

Delegation of Germany

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY
AT THE 888th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

17 November 2011

**Investigation of a series of killings in Germany with suspected right-wing
terrorist background**

In the last few days it has come to light that the series of killings involving nine men with migration background, mostly Turkish, and a policewoman in Germany between 2000 and 2007 probably had a right-wing terrorist, racist and xenophobic motivation. According to the current state of the investigation, a nail bomb attack in Cologne in 2004 and 14 bank robberies are also suspected of having been carried out by terrorist groups.

Germany is shocked by this knowledge. Citizens, media and political representatives have all expressed their consternation and abhorrence. Members of the Federal Government led by Federal Chancellor Merkel have made clear statements about the crimes. As an example, I cite Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Guido Westerwelle: "The facts that have come to light in the last few days about the killing of foreigners motivated by right-wing extremism are shocking. I should like to express my deepest regret to the relatives and families of the victims. Xenophobia, racism and extremism of any form have no place in Germany. ... We must do everything to investigate the background, identify the people behind these acts and the networks involved and systematically bring all of those concerned to justice with the full force of the law. We owe it not only to our foreign fellow citizens in Germany but also to the reputation of Germany in Europe and throughout the world to clear up this matter completely."

The suspected terrorist association was discovered during the investigation of a bank robbery in Eisenach in 2011. The suspects are linked to the series of killings between 2000 and 2007. There is a large number of suspicious facts pointing to the formation of a terrorist association.

The present investigation focuses on three persons. Two men were found dead in an apartment (suspected suicide) on 4 November after a bank robbery. A woman was taken into custody but has not to date made a statement. In the 1990s the three persons had contacts with and were involved in the right-wing scene. They went to ground in 1998 after committing right-wing criminal offences.

Investigations are now being carried out to determine whether other persons are associated with or at least supported the trio. Currently two further men from the right-wing

scene are suspected at least of having provided support. One of them has been held in custody since 14 November 2011 and the other is being sought. Both are alleged to have supported the trio by providing personal documents and renting vehicles and apartments. It is also being investigated whether other hitherto unsolved cases with similar patterns (particularly killings, crimes involving explosives and bank robberies) are attributable to this terrorist association.

The long-standing terrorist orientation of the trio is something new because to date no one has publicly acknowledged responsibility for the acts of violence and no political position or demands have been proclaimed. It was only on 7 November 2011 that two DVDs in connection with the cases were dispatched. They document the deeds and are labelled "Nationalsozialistischer Underground" (National Socialist Underground) with the logo NSU. The discovery of the DVDs has given the investigators information for the first time about the names and the group itself.

The Federal Attorney General has taken charge of the investigations and started proceedings in connection with the formation of a terrorist association. The investigations have thus been centralized.