



August 2019

# Monthly Report About the Far- Right in Europe



International Alliance for Peace and Development

## **The Far-Right Activity in August 2019**

### **Introduction**

A serious wave of intolerance and hate violence is targeting migrants and refugees in Europe, raising concerns about these horrific incidents. In August, there were many incidents targeted minorities and migrants in Europe.

Laws and regulations that impede public freedoms enshrined in international treaties and conventions were issued, such as in Australia. As well as the discriminatory law that prohibits religious practices, which are fundamental rights of everyone.

The highest rate of violence and persecution was in Germany, as a result of the growth of neo-Nazi movements, white nationalism and other extremist movements that spread hatred and violence for political gain.

Hate speech is the most dangerous attack on the values of tolerance, integration and diversity. It is a real threat to the norms and principles guaranteed by human rights. In general, hate speech undermines social cohesion and reduces shared values and can be a starting point for violence, causing a setback peace, stability, sustainable development and human dignity.

This report monitors all the movements and activities of the far-right in Europe. August witnessed large far-right movements; the far-right managed to take more steps forward in a number of European countries than others. The first week of August had the highest rate of the far-right movements in Germany, which poses a threat to the economy of Germany and Europe as a whole. The far-right activity was increased in countries such Sweden and Australia. The report includes a broad overview as well as an analysis of the current situation with regard to hate speech and violence within the European countries.

### **The Most Prominent Movements of the Far-right During the First Half of August**

Violence and intimidation acts were increased in some European countries by the far-right, leading some countries, such as Germany, to declare a state of emergency. In addition to Germany, new countries, such as Australia, were

included the list of the European countries that witnessed far-right movements in the first half of August. Through this section all the movements of the far-right in the first and second weeks of August are going to be monitored.

The first week of August saw most of the far-right movements in Germany. In July, Germany witnessed violent movements by the far-right, which was limited to targeting government members who are refugee advocates in Germany. This month, civilians were targeted too; a woman who refused to accept their ongoing campaign of violence was targeted, according to a statement issued by the German government. The statement documented the methods used in the violent acts of the far-right in targeting its victims such as the use of Molotov cocktails, smashing windows and other extremist acts. The German government has explained some details about targeting victims. According to the German narrative, the far-right warns its target individuals by writing warning words in red paint on their house walls.

The violence in Germany began specifically since the refugee crisis three years ago. This was demonstrated by the physical assault on prominent political figures and civilians who refuse any kind of extremist views to be imposed on them. Such disagreement is faced by murder.

The statistics of the German government recorded an increase in the crimes of the far-right in the first half of 2019 to 900 crimes in Germany, compared to 86.5 crimes in the first half of 2018.

Italy, on the other hand, is one of the countries where the far-right moves with the support of the government. Italy is expecting new government elections while the internal situation of the government is unstable. Matteo Salvini went to holding early elections, launching publicity campaigns and opening the door for discussion, in order to support his position in the elections.

Salvini announced in his campaign to withhold the powers of the Senate in an effort to dismantle coalitions opposed to the government. At the same time, Italy saw the highest rate of crimes committed by extremist groups against civilians. A prominent member of a political party opposed to the far-right activity was killed and investigations concluded that the member belongs to an Albanian mafia, so he was targeted.

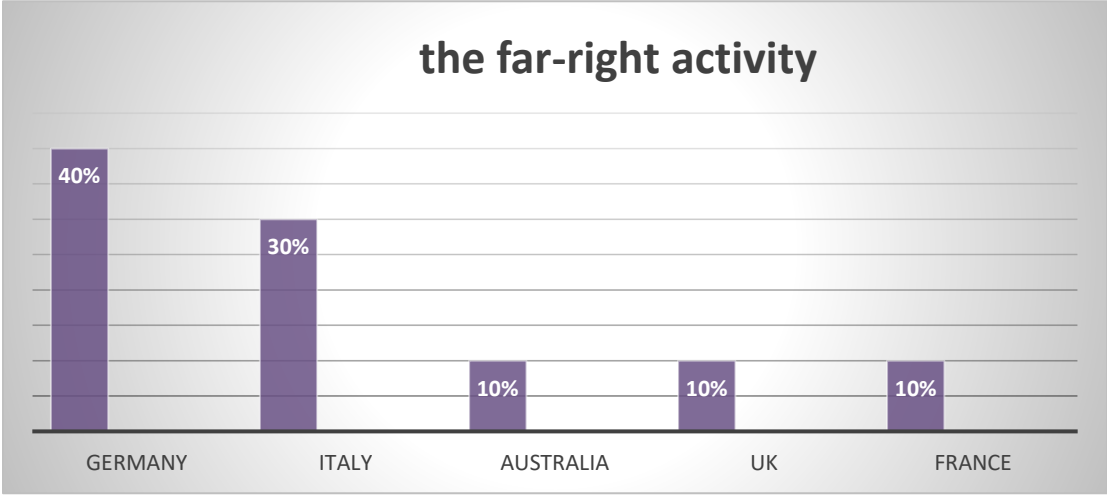
As for Brexit, it is currently dominating the scene in general. Boris Johnson is demanded to clarify the main measures taken by the government. There were

demonstrations that filled the streets opposing the presence of Boris Johnson in the government, meanwhile, there were some demonstrations for Johnson, causing violent confrontations between the two parties.

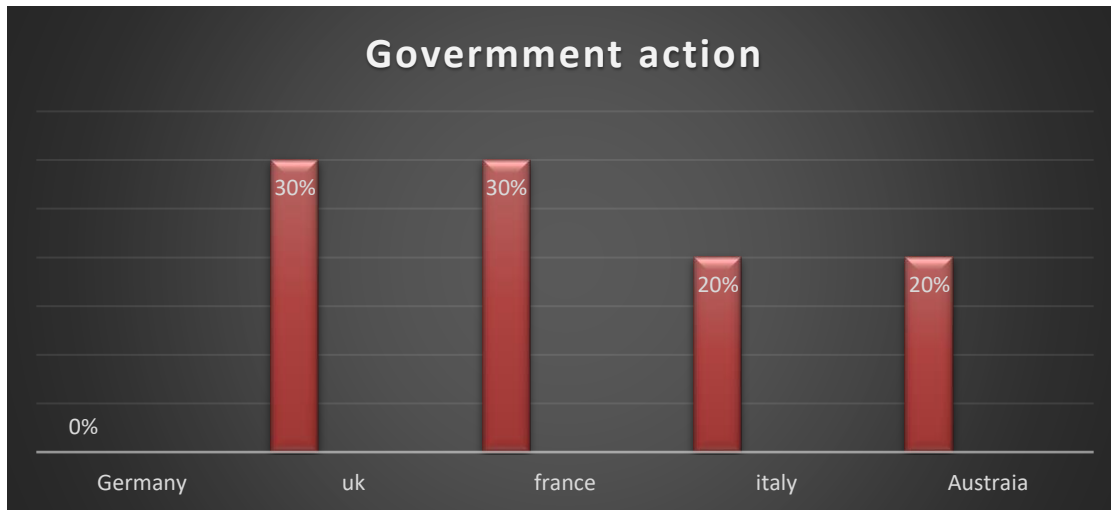
Regarding France and the issue of the return of French terrorist fighters from armed conflict in Syria, a court sentenced a 37-year-old Moroccan woman who lived in Syria with her three children in 2017 to prison. The court charged her with carrying out terrorist acts, destabilizing public order and neglecting her children by taking them to such area of conflict. The court refused to give any clarification of her case considering her a danger for the state.

The French authorities announced that 31 Yazidi women arrived from Iraq to Toulouse airport, bringing the rate of Yazidi families who have sought asylum in France since December 2018 to 75%. This influx of refugees is part of a commitment made by the French President Emmanuel Macron to protect the victims of atrocities committed by the Islamic State in Iraq, consisting a great concern to France regarding the far-right.

Australia has joined the European countries that have seen far-right movements, as it stands among the countries that support the ideology and activities of the far-right. The government coordinated the work of the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), a forum of far-right Republicans. The forum was characterized by strict orientations against migrants and refugees.

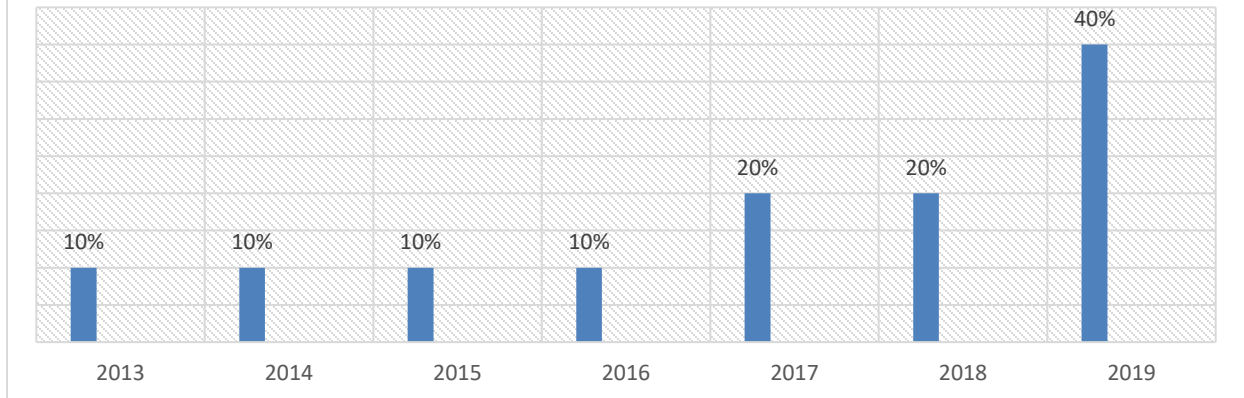


It is clear that the movements of the far-right during the first half of August were higher than previous months according to the previous chart. Germany had the highest representation of intimidation and terror, followed by Italy. France, the United Kingdom and Australia were equal, which gives a reason to search for the actions and measures taken by the governments.



According to the previous chart, the measures taken by the German government against the accelerated activities of the far-right were weak and almost non-existent, unlike the supporting measures taken by the governments in European countries that far-right advocates. Australia, for example, has taken steps that support it. As mentioned above, Australia held a conference to enhance the far-right ideas on an equal footing with Italy. The United Kingdom's new government supported the steps of Brexit and spread of extremist ideas.

## High Crime Rate in Europe



With regard to the increasing crimes of murder committed against migrants and refugees in Europe in the first half of 2019, the year of 2019 will have the highest crime rate in Europe compared to previous years. This increase is accompanied by the strong presence of the far-right in the political scene in terms of their participation in parliamentary work and other activities that supported its presence. According to the above chart, for example, the number of violent crimes committed by the far-right in Germany increased by more than 40% in one year. As stated by the internal intelligence agency in its annual report, asylum seekers were targeted in particular. German internal intelligence services showed a 42% increase in violence by extremists linked with far-right in 2015. The report documented attacks against journalists, politicians and refugees. The report shows that there were 1,408 recorded violent crimes. During the same period, 75 attacks targeting refugee centers were recorded.

### **The Most Prominent Movements of the Far-right During the Second Half of August**

The second half of August saw the highest percentage of movements by the far-right. The rate was almost doubled, making Germany maintain its position among the most countries suffering from the far-right violence. The second half of August was fraught with incidents that put the government in a serious trouble for not resolving the situation.

For example, the strong insistence on the presence of a large number of foreigners in Germany from different cultures increases the hatred and constant criticism of

Merkel's government. Germans believe that it is deeply rooted in their history to open the door for all foreigners, but the Alternative for Germany party is mobilizing to stop asylum and migration to Germany.

In the second half of August, Germany witnessed far-right demonstrations led to the conviction of a 23-year old Syrian asylum seeker of murder. He was sentenced to 9 and half years, although he didn't commit the crime. Nevertheless, the General Prosecutor insisted on sentencing him to 10 years in prison. the far-right, represented in Alternative for Germany party, lunched protests, assaulting migrants on the streets, which the German government failed to control.

Alternative for Germany party was established in 2013, since then it significantly strives for a strong presence in the political scene. Opinion polls carried out by the government showed that Alternative for Germany became highly popular in East Germany, particularly in the states of Saxony and Brandenburg. This raises a question: Will the Far-right party win in the coming local elections in Germany? Overall, attention is turning towards East Germany, especially from Merkel's government, this owes to its existence in those parts. Since the unification of Germany in 1990, these states witness local elections upheld in September. According to statistics, Alternative for Germany's chance to win these elections is up to 70%, although the persistent accusations against it, including that made by The Central Council of Jews in Germany. It said that the party raises concerns and fear and promotes the exclusion of minorities; it also noted, in its speech, the targeting of minorities in general.

Overall, this affects Merkel's coalition that, long ago, was established by the Conservatives, the ruling party, and Social Democrats who belong to the center-left, to govern Saxony. That's why the increasing support of people to the far-right will hugely affect Merkel's coalition. In the upcoming period, Germany will witness other elections in other states inside Germany scheduled in October.

However, a letter was sent to the Minister of Interior from press agencies in Germany, demanding the protection from the extremist members of the far-right party, because of the last attacks and the list of names of eminent journalists supporting migration and refugees in Germany.

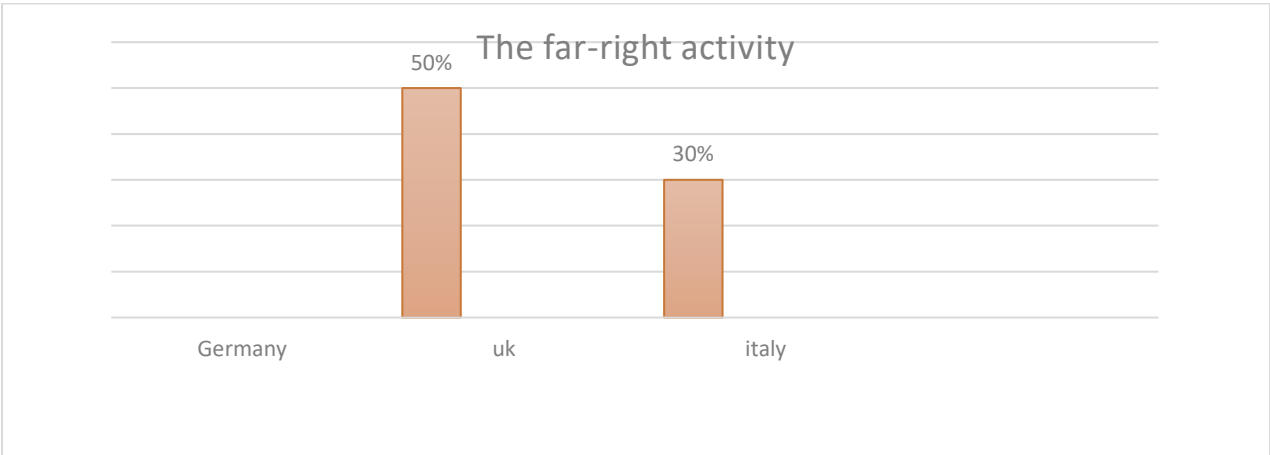


The President of the Federation of German Industries said that the success of the far-right parties in Germany constitutes a great danger on not only Germany, but also on all the European countries. The far-right devastates the external image of Germany. Since the issue of refugees in Germany, the support for the far-right has been increased, which negatively affects the current support of the government. In the last eight years, more than 175 individuals were murdered throughout Europe because of the far-right hostility to migration and asylum.

Regarding Britain, the Brexit Party candidate still faces persistent criticisms because of his persistent statements in favor of extreme ideas, in addition to his continuous desire to cooperate with other coalitions like the cooperation with Italy.

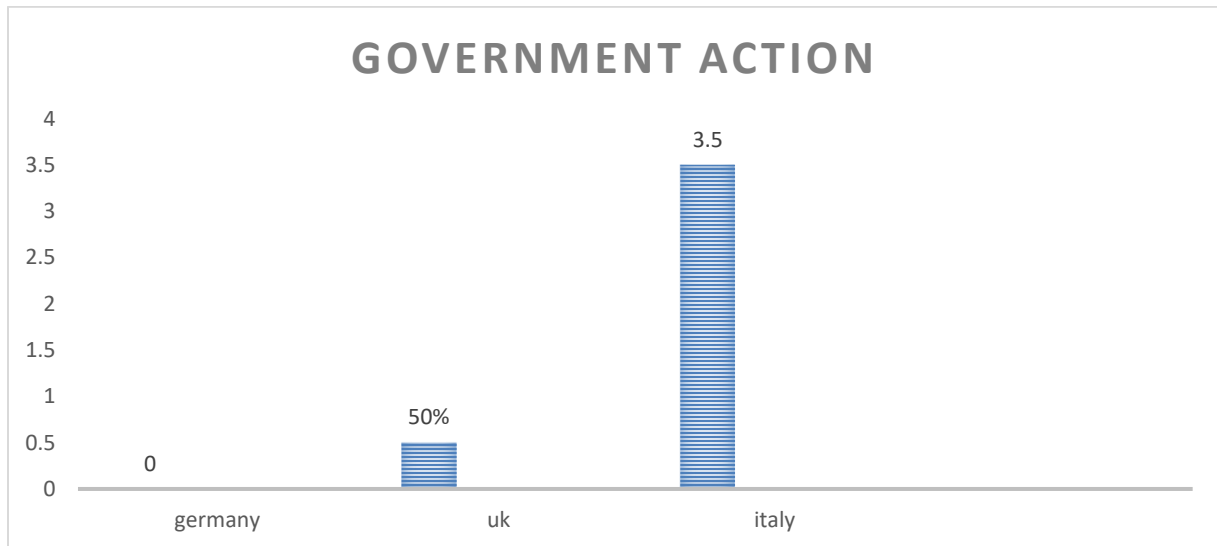
The government representative asserted that the far-right is part of the mainstream in the United Kingdom. He warned from the rising levels of crime in the United Kingdom. He mentioned that there is no system for determining the crimes committed by the far-right; all the crimes of terrorism and hatred are collectively recorded. Significant amount of hatred crime in the United Kingdom was recorded, according to official statistics.

Concerning Italy, political chaos and snap elections, announced by Italy government, prevailed the situation in the second half of August. As well as the resignation of the Italy's Prime Minister that hugely affected the Italian arena, especially the map drawn by Salvini to support the far-right coalitions in Italy, which will affect him.





According to the chart, the highest rate of the far-right activity was in Germany, exceeding the first half of August. The United Kingdom came next but, due to a government support. Italy came third, as result of unstable political situations.



According to the news related to the far-right activity in Europe, the government measures were almost non-existent in the second half of August, either positively or negatively, in contrast with other countries like Italy and the United Kingdom.

Although the continuous control of some European countries over the political scene like Italy, Germany, France and United Kingdom, new European countries appeared in the European political scene in the second half of August like Austria, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and Australia.

Each country had its own position on the far-right, in Austria, the Austrian People's Party insisted on banning the far-right movements, which resulted in carrying out violent acts, murder, receiving money from external countries to support extremism and the spread of hate speech.

Concerning Portugal, the last series of incidents revealed alarming signs of changing Portugal to become strategic target for the coming far-right movements, especially because it is the only European country that has left-wing government that is about to complete a whole parliamentary period and will witness a new

election. As well as it is the only country where no far-right party has won any seats in the parliament.

Regarding Sweden, the police in Cebu warned that, Sweden will face a high risk of attacks, because of the impact of the surrounding European countries on Sweden. Some government reports stated that the far-right parties are spread in different countries of Europe.

Australia passed a law that spreads hate speech in the country it bans general fields of life because of faith or religious practices. Although the draft law has not specified the protected religious practices, the explanatory notes assert that it is too broad and will including religious ceremonies, clothing, and expression of faith.

### **Analytic Vision**

August is one of the most months that witness a lot of movements of the far-right. It managed to gain more popularity and support in some European countries

Some studies produced recently on the public situation in Europe in relation with the political parties, especially the rising of the far-right. Some considered that it will affect Europe's economy not on migrants nor refugees. The constant attacks carried out by the far-right against refugees affect mainly the stability of economy in Europe.

The crime rate in the European countries has been raised. In Germany, for example, 900 crimes were committed in the first half of 2019 only, which constitutes a serious risk on the Government of Germany.

It is expected that the European arena will witness massive changes in the political map. The emergence of new countries that warn of the existence of the far-right will open doors for different questions: Will Salvini's plans succeed or will fail? Will the coalitions he formed in the last period succeed? What is the future situation of migrants and refugees in Australia after the discriminatory law that recently passed, which strongly supports the far-right movements in Australia? And what is the future of Germany, where violence and murder crimes rose?

It is expected that Europe will witness unprecedented acts of violence and the far-right will gain great control over East Germany, putting Merkel's government in a serious trouble.

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