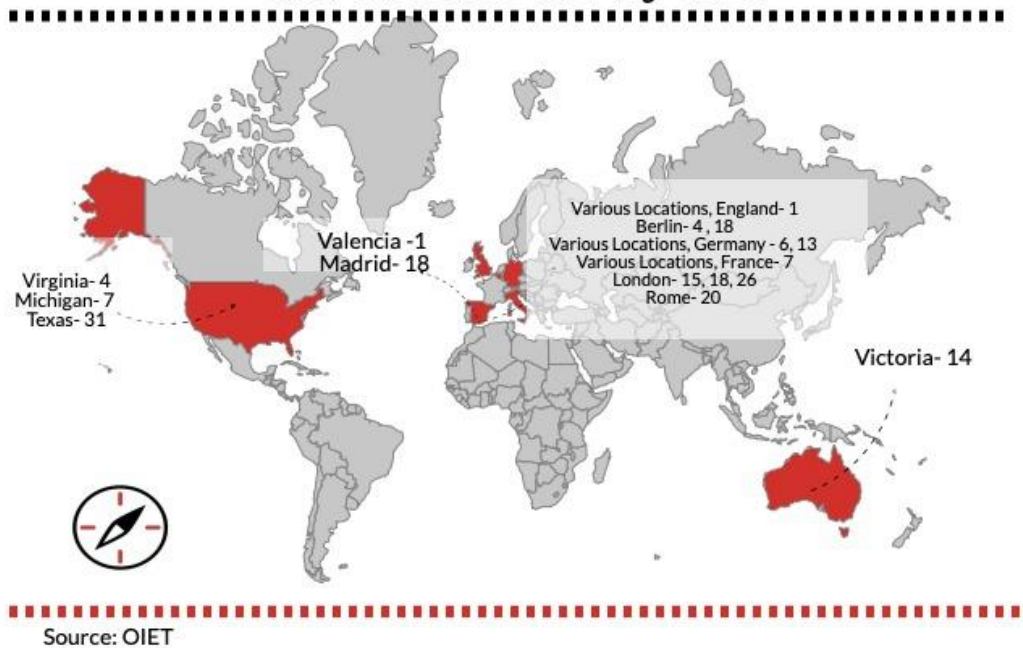


Countries affected by extreme-right terrorism and violence in May 2021



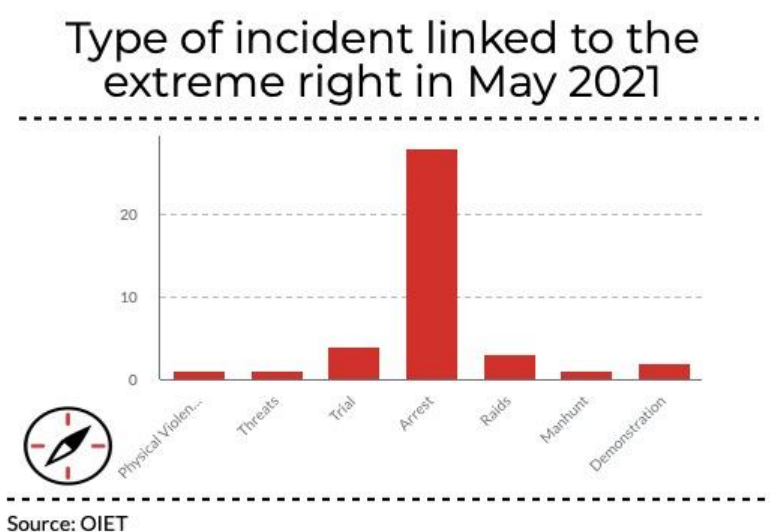
Key points

- Increase of extremist activity in Europe.
- Presence of women in extremist groups.
- Return to recruitment of The Base.
- Trials of ex-military personnel linked to the extreme right.

Introduction

In May, there was an increase in activity from the extreme right, particularly in Europe. This month ended with a total of 21 incidents, including: a beating, a death threat, two gears, a raid, a search for a former military man, four trials, and 28 arrests. Likewise, this month was characterized by several events of the utmost importance that highlights the importance of taking measures to confront the extreme right. It is essential to mention a significant increase in anti-Semitic violence in the United States and [Germany](#).

In the ideological sense, the ideology most present again is neo-Nazism; of the 21 incidents recorded this month, 16 follow this ideology. This trend has been present so far this year, being the most prevalent. It is relevant to mention that there is an overlap in ideologies in the spectrum of the extreme right so that a person can have neo-Nazi ideologies together with many others. Another critical point of this month was the arrest of women in police raids; this point is significant given that the scene of the extreme right is mainly sexist; therefore, it can be observed that it is increasingly common to see women within these extremist groups.



Analysis of the extreme right by geographic area

Hereafter, a detailed analysis of the extreme right is carried out according to the geographical area in which the extremist incidents occurred.

Europe

The first violent incident occurs in [Spain](#), where the national police deployed an investigation earlier this month into the beating of a young man by neo-Nazis in the city of Valencia. The 20-year-old attacked was beaten by an extremist group while returning from a march in the

center of the city and was later threatened with a knife by another individual from the march, who fled when the police arrived. The police have [two](#) suspects arrested, whom were previously known for their extremist ideology; however, they were later released. This incident comes after a march in which more than a hundred people participated in the May 1st festivities, the participants exhibiting Nazi and Falangist symbols. It should be noted that the Government Delegation previously authorized this demonstration and that, due to this authorization, anti-fascist groups convened themselves to face this concentration. However, the police prevented a clash between these two groups.

The party that organized the march was España 2000, classified as extreme right and with an ideology of identity. Constituted in 2002, this party lacks parliamentary representation and is only implemented at the municipal level.

Another event has been of great importance this month in [Spain](#), when hundreds of people gathered in front of the Moroccan Embassy to demonstrate against an alleged “invasion” while bearing extremist symbols. This demonstration is relevant for this observatory because it was called, among others, by the neo-Nazi organization Bastion Frontal and that the Government Delegation denied it. Subsequently, five people were [arrested](#), and seven officers were slightly injured. A peculiarity of this march is that one of the reporters who covered the demonstration received death threats from members of the Bastion Frontal. He [reports](#) that, within the threats, personal information was included, including his address and his ID. A complaint was made before the corresponding authorities.

The Bastion Frontal organization has been classified as the largest extremist group in [Madrid](#). It is characterized by the average young age of the participants (between 15 and 25 years old), calling itself a [youth organization](#). [Bastion Frontal](#) was created last year, and it is estimated that it currently has more than 100 active members, most of them from the youths of the Spanish Falange or the Social Home; nevertheless, what characterizes them is their openly undemocratic and violent discourse, as well as their constant active participation. This group operates mainly in the southern areas of Madrid, with a more significant presence in the area of Coslada.

Similarly, in the case of [England](#), in early May there were five arrests, including a minor, on suspicion of [instigating](#) crimes related to far-right terrorism. The raids were carried out in Keighley, West Yorkshire, Swindon, and Anglesey, as part of an ongoing investigation to combat violent extremism.

Additionally, two singularities stand out in this case: the first is the age of those arrested, all of them under 30 years of age, and the participation of a minor aged 16. The second characteristic is the presence of a woman; This fact underscores a change in the paradigm since the phenomenon of the extreme right has a predominantly sexist component.

In another instance of a similar nature, a man was found guilty on 16 counts of terrorism in the [UK](#). The 37-year-old man shared explosives and weapons manufacturing manuals, as well as extremist propaganda. The communication channel was through the Telegram application, which allows anyone to join chats anonymously. A peculiarity of this case is that he gave instructions on how to send explosive devices in Amazon packages in one of the channels. Consequently, in [London](#), two men linked to this communication channel were arrested for sharing extremist material. The individuals, aged 33 and 38 respectively, face charges related to terrorism. This fact accentuates the threat posed by online radicalization in various communication channels and the problem of being able to detect them in time.

Along this line, in [England](#), a 34-year-old neo-Nazi was charged with eight counts of terrorism and two counts of having the illegal material to make explosives. The individual admitted at trial of having a neo-Nazi and fascist ideology and noted that his interest in politics began after hearing the speech of Nigel Farage and the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP). Three singularities stand out from this case: 1) The individual had two 3D printers, through which he tried to create a weapon; 2) the detainee was a member of the army and, 3) he is accused of creating extremist chats on WhatsApp and Telegram, where he shared neo-Nazi content encouraging violence and manuals on making weapons and explosive devices, among others.

Moreover, in the [United Kingdom](#), a report stated that around 16 members of the army had been sent to an anti-extremist program. Members of the army, air force, and naval personnel were among those investigated for the past two and a half years under the Prevent program, which aims to prevent radicalization.

The situation in the [UK](#) presents several challenges in terms of security, mainly since the jihadist threat is still present; however, the far right is the [fastest growing](#) threat. Likewise, a relevant characteristic of the extreme right in the British countryside is its level of internationalization and collaboration with other extremist groups; various individuals and groups have established international ties, for example, the Nordic Resistance Movement (NRM) and with extremist groups in Ukraine. It is crucial to mention that the [latter](#) has served as a training ground for extremists. The conflict in [Ukraine](#) has turned it into a hub for transnational white supremacist networks that continues to attract and inspire extremists from around the world. In this conflict, there is however a varying point of views: on the one hand, some extremists support Ukraine against the Russian army, and on the other, some support Russia because Putin is seen as a defender of the white European tradition.

In this sense, the Imperial Russian Movement arises, an ultra-nationalist organization that seeks the predominance of the white race. Last year, the [United States](#) classified this organization as terrorist, arguing that it had provided paramilitary training to white supremacists and neo-Nazis in Europe. Additionally, [German](#) intelligence sources reported that German extremists had been paramilitary trained in a camp in Russia. This threat could well be the most dangerous and relevant due to the level of risk it presents.

For its part, in [Germany](#), the police arrested a 53-year-old individual for sending death threats to people of progressive ideology, including a lawyer, a politician, and a comedian. The threats were signed with "NSU 2.0", which refers to the neo-Nazi terrorist group National Socialist Underground. The authorities conducting the investigation counted 115 messages and believed they come from the same source. Several media outlets had reported that the detainee had obtained personal information from those threatened, requesting it from public

records and posing as a policeman; however, the authorities have not confirmed this information at the moment.

Linked to the rise of the far-right in [Germany](#), a raid was deployed in four federal states on the apartments of members of the far-right group The Hard Core. Among the arrested, three men and one woman were on the basis of crimes related to terrorism. Again, the participation of a woman in extremist groups is highlighted.

In another instance, it is relevant to mention that a [report](#) by the German Intelligence Services detailed that during three years, the German security services reported more than 1,400 instances where it is suspected that members of the army, the police forces and the intelligence services, have committed extremist actions, among which they belong to chats with Nazi content and their participation in sharing Nazi propaganda. The same report warns that the number of extremists in the police forces has increased significantly and that this represents a significant threat to German democracy.

It should be noted that last year, 39 [police](#) officers were suspended for joining extreme right-wing groups and spreading Nazi propaganda; also, a company of the [special forces](#) was completely dismantled when explosives, weapons, and symbols of the Nazi Defense Squads, Schutzstaffel (SS), were found in a property of a high commander.

Following this line, the start of the trial of a 32-year-old [German ex-soldier](#) is reported, who is accused of planning a brutal act of violence that could endanger the State, crimes of fraud, and illegal possession of weapons and explosives. The lieutenant had stolen weapons from the German army with the aim of attacking high-ranking politicians, including the then Minister of Justice Heiko Maas.

Two [singularities](#) stand out in this case: the first is that the individual had posed as a Syrian migrant, intending to blame the possible attack on this group, and that the individual had previously been reported as having an extreme-right vision during his military studies, after writing a thesis influenced by conspiracy theories and neo-Nazi views.

In the German case, it is relevant to remember that there have been three terrorist attacks in the last two years: the [murder](#) of a politician, the attack on a [synagogue](#), and the shooting in [Hanau](#). These incidents have led the German government to categorize the [rise](#) of the far-right as the leading national threat. In these observatories, we report these events that occurred in [2019](#) and [2020](#).

In connection with the murder of the politician in Germany in 2019, the [neo-Nazi](#) guilty of murdering Walter Lübcke was sentenced to life imprisonment in May. Lübcke was a supporter of policies aimed at hosting refugees and was opposed to the ideas of PEGIDA, as will be discussed later. Notably, the perpetrator had ties to the neo-Nazi group Combat 18 and had a criminal record.

Another [report](#) by the German Federal Criminal Police Office records a total of 44,692 crimes motivated by the extreme right in 2020, the highest figure so far, and shows an increase of 8.5% compared to the previous year; 1,092 of these crimes were violent.

In parallel, an intelligence agency in [Saxony](#), Germany, named the PEGIDA movement as unconstitutional and extremist. The agency argues that, since its inception in 2014, the anti-Islam movement has become more extreme. The movement describes itself as pan-European and anti-Islamic, hence its name: Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the Occident, or PEGIDA.

It should be noted that the inception of PEGIDA coincided with the growth of the radical Alternative for Germany party (Alternative für Deutschland, AFD), which has [also](#) been placed under supervision; both maintain an anti-immigrant and xenophobic stance; what mainly distinguishes them is that PEGIDA is pan-European, and AFD is nationalist. However, this is not the first time the movement has been classified as extremist; intelligence services in Bavaria had already declared it an extremist group and placed it under surveillance.

These efforts by intelligence agencies are supported by the [law](#) that was approved last year - and which came into force in [April](#) of this year - to combat the extreme right and hate crimes, which was designated to carry out in the face of unconstitutional activity and monitoring the activity of the extreme right, as well as enabling more severe sentences. This law proposes that extremist content published on social networks -such as Facebook or Twitter-, must be eliminated. The administrators of these social networks will have to report the IP address to the police. A singularity of this law is that, in the most severe cases, such as terrorism cases and, if the judge approves it, these networks will have to provide the password of the user who uploaded the content.

Although it is an advance to combat online extremism, this law also presents a challenge on how it would possibly violate freedom of expression and privacy. [Critics](#) of this bill argue that, although the increase in extreme right-wing violence justifies this law, its efficiency is posed into doubt due to its increasingly threat to freedom of expression. However, there were corrections to the law to ensure the correct use of it. It is essential to mention that, after the application of this law, there was a migration of extremist groups to other communication channels, including Telegram. This, in turn, has created an additional problem by making it more complex to track members who share extremist material and content.

The [German](#) case has similarities to that of the United Kingdom: both present a growing problem of extremism, both on the part of the extreme right and jihadism, but they are different with the extreme left. However, a peculiarity of the German case is that these groups share their hatred of Jews. [Anti-Semitism](#) is a very relevant problem in Germany because there are three extremist movements that have in common their hatred of the Jewish community. This information serves to explain the reason why anti-Semitic crimes have increased since 2014. Last year alone, there were 2,351 registered cases. It is essential to mention that violent incidents by the [extreme left](#) have increased in parallel with those of the extreme right in Germany, with 11,000 incidents, of which 1,525 were violent crimes.

For the reasons previously stated, it can be said that [Germany](#) is one of the countries most affected by extremism: last year, the police reported around 24,000 crimes related to the

extreme right, with an increase of almost 6% compared to the year previous. It was also the year with the most incidents reported since the records began 20 years ago. Consequently, with these data, it is exposed that the main objectives of the German extreme right are: immigrants, refugees, communists, Jews, Muslims, and, this year, due to the pandemic, people of Asian origin. For the reasons previously stated, the German security services have categorized the threat from the extreme right as critical.

In another instance, in [France](#), six members of a neo-Nazi group were arrested for planning an attack on the Moselle in a raid; subsequently, three were released. A singularity is again the presence of women in the group: of the six members, two are women. This arrest is part of a more extensive investigation into extreme-right groups by the national anti-terrorist prosecutor's office, which began in February 2021, and whose purpose is to combat the extreme right in France. Following this line, but in [Italy](#), a [raid](#) by the police seized weapons, Nazi and fascist symbols in the homes of members of a supremacist group called the Last Legion. Agents searched the homes of 25 members of this group that calls itself fascist. The police had been monitoring this group since 2019 in their various chats. The members are accused of promoting political violence and discrimination on racial, religious, and ethnic grounds, particularly to Muslim and Jewish groups and members of the LGBT community.

On the other hand, a highly relevant event occurred in [Belgium](#), when a 46-year-old soldier with links to the extreme right fled after [stealing weapons](#), including a missile launcher and a submachine gun. The Minister of Justice announced that it was a severe threat and launched an exhaustive search for it, focusing mainly on the Hoge Kempen National Park. The search began on May 18, and as the writing of this observatory, the suspect remains to be found. The soldier presents a danger because he has elite tactical training, having trained as a weapons instructor and sniper. It is for these reasons that he is classified on [high alert](#).

Consequently, this case has three characteristics: the first is that the individual threatened one of the most prominent virologists in Belgium; the second, the military man was already on a [terrorist watch list](#) due to his ties to the extreme right and; finally, that he has had the support of extremists. The last particularity should be highlighted, given that two marches were

carried out, the [first](#) with 150 attendees and the [second](#) with 200; Likewise, a group showing support on [Facebook](#) was created, which had more than 40,000 members. However, the group was later eliminated. Henceforth, in this case, several points can be highlighted: the first is the importance of having programs to detect extremist ideologies in the army and have the mechanisms so that they cannot access weapons when an individual is detected. The second consideration is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by targeting a virologist as the primary target and, lastly, the need to update the methods to act when an individual presents risks of violent activity.

However, in more positive aspects, this case also highlights international [cooperation](#) in security matters since France, the Netherlands, Germany, and Luxembourg have all supported Belgium in searching for the individual. In parallel, they have had the support of organizations such as [INTERPOL](#). In the [April](#) observatory, the threat that this situation could occur was exposed.

Following the line on cooperation, [Europol](#), in a press release, announced the first day of Action for Referral against far-right terrorist online propaganda. On this day, a total of 28 international partners joined, including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, and the New York City Police Department.

During that day, the parties involved reviewing the referral process, from detecting terrorist content to marking it to online service providers. This meeting aimed to discover the sources of Internet activities and develop approaches to combat them.

Oceania

In [Australia](#), two neo-Nazis, aged 28 and 22 respectively, were arrested for armed robbery in Victoria on May 8. One of those arrested is the neo-Nazi group National Socialist Network

leader, which has previously been banned. The group's leader was later charged with other crimes, including armed robbery and committing a crime while he was on bail. In the April observatory, the measures that Australia is taking to combat the extreme right were exposed.

America

In the United States, this month was characterized by the arrests and prosecutions of members of extremist groups. At the end of the month, a 28-year-old man was arrested in [Texas](#): accused of planning a terrorist attack at a Walmart. Weapons and neo-Nazi and fascist extremist material were found in the arrest. Investigators said they intercepted a message where the individual indicated that he was preparing to proceed with a mass shooting at a Walmart. Choosing a Walmart is reminiscent of the [2019](#) terrorist attacks in El Paso, Texas when a 21-year-old individual killed 23 people and injured 23 more.

On the other hand, in [Virginia](#), the trial against the former leader of the neo-Nazi group Atomwaffen Division began. The 27-year-old pleaded guilty to conspiring with other extremists to threaten dozens of targets, including a predominantly African-American church, a member of the US cabinet, and several journalists. He was [sentenced](#) to 41 months in prison. The individual is the fourth of five arrested to plead guilty; Another member is being accused of having [murdered](#) two roommates. Another is in prison for possession of explosives.

The Atomwaffen Division model inspired several other terrorist groups, for example, The Base, which still exists and is under investigation. However, even though the group was dissolved in 2020, it was grouped again under a National Socialist Order (National Socialist Order). A particularity of this group is the average age of the members, the majority not exceeding 25 years of age. At its peak, the group had around 100 active members; however, their willingness to participate in violent activities was what categorized them as a threat. Following this order of ideas, the 25-year-old former leader of the terrorist group [The Base](#) will return to prison after having broken the terms of his release on bail. The individual was arrested on terrorism-related charges in 2020. However, despite evidence that he posed a

threat, he was released on bail. While at large, he was charged with possession of illegal steroids in February and in early April of breaking into a garage on the property where he once conducted paramilitary training for the group, along with an accomplice.

A [report](#) denounces that this same group - The Base-, is recruiting and exists again despite its ban. The group's founder, a former employee of the US National Security Agency (Homeland Security), has resumed his leadership role. It is relevant to mention that this individual currently lives in [Russia](#) and has a connection with the Russian government. The group is estimated to have at least a dozen people, far fewer than ever estimated to have.

Through the FBI, the [United States](#) government carried out a nationwide operation starting in 2019, which resulted in the arrest of around ten members. Among the crimes for which they have been arrested stand out murder plots and mass shootings. Both the Base and the Atomwaffen Division have been designated as terrorist organizations, and both have been outlawed.

It is necessary to mention that, in a document, the -again- leader presents a new vision about the direction of the group and its plans. In this new manifesto, the virtues and their objectives are established: the acceleration towards the downfall of civil society in the West. Likewise, it is established that La Base does not recognize a formal leadership structure; however, the former leader describes himself as "the main administrator of the network," a statement that is in tune with the ideology of the leaderless resistance of Leaderless Resistance.

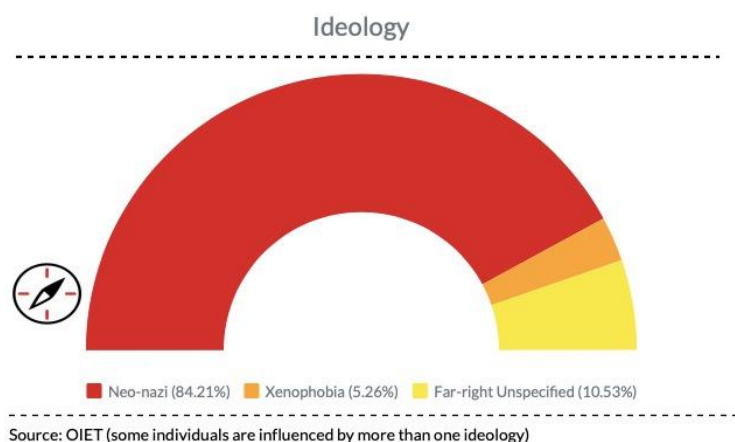
In response to the events that led to the capture and arrest of his members, in the new manifesto, he advises not to speak and not to discuss the group's plans online. Also, he mentions that they do not comment on their intentions or their actions in internet forums. This particular case highlights three essential singularities: 1) the group's ban was not effective and highlighted the difficulties posed by the effective dismantling of these groups; 2) the group seeks to establish paramilitary training bases for its members and; 3) the new strategy by these groups to disconnect from the network, resorting to smaller cells, which are more challenging to monitor. For these reasons, the risk presented by this organization is

considered critical, and a change in the organizational paradigm of extremist groups can be observed.

As a last resort, the importance is highlighted that if the members of these groups remain free because the members of these groups create new groups recreating the organization again, but with another name. An example of this is the Attomwaffen Division which once outlawed its name to the National Socialist Order and continued with the recruitment. The leader has not been formally charged with any crime; however, he is on the anti-terrorism watch lists.

Finally, in the [United States](#), a considerable increase in anti-Semitic violence is reported in different cities. These events occur in response to the incidents in Palestine and Israel. As a result, synagogues and Jewish individuals have been threatened and attacked by various groups. A [report](#) by the Antidefamation League reported that there were about 222 antisemitic incidents in two weeks. One characteristic of this case is that the attacks did not come only from far-right groups. As in Germany, other groups have violently attacked Jewish groups. The city most affected has been New York since it is the city where the largest Jewish community outside Israel is established.

It is relevant to mention that the Jewish religious group is one of the main targets of the extreme right, remembering that in [2018](#) there was a terrorist attack in a synagogue in Pittsburg where eleven people were killed, and seven were injured.



Database

	Date	Place	Indicent	Ideology	Objective	Details	Link
1	1	Valencia, Spain	Physical violence	Neo-Nazism	Civilian	Neo-Nazis beat up individual; 2 detainees	abc
2	1	Valencia, Spain	Demonstration	Neo-Nazism		Demonstration summoned by España 2000	Europapress
3	1	Keighley, West Yorkshire, Swindon and Anglesey; England	Raids	Far right unspecified		5 arrests of members of extremist groups.	BBC
4	4	Berlin, Germany	Arrests	Neo-Nazi		Trial of neo-Nazi who sent threats	New York Times
5	4	Virginia, United States	Trial	Neo-Nazi		Trial of former leader of the Atomwaffen Division	Washington Post
6	6	Several localities, Germany	Raids	Neo-Nazis		Raid in federal states of the group The Hard Core	Spiegel

7	7	Various localities, France	Arrests	Neo-Nazis		Arrest of 6 members of a neo-Nazi group.	France 24
8	7	Michigan, United States	Arrest	Neo-Nazi		Arrest of leader of neo-Nazi group The Base	VICE
9	13	Several localities, Germany	Anti-Semitic violence	Various far-right groups	Jewish Community	Rise of anti-Semitic violence in Germany	DW
10	14	Victoria, Australia	Arrest	Neo-Nazis		Arrest of two neonazis	The Guardian
11	15	London, England	Trial	Far right unspecified		Extremist trial	standard
12	18	Madrid, Spain	Demonstration	Neo-Nazism		Demonstration at the Moroccan Embassy	El Español
13	18	Madrid, Spain	Death threat	Neo-Nazism	Reporter	Death threats to reporter who covered the demonstration at the Moroccan Embassy	CTXT
14	18	London, England	Arrest	Far right unspecified		Arrest of 2 extremists	Standard

15	18	Berlin, Germany	Sentece	Neo-Nazi		Conviction of Walter Lubcke's murderer	France 24
16	19	Various locations, Belgium	Soldier Manhunt	Neo-Nazi		Manhunt for soldier who stole weapons and ran away.	The National
17	20	Berlin, Germany	Trial	Neo-Nazi		Neo-Nazi trial	France 24
18	20	Rome, Italy	Raids	Neo-Nazi		Raid on extremists' homes	Reuters
19	26	London, England	Trial	Neo-Nazi		Neo-Nazi trial	The Independent
20	26	Various locations, United States	Anti-Semitic violence	Various far-right groups	Jewish Community	Rise of anti-Semitic violence in the United States	New York Times
21	31	Texas, United States	Arrest	Neo-Nazi		Arrest of neo-Nazi planning an attack	News4