



Germany:

Central Council of Muslims in Germany excludes Islamist association



The Central Council of Muslims in Germany (ZMD), one of the four largest Islamic umbrella organizations in Germany, expelled

the "German Muslim Community" (DMG) at its last meeting at the end of January.

As early as 2020, the annual report of the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution stated that due to its structural and personal ties, the DMG should be regarded as part of the worldwide network of the Muslim Brotherhood and as its central organization in Germany.

According to a court ruling from 2017, the basic conviction of the DMG includes the establishment of Islamic rule structures in Germany that are incompatible with democratic principles such as freedom of expression, popular sovereignty and gender equality.

Currently, the personnel strength of the DMG is estimated at approx. 1,450 supporters in the Federal Republic.

The Central Council of Muslims in Germany mainly represents non-Turkish Muslims in Germany and has attracted attention in the past for not being particularly active in its structure against religiously motivated extremist associations.

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Bundestag extends Iraq mandate

The Bundeswehr will continue to work against the terrorist organization „Islamic State“ in Iraq.

Last Friday, the Bundestag extended the mandate by a further nine months. In a roll-call vote, 555 MPs voted in favor of the motion, 110 were against. There was one abstention. The German soldiers have been part of the anti-IS coalition since 2015.

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Study proves health literacy of people with a migration background

Although residents with a migration background make up almost a quarter of the entire population in Germany, there has not yet been a comprehensive survey of their health literacy.

Scientists from the Universities of Bielefeld and Cologne have now analyzed the health literacy of people with a migration background for the first time. The main result: Contrary to the prevailing assessment to date, their health literacy is similar to that of the general population in Germany, and even tends to be slightly better.

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Belgium:

Islamist imam is no longer allowed to enter Belgium

Molenbeek, Muslims, Islamism. These terms arouse fears across Europe as a "hotbed of Islamist terrorism". Mohamed Toujani, Belgium's best-known imam and leading preacher at the Al-Khalil Mosque in Molenbeek, is now considered a "danger to national security." He is no longer allowed to enter the country.

Moroccan-born Mohamed Toujani has been preaching in Belgium's largest mosque

since 1982 and training imams there. He is considered to represent a very conservative, Sunni Islam that prevents believers from integrating into Belgian society. He maintains connections with the Muslim Brotherhood, which, however, is not considered a radical movement in Belgium.

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France:

Death threats after TV documentary about Islam



At the end of January, the well-known program "Zone interdite" on the M6 channel dealt with the state's fight against "separatism in the republic".

Amine Elbahi reported on the program from his hometown of Roubaix on the border with Belgium. Since his sister moved to Syria for jihad a few years ago, he has been fighting against radical Islam. Six halal butcher shops, bakeries, shops selling Arabic food and three bookshops, which also sell veils and niqabs, were filmed in a confined space in the city centre. A toy store offers dolls without facial features.

The broadcast caused a tremor. The storm of outrage was followed by long debates on the four news channels. Amine Elbahi was a guest in all studios. Radical Islam starts from a small minority, said Elbahi.

Among other things, the editor-in-chief and presenter of the magazine, Ophélie Meunier, had to be placed under police protection. The same applies to Amine Elbahi. His phone number is circulating on the internet. He received calls announcing his beheading: he would end up like the teacher Samuel Paty, who had used the Mohamed cartoons in class during the Charlie Hebdo trial.

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Austria:

Anti-Semitism module for integration courses

Value and integration courses for refugees are to be expanded to include an anti-Semitism module. The corresponding initiative was presented at the end of January by Integration Minister Susanne Raab, Chancellery Minister Karoline Edtstadler (both ÖVP) and the President of the Jewish community Oskar Deutsch. The inclusion of the topic was made easier by an increase in the number of hours to be completed from eight to 24 hours from 2022.



Recognized asylum seekers and those entitled to subsidiary protection have to complete the courses designed by the Integration Fund (ÖIF). They are also open to asylum seekers with good chances of being recognized. Since the beginning of the year, they have extended over three days of eight hours each. The first is, among other things, about educational opportunities and the labor market, the second is about culture, traditions and voluntary work, as well as anti-Semitism. Day three then offers information about equality and the rule of law.

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United Kingdom:

Middle-class Brits tend to be Islamophobic

A University of Birmingham report found that more than 23 percent of upper- and middle-class respondents had biased views of Muslims.

The poll found that middle- and upper-class Britons were more likely to hold Islamophobic views than working-class Britons.

The UoB data showed that 23,2 percent of upper- and middle-class Britons have biased opinions about the Islamic faith, compared with 18,4 percent of working-class people.

The study, titled "The Dinner Table Prejudice: Islamophobia in Contemporary Britain," suggests that Brits are almost three times more likely to take anti-Islamic positions than members of other religions.

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European Union:

Informal meeting of home affairs ministers in Lille



Three significant advances were made under the French EU Council Presidency in the areas of security and migration. After an agreement was reached jointly with the European Parliament on February 1st to reform Europol, the European interior ministers gave their support during their meetings on February 2nd and 3rd February in Tourcoing and Lille largely followed the proposals of the French EU Council Presidency on the political leadership of the Schengen area and the reform of the European migration and asylum system.

Ministers agreed to set up a "Schengen Council", the first meeting of which will take place in Brussels on 3 March. On this occasion, they will draw up a series of

indicators to assess the situation at our borders in real time, and continue their reflections on the introduction of new solidarity tools at the external borders, in order to be able to respond to all types of emergencies.

During a working lunch, they discussed the topic of radicalization in particular. Based on a presentation by Professor Gilles Kepel, these talks expressed a common concern about groups promoting the spread of ideologies in Europe and ways of life contrary to European values. The issue of funding these groups was raised, with particular attention to the public funds to which they have access.