

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



Source: OIET

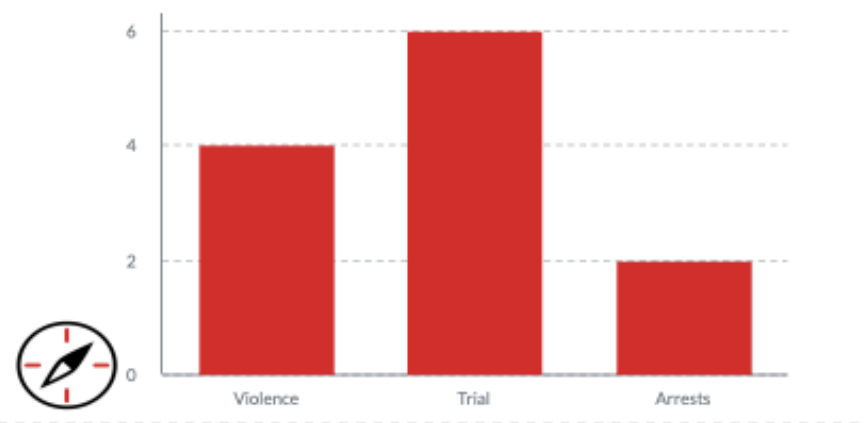
Key points

- The terrorist group Feuerkrieg Division is recruiting again after being disbanded.
- Trials of Three Percenters in the U.S.
- Presentation of the National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism in the U.S.
- Lone actor runs down Muslim family in a terrorist attack in Canada.
- Neo-Nazi Arrested in England with 3D Weapons Printer
- Disbandment of a special forces group in Germany for possible involvement in acts of glorification of violence.
- Dismantling of a neo-Nazi group in Italy that sought to attack NATO facilities.

Introduction

In June, there were four violent incidents in the countries studied, with the terrorist attack in Canada being the most relevant. In addition, six trials and 14 arrests were reported in various locations. This month was also marked by presentation of the National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism the United States, which will be further detailed at the end of the observatory. Additionally, one of the highlights of this month is that the Feuerkrieg Division, which was thought to be disbanded, has reopened a recruitment channel on the Telegram platform.

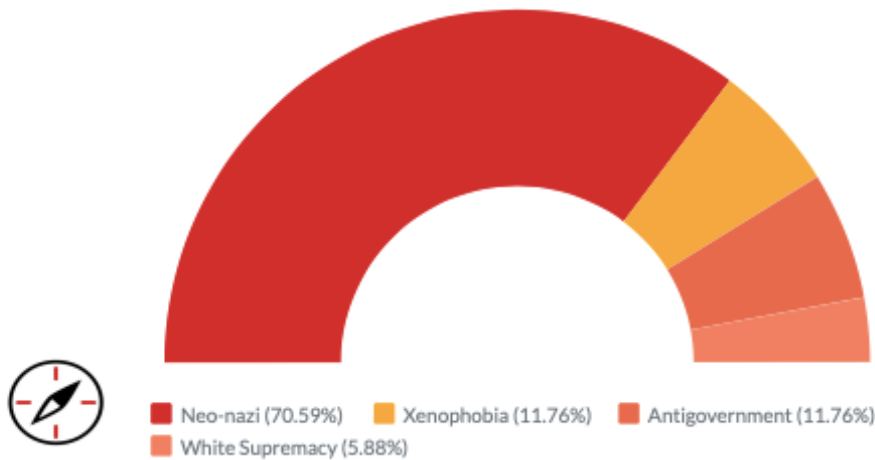
Type of incident linked to the extreme right in June 2021



Source: OIET

In the ideological sense, neo-Nazism continues to be the most present ideology, with 12 of the 17 events this month following this ideology. This trend has been present so far this year, being the most prevalent. On the other hand, there were two xenophobic and anti-government events and one incident inspired by white supremacy.

Ideology



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

Analysis of right-wing extremism by geographic area

The following is a detailed analysis of the far-right by geographic area.

Europe

In Europe, this month was characterized by trials and arrests of extremist individuals and groups. Three trials were reported in England and one in Austria. As far as arrests are concerned, 12 individuals were arrested in Italy for planning an attack on a NATO facility. Finally, two violent incidents are reported: a murder in Spain and an arson attempt in Germany.

Beginning with the trials, in England, there were a total of three trials of four individuals. Earlier this month, the trial of a 24-year-old neo-Nazi, who was [convicted](#) of fifteen terrorism-related charges ended. The detainee argued that the charges were unfounded because the neo-Nazi material pertained to academic research for his university thesis; however, this was disproved when it was found that he had written articles calling Jews "a cancer" on society and had links to the outlawed System Resistance Network and Sonnenkrieg Division groups before entering university.

Likewise, in England, at the end of the month, a neo-Nazi teenager who threatened to attack migrants in Dover [admitted](#) to terrorism offenses. The 15-year-old detainee created an extremist group on the Telegram platform where he discussed attacking refugees. Among his comments, one that [stands](#) out is: "I am planning an attack against the coast of Dover, where safety has been provided for all Muslims and refugees. If you are interested, tell me now." During the trial, Westminster Magistrates' Court exposed that the juvenile had previously been convicted of threatening to attack a mosque on January 20 last year. Also, at the trial, another 16-year-old boy from London appeared for belonging to the same group, where he admitted disseminating terrorist content. The younger detainee was remanded in custody, while the older one was released on bail.

In another instance, in England a 34-year-old neo-Nazi was [sentenced](#) to 18 years in prison for ten terrorist offenses, including storing explosive materials. The defendant ran a Telegram channel where he shared neo-Nazi propaganda encouraging the murder of people of color and Jews. The main particularity of this case is that police discovered that he had terrorism manuals and instructions for a 3D printed weapon and the means to manufacture it.

Finally, in Austria, a 29-year-old soldier was [sentenced](#) to 19 months in prison for violating Nazi glorification laws. It was discovered that he had previously shared Nazi propaganda online; in addition, the soldier had a swastika tattooed on his testicles. However, the defendant argued that he no longer had ties to members of the extreme right for years and that the tattoo was no longer visible, therefore, he appealed the sentence.

As for the arrests, in Rome, twelve members of the neo-Nazi organization [Ordine Aria Romana](#), aged between 26 and 62, were [charged](#) with criminal association and incitement to hatred; among those investigated the presence of a Carabinieri stands out. One singularity that is relevant to mention about this group is that the group was allegedly [planning](#) an attack on a NATO facility. Subsequent to the arrests, Italian authorities [dismantled](#) the group. Investigations and arrests were made in Rome, Cagliari, Cosenza, Frosinone, Latina, L'Aquila, Milan, and Sassari. Moreover, this extremist group was very active on social

networks, particularly on Facebook. On this platform, they shared propaganda and messages inciting hatred, particularly towards Jews and immigrants. Another particularity of this group is the presence of "Miss Hitler," a thirty-six-year-old woman arrested in this operation with a swastika tattooed on her back, whom had previously been denounced for insulting publications against members of the Italian Senate. This highlights the growing trend of the presence of women in extreme right-wing groups.

In another line of thought, in Frankfurt, Germany, prosecutors [dismissed](#) 19 police officers from a special operations commando unit. Additionally, they suspended another on charges of glorifying violence, as well as referencing a former Nazi organization in online chats. Among those arrested, three are charged with criminal obstruction. Moreover, during the investigation, alongside the extremist material child pornography was [found](#) on one of the defendants. The defendants, aged between 29 and 54, were on active duty, with the exception of one who had previously been suspended.

Meanwhile, in Germany, the Department of Defense [withdrew](#) 30 soldiers from a NATO mission in Lithuania over allegations of racism and sexual assault. This was after they were caught singing anti-Semitic chants and celebrating Adolf Hitler's birthday at a hotel party in late April. One element that stands out about this event is that the sergeant was aware of the situation and did not report the incident to his superiors. The platoon is part of a [NATO](#) battle group in Lithuania called "Enhanced Forward Presence," and its primary function is to improve NATO's deterrence capability against Russia. Among the main consequences is the immediate dismissal of the soldiers.

It is important to emphasize that this is not the first time Germany has disbanded a military unit: in November last year, Defense Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer [disbanded](#) the second company of the Bundeswehr Special Forces Command after evidence was found that the unit's soldiers had covered up extremist activities carried out by certain members. This event is in line with current trends. It is essential to mention that the German government has [revealed](#) that around 550 soldiers are under investigation for this reason.

Regarding members of the military, one event that stands out this month was the [discovery](#) of the lifeless body of the Belgian ex-soldier who ran away the past month. The leading hypothesis is that the individual committed suicide. The body was found near the border with the Netherlands. The ex-soldier remained on the run for more than a month, which resulted in harsh criticism of the government for not having controlled the situation properly; the main criticism was the lack of action on the part of the Army upon learning that the individual had an extremist background. The situation was discussed in more detail in the [May](#) observatory.

Finally, in another line of events, there were two violent incidents this month. First, in Spain, a murder occurred mid-month in Mazarron, Murcia. A 52-year-old retired military man [murdered](#) a person of Moroccan origin while shouting, "I do not want Moors on the premises." The perpetrator was subsequently arrested. Specifically, in the region of Murcia, there has been an [increase](#) in attacks against the migrant population, particularly those of North African descent and/or Muslim religion. In this rise of incidents, the attempted arson [attack](#) on the mosque in San Javier in February of this year stands out.

On the other hand, in Germany, in the city of Ulm, an individual [attempted](#) to set fire to a Synagogue. However, the fire was extinguished minutes later. This event is an example of the growing trend of anti-Semitic crime in Germany. According to official sources, German police [recorded](#) 2,429 crimes of an anti-Semitic nature last year alone.

North America

Regarding North America, this month was marked by two violent incidents, one in Canada and the other in the United States. Likewise, the trials and arrests of individuals who took part in the uprising at the beginning of the year continued in the United States. At the same time, the trial of two members of The Base and a neo-Nazi video blogger is on display. This month witnessed the presentation of the [National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism in](#) the United States, whose main objective is to set guidelines and regulatory frameworks to deal with the threat of domestic terrorism with an emphasis on the extreme right.

The major violent incident occurred earlier this month in Canada in the city of London, Ontario. A 20-year-old man [ran over](#) a Muslim family, killing four of them and injuring one. The detainee is being charged with murder and terrorism charges. The attack was [labeled](#) as terrorism by Prime Minister Trudeau and ratified by the attorney general. The prosecution argues that the individual intentionally ran over the family because of his faith, therefore, exposing that the attack was premeditated. This element is of utmost importance, given that premeditation is the main differentiation between a hate crime and an act of terrorism. A singularity of this event, moreover, was the attitude of the perpetrator. While he was being arrested, he was [laughing](#) and asked to be filmed. The individual had no criminal record, and his acquaintances claimed that he had never made racist or xenophobic comments. These elements highlight the difficulty in the study of violent radicalization, showing that the process of radicalization is not always so noticeable among individuals.

Consequently, after the terrorist attack, the Trudeau administration [undertook](#) to dismantle extreme right-wing groups. Case in point, the Canadian government, subsequently [designated](#) the Three Percenters and Aryan Strikeforce groups as terrorist organizations. This appointment aligns with Canadian policies to [address](#) far-right groups. Organizations such as Proud Boys, Atomwaffen Division, and The Base have previously been designated as terrorist.

In addition to these groups, Canada has designated individuals responsible for influencing or inciting terrorism; an example of this is that neo-Nazi writer James Mason was designated as a terrorist by this country. It is worth noting that James Mason is known for writing the influential insurgency manual *Siege*. This book has inspired various neo-Nazi groups and organizations, including the Atomwaffen Division and The Base. The book was published in the 1980s and promoted the idea of the lone actor and leaderless resistance. It also exposes the need to carry out terrorist attacks against the U.S. government to provoke the collapse of society and a race war.

Continuing with this order of ideas, the second violent incident [occurred](#) at the end of the month in Massachusetts, USA. Authorities are currently investigating a case, in which a man murdered two people. The perpetrator [drove](#) a truck into an empty house and then continued shooting as he fled; however, during the events, the terrorist crossed several people who were not of color and were not targets of violence, so it is argued that the murders were racially inspired. Additionally, the 28-year-old detainee was found to have written supremacist rhetoric. For the time being, the investigation is still ongoing.

The return of the Feuerkrieg Division: a national security problem for the U.S.

In another development, in the United States, the neo-Nazi group Feuerkrieg Division is reportedly recruiting again, despite the previous disbanding of the organization. The [Feuerkrieg Division](#) is a neo-Nazi organization that has as its primary goal the destruction of the system and society in general; according to its vision, this system is controlled by Jews. This organization was established in 2018 and follows the parameters and ideology of the Siege book and accelerationism, and has the most extremist interpretations of white supremacy. Currently, the Feuerkrieg Division is only outlawed in the U.K.

A news report [informs](#) that the group once again had a communication channel on the Telegram platform. At the same time, propaganda posters began to be visible in the cities of Estonia and Bulgaria, countries where it had a relevant presence. The posters read: "fight for the collapse" and "join the revolution." At the same time, these posters were adorned with swastikas and other neo-Nazi symbols.

It is worth noting that the Feuerkrieg Division was greatly influenced by the Atomwaffen Division. In fact, both organizations share similar beliefs and ideological ties. A particular characteristic of this organization is the collaboration and communication with other neo-Nazi groups. An example of this is the collaboration with the Atomwaffen Division, The Base, and Sonnenkrieg Division, going so far as to refer to them as "comrades." Additionally, the group announced a partnership with another recently created neo-Nazi group: the Injekt Division, which is based in the United States. [Injekt Division](#) is a neo-Nazi community

founded by an individual arrested last month for allegedly planning a mass shooting at a Walmart.

One of the main characteristics of the Feuerkrieg Division is the average age of the members, most of them being minors (starting from the age of 15). It is estimated that at its peak, the group had approximately 100 members. U.S. members included a man [accused](#) of planning attacks against the Jewish population in 2019 and an active-duty Army soldier who was [accused](#) of posting a recipe for homemade Napalm online, as well as planning to assassinate Texas Democrat Beto O'Rourke and bomb CNN offices.

One uniqueness of this organization is the age of the leader and creator of this group, who is 13 years old and lives in Estonia. While this leader, self-described as "Commander," was briefly [detained](#) in April 2020, however he was too young to be prosecuted. Estonian law says that anyone under the age of 14 cannot be held legally responsible for their own actions. However, the Estonian government announced that it was managing the situation to handle the case. Nevertheless, despite the average age of the members, the Feuerkrieg Division attracted older individuals who posted potentially dangerous information, including the manufacture of explosives; also, group chat planned to carry out large-scale attacks. An example of this was in 2019 when the FBI [arrested](#) a 23-year-old neo-Nazi when he was discovered communicating on the encrypted Wire platform with members of this group planning to set fire to a synagogue or attack a Las Vegas LGBT bar.

On the other hand, continuing with the arrests, a Neo-Nazi who had the particularity of dressing as Joker [faces](#) 30 years in prison for charges related to the possession of a firearm and unregistered ammunition. In the arrest of the 32-year-old, an arsenal of more than 800 rounds of ammunition and an unregistered short-barreled rifle were [found](#). The accused shared extremist propaganda on Telegram channels and reached over 40,000 followers on one of his channels. In addition to the channels, the detainee had profiles on video platforms where he vociferated his extremist views. Ironically, what is interesting is that, despite his neo-Nazi ideas, because he is of Romani descent, the neo-Nazi was harassed by members of neo-Nazi groups, particularly the Atomwaffen Division.

In another instance, in this month's trials, a former Canadian soldier and a cell leader of the neo-Nazi organization The Base were [convicted](#) on several weapons-related charges in the United States. The 27-year-old Canadian ex-soldier faces charges of both planning to shoot up at a gun rights demonstration and his membership in The Base, as well as his illegal entry into the U.S. Additionally, he and the leader of The Base's Maryland cell are accused of producing the drug DMT, as well as creating weapons. Both face several decades in prison for their alleged crimes, with sentencing scheduled for October of this year.

It is relevant to state that, in August 2019, after the ex-soldier's membership in The Base was discovered, the Canadian army officer fled from Canada to the United States at the Manitoba-Minnesota border, where he was helped by members of the organization to cross and remain hidden for months. During that time, the ex-military officer provided paramilitary training to members of the organization, and several attacks and operations were planned.

Trials and accusations stemming from the January 6 insurrection

In another development, with respect to the trials and indictments stemming from the January 6 incidents, in the United States, the prosecution [secured](#) a conspiracy indictment against six men associated with the extremist Three Percenters militia. In parallel, around 40 people, including members of two other far-right groups, The Oath Keepers and The Proud Boys, have also been charged with conspiracy, including the Three Percenters defendants, 16 members of the Oath Keepers, and 15 members or affiliates of the Proud Boys, who were [charged](#) in four separate conspiracy cases. These have been listed as the most serious charges related to the riots. In addition to the arrests of members of this group, a Chicago police officer was [arrested](#) for his involvement in the day's incidents.

Three percenters

At the same time, during the indictment, the investigation revealed that, since December 2020, the defendants planned the insurrection through the use of the Telegram platform. This

plot included bringing weapons to Washington and storming the Capitol. For example, in the January 6 insurrection, supporters of former President Trump sieged the Capitol, seeking to disrupt the congressional inauguration ceremony on the victory of Democrat Joe Biden. In this insurrection, the supporters managed to break into the House of Representatives and the Senate, and it should be noted that at the end of the incident, five people were killed, including a policeman, and dozens were injured.

[Three Percenters](#) was founded in 2008 and defends an anti-government ideology. The central ending revolves around the misrepresented idea that only 3% of the American colonists took up arms against the British in the American Revolution of the 18th century. Members of this group call themselves the modern versions of those revolutionaries, fighting against the tyrannical U.S. government. The organization's logo is the Roman numeral III, and this has become very popular among anti-government extremists.

Paradoxically many of the movement's supporters supported former President Trump during his administration; consequently, this group remained inactive in opposing the federal government during that period. However, since 2020 the militia movement resurfaced for several reasons, most notably the presidential election; attempts to pass gun control measures at the state level, state-imposed restrictions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, and; protests over the murder of George Floyd.

Regarding the arrests from that day's incidents, a press release was issued in June [stating](#) that more than 535 people have been arrested to date, while 300 remain unidentified. The prosecution has called the case the most complex to date, with an unprecedented scale. Of those arrested, only 16 have pleaded guilty, and among them, five have agreed to cooperate with the federal government. The charges against the individuals include assault on officers, destruction of government property, and conspiracy. The Department of Justice [announced](#) that approximately 165 individuals had been charged with assaulting, resisting, or obstructing officers or employees, including more than 50 people charged with using a deadly or dangerous weapon or causing serious bodily injury to an officer. It is estimated that around 150 officers were injured during the insurrection. It is also stated that about 235 people were

charged with obstructing, corruptly influencing, or impeding an official proceeding or attempting to do so. One particularity among those arrested is the presence of women: more than 60 women have been arrested to date in connection with the assault on the Capitol.

It is key to [expose](#) the presence of ex-military and police in the incidents of that day; of those detained, 56 are military or ex-military, and 12 were police. Among the military, one is an active-duty member, four are part-time troops in the Army Reserve or National Guard, and 50 are ex-military. Of these former military members, 25 have served in the Marine Corps, 21 in the Army, two in the Navy, and two in the Air Force. Additionally, the prosecution charged one active and one retired firefighter.

Launching of the National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism

Finally, the [National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism](#) presented on June 15 by the U.S. government will be exposed. One of the main focuses of the Biden administration is the fight against domestic terrorism, addressing the situation of violent extremism on the part of the extreme right. This is, in fact, the first time in U.S. history that this issue has been addressed.

The document presents a national framework that will serve the U.S. government to 1) understand and share information related to domestic terrorism; 2) prevent domestic terrorism recruitment and mobilization to violence; 3) disrupt and deter domestic terrorist activity; and 4) address the long-term causes of domestic terrorism.

The strategy is broken down into four points laid out as key pillars. The first point stresses the importance of understanding the terrorist threat and collaboration between government sectors, particularly information sharing. The second point addresses the issue of prevention, with an emphasis on online recruitment. The third pillar describes government efforts to disrupt and deter extremist activity. The last point addresses the causes of domestic terrorism, emphasizing the need for online civic education, particularly to counter extremist narratives, disinformation, and conspiracy theories.

The paper highlights several points: 1) the definition of domestic terrorism; 2) recognition of the threat of racially or ethnically motivated violent extremism advocating white racial superiority, as well as anti-government violent extremists as violent militias and; 3) emphasis on the protection of civil rights and civil liberties as a national security imperative.

The first point deals with **understanding the terrorist threat, as well as collaboration with other government sectors regarding the sharing of information.** In this way, it seeks to enhance cross-sectoral sharing to promote understanding of the threat. For example, this point will encourage various security agencies such as the FBI or the Department of Justice to have a system in place to track domestic terrorism cases across the country. Another element of this first point is that the State Department will evaluate other foreign organizations and groups linked to domestic terrorism and whether these can be designated as Foreign Terrorist Organizations or Global Terrorists under the relevant legal criteria. An example of this is the Atomwaffen Division or The Base, which are not yet considered terrorist groups in the United States.

The second point deals with the **prevention of recruitment and mobilization to violence.** In this point, it is stated that the government will support with resources various agents, such as community partners, who serve as the first line to prevent violent radicalization. In addition, it is highlighted that the Department of Homeland Security has designated Violent Domestic Extremism as a priority area, allocating 77 million dollars. These efforts are intended to prevent, protect, and respond to violent domestic extremism. Additionally, the Department of Homeland Security, in conjunction with the FBI, will collaborate to strengthen local frameworks to prevent, assess and manage the problem. Another point is that the Department of Defense will incorporate training for military members on possible attacks by violent extremist actors against those with military training. This last point is of utmost importance due to the current trends of military and ex-military involvement in extremist groups and organizations. At the same time, this pillar emphasizes efforts to address online terrorist recruitment and mobilization to violence. This will be developed through partnerships with technology sectors and will aim to create innovative ways to foster digital

civic education, building resilience to recruitment and mobilization to violence. Finally, there is the jointure to international partnerships between governments and technology companies, particularly the endorsement of the Christchurch Call for the development of new multilateral solutions to eliminate terrorist content online while respecting and protecting freedom of expression online.

Third, this point regards the **issue of the halting and disruption of domestic terrorist activity**. This item outlines the decision to designate this type of terrorism as a top priority, and thus support for federal, state, and local law enforcement will be increased to address the problem. In addition, a fund of more than \$100 million dollars in resources is designated for the corresponding departments, including analysts and investigators. Perhaps the most relevant element of this item is the following: the Department of Justice will closely examine whether new legislative authorities that could affect civil liberties are necessary and appropriate. This question alludes to the actions of previous administrations, e.g., the Patriot Act, which was heavily criticized for failing to respect civil liberties and targeting minority groups. Consequently, the document states that it will seek to improve methods of identifying domestic terrorists who could pose domestic threats. This measure will take place thanks to the improvement of employee screening by considering updates to the forms used to apply for sensitive positions in the Federal Government, among them in the various agencies such as the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Homeland Security. The main purpose of this point is to ensure that extremists are not hired within military or police agencies. The presence of military and ex-military personnel in extremist groups is one of the main trends in the extreme right, so this point addresses this issue.

Finally, the last pillar deals with the **long-term confrontation of the causes for domestic terrorism**. This point will address the causes of this issue, including the protection of minorities, as well as stopping the flow of firearms to people who intend to commit acts of domestic terrorism. This point is of utmost importance, considering that it is a direct measure that addresses one of the causes of domestic terrorism. The most relevant element of this point is the emphasis on strengthening democracy through the Rescue, Jobs, and Family

Support Plans. Additionally, it is stated that ways will be sought to counteract political polarization, emphasizing the element of disinformation and online conspiracy theories.

To recapitulate, concerning the previous administration, this strategy is a clear example of the seriousness with which the threat of the extreme right is being taken. Particularly worth noting is the fourth point that addresses the issue more broadly, not only based on countering terrorism but addressing the root causes of political violence and violent extremism. Also, the strategy's emphasis on addressing violent extremism rather than an ideology per se is one of its main strengths.

Database

	Date	Place	Ideology	Type of incident	Objective	Details	Link
1	5th	Ulm, Germany	Neo-nazi	Arson	Jewish Community	Attempted synagogue arson	DW
2	7th	Roma, Italy	Neo-nazi	Arrest		Arrest and disbanding of a neo-Nazi group planning to attack a NATO facility.	Político
3	9th	Frankfurt, Germany	Neo-nazi	Dimission		Group of policemen dismissed for sharing Nazi content.	The Guardian

4	10th	U.S.A	Neo-nazi			Feuerkrieg Division creates new recruiting channel after being previously disbanded	Buzz Feed News
5	10th	Viena, Austria	Neo-nazi	Trial		Austrian army soldier on trial for glorification of violence.	Daily Mail
6	10th	Maryland,U.S.A	Neo-nazi	Trial		Trial of members of The Base	Vice
7	11th	Washington D.C.,U.S.A	Militias	Accusations		Accusations against members of the group Three Percenters	Reuters

8	11th	Washington D.C., U.S.A	Anti-government	Arrest		Arrest of police officer for his participation in the Capitol insurrection.	Vice
9	11th	Londres, England	Neo-nazi	Trial		Neo-Nazi convicted on terror-related charges	BBC
10	14th	London, Ontario, Canada	Xenophobia	Terrorist attack	Comunidad musulmana	Terrorist attack in London, Ontario, Canada where 4 people were killed and one was critically injured	BBC
11	14th	Mazarrón, Murcia, Spain	Xenophobia	Murder	Comunidad musulmana y extranjeros de origen Magrebi	Racially motivated murder of individual	El Español
12	14th	Londres, England	Neo-nazi	Trial		Trial of neo-Nazi who owned a 3D printer	BBC

13	16th	Berlin, Germany	Neo-nazi	Whitdrawal of soldiers		Whitdrawal of German soldiers on NATO mission	El País
14	20th	Belgium	Neo-nazi			Finding of the body of the Belgian soldier who fled last month.	El País
15	23rd	Florida, U.S.A	Neonazi	Trial		Trial of neo-Nazi who dressed as the Joker	Vice

16	27th	Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A	White Supremacy	Murder	African-americans	Shooting in Boston suburb	The Guardian
17	28th	London, England	Neo-nazi	Trial		Trial of two minors on terrorism-related charges	BBC