



NJOHSP *at a glance*

YOUR WEEK IN REVIEW | July 25, 2016

Munich Update: Shooter Was a “Deranged Person” With No Ties to Terrorist Groups

The shooter who killed nine people at a shopping mall and a nearby McDonald’s restaurant (see photo) on July 22 appears to have been “a deranged person” with no connections to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) or any other terrorist groups, according to German officials. The Munich prosecutor said the 18-year-old dual German-Iranian national had no political background and no criminal record, but he “may have had a mental disorder.”

Munich Police Chief Hubertus Andrae said the shooter had done extensive research on mass killings, based on electronic data and newspaper clippings found at his home. The items found include a book titled *Why Kids Kill: Inside the Minds of School Shooters*, a German translation of an academic work by American psychologist Peter Langman. The Chief said investigators believe the shooter acted alone.

Bavarian officials said in a news conference on Sunday that the shooter had been planning his attack for a year and may have been inspired by a visit to the German city of Winnenden, where a 17-year-old killed 15 people in a school shooting in March 2009. A search of the shooter’s home showed that he had been hospitalized for psychiatric care about the same time as that visit, and that he played violent video games. The head of Bavarian criminal police said that the shooter also was likely inspired by Norwegian terrorist Anders Breivik, who killed 77 people in attacks in Oslo and at an Utoya Island youth camp in July 2011. The attack in Munich was conducted on the fifth anniversary of Breivik’s attack.



Brazil: Arrested ISIS Sympathizers Appear to be “Amateurs”

Brazil’s Justice Ministry announced that on July 21, 10 Brazilians who pledged allegiance to ISIS and discussed conducting attacks during the Rio de Janeiro Olympics were arrested. (Photo shows Brazilian soldiers patrolling outside the 2016 Rio Olympics Park). The suspects appear to have a low level of capability. Brazil’s Justice Minister, Alexandre de Moraes, said the group organized online and had no direct contact with ISIS operatives, and he said they were “complete amateurs and ill-prepared” to actually conduct an attack. He said that the suspects only recently began to discuss training in martial arts and learning how to shoot, and one suspect attempted to buy an assault rifle online.

These suspects appear to be unsophisticated “wannabes,” but recent attacks such as those in Nice, Orlando, and San Bernardino showed that even simple attacks by lone offenders or small groups can cause significant casualties. Brazil is not known to have any active ISIS cells, but any sign of increasing activity by militant Islamic extremists in the Western Hemisphere is cause for concern.



Germany: On Edge After a Series of Violent Attacks

The mass shooting at a shopping mall in Munich on July 22 was only one of four violent attacks in southern Germany in the past week, leaving the country on edge as the threat of terrorist attacks has increased across Europe. On July 24, a Syrian who was turned down for asylum conducted a suicide bombing outside a music festival in Ansbach, about 25 miles southwest of Nuremberg, wounding 15 people. In a video, the bomber pledged allegiance to ISIS, and the group has claimed responsibility for the attack. Also on July 24, a Syrian refugee with a machete killed a woman outside a bus station in Reutlingen, about 20 miles south of Stuttgart. ISIS claimed responsibility for an attack onboard a passenger train en route to Wurzburg on July 18, in which an Afghan migrant wounded four passengers with an ax.

Contact Information

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