

Fact Sheet

Timeline of the Hanau Attack

(Updated at the beginning of February 2021)

On February 19th 2020, Tobias R. killed nine people in the city of Hanau (Germany) in a racist attack:

Ferhat Unvar

Vili Viorel Păun

Fatih Saraçoğlu

Hamza Kurtović

Mercedes Kierpacz

Sedat Gürbüz

Said Nesar Hashemi

Kaloyan Velkov

Gökhan Gültekin

What happened before 19 February 2020?

2013

Tobias R. receives a firearms license for the first time. From March 2014, he is active in a shooting club in Munich, where he receives shooting training.¹ According to media reports, he participates in shooting training in Slovakia in July and September 2019.² The authorities weren't aware that back in 2002 Tobias R. had been briefly taken to a psychiatric hospital due to schizophrenic psychosis.³

November 2019

Tobias R. files criminal charges based on conspiracy theories with the office of the Public Prosecutor General and the public prosecutor's office in Hanau.⁴

February 2020

About two weeks before the attack, Tobias R. publishes a "manifesto" filled with racist ideology and conspiracy theories on his website.⁵

¹ Answer given by the federal government to an interpellation by the party *Die Linke* (May 2020), Bundestags-Drucksache 19/19626, from page 1 ([>>Link](#)) and answer given by the Munich Town Hall to an interpellation by the party *Die Grünen*, (April 2020), Stadtrats-Anfrage Nr.14-20/F01750, from page 2 ([>>Link](#))

² Spiegel (April 2020): Zum Gefechtstraining in die Slowakei, ([>>Link](#))

³ Spiegel (January 2021): Attentäter von Hanau besaß zwei Waffenbesitzkarten – trotz Zwangseinweisung ([>>Link](#))

⁴ Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (February 2020): Bundesanwaltschaft bestätigt Kontakt zu Täter ([>>Link](#))

⁵ Tagesschau (February 2020): Verschwörungsmaythen und Rassismus ([>>Link](#))

What happened on 19 February 2020?

9:55 p.m.

In the lobby of the bar "La Votre" and in the hookah bar "Midnight" Tobias R. shoots at several guests. Three people are killed.⁶

Approx. 10 p.m.

He then drives his car in the direction of Kurt-Schumacher-Platz (Kesselstadt district). 22-year-old Vili Viorel Păun follows him.⁷

Approx. 10:05 p.m.

In the car park, the perpetrator first shoots and kills Vili Viorel Păun in his car, presumably because he had been following him. Afterwards, he shoots and kills five more people in the "Arena Bar" and the connected "Kiosk 24/7".⁸

From approx. 10 p.m.

After receiving hints from the public, the police are able to identify the attacker's car and find it near his home.

From 0:30 a.m.

Live media coverage begins. Reporters from the *Bild* newspaper speculate about a possible showdown between Russian criminals.⁹

Between 3 and 4 a.m.

A special police task force searches the perpetrator's flat in Hanau. There they find the bodies of the perpetrator and his mother. The father is unharmed in the flat.¹⁰

4 a.m.

The Public Prosecutor General takes over the investigation.¹¹ The perpetrator's "manifesto" and a video he left behind on the internet are discovered.¹²

Nine people have been killed in the attack, including one woman. Seven other people, two women and five men, were hurt. Some of them suffered severe injuries. Furthermore, the perpetrator killed his mother and himself. The authorities see this as an "unprecedented racist terrorist attack".¹³

⁶ Landtag of Hesse: Plenary Protocol of the Parliamentary Session 20.02.2020, Plenary Protocol 20/35, page 3 ([>>Link](#))

⁷ Tagesschau (February 2021): Tödliche Versäumnisse beim Notruf? ([>>Link](#))

⁸ Landtag of Hesse: Plenary Protocol of the Parliamentary Session 20.02.2020, Plenary Protocol 20/35, page 3 ([>>Link](#))

⁹ Hessenschau: Der Anschlag von Hanau – eine Chronologie (June 2020) ([>>Link](#))

¹⁰ Public Prosecutor General, Press Release 20.02.2020, ([>>Link](#))

¹¹ Public Prosecutor General, Press Release 20.02.2020, ([>>Link](#))

¹² Answer given by the federal government to an interpellation by the party *Die Grünen* (May 2020), Bundestags-Drucksache 19/199678, page 4 ([>>Link](#))

¹³ Bundesanwalt Thomas Beck during a plenary session of the home affairs select committee of the Landtag of Hesse, Plenary Protocol of the 23rd session (May 2020), from page 9 ([>>Link](#))

What happened after 19 February 2020?

21 February 2020

Federal Minister of the Interior Horst Seehofer (CSU) calls right-wing extremism the "biggest security threat Germany is facing".¹⁴ On February 29th, he announces an "independent expert group on Islamophobia" in reaction to the attack in Hanau. The expert group begins its work in September.¹⁵

March 2020

Shortly after the attack, the "Initiative February 19th Hanau" is founded. One important goal: The names of the victims shall not be forgotten.¹⁶

28 March

The media report on some preliminary results of the investigation by the Federal Criminal Police Office. According to the report, "racism was not the main motive" of Tobias R.. Rather, he had chosen his victims in order to get as much attention as possible for his conspiracy narrative.¹⁷ Authorities contradict

the media reports. According to the federal government, there can be "no reasonable doubt" about the attacker's "racist, right-wing extremist motives".

April 2020

The windows of one of the attack sites, the "Arena Bar & Café", are smashed.¹⁸

May 2020

The "Initiative February 19th Hanau" opens a contact point for victims and their relatives as well as other interested parties. Its name is "140 square metres against forgetting".¹⁹

May 2020

According to the federal government's Victims' Commissioner, financial aid has been allotted to the bereaved families. The government has "paid out more than one million euro to 53 relatives and injured persons [of the attack in Hanau]. ... spouses, children and parents of those killed each receive €30,000 as hardship benefits, married couples receive €60,000".²⁰

¹⁴ Süddeutsche Zeitung: Seehofer nennt Rechtsextremismus "größte Bedrohung in unserem Land" (February 2020) ([>>Link](#))

¹⁵ Federal Ministry of the Interior: Bundesinnenminister Seehofer beruft Mitglieder für Unabhängigen Expertenkreis Muslimfeindlichkeit (September 2020) ([>>Link](#))

¹⁶ Initiative 19. Februar Hanau, ([>>Link](#))

¹⁷ Süddeutsche Zeitung: Gefährliche Botschaften (April 2020) ([>>Link](#))

¹⁸ Frankfurter Rundschau: Scheiben an Anschlagort mit Pflastersteinen zerstört (April 2020) ([>>Link](#))

¹⁹ Initiative 19. Februar Hanau: Ein Raum gegen das Vergessen: Eröffnung und Spendenkampagne (May 2020) ([>>Link](#))

²⁰ Victims' Commissioner Edgar Franke during a plenary session of the home affairs select committee of the Landtag of Hesse, Plenary Protocol of the 23rd session (May 2020), page 8 ([>>Link](#))

● **June 2020**

Graffiti for the victims of the attack is unveiled under Frankfurt's *Friedensbrücke*.

● **June 2020**

According to media reports, the attacker hadn't been properly vetted before the renewal of his gun permit in 2018. According to the reports, "proceedings were underway against R. in Bavaria for violations of the Narcotics Act and an arson offence – circumstances putting his trustworthiness into question."²¹ In addition, the future perpetrator had already been diagnosed with schizophrenic psychosis in 2002." Proof of good mental and physical health was not required when he applied for the weapons permit. The authorities deny legal errors and point to the fact that the perpetrator had resided in Munich without registration for some time.²²

● **September 2020**

Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier receives relatives of the victims in the Presidential Residence of Bellevue.²³

● **October 2020**

Relatives, survivors and persons affected by the racist and antisemitic attacks in Mölln, Hanau and Halle show solidarity in a joint "Festival of Resilience" in Berlin.²⁴

● **November 2020**

Serpil Unvar, whose son Ferhat Unvar was killed in Hanau, founds an anti-racist educational initiative in Hanau.²⁵

● **25 November 2020**

The federal government announces 89 measures against right-wing extremism and racism and plans to provide more than 1 billion euros for this purpose until 2024.²⁶

● **November 2020**

Survivors of the attack file criminal charges against the Hanau police: The emergency exit of the Arena bar, where two people were shot, was locked. The victims, they argue, would still be alive if they had been able to escape through the emergency exit. According to the criminal complaint, the emergency exit was locked on police orders.²⁷

²¹ Frankfurter Rundschau (July 2020): Anschlag in Hanau: Waffenerlaubnis trotz Verfahren ([>>Link](#))

²² Answer given by the Munich Town Hall to an interpellation by the party *Die Grünen*, (April 2020), Stadtrats-Anfrage Nr.14-20/F01750, from page 2 ([>>Link](#))

²³ Tagesschau: Hanau-Gedenken in Bellevue: „Wir dürfen nicht vergessen“ (September 2020) ([>>Link](#))

²⁴ Redaktionsnetzwerk Deutschland: Ein Jahr nach dem Halle-Anschlag: Aufstand der Überlebenden (October 2020) ([>>Link](#))

²⁵ Bildungsinitiative Ferhat Unvar, Website ([>>Link](#))

²⁶ Federal Government: Maßnahmenkatalog des Kabinettsausschusses zur Bekämpfung von Rechtsextremismus und Rassismus (November 2020) ([>>Link](#))

²⁷ Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (November 2020): Könnten sie noch leben? ([>>Link](#))

December 2020

According to media reports, the father of the Hanau assassin filed several racist criminal complaints in recent months. For example, he demanded that all memorials to the victims be dismantled. He also demanded that the Public Prosecutor General's Office return his son's murder weapon. Survivors of the attack and relatives of those killed feel threatened by the assailant's father.²⁸

December 2020

The memorial graffiti under Frankfurt's *Friedensbrücke* is smeared by unknown persons.²⁹

January 2021

Media report problems with the police emergency number on the night of the crime. Between 9:55 p.m. and 10:09 p.m., five emergency calls were registered with the police emergency number. However, numerous witnesses reported to the media that the emergency number was repeatedly unavailable during the night of the crime. There

was no call forwarding to an emergency control centre. Numerous unsuccessful call attempts on the night of the crime were not registered or recorded.³⁰

January 2021

According to the Public Prosecutor General's Office, the investigators have not found any evidence that the attacker's father was involved in the crime or had instigated his son as of January 2021. There are no indications of accomplices or helpers.³¹

February 2021

More than 1,200 suspected or actual right-wing extremists own a gun licence. This is apparent from an answer given by the federal government to an interpellation by the party *Die Linke*. This number has risen sharply in recent years.³²

February 2021

According to media reports, the public prosecutor's office in Hanau has filed charges against the father of the attacker for racially insulting participants of a vigil.³³

²⁸ Spiegel: Vater des Attentäters stellt rassistische Anzeigen – und fordert Tatwaffen zurück (December 2020) ([>>Link](#)) and Hessenschau: Opfer-Angehörige halten Vater des Hanau-Attentäters für "tickende Zeitbombe" (December 2020) ([>>Link](#))

²⁹ RTL (December 2020): Frankfurt: Gedenk-Graffiti für Opfer des Anschlags beschmiert ([>>Link](#))

³⁰ Tagesschau (January 2021): Tödliche Versäumnisse beim Notruf? ([>>Link](#))

³¹ Federal Ministry of the Interior upon request by the party *Die Linke* (January 2021), Plenary Protocol of the 203. Session of the German Bundestag, Plenarprotokoll 19/203, page 123 ([>>Link](#))

³² Answer given by the federal government to an interpellation by the party *Die Linke* (January 2021), Bundestags-Drucksache 19/26204 ([>>Link](#))

³³ Kinzig News (February 2021): Anklage gegen Vater von Hanauer Attentäter erhoben ([>>Link](#))

Around 120 investigations connected to the attack in Hanau

The Central Office for Combating Internet Crime (ZIT) of the public prosecutor's office in Frankfurt am Main, in cooperation with the Hessian State Criminal Police Office (HLKA), has gathered and criminally investigated several hundred comments as part of the ongoing proceedings "Hate comments in connection with the violence in Hanau". The investigations were launched the day after the violence in Hanau following reports from ZIT's civil society cooperation partners about criminally relevant comments by Twitter and Facebook users:

In total, **preliminary proceedings have been initiated in about 120 cases** on suspicion of approving criminal offences under Article 140 of the Criminal Code. In individual cases preliminary proceedings have also been launched on suspicion of incitement to hatred (*Volksverhetzung*) under Article 130 of the Criminal Code.

In about 50 cases, the investigators have succeeded in identifying the authors of the statements deemed to be criminal offences. These **preliminary proceedings have been handed over to the locally responsible public prosecutor's offices**.

A total of **9 preliminary proceedings against accused persons from Hesse** have been processed by the ZIT. ³⁴

³⁴ Source: Zentralstelle zur Bekämpfung der Internetkriminalität (ZIT) der Generalstaatsanwaltschaft Frankfurt am Main upon request by MEDIENDIENST (January 2021)