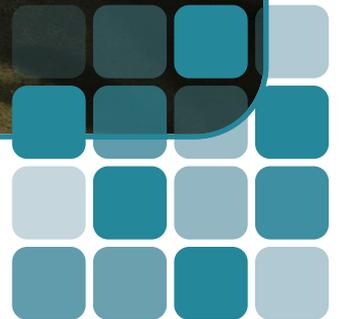




FAR-RIGHT TERRORISM AND HALLE SYNAGOGUE ATTACK: 3D PRINTERS AND THE GHOST OF TARRANT



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FAR-RIGHT TERRORISM AND HALLE SYNAGOGUE ATTACK: 3D PRINTERS AND THE GHOST OF TARRANT

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Introduction

In terms of the way it has been conducted, its target and source of inspiration, the anti-Semitic terrorist attack in Germany provides a quite symbolic case in terms of rising extreme right-wing terrorism, new methods and tools used by terrorists, and threats facing the world in this new climate. In this context, this brief analysis of the Halle attack will be important in terms of combating the newly emerging revolutionized

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face of terrorism and the ideational roots of far-right extremism and related terror attacks.

A 40-year-old woman in front of the synagogue was killed in the October 9 attack in Halle, 160 kilometers away from Berlin, along with a 20-year-old person by the far-right terrorist Stephen Balliet, who tried to enter into the synagogue but failed and turned his steps towards a doner shop, which is of significance in the extreme right-wing discourse due to its links with Turcophobia and Islamophobia. In this sense, the so-called synagogue attack can be considered as an anti-Semitic, anti-Turkish and Islamophobic far-right terrorist act just as expected within its own ideological framework. Two others were wounded by Balliet before his arrest. Even though only almost a hundred Jews managed to survive there due to the World War II, Halle is now home to a small Jewish population especially from the USSR area after the WWII. Balliet, 27, chose Yom Kippur, the holy day of the Jews, for his attack. He lived in a small town called Bendorf



about 40 km from Halle. It was stated by his neighbors that Balliet, with no criminal record, has lived an isolated life with his mother.

Balliet streamed 35 minutes of the attack online, and 2200 people watched the broadcast on Twitch only at that moment, and after the attack, he pleaded guilty by saying that he was inspired by Brenton Tarrant.

Balliet, not only by his weapon but also by explosives 4 kilos of which were found in his car, intended to carry out a massacre by attacking the synagogue where 51 people were present. Balliet will be tried for two murders and seven attempted murders, but a terror investigation has not yet been opened. Balliet streamed 35 minutes of the attack online, and 2200 people watched the broadcast on Twitch only at that moment, and after the attack, he pleaded guilty by saying that he was inspired by Brenton Tarrant. While the German Police Union was criticized by the Jewish Central Council, one of the Jewish organizations in Germany, as the synagogue was not protected in Yom Kippur, the German Police Union admitted that the



places of worship were very poorly protected, and it also implies that the same is also applicable to the mosques against which attacks occur frequently. At this point, Director of the Police Union Oliver Malkchow's defense is noteworthy. Saying that while fighting terrorism, they cannot use too many personnel to pursue extreme right-wing extremists, Malkchow made a statement in support of the criticism that "extreme right is not seen as a form of terrorism and terrorism may be put forward only if the action is conducted by terrorist organizations such as ISIS or al-Qaeda, where the attacker is 'non-white' and

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'non-Christian'". In the statement made by the synagogue administration, it was delivered that the request for security before Yom Kippur had been conveyed but not been accepted. Finally, 10 minutes after the event the police arrived at the scene, and the people in the synagogue escaped a massacre thanks to the poor protection of existing lock and security systems as well as the fault in the attacker's weapon.

New Tools of Terrorism and 3D Printers

One of the most important points about Balliet's terrorist act is the means of the action. For

the first time, a weapon obtained from a 3D printer was used in a terrorist act. This can be regarded as a key turning point within the context of discussions regarding the use of 3D printers, the possibilities that they may provide to the individual and non-state actors for armed actions, and the danger of related "guidebooks" which is accessible on the Internet. While it has been discussed for many years that when sufficient mechanical and technical knowledge of the equipment to be produced by 3D printer is obtained (and this know-how would only require intermediate level technicians, and the availability of online guidebooks even removes the need for such technicians), these printers could pose such a threat, it is difficult to say that this "threat" is adequately addressed due to 3D printers' use in medical field such as the production of "spare organs" and their increasing use and low costs in the future. It is likely that groups and individuals with limited resources will tend to use these printers more intensively, especially after this attack, which will require global monitoring of the supply chain of 3D printers in particular. In this respect, along with the related personal data and freedom-oriented questions, it is clear that this possibility would also require a system of highly cost-demanding monitoring -including equipment purchased for mostly peaceful technological reasons-. Nonetheless, a particular consideration for such situations regarding the use of the aforementioned devices is the fact that Balliet's weapon, as seen in the video, was jammed, which may be related to the capabilities of the terrorist himself or the limitations of the technology. The problem is that a profile that does not have any special armed training, is expressed to be very interested in the Internet and online forums, and is possibly triggered by problems such as personal socialization, is able to have access to information to carry out such an attack and, more importantly, to the means of armed action. One of the most substantial points

Among the documents associated with Balliet, the text regarded as his manifesto calls for white men to kill Jews, non-whites, communists and traitors, while in another one exist photographs of 6 guns Balliet himself produced. Balliet believes that even if he kills only one Jew, it is a success because “if every white man kills a Jew, success will be achieved”.

in Balliet’s online share is to prove the reliability of these weapons. Among the documents associated with Balliet, the text regarded as his manifesto calls for white men to kill Jews, non-whites, communists and traitors, while in another one exist photographs of 6 guns Balliet himself produced. Balliet believes that even if he kills only one Jew, it is a success because “if every white man kills a Jew, success will be achieved”. While he exhibits ammunition, hand grenades, fog bombs he himself manufactured, he states to have started manufacturing them months ago. In the text, Balliet calls on other extreme right-wingers to conduct similar attacks and kill as many “non-white people” as possible, but while doing so, he also urges such attackers to ensure their own safety in order not to die during the attack. Balliet mentioned that he had originally planned to attack a mosque but decided that his primary target should be the Jews. The mentioned documents have been uploaded to Kohlchan and Meguca platforms in German as a total of 16 pages. It is possible to argue that Balliet’s idea

of broadcasting the video live was inspired by Brenton Tarrant. The video also emphasized the decline in birth rates, which also had an important place in the extreme right discourse, and this time the “feminists” were held responsible. Tarrant’s method, which broadcasts the video of the terrorist attack through platforms such as Facebook and 4chan and is already archived among the far-right groups despite all the limitations, has been an important “source of inspiration” as predicted and will probably kept being imitated. Similarly, though Balliet’s video was removed from Twitch, it quickly spread through forums and Telegram, and on the day of the action Telegram channels only delivered the video to more than 15,000 people.

Conclusion: The Link between Violent and Non-Violent Far-Right Extremism

In the context of the rising number of incidents with anti-Semitic motivations, while the number of attacks was 21 last year, already 48 attacks have been reported this year till now. The number of right-wing extremists known in Germany has doubled last year to reach 24,100, half of which are considered to be violent. One key issue pointed out by German Interior Minister Horst Seehofer is very important. In his statement on the attack, Seehofer said *Alternative for Germany* was partly responsible for the attack and asked them to revise their discourse and to avoid hate speech. In the light of this and similar attacks, the most important point that has been neglected from time to time is the rise of non-violent far-right, the impact of the discourse of far-right on mainstream politics, and thus the opening of a channel that has been continuously strengthened on a discursive level indirectly from legitimate political ground to terrorism. In Germany and different European countries, considering the attacks on mosques, refugees, kebab shops and

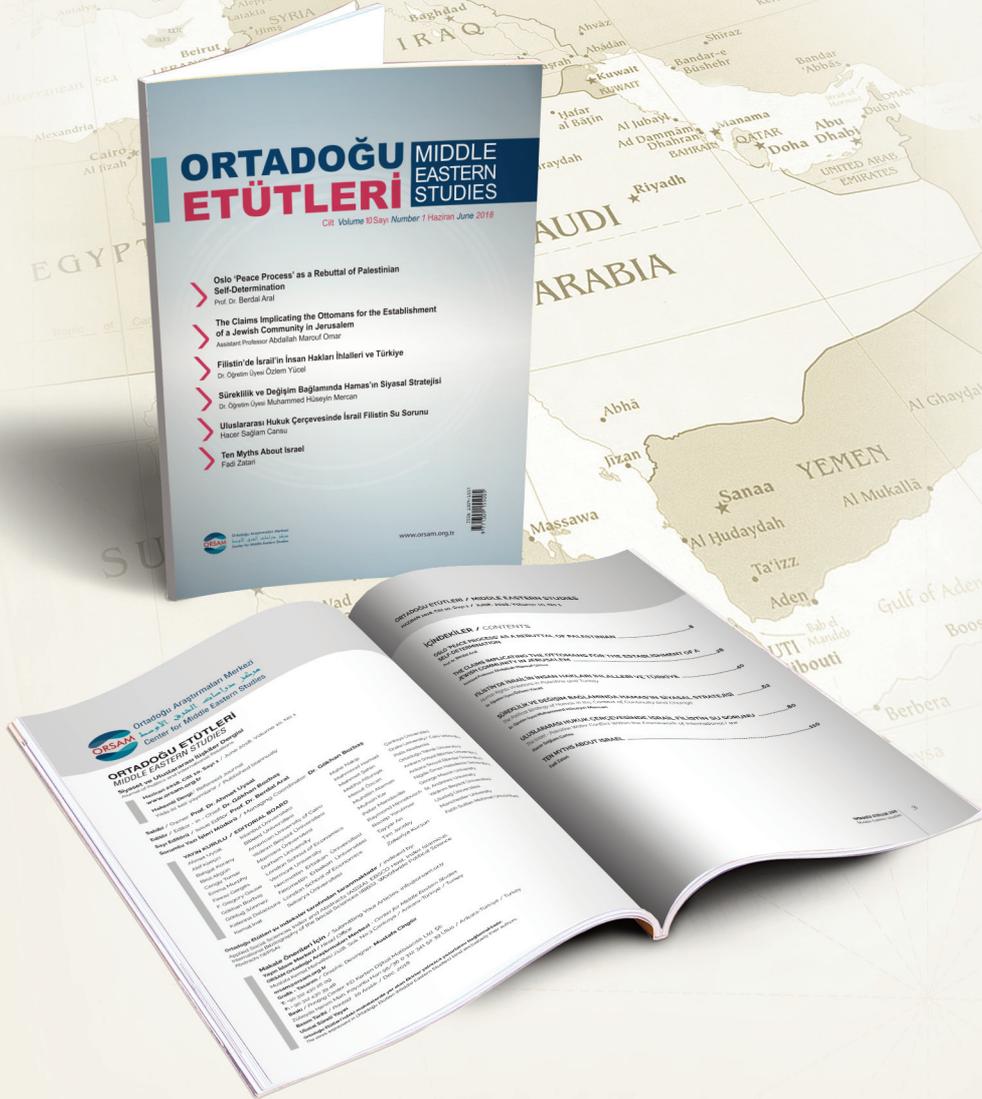
so on, and the criticisms that the necessary security measures were not provided to the synagogue after the Halle attack, it is clear that in the light of the rising right-wing populism, it is necessary to show a higher sensitivity in terms of the protection of the living spaces of the communities regarded by these groups as “foreign” and even “hostile”. Differentiating the rise of the unarmed and legitimate political far right in

Europe, on one hand, and the occurrence of these and similar attacks, on the other, will constitute an important deficiency in the fight against far-right extremism and, elimination of such a discourse that will feed into the increase in the far-right activities and the vicious circle that is gradually becoming more and more dangerous, composed of far-right terrorism and other forms and manifestations of terrorism.



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