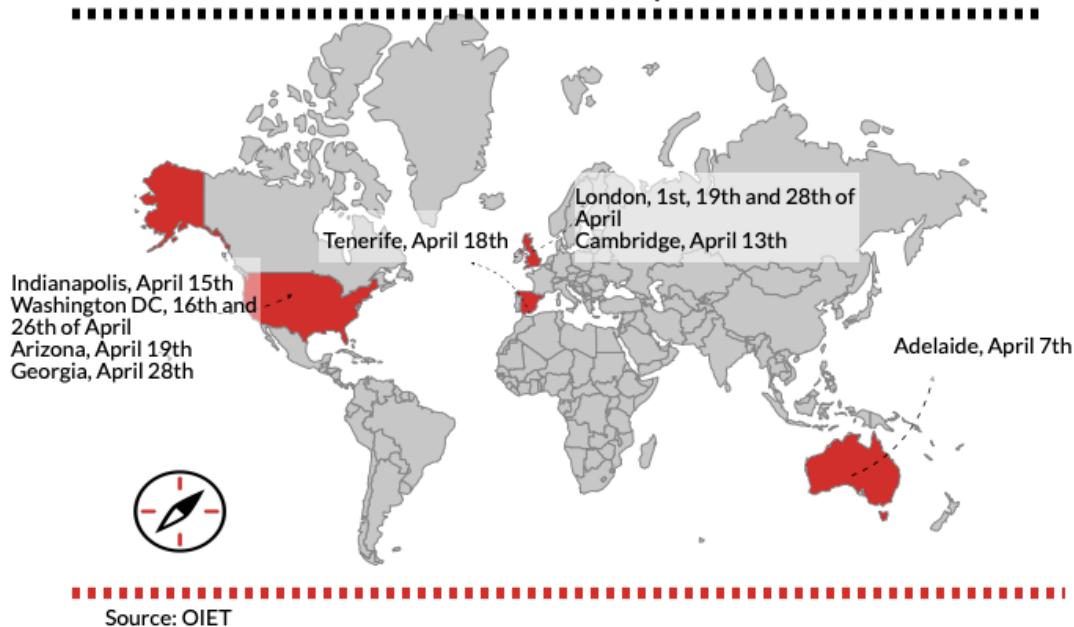


## Countries affected by extreme-right terrorism and violence in April 2021



### 1. Methodology

This observatory aims to reflect the level of intensity of violent activity associated with the extreme-right in Western countries according to the following parameters:

- "Violent activity" refers to all physical violence against people, including:
  - terrorist attack or failed attempt to attack,
  - physical assaults with injuries or failed attempt of aggression,
  - death threats, violence and instigation of third parties to commit violent acts.

This definition does not include:

- damage offenses to infrastructures (graffiti, exhibition of flags or logos associated with far-right movements);
- incidents of non-physical violence against people (insults, verbal abuse);

- incidents related to the far-right in which there is no concrete and immediate risk of violence (membership of terrorist groups, internet publications).
- "Associated with the extreme-right" refers to that activity linked to an extreme-right ideology, identified through:
  - membership of extremist or terrorist organizations, or
  - vindication of the attack inspired by such ideology, or
  - direct or indirect links with organizations or individuals representing such ideology;
  - admiration of fascist regimes, including mentions of Hitler or the Holocaust.

This definition does not include:

- hate crimes that do not have an apparent reference to an extreme-right ideology, even though they are motivated by prejudice.

This observatory collects acts of violence occurring throughout the month as well as arrests for attempted attacks or incitement to violence.

## **2. Analysis**

The month of April was characterized by the arrest and prosecution of extreme-right members, with five people being arrested and four prosecuted. From these arrests and prosecutions, three were made in the United Kingdom and the United States respectively; two in Australia; and one in Spain. On the other hand, this month ends with a violent incident: a shooting in the United States with nine dead and seven injured. Additionally, the U.K. announced this month that it would seek to ban the group *Atomwaffen Division*, following their efforts to ban extremist groups. Another relevant aspect regarding this month is the significant progress in addressing the violent far-right extremism in the United States.

The first series of arrests took place on April 7th, being two men of 32 and 28 years respectively arrested in [Australia](#). These arrests happened after police found material on how to manufacture explosives and neo-Nazi content in the home of one of the *National Socialist*

*Network* group members. This chain of arrests is part of a large-scale investigation on violent extremism, framed in a police operation that pursues members of extremist groups.

The *National Socialist Network* arises from two other groups: *The Lads Society* and the *Antipodean Resistance*. It is important to recall that in [early](#) 2021, Australia added the extremist group *Sonnenkrieg Division* to outlawed terrorist groups. One [report](#) shows how these extremist groups recruit members in Australia and the government's response to this threat. Such operations show the seriousness and commitment of the Australian government in its fight against extreme-right, despite not having suffered any violent incidents of this nature.

Likewise, it is also important to mention that Australia has not yet had any extreme-right terrorist attacks. However, there has been an increase in individuals and extremist groups since the Christchurch attack. The most present extremist ideology is [accelerationism](#), in which they seek a racial war or "RaHoWa" (Racial Holy War).

Regarding the arrests, the first arrest in the [United States](#) happened at the end of the month in Arizona, as part of Hitler's anniversary celebration. They celebrate the anti-Semitic legacy and vision of white supremacy. During these festivities, a neo-Nazi National Socialist Movement leader was arrested after pointing a gun at a black man and threatening to kill him and his friends, according to police records.

In another instance of a [similar](#) nature, one of the founders from the Oath Keepers plead guilty to being involved in the U.S. Capitol takeover on January 6th of this year. The 53-year-old admitted that he broke into the Capitol, intending to obstruct the federal election certification. The individual agreed to cooperate with the government to appoint and identify other members of the extremist group. Similarly, a former Georgian [policeman](#) pleaded guilty to possessing unregistered firearms; this comes after an FBI-led investigation on a violent neo-Nazi extremist group. The 28-year-old individual faces a maximum of ten years in prison.

Following this line, it is essential to note that several individuals face charges for the January 6th [incidents](#). Several of these individuals are members of extremist groups. Most of them face severe penalties, up to more than 20 years in federal prison. Among the charges they face is the destruction of government property and conspiracy to the government. An essential element to highlight is that [social media](#) played a crucial role in the prosecution's favor. Individuals uploaded photos and videos of themselves breaking into the U.S. Capitol. The Department of Justice announced that these investigations would be among the most important and most extensive processes in U.S. history.

Another country where several events of this nature occurred was the [United Kingdom](#). A 23-year-old student was arrested for having neo-Nazi extremist content and bomb-building manuals. The individual, who describes himself as a National Socialist, called for the extermination of the Jewish race and had contacted members of the neo-Nazi group *National Action*.

Furthermore, the co-founder of the neo-Nazi group National Action appeared in court, being [charged](#) with terrorism offenses. The 31-year-old is also being charged with possession of neo-Nazi extremist documents and explosives-making manuals and will appear again on May 14th.

Subsequently, a former London [policeman](#) was convicted for belonging to the neo-Nazi group National Action in 2016, alongside two counts of fraud and two counts of possession of information that could be useful for terrorism. The 22-year-old former policeman is the first policeman to be convicted on terrorism-related grounds. The individual applied to London's Metropolitan Police in 2017 and joined it in early 2018. The prosecutor's office announced that the individual had posted homophobic, anti-Semitic, and racist messages and promoted violence in an online forum to recruit others for the group. Likewise, he was charged for attending National Action events even after the group was outlawed.

The previous sentence occurs in a context where several countries are concerned about infiltrated extreme-right groups into the military and political forces. In the [United States](#),

[France](#), and [Germany](#), several cases have been reported where agents belong or have ties to extreme-right groups.

Moreover, a [report](#) from the Centre for Strategic & International Studies stated that active military personnel and reservists in the United States have participated in an increasing number of domestic terrorist plots and attacks. The percentage of active military personnel in domestic terrorist incidents increased in 2020 to 6.4% compared to 1.5% in 2019 and none in 2018. While the number of active military personnel is relatively low, this number has increased significantly.

It should be emphasized that this presents a critical problem; these extremist groups seek to infiltrate their members in the military and police to recruit members to their groups. The main threat is that these members have tactical knowledge and military training, including field recognition, logistics, communications, and weapons handling. Given the fact that the primary goal of these groups is to incite a racial war, these individuals possess knowledge and tools that will be fundamental for their purposes. Another aspect of concern to governments is that these individuals can steal weapons and explosive material from military barracks.

This same report mentions that any effort to prevent and address this problem must address at all stages in the military process, from staff renewal to the authorization of national security content. However, the same report mentions that while there was an increase in the involvement of active and reserve military personnel in domestic terrorist attacks and plots, most perpetrators were veterans.

As for banning extremist groups, in the [United Kingdom](#), the government announced its intention to ban the neo-Nazi group *Atomwaffen Division* (AWD) and categorize it as a terrorist organization. The prosecution has cited AWD as the primary influence on several groups and individuals in the U.K. convicted of terrorism offenses. Although the group claimed its dissolution in 2020, several successor groups emerged, such as the National Socialist Order; for this reason, the prosecution seeks to include the new group in the ban.

The AWD follows an accelerationist and white supremacist ideology. Additionally, this group has links with other extremist groups such as *National Action* and *Sonnenkrieg Division*, both equally outlawed. The main objective of these groups, as previously stated, is a racial war to have a society based on white supremacy. A central element in this ideology is promoting the destabilization of society through acts of violence by individuals acting alone or in small cells; this is known as *leaderless resistance*. Those attached to this ideology believe that these activities will accelerate the collapse of society, and it's because of this central idea that they've been called accelerationists. It is essential to mention that the ideology of these groups has been influenced by satanic and occult beliefs, particularly by the group [Order of the Nine Angles](#). The previously exposed groups are part of an international network that saw its start in an internet forum called *Iron March*, which was based in Russia. One group that also emerged from this same network was *National Action*, which was outlawed in 2016.

While governments' initial effort to ban these groups, this does not prevent these groups from meeting further. The prohibition of these groups does not imply their dissolution. However, in this sense, the government's initiative to ban extremist groups highlights their intention to deal with this problem. In February, this [observatory](#) reported that Canada had taken the initiative to outlaw these groups. Nevertheless, the next step to be taken is to proscribe these groups and aim for their effective dissolution. Otherwise, members belonging to the outlawed groups will continue to meet with different names but following the same ideology and intentions. It is also relevant to note that such policies can lead to the fragmentation of these groups, and therefore end up with more extremist groups than there were previously.

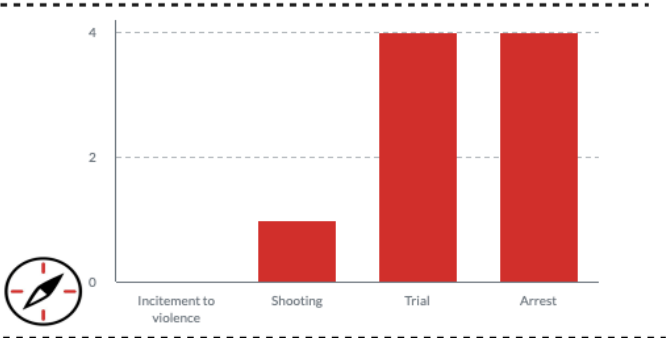
In national terms, [Spain](#) this month had an event of great relevance, this being the dismantling in Tenerife of an illegal workshop of 3D weapons-printing. The detainee, an administrator of a 55-year-old geriatric, was found to have objects with Nazi symbolism, sharp weapons, manuals for the production of explosive devices, as well as the material necessary to elaborate them. It is essential to mention that the individual had previously been charged last September for unlawful possession of weapons and explosives.

The national police were in charge of carrying out the operation. The individual was being investigated for a crime of illegal arms sales; additionally, the detainee of Spanish nationality had a history of having worked as a soldier in Venezuela. This arrest has the peculiarity of being the first time a workshop with two 3D printers devoted to producing weapons.

The medium-scale manufacture of explosive devices and short- and medium-range weapons causes the terrorist threat to increase exponentially because of the facilitation of the access of weapons by terrorist groups or cells, therefore, presenting a danger of paramount importance to national and regional security. From an extreme-right perspective, this activity is critical due to the idea of leaderless resistance, in which violent action is encouraged autonomously.

In other instances, regarding violent incidents, the only one this month occurred in [Indianapolis, USA](#), where a 19-year-old entered a [FedEx](#) facility and murdered eight people, then committing suicide; seven others were injured. When police entered to the perpetrator's home, they found [extremist](#) material associated with white supremacy. In this case, it is essential to note that the individual had previously been acquitted in 2020 after the prosecution announced insufficient evidence of extremist ideologies.

Type of incident linked to the extreme right in April 2021



Source: OIET

Regarding the shooting, the [police officers](#) proposed a hypothesis based on the selection of objectives. Of the eight individuals killed, four belonged to the Sikh community; this hypothesis is supported by the extremist material they found in the perpetrator's home, which contained white supremacist content. This particular case highlights the importance that police officers need to have the tools to identify and deal appropriately with individuals who show extremist tendencies and ideologies.

In contrast to these events, [President Biden](#) identified white supremacy as a domestic terrorism threat when he spoke before Congress. Shortly after taking office, Biden instructed his security and intelligence agencies, including the FBI, to report the extreme-right threat. That same [report](#) was handed over to Congress and identified white supremacists and militia groups as the main threats to national security. He also mentioned that his intelligence agencies reported that this is currently the most dangerous threat in the U.S.

At the same time, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced in a press release that it would submit the institution to an internal review to expel members belonging to extremist groups. This announcement comes as part of a new political strategy that seeks to combat these ideologies in the federal government.

These events are a consequence of the [incidents](#) earlier this year after [federal investigations](#) found that several of the individuals who broke into the Capitol had ties with [extremist](#) groups and that some were even [ex-military](#).

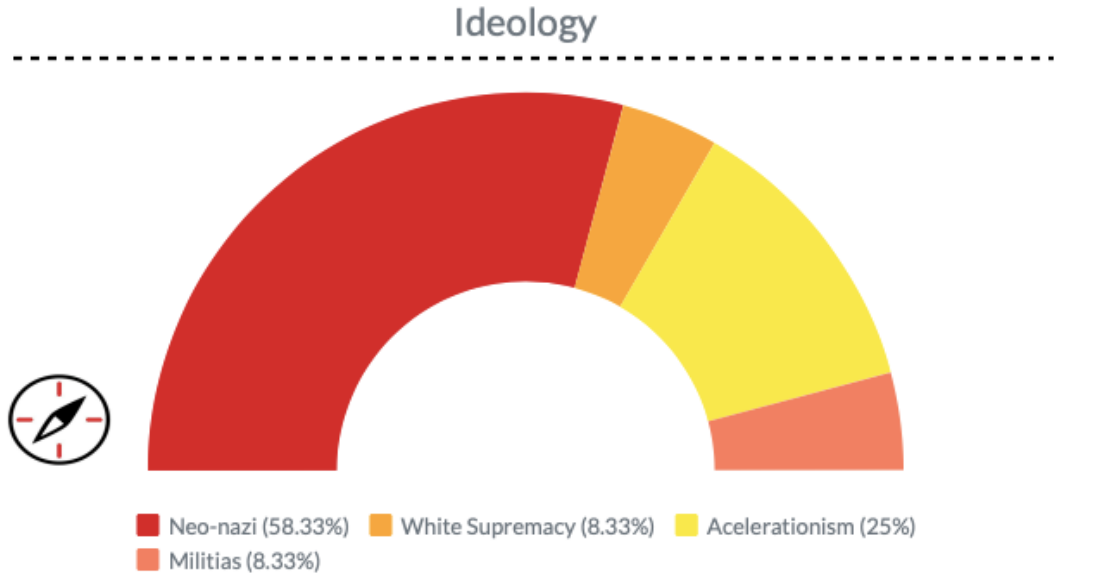
Additionally, this highlights the [new administration's](#) decision to prioritize the extreme-right threat. These new measures come after the former administration was reluctant to address or acknowledge the growing threat, focusing more resources on other groups, mainly those belonging to anti-fascist or civil rights groups.

In conclusion, this month was characterized by the initiative of various governments to outlaw extremist groups and arrest members of these groups, and prioritize resources to address the growing threat of the extreme-right. It is also important to note that the U.S.



perpetrator had been previously investigated, which highlights the importance of giving the police the necessary means and tools to detect these extremist individuals in time before they have a violent event happens.

In the ideological sense, the neo-Nazi ideology remains the most present ideology in both arrests and incidents, highlighting the importance of taking steps to deal with the development of this ideology, from its anti-Semitic side to the white supremacist.



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Source: OIET (some individuals are influenced by more than one ideology)

### 3. Database

	Date	Place	Incident	Victims	Ideology	Objective	Link
1	April 1st	London, UK	Trial	-	Neo-Nazi	-	<a href="#">New York Times</a>
2	April 7th	Adelaide, Australia	Arrest	-	Neo-Nazi Acelerationism	-	<a href="#">Abc News</a>
3	April 13th	Cambridge, UK	Arrest	-	Neo-Nazi	-	<a href="#">Daily Mail</a>
4	April 15th	Indianapolis, USA	Shooting	9 dead and 7 injured	White Supremacy	Sikh community	<a href="#">Abc News</a>
5	April 16th	Washington, USA	Trial	-	Militias	Government	<a href="#">US Department of Justice</a>
6	April 18th	Tenerife, Spain	Arrest	-	Neo-Nazi		<a href="#">El País</a>
7	April 19th	Arizona, USA	Arrest	-	Neo-Nazi		<a href="#">Reuters</a>
8	April 19th	London, UK	Announcement				<a href="#">BBC News</a>
9	April 26th	Washington, USA	Announcement	-	-		<a href="#">New York Times</a>
10	April 28th	Georgia, USA	Trial	-	Neo-Nazi		<a href="#">US Department of Justice</a>
11	April 28th	London, UK	Trial	-	Neo-Nazi		<a href="#">BBC News</a>