

Joint Centres - Collaboration in the dissected system of internal security in Germany

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History: Nazi-Regime

- During Nazi-Regime centralisation of power
- *Reichssicherheitshauptamt* (Reich Security Main Office) combined Gestapo, CID, SS
- Misuse of power, despotism, oppression against ethnical minorities and political dissenters

History: Post War

- Allies and new German Government agree in the idea of limited power of different security agencies as a need to protect the young democracy and to prevent a totalitarian system
- Allies sent „*Polizeibrief*“
 - allowance to build up police in the *Länder*
 - allowance to build a border security agency
 - allowance to build up secret service
- BUT separation of police and intelligence

Elaborated security ‘architecture’

- 16 *Länder* police forces
- 16 *Länder* offices for the protection of the constitution (domestic intelligence services)
- Federal Police
- Federal Criminal Police Office

- Federal Office for the protection of the constitution
- Federal Intelligence Service
- Military Counter-Intelligence Service
- Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance

Division of duties and responsibilities

- Internal vs. external security
- Police vs. intelligence services
- Federal state vs. member states
- Executive vs. legislative power

- PERFECT to prevent power concentration !?
- SUFFICIENT for everyday security challenges !?
- INAPPROPRIATE in dangerous times !?

Alarm call 9/11

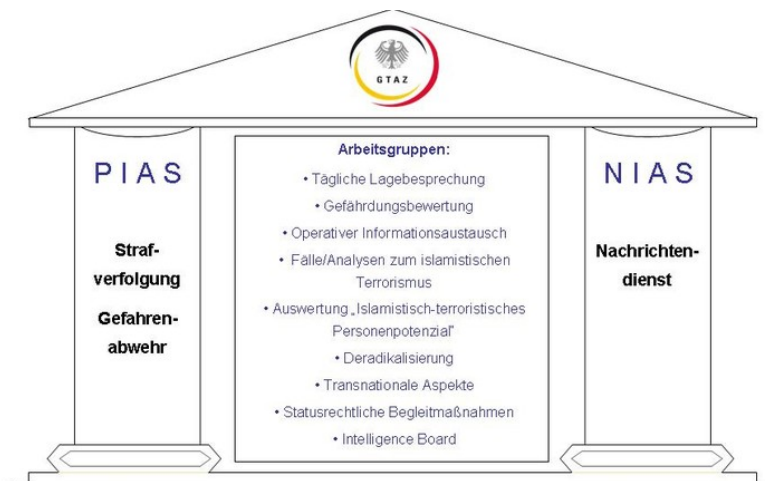


- Some of the terrorists lived, studied, radicalised in Hamburg, where they prepared the attacks
- *Could a better collaboration of security agencies*
 - *have helped to prevent the attacks and*
 - *help to identify new risks?*

Joint Counter-Terrorism Centre

- Founded 2004
- Hosted at BKA in Berlin
- Collaboration of 40 security agencies
- Focus on Islamic terrorism
- Communication and coordination by perpetuation of divided information systems and distinct competences

Structure of Joint Counter-Terrorism Centre



GTAZ – example success

- „Sauerland-Gruppe“: two German converts and two Turkish origin men, members of Islamic Jihad Union, prepared a bomb attack against US-facilities in Germany
- First information from NSA via CIA to German Intelligence Service BND
- Coordination by GTAZ
- Personal and technical surveillance by 500 police officers and intelligence services
- Arrest by Special Units Sept 4th 2007



GTAZ – example failure

- Anis Amri, Tunisian (*1992)
- Fled 2011 via Italy (where he committed violent crime and was prisoned) in 2015 to Germany
- Further radicalisation
- 14 aliases (for covering and benefit scam)
- In the focus of several police forces, prosecutors, intelligence services
- 7 counselling meetings at GTAZ about Anis Amri: estimated as potential attacker – but without immediate risk
- December 19th 2016 – attack with a stolen lorry against a Berlin Christmas market – 12 killed, 55 injured people.



Other Joint Centres

- Joint Internet Centre (2007) – focuses Islamic radicalisation activities in the Internet
- National Cyber-Defence Centre (2011) – against cyber crime
- Joint Centre for Analysis and Strategy illegal Migration (2006) – collaboration about migration, illegal labour etc.
- Joint Extremism and Counter-Terrorism Centre (2012) – (domestic) political motivated crime, radicalisation and terrorism

The Joint Centres

- Problem-specific networks of German authorities
- Transinstitutional policing
 - bridging borders between authorities
 - polyarchic and polycentric
 - vertical and/or horizontal
 - often linked to other regional, national and trans-/international networks
- instead of traditional policing by separated hierarchical organised authorities

The Joint Centres

- Networks without authority character
- ‚Weak structures‘ of collaboration instead of hard structures
- Trying to breakup the culture of autonomy and competing organisations
- Aiming to create collaboration and synergy, efficiency and effectiveness

The Joint Centres

- Hybrid organisation
- Dissolution of the constitutional based separation of authorities and competences
- Legal uncertainties
- Deficient political control
- Problems with data protection law
- Vague accountability

The current discussion

Tradition

Dissected security arrangement

- functions
- is near to citizens
- allows ‚competitive federalism‘ and a learning system
- improvement of communication and collaboration is sufficient

New approach (BMI de Maizière)

- Dissected security arrangement has reached its limits
- Serious crime, terrorism and extremism should be dealt by federal authorities
- *Länder* secret services should be abolished
- Federal authorities should be in a hierarchical position to *Länder*

Conclusion

- Late police scandals and security policy failures enhance the discussion about the German ‚security architecture‘
- (Nearly all) *Länder* oppose attempts of *Bund* to shift competences to federal level
- I expect only marginal rather than profound alterations in the German security system
- but adjustments of procedures.