because of the tumult.	PUSH	RIGHT	https://twitter.com/JohannaRudiger/status/1035944697523564545		Y by footage
01.09.2018	Chemnitz	SN	Y	A demonstrator with crutches attacked a camera team of the Twitter project 'Straßengezwitscher' during a political march in Chemnitz. The man hit a camera operator.	WEAPON	RIGHT	https://twitter.com/Schmidtlepp/status/1035957954644729856		Y by footage
01.09.2018	Chemnitz	SN	U	During a demonstration in Chemnitz, a journalist from the web magazine 't-online' was pushed by several attackers and kicked in the leg by one person. His microphone was stolen from him.	HIT	RIGHT	https://twitter.com/jan_wiebe/status/1035967629046042630	https://twitter.com/BuzzFeedNews-DE/status/1035948444618293249	Y witness
09.09.2018	Koethen	ST	U	During a rally in Köthen, a reporter from the online medium BuzzFeed was attacked. Participants of the rally recognized him, pushed him and tore his T-shirt. As a result, the team stopped reporting.	PUSH	RIGHT	https://twitter.com/BuzzFeedNews-DE/status/1038863591087251457	https://detektor.fm/politik/koethen-angriffe-journalisten	N
09.09.2018	Koethen	ST	Y	A reporter from the Berlin-based 'Tageszeitung' was pushed and harassed during a rally in Köthen, where he was reporting via livestream. The police intervened to take him out of the dangerous situation.	PUSH	RIGHT	https://www.pscp.tv/w/1jMJgEvEVZqKL	http://www.taz.de/!5534202/	N
13.09.2018	Kreis Düren	NW	Y	During demonstrations in Hambach Forest, a team tried to take TV footage of the events when an activist approached the camera operator and struck the camera.	HIT	LEFT	https://twitter.com/twitter/statuses/1040246119685672960		Y by footage

date (DD. MM.YY)	city	state	camera	incident	violence	right wing / left wing/ other	sources	source 2	confir- mation
16.09.2018	Köthen	ST	Y	Shortly after a right-wing march began, a group of 20 right-wing radicals attacked a camera team at the market square in Köthen. The security staff placed themselves between the attackers and the journalists and were beaten and kicked. The police pushed the group in the direction of Hallesche Straße.	KICK	RIGHT	https://www.neues-deutschland.de/artikel/1100568.proteste-in-koethen-new-sticker-rechter-schulterschluss.html	ECPMF-Interview	Y by witness
21.09.2018	Chemnitz	SN	U	A journalist was attacked near a demonstration by the right-wing extremist 'Pro Chemnitz' in downtown Chemnitz. The perpetrator hit a journalist in the camera and threatened him by saying that he would be "beaten up".	HIT	RIGHT	https://twitter.com/streetcoverage/status/1043210220774875136?s=09	https://www.polizei.sachsen.de/de/MI_2017_59740.htm	Y by police
09.10.2018	Wuppertal	NW	Y	During a shoot in a car dealership in Wuppertal, a Sat 1 camera team was attacked by two masked people. The cameraman was injured by kicks and blows and had to be treated in a hospital. The two unknown attackers pushed the three-person team into the street, jerked the camera away and fled.	KICK	U	https://www.waz.de/region/sat-1-drehteam-in-wuppertaler-autohaus-angegriffen-id215523947.html	police	Y by police
25.11.2018	Berlin	BE	Y	The Israeli journalist Antonia Yamin was attacked in the Berlin district of Neukölln by a group of young people with a firecracker. In the video she shared on her Twitter profile, you can see four young men walking past, interrupting her, laughing, one of them holding his hand in front of the camera. The journalist says, "You can go on." One of the young men asks where the footage is being broadcast. Then Antonia Yamin and her cameraman get each other out of harm's way, and the ignited firecracker goes off on the sidewalk.	WEAPON	U	https://www.faz.net/aktuell/feuilleton/medien/antonia-yamin-berichtete-aus-berlin-fuer-israel-15912556.html	https://twitter.com/antonia_yamin/status/1067114832170811398	Y by footage
04.12.2018	München	BY	U	For a report in the ARD magazine 'Monitor', a television team was trying to report at a conference organised by 'climate change sceptics'. The president of the association attacked the journalist verbally (with insults) and threatened him: "If you don't leave immediately, I will resort to violence". Shortly thereafter, he became violent and pushed the journalist.	PUSH	RIGHT	https://twitter.com/AchimPollmeier/status/1070429495109304320/video/1	https://www.merkur.de/politik/ard-magazin-monitor-tv-journalist-vor-laufender-kamera-angegriffen-schockierende-bilder-zr-10827067.html	Y by footage

X. *Notes on the methodology*

The ECPMF gathers all reports of physical attacks on journalists and media workers in Germany that are either related to the 'lying press' debate or directly reported to us. To achieve the most complete coverage possible, we only record attacks that have some sort of political motivation or background. With such broad definition, one can interpret attacks against journalists independently from the contexts in which they occurred. The intention here is to avoid distortions in the interpretation of the attacks by concentrating on a particular political milieu or a particular category of event.

At the end of this report, one will find more information on which cases the author considered, and which ones she did not, plus what the author means with the term 'journalist' and what forms of violence she analysed.

XI. *Inclusion of the 2017 cases with an overview of the G20 attacks*

After the ECPMF published its previous [study on attacks against journalists in Germany](#), in 2018, we received more reports of physical attacks having occurred during the G20 demonstrations in July 2017. Therefore, we added five more cases of physical attacks for 2017. According to our case registration criteria, we were able to verify three more cases. Moreover, we classified all three cases as having perpetrators with left-wing political backgrounds.

In the first case, an Israeli journalist was attacked during the G20 protests. In the second one, a reporter was attacked by a hooded man. [In the third case](#), an image was published via Twitter in the run-up to the attack showing journalists with supporters of the 'Identitarian Movement'. Thereafter, a leftist demonstrator insulted a journalist by calling him a 'Nazi' and knocked him down with a push.

These attacks were not the first ones which we recorded and verified as being carried out by people with left-wing political backgrounds. However, the frequency of leftists' attacks was extraordinarily high due to the G20. In 2017, we verified eight cases of attacks against journalists, with perpetrators being of left-wing political backgrounds in three of the cases, and right-wing in five.

Noteworthy is the fact that [many journalists criticised how police forces handled the G20 protests](#). The ECPMF is aware of many instances where the police actually attacked journalists. Media representatives have even described some of the attacks by police agents as intentional. [A journalist reported on a situation](#) in which a policewoman threatened a camera team with pepper spray and insulted them with the words: "Fuck the press, fuck, fuck!" In another case, the experienced photographer Hans-Jürgen Burkard [was deliberately attacked by the police with water cannon](#), even though he identified himself as a journalist.¹

¹ Since attacks by police officers according to the criteria for case registration were not recorded in previous years, they are not included in the case list for the years 2017 and 2018. Nevertheless, the ECPMF points out that one ought to study in more depth these targeted attacks by police officers, as their quantity and quality is not yet clearly understood.

XII. *Notes on the methodology*

Preliminary remarks

The ECPMF strives to maintain a consistent method to register and interpret cases, so that one can analyse them quantitatively and qualitatively. However, one should not assume that our methodological aims automatically fulfil methodological completeness standards, as one must sometimes reach conclusions from obscure data.

In addition, for the years 2017 and 2018, the category "Number of attacks" was added, which was not the case in previous years. However, the ECPMF continues to orient its analysis with the number of physical assaults.

1 Case registration criteria

The ECPMF's log collects all reported assaults on journalists and media staff in Germany that are related to the 'lying press' debate and have been published or directly brought to the attention of the ECPMF. In order to achieve as complete a coverage as possible, the basic assumption is that an offence is recorded when it is committed in connection with a political context. With this relatively broad definition, it is possible to record acts independently of their event context (for example, only in the context of populist demonstrations). The intent is to avoid distortions by concentrating on a certain political milieu or a certain category of event, for example. The connection to the 'lying press' debate results from the description of the individual event and is examined for each case.

An additional criterion is that we record attacks against journalists, media workers or technicians only if these occur while they were carrying out their duties. Therefore, it is important to have evidence that perpetrators attacked the above-mentioned professionals due to ideological motivations or under the overarching concept of journalists and media being conceptualised as enemies. We did not list the attack towards a film crew that were producing a report on a mafia family in Berlin, as it did not meet any of the aforementioned criteria.

We also did not record attacks against people outside the category of journalists and media workers (see point 3). It is important to note that an actual assault must have taken place for us to record the event as a valid case. Hence, we did not record attacks against journalists that were promptly stopped and averted by police forces, or threats that were unaccompanied by physical assault. We do not claim that such instances are trivial or unimportant. However, we only include cases falling under the criteria of physical attacks against journalists, in order to make cases analytically comparable.

2 Completeness standard

Our list of attacks against journalists merely attempts to register all known cases, but it does not claim to meet any methodological completeness standard. The aim is to record as many relevant cases as possible. The present study cannot fulfil any methodological completeness standard, as victims have not reported every instance to the press, to police authorities or verbally to us.

We make all our sources known for the sake of transparency. If you have any remarks on our sources or further information that can help us verify certain cases, we ask you to please contact hoffmann@ecpmf.eu. The ECPMF continuously updates the list of cases.

Moreover, we also exclude attacks by police officers toward journalists, even if they were politically motivated or took place under a certain political context.

3 Who is a journalist?

We record assaults on journalists that occurred as the direct result of their falling victims to perpetrators who had political motivations or who attacked them under a clearly discernible political context. Since 'journalist' is not a protected professional title in Germany, and because in the last years a number of political activists have termed themselves 'journalists', it is important to define the term narrowly.

For our purposes, a journalist is a person who aims to publish information through a publicly accessible medium under the framework provided by the German Press Code. We also include support staff like technicians. Political activists, bloggers, and commentators are considered journalists if they produce reports meeting the above standards.

4 What is a political attack?

One can consider almost anything a political action. However, since a primary criterion for logging the cases is the 'lying press' debate, the documented attacks fall almost exclusively under such political context. This mainly consists of targeted political actions. The categories 'right-wing' and 'left-wing' are auxiliary constructions for this purpose; they make the assessment of political contexts comprehensible in a shortened form.

To categorise political opinion and the concept of extremism in the study, we do not undertake an unambiguous and selective categorisation of politically motivated attitudes and actions. Differentiating terms such as right/right populist/right-wing extremist/right-wing radicals or left/left extreme/left radical is not useful, as already discussed extensively by political scientists. In addition, numerous authors have already provided detailed critiques of the extremism model and the dichotomy between the state ruled by law and 'extremism', and thus there is no need to revisit that topic in this report.

The equation of right-wing and left-wing politics and their opposition to the so-called 'social centre' is possible due to their respective discursive approaches to criticising democracy. Their ideologically motivated affinity for violence against others is, in fact, similar. Since at least some of the assaults are politically motivated, one can identify practical and unique aspects in such actions. Therefore, the differentiation between right and left is helpful as far as it allows identifying affinity for violence in certain actions or as a correspondence with radical positions.

The corresponding categorization depends on the attackers: For example, if a right-wing demonstration takes place and a participant from this rally attacks a journalist, the case is listed as an attack motivated by 'right-wing' ideologies or backgrounds. Additionally, we use indicators like a person's party affiliation, tattoos, and illustrative symbols on clothing or flags, as indicators of political affinity. If identifying political affinity is not possible in a case, then it is noted as "unknown". We did not include cases in our analysis where one could not identify the political context or affinity of the perpetrators.

5 What are the criteria for categorising cases?

The following information refers to the tables in which all attacks are listed. An overview follows to explain the column titles.

Date (DD.MM.YYYY)

The date on which the attack was committed according to the pattern DD.MM.YYYY.

City

The city or place where the attack took place. If the crime scene is the internet, this is noted in addition to the whereabouts of the victim.

State (or German Federal State)

BB = Brandenburg

BE = Berlin

BW = Baden-Württemberg

BY = Bavaria

HB = Bremen

HE = Hessen

HH = Hamburg

MV = Mecklenburg-West Pomerania

NI = Lower Saxony

NW = North Rhine-Westphalia

RP = Rhineland-Palatinate

SH = Schleswig Holstein

SL = Saarland

SN = Saxony

ST = Saxony-Anhalt

TH = Thuringia

Camera

A 'Yes' (Y) is a case where a camera operator, photographer or another media worker was attacked, a camera was damaged or pushed away (including journalistic cell phone cameras), and where comments were directed against the use of cameras, and an attack therefore took place due to the use of filming equipment.

A 'No' (N) is a case where no camera was in use. It is a case where property damage against editorial real estate or the like was involved, or where the attack took place over the internet (e.g. public threats).

'Unknown' (U) refers to a case where the facts do not provide any evidence for or against the use of cameras, or where the use of cameras played no role in the motive of the attack.

Yes = Y

No = N

Unknown = U

Medium

Kind of media outlet where the victim had been working.

TV = Television

RADIO = Radio

ONLINE = Online

PRINT = Print

OTHER = Other

AGENCY = News Agency

U = Unknown

Sex

Male = M

Female = F

Unknown = U

Scene of the attack

ASSEMBLY SCENE (AS) = Attack took place directly in the demonstration, or resulting from participants of the event.

EDITORIAL OFFICE = Attack on editorial building, car, outside broadcast van, etc.

PRIVATE = Attack on journalist took place in his/her private sphere, e.g. in his/her own car or similar.

INTERNET = e.g. death threats, slander, insult, published or broadcast on the internet

ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT (AE) = Attack took place outside a demonstration, before, after or during the event (e.g. on the way home; attack on parked cars or the like).

Incident

Short description: who/what/when/where/how

Number of victims

As several persons may be affected in an attack, the number of attacked persons is also recorded for the years 2017 and 2018. The figure includes the minimum number of persons directly exposed to an assault. If, for example, a camera team consisting of several persons is attacked and, for example, a blow is directed only against the reporter, this is considered an attack on one person.

Violence

Multiple categories available.

The category 'violence' includes physical assaults. Violent attacks are those where the physical integrity of a media worker is compromised by physical injury. This includes hitting the body or property attached to the body (e.g. cameras); kicking, jerking, or pushing (obstructing the journalist's work by sight restriction is no physical attack); unlawful imprisonment; use of weapons (when a blow is combined with an object, e.g. flagpole, it is considered weapon use); spitting at; and stealing property physically carried by the victim.

Non-clearly-assignable physical attacks are classified as 'Other', because the nature of the physical impact is not known or does not fit into any of the existing categories. 'Unknown' are cases where it is not clear whether there was an assault. If no violent physical attack has been committed (but e.g. threats have been identified), this is referred to as a 'no assault'.

An attempt to use physical violence without any consequence – like when someone makes a fist and the motion of preparing to punch, but does not – is categorised as a threat and not as an attack.

1. Punch = HIT
2. Kick = KICK
3. Push/shove = PUSH
4. Holding/grabbing = HOLD
5. Use of a weapon = WEAPON
6. Spitting = SPIT
7. Robbery = ROB
8. Other = OTHER
9. Unknown = U
10. No physical attack = NONE

To clarify, attack type number 4 (holding/grabbing), is categorised as a form of physical attack. This is because such an action results in the reduction of victim's physical autonomy, and is thus a violation of his or her liberty.

Threat

One must distinguish between situations perceived as threatening, in which media professionals feel uncomfortable, and those that are clearly threatening. The statistics presented in this study show particularly serious forms of threats. A severe threat is present if a) the perpetrator deliberately threatens to commit serious crimes against journalists (e.g. death threats with names published); b) the reputation of the journalist is significantly endangered (e.g. slander campaign as a 'child molester').

When it is unclear if a threat fits the above criteria, one cannot rule out the possibility that the threat was actually serious. In such cases, we coded the threat as "Unknown".

1. Direct threat of violence = DIRECT
2. Public threat of violence, like on the internet = PUBLIC
3. Unknown = U

Material damage

Multiple categories available.

1. Damage to journalistic equipment = EQUIP
2. Damage to vehicles = CAR
3. Damage to office furniture = FURNISH
4. Unknown = U
5. No material damage = NONE

Political motivation (right wing/left wing/other)

1. Right-Wing = RIGHT
2. Left-Wing = LEFT
3. Unknown = U

Source

The ECPMF lists known public sources and makes them available when requested via the REPORTING POINT. However, we do not include sources sent to us with a request for confidentiality. We list reports from victims who do not want to have their names publically displayed as 'ECPMF'.

Confirmation

The ECPMF confirms cases when: a) the attacker confesses to the act in some form; b) when there is recorded evidence of the actual attack as in the form of a video or other images; c) confirmation of the attack towards a journalist by state authorities; and/or d) other forms of evidence like eyewitnesses.

Confirmed = Y

Not confirmed = N

We will always explain the reasoning for confirming each case.

Complaint

Y = the case was forwarded to the authorities

N = the case was not forwarded to the authorities

U = Unknown

Police Investigation

Investigation undergoing or completed = Y

No investigation has taken place = N

Unknown = U

We may provide an open-ended answer to this field if needed to explain the relevant type and status of the investigation.

Lawsuit

The combination of a positive value in 'Investigations' and a negative value in the case indicates when a case was closed. The same applies to other procedural steps.

Court case = Y

No court case = N

Unknown = N

Conviction

Judgement = Y

No judgement = N

Unknown = U

We may provide an open-ended answer depending on the type of judgement reached by the court.

Sentence

Open-ended

XIII. *Source*

Number of participants in extreme-right demonstrations:

2015:

Drs. 18/4846: <https://kleineanfragen.de/bundestag/18/4846-rechts-extreme-aufmaersche-im-ersten-quartal-2015>

Drs. 18/5688: <https://kleineanfragen.de/bundestag/18/5688-rechts-extreme-aufmaersche-im-zweiten-quartal-2015>

Drs. 18/6555: <https://kleineanfragen.de/bundestag/18/6555-rechts-extreme-aufmaersche-im-dritten-quartal-2015>

Drs. 18/7448: <https://kleineanfragen.de/bundestag/18/7448-rechts-extreme-aufmaersche-im-vierten-quartal-2015>

2016:

Drs. 18/8368: <https://kleineanfragen.de/bundestag/18/8368-rechts-extreme-aufmaersche-im-ersten-quartal-2016>

Drs. 18/9312: <https://kleineanfragen.de/bundestag/18/9312-rechts-extreme-aufmaersche-im-zweiten-quartal-2016>

Drs. 18/10214: <https://kleineanfragen.de/bundestag/18/10214-rechts-extreme-aufmaersche-im-dritten-quartal-2016>

Drs. 18/11267: <https://kleineanfragen.de/bundestag/18/11267-rechts-extreme-aufmaersche-im-vierten-quartal-2016>

2017:

Drs.: 18/12268: <https://kleineanfragen.de/bundestag/18/12268-rechts-extreme-aufmaersche-im-ersten-quartal-2017>

Drs. 18/13243: <https://kleineanfragen.de/bundestag/18/13243-rechts-extreme-aufmaersche-im-zweiten-quartal-2017>

Drs.: 19/137: <https://kleineanfragen.de/bundestag/19/137-rechts-extreme-aufmaersche-im-dritten-quartal-2017>

Drs.: 19/890: <https://kleineanfragen.de/bundestag/19/890-rechts-extreme-aufmaersche-im-vierten-quartal-2017>

2018:

Drs.: 19/2431: <https://kleineanfragen.de/bundestag/19/2431-rechts-extreme-aufmaersche-im-ersten-quartal-2018>

Drs.: 19/3752: <https://kleineanfragen.de/bundestag/19/3752-rechts-extreme-aufmaersche-im-zweiten-quartal-2018>

Drs.: 19/5486: <https://kleineanfragen.de/bundestag/19/5486-rechts-extreme-aufmaersche-im-dritten-quartal-2018>



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