



Niedersächsisches Ministerium
für Inneres und Sport

Verfassungsschutz

*Lower Saxon Ministry
for the Interior and Sport*

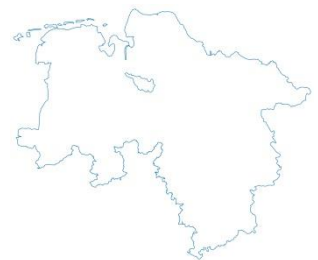
Domestic intelligence service

Meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol (JPSG) on 28 September 2020



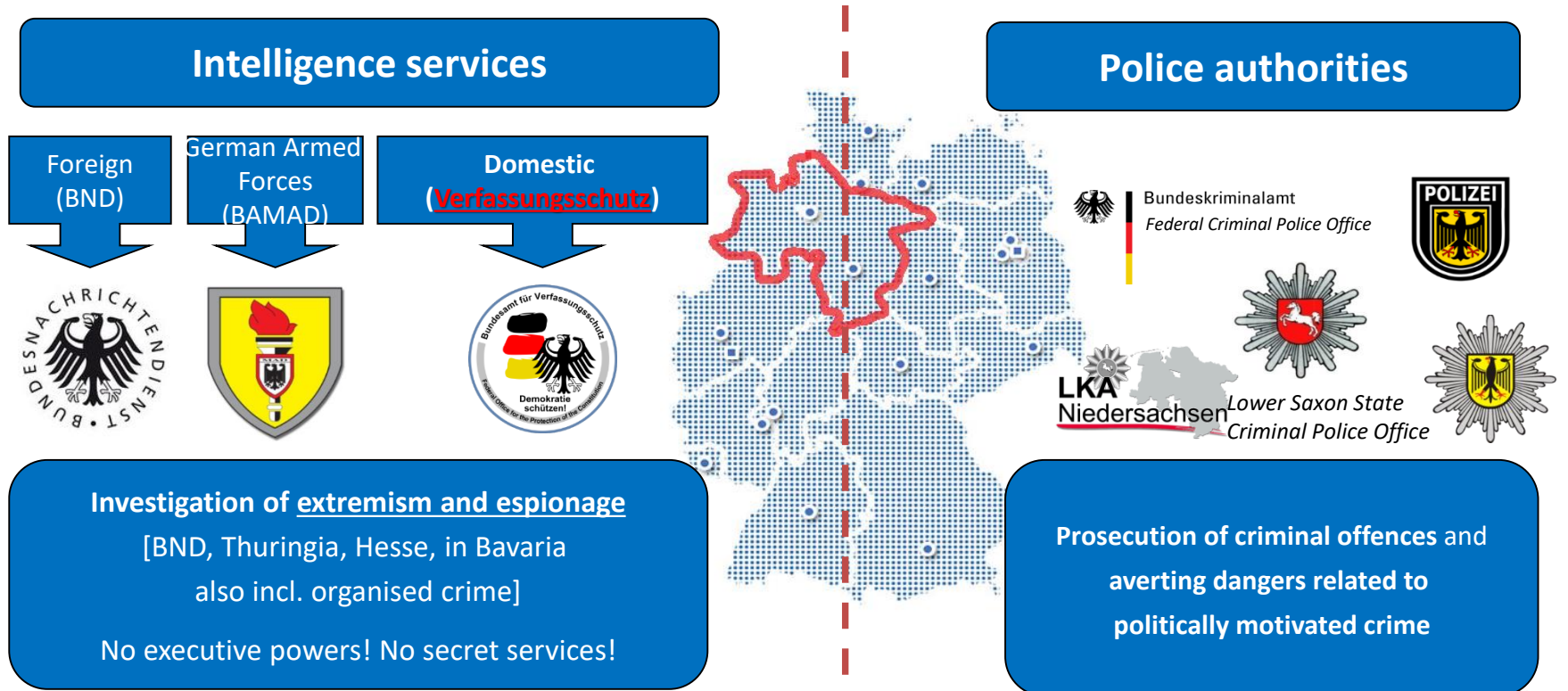


- Short overview of Germany's security services, incl. the division of authority between the police and intelligence services in Germany
- Specifics of the structure of police authorities
- Coordinating platforms at Federal level
- Cooperation between the domestic intelligence service (*"Verfassungsschutz"*) and the police in Lower Saxony
- Case study: "S. Group"
- Opportunities at European level?
- Development of right-wing extremism/terrorism
- Issues faced by security authorities





Intelligence services and the police in Germany





Intelligence services in Germany

Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND)

(Federal intelligence service)

- **Foreign intelligence**
- Supervised by the Federal Chancellery
- Head offices in Berlin and Pullach

Militärischer Abschirmdienst (BAMAD)

(Military Counterintelligence Service)

- Domestic intelligence in the German Armed Forces
- Supervised by the Ministry of Defence
- Head office in Cologne

Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz (BfV)

(Federal domestic intelligence agency)

- Higher-tier Federal authority
- **Domestic intelligence**, central evaluation and own investigations in the Federal interest
- Supervised by the Federal Ministry of the Interior
- Head offices in Cologne and Berlin

Landesbehörden für

Verfassungsschutz (LfV)

(domestic intelligence agencies of the German states)

- Higher-tier state agencies or departments of the respective ministries of the interior
- Gathering of information in the respective German state

- BfV acts as central and coordination authority (Art. 87 [1] sentence 2 of the German Constitution)
- LfV have largely identical tasks
- **Equal status of the domestic intelligence (“Verfassungsschutz” literally means “protection of the constitution”) authorities, i.e. BfV has no right to issue instructions but is instead obliged to cooperate**



The police in Germany



Federal Police

Federal Ministry of the Interior,
Building and Community

Federal Police Headquarters

Federal Criminal Police
Office (BKA)

9 regional police directorates
1 special police directorate
1 directorate of the Federal riot police
1 Police Academy

Police inspectorates



Lower Saxon police

Ministry of the Interior and Sport
- State Police Headquarters -

6 regional police directorates

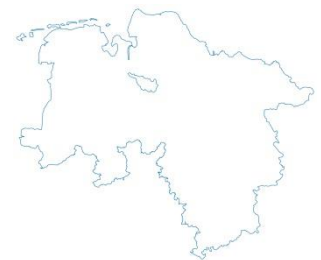
Police inspectorates

Police departments

State Criminal
Police Office

Central Police
Directorate

Police Academy





Cooperation between police and intelligence service

Coordinating platforms at Federal level

Joint Counter-Terrorism Centre



- Cooperation and communication platform of 40 national agencies working in the field of home security:
- BfV, BKA, BND, GBA (*Chief Federal Prosecutor*), BPOL (*Federal police*), German Customs Investigation Bureau, BAMF (*Federal Office for Migration and Refugees*), BAMAD, LfV, state criminal police offices
- Important: Two platforms working separately

Joint Centre for Countering Extremism and Terrorism



- Communication platform for police and intelligence services at Federal and state level to counter right-wing, left-wing and foreigners' extremism/terrorism, and in counterespionage:
- BfV, BND, BMAD, LfV, BKA, BPOL, Europol, GBA, GZD (*General Directorate of Customs*), state criminal police offices, BAMF, BAFA (*Federal Office of Economics and Export Control*)

Further organisations

- Joint Internet Centre (GIZ)
Watch and assessment of Islamist internet content



- Counter Terrorism Group (CTG)
Informal intelligence group set up by the Council of EU Justice and Home Ministers on 20 September 2001





Cooperation between police and intelligence service **GIAZ – Lower Saxony**

- GIAZ Lower Saxony - Joint Centre for information and analysis of the Lower Saxon police and Lower Saxon domestic intelligence service (*Gemeinsames Informations- und Analysezentrum Polizei und Verfassungsschutz Niedersachsen*)
- Established on 10 December 2004
- The first centre of its kind in Germany
- Lower Saxon State Criminal Police Office (LKA NI) and Lower Saxon domestic intelligence service (LfV)
- Mission: to pool and assess information gathered by the police and intelligence services in the fields of
 - Islamism and extremism related to foreign countries
 - right-wing extremism and
 - left-wing extremism

