


## **KNOWLEDGE PRODUCT**

# **Animal Rights Extremism**







Quarterly Bulletin

April – June 2011

  
The Hague, [01 October 2011]

This Europol product aims at sharing knowledge, which is available at Europol

## Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	BACKGROUND.....	3
1.2	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES .....	3
<b>2</b>	<b>INCIDENTS IN MEMBER STATES .....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	 AUSTRIA.....	4
2.1.1	Number of incidents: 1 .....	4
2.2	 FRANCE .....	5
2.2.1	Number of incidents: 3 .....	5
2.3	 GERMANY .....	7
2.3.1	Number of incidents: 29 .....	7
2.4	 ITALY .....	11
2.4.1	Number of incidents: 15 .....	11
2.5	 SPAIN.....	14
2.5.1	Number of incidents: 5 .....	14
2.6	 UNITED KINGDOM .....	16
<b>3</b>	<b>FINDINGS.....</b>	<b>17</b>

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

The increase of Animal Rights Extremism (ARE) incidents in Europe for the past 5 years has forced EU MS to take this type of criminality into consideration.

During the Conference on Animal Rights Extremism (ARE) held in Stockholm, Sweden (14-16 May 2007), participating EU countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and Sweden agreed that there is an urgent need to monitor ARE related incidents across Europe.

It was decided that ARE incidents should be contributed to EUROPOL by all EU Member States, and Norway and Switzerland.

EUROPOL compiles all these incidents in a document called the ARE QUARTERLY BULLETIN.

The European Police Chiefs Task Force in their meetings (October/November 2007) expressed a positive approach to this project.

## 1.2 Aims and Objectives

This bulletin aims at reporting ARE incidents from the competent authorities of EU MS, Switzerland and Norway only. It will not be supplemented by Open Source material. Furthermore it does not contain personal data.

## 2 Incidents in Member States

### 2.1 Austria

#### 2.1.1 Number of incidents: 1

02/05/2011

##### 1010 Vienna, Dr. Karl Lueger Ring

An unannounced demonstration took place under the banner: "Militanter Tierschutztag against state and justice - after the trial is before the trial". Estimated 120 persons participated. The demonstration was denied by authorities. 57 persons have been reported to administration. BVT-20.06.2011/271



## **2.2 ■■ France**

### **2.2.1 Number of incidents: 3**

*29/04/2011*

#### **Rennemoulin (78)**

Suspicious behaviour towards a laboratory of the Institut Pasteur was reported to the Gendarmerie.

*10/05/2011*

#### **Place of crime unknown**

A claim of responsibility for the destruction of circus posters in an unknown location was published on the Bite Back website.

*17/06/2011*

#### **Garons (30)**

Graffiti : 'École de torture, assassin et honte' with red paint on the walls of a bullfighting arena. This action followed the organisation of a competition for young bullfighters.



## 2.3 Germany

### 2.3.1 Number of incidents: 29

01/04/2011

#### **D-06108 Halle**

The facade of a shop selling fur and leather was tagged with graffiti: "Solange Menschen denken, dass Tiere nicht fühlen, müssen Tiere fühlen, dass Menschen nicht denken!", "ANTISPE-AREA", "ANIMAL LIBERATION".

01/04/2011

#### **D-73614 Schorndorf**

Two hunting towers were damaged.

01/04/2011

#### **D-91332 Heiligenstadt**

Two hunting towers were damaged. The amount of the damage is not known.

03/04/2011

#### **D-27308 Kirchlinteln**

Four hunting towers were tagged with graffiti and toppled. The amount of the damage is not known..

08/04/2011

#### **D-96346 Wallenfels**

Three hunting towers were damaged.

09/04/2011

#### **D-76863 Herxheimweyher**

Damage to 4 hunting towers; the amount of damage is not known.

15/04/2011

#### **Unknown place of crime**

Damage to 5 hunting towers.

19/04/2011

#### **D-23554 Lübeck**

Plastic bottles filled with a yellow liquid, to which a firework had been attached with tape, were placed around the wheels of several trucks and trailers at a meat factory. The devices were not lit. The entrance of the factory was sprayed with "ALF" and a capital A in a circle in red paint. The wire netting fence at the entrance to the factory had been cut through.

24/04/2011

#### **D-04934 Hohenleipisch**

Four hunting towers were damaged. The amount of damage is not known.

24/04/2011

**D-67364 Speyer**

The windows of two butchers' shops were tagged with graffiti. The amount of damage is not known.

25/04/2011

**D-34346 Hannoversch Münden**

One hunting tower was damaged. The amount of damage is not known..

26/04/2011

**D-67105 Schifferstadt**

A butcher's shop was tagged with graffiti. The amount of damage is not known.

30/04/2011

**D-20249 Hamburg**

Unknown perpetrators pelted with stones and bottles filled with green paint the windows of a fur shop. The windows were damaged. Two glasses filled with paint were thrown at the shop window, which they broke and splattered the displayed merchandise with paint.

30/04/2011

**D-91332 Heiligenstadt**

One hunting tower was damaged. The amount of damage is not known.

01/05/2011

**D-23569 Lübeck**

One hunting tower was damaged.

06/05/2011

**D-04522 Borna**

A horse butcher's shop was tagged with graffiti: "Tiermörder", "Mörder! Ihr seid auch Tiere"  
The amount of damage is not known.

10/05/2011

**D-86720 Nördlingen**

In relation to the planned construction of a chicken farm, 4 persons disrupted a council meeting in Nördlingen, while it was discussing the construction of the farm.

11/05/2011

**D-30175 Hannover**

Stones thrown at the windows of a fur shop; the amount of damage is not known.

The same fur shop was damaged with stones on 13/05/2011.

15/05/2011

**D-96135 Stegaurach; D-96158 Frensdorf**

Four hunting towers were damaged.

17/05/2011

**D-23569 Lübeck**

Between 17/05 and 22/05/2011, 3 hunting towers were damaged.

26/05/2011

**D-21244 Buchholz**

A police station was tagged with graffiti: "Repression abschaffen". The graffiti refers to police



investigations into the arson attack on a chicken farm in Buchholz on 30/07/10. The amount of damage is not known.

Responsibility was claimed on <http://linksunten.indymedia.org/de/node/40549>.

27/05/2011

**D-10589 Berlin**

The windows of a fur shop were tagged with graffiti: "Pelz ist Mord".

09/06/2011

**D-52372 Kreuzau**

One hunting tower was damaged. The amount of damage is not known.

13/06/2011

**D-29323 Wietze**

Unknown perpetrators destroyed the entrance and 2 windows of the city hall with stones. They also sprayed the facade with the words: "Blut an euren Händen". The act is related to the construction of a chicken farm in Wietze.

15/06/2011

**D-70173 Stuttgart**

The windows of a Max Mara shop were tagged with graffiti and damaged with stones.

Graffiti: "PELZ=MORD,"ALF". Unknown persons claimed responsibility on <http://linksunten.indymedia.org/de/node/41661> ALF

16/06/2011

**D-09306 Seelitz**

The fence of a fur farm was damaged. The perpetrators took photos and film. They were discovered by workers at the farm and fled. The registration plate number was noted.. The perpetrator and her husband are well-known animal activists. The investigation is ongoing.

24/06/2011

**D-20255 Hamburg**

Butyric acid was poured in the mailbox of a grocery shop (also selling game and poultry). A sticker („Meat is Murder“) was placed on the wall. The amount of damage is not known.

27/06/2011

**D-29488 Lübbow**

In relation to the squatting of a chicken farm, there was confrontation between the squatters and persons opposed to their actions. Various offences were committed. Several members of the two groups were charged with disturbance of the peace, grievous bodily harm, material damage and threats.



## 2.4 Italy

### 2.4.1 Number of incidents: 15

01/04/2011

#### **Cassano Magnago (VA)**

Unknown perpetrators freed 30 birds from a place where dogs are trained to hunt quails. The action was claimed on the site [www.animalliberationfront.com](http://www.animalliberationfront.com) (██████████, located on servers in the United States, provider Ecommerce Corporation), [www.finoallafine.org](http://www.finoallafine.org) (██████████, located on servers in UK, provider Iomart) and [www.informa-azione.info](http://www.informa-azione.info) (██████████, located in Norway, provider FastHost).

04/04/2011

#### **Milan**

During the night between the 4th and 5th April 2011, in Milan the furrier's window was damaged and graffiti was found: ALF (Animal Liberation Front) and "PELLICCE=MORTE" (fur=death).

05/04/2011

#### **Albano Laziale (RM)**

In the night, in Cecchina, unknown perpetrators entered the area where the "Termogassificatore" is being built and damaged 4 pieces of equipment of the construction company.

A handkerchief with the inscription "azione diretta in difesa della terra", the five point star and the anarchist A, was found at the scene of the crime.

05/04/2011

#### **Milano**

The window of the fur shop "Moda Fumagalli" was damaged and a fire was started in the shop's interior. The wall bore the inscription "A.L.F. Pellicce = Morte".

05/04/2011

#### **Belfiore d'Adige (VR)**

Unknown perpetrators removed two cages used for the demographic control of nutrias. A banner bearing the abbreviation "ALF", a concealed face and an animal leg was found.

07/04/2011

#### **Parma**

Unknown perpetrators attempt to enter the pet shop "Zoodom", damaging the shop window with a brick.

29/04/2011

#### **Milan**

In the night unknown perpetrators freed 80 birds in a place where dogs are trained to hunt quails. The action was claimed on the animal right internet sites.

01/05/2011

**Cassano Magnago (VA)**

Unknown perpetrators freed 45 birds in a place where dogs are trained to hunt quails. In the neighbourhood was found the graffiti "CACCIATORI ASSASSINI" (hunters killers).

06/05/2011

**Bologna**

In the night, unknown perpetrators entered the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale di Bologna, caused damage to some cages and freed 3 rabbits and some laboratory rats. The incident was claimed anonymously in messages sent to local newspapers.

13/05/2011

**Bovisio-Masciago (MI)**

Unknown perpetrators freed 100 birds in a place where dogs are trained to hunt quails. In the neighbourhood was found the graffiti: "TORNiamo QUANDO VOGLIAMO" - "ASSASSINI" - "SPARA A TUA MOGLIE" (we are back when we want-killers-shoot your wife).

25/05/2011

**Marino (Roma)**

Unknown perpetrators damaged an AGIP petrol station. The incident was claimed on [www.informa-azione.info](http://www.informa-azione.info) with a document signed "Fronte di Liberazione della Terra", linked to "E.L.F. - Earth Liberation Front".

26/05/2011

**Casorate Sempione (VA)**

Unknown perpetrators sprayed offensive graffiti on the house walls of the owner of a company specialising in the production of horse food. In the past he was accused by radical animalists of cooperating with the company Green Hill which specialises in rearing beagles for vivisection (Green Hill has its legal offices in Montichiari). This event was anonymously claimed on the internet.

04/06/2011

**Bastia di Rovolon/Padova**

Two young individuals with backpacks were spotted behaving suspiciously around a mink farm. They took some pictures of the surroundings and then walked away.

The farm was already subject to illegal actions from animal rights extremists.

07/06/2011

**Milano**

Near the Milan home of [REDACTED] was found an envelope containing two 38 s.w. special cartridges. In February, [REDACTED] was threatened by the animal rights movement.

30/06/2011

**Cermenate (Como)**

Unknown perpetrators damaged the fencing of a farm which in the past was already targeted by animalists. The action was claimed on animal right internet sites.



## 2.5 Spain

### 2.5.1 Number of incidents: 5

12/04/2011

#### **ARRIONDAS (ASTURIAS)**

Graffiti with the initials of ALF on the façade of the "La Asturiana" farm in Arriondas (Asturias). The graffiti was published on [www.directaction.info](http://www.directaction.info).

12/04/2011

#### **ARRIONDAS (ASTURIAS)**

Graffiti with the initials of ALF on the façade of the "Cuadriello" butcher's shop in Arriondas (Asturias). Published on [www.directaction.info](http://www.directaction.info).

12/04/2011

#### **ARRIONDAS (ASTURIAS)**

Graffiti with the initials of ALF on the façade of "Carniceria Gerardo" in Arriondas (Asturias). Published on [www.directaction.info](http://www.directaction.info).

14/05/2011

#### **VALDEMORO (MADRID)**

Four animal rights activists disrupted the meeting of the Partido Popular, brandishing signs "libertad para los animales. tauromaquia abolición. igualdad animal". The Guardia Civil charged the participants with disturbing the peace.

24/05/2011

#### **CEDILLO DEL CONDADO (TOLEDO)**

On 24/05, the owner of a chicken farm reported to the Guardia Civil that he had received anonymous manuscripts threatening his Business, and that 9 chickens had been freed on 23/04, when he found the chain of the main entrance had been broken, Several Internet websites announced the liberation of chickens on that day.



## 2.6 United Kingdom

The UK is currently restructuring the three domestic extremism units, the National Public Order Unit, National Domestic Extremism Team and National Extremism Tactical Coordination Unit. As of 1st June 2011 the governance of these units moved to the Metropolitan Police Service under a new single command. The new unit is the National Domestic Extremism Unit.

This new unit will be based at [REDACTED] London and the merger is due to be completed by mid July 2011.

In the short term there will be a temporary interruption to the products and services we provide. This is due to IT and building works, however we hope to resume a regular and more intelligence led service once these issues have been resolved.



### 3 Findings

- A total of 53 incidents were reported to the police in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2011. The amount of incidents increased from the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2011 (38 incidents).
- Two incidents were reported as arson attacks. The incident in the German town of Lübeck was an attempt. None of the vehicles however got damaged. The second arson was reported in Milan/Italy. *The framed text in this document indicates the arson attacks.*
- Italy and Spain reported a total of 6 attacks on animal breeding institutions.
- Also in the 2nd quarter 2011 most of the incidents were related to anti hunting and anti fur campaigns (49%). For the first time in three quarters of a year, there was a slight decrease in the anti fur campaigns: from 26.47% in the first quarter the numbers declined to 17% in the second quarter of 2011. 15% of incidents were related to anti meat campaigns. Campaigns with an anti-vivisection background amount for two cases in total for this quarter.
- In 17 cases, the incidents were claimed on the Internet. In almost all cases, the Animal Liberation Front – ALF was mentioned as offender.