

Refugee Crisis and Terrorist Attacks in Germany: Interrogating Domestic Terrorist Groups

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Abstract: *This study focused on the current refugee crisis in Germany and the unprecedented level of terrorist attacks in Germany. Within the period under study Germany recorded series of terrorist attacks and planned attacks resulting to high human casualties and destructions of properties. These terrorist attacks were carried out by the terrorist groups such as the Islamic militias and other local groups operating in Germany. To ascertain the existing domestic terrorist groups and their contributions to the rate of terrorist attacks and general insecurity in Germany consequent on the refugee crisis, the study adopted secondary sources of data, content analysis and applied System Theory. The paper discovered that Germany is a nation of politically radicalised groups such as the Far-right, the far-left and the neo-Nazis that hold tenaciously to their ideologies and can express their opposition to any issue or event through violent means. It was also discovered that these groups have been in existence from the period of the Weimar Republic and still maintain their hard line positions till date. Also, that their opposition to the accommodation of the refugees by the German Government escalated the terrorist attacks as most attacks were committed by these local groups. The paper recommends among others that the German Government should put more effort in re-orientation programmes so that the anti-migrants' groups such as the far-right, far-left and the neo-Nazis can adopt a more peaceful approach to agitations and to also see the need to harness the benefit of the migrants' labour to the economic development of Germany during this period of aged labour. The government should also interface with the groups since the identity of the members are known to create an understanding with regard to public policies that may be misunderstood.*

Key words: Refugee Crisis, Terrorist Attacks, System Theory and Domestic Terrorism

I. INTRODUCTION

Germany has been a hot spot for migration in Europe and also a preferred destination for migrants. With the fall of the Berlin Wall that brought the East and West Germany together as one country, coupled with the growth of Germany's economy, migrants from within Europe and outside Europe focus a strong destination in the country making it the highest recipient of refugees in the entire Europe. Germany's first immigration boom was seen following the fall of the Berlin Wall when more than 1.2 million asylum applications were received and more than 1.4 million ethnic Germans from different parts of Europe came to Western Germany following the reunification (Green, 2013). Later, migrants from the Middle East, Asia, North Africa and the Sub-Saharan African States moved in large number to Europe especially Germany in search for security and good economic well-being. By 2013, Germany has received the largest number of asylum applications, accounting 126,995, 30% of all EU applications (Lehr, 2015). As at 2014, more than 8.2 million non-nationals were living in Germany and more than 20% of its population had "migrant background (Hess & Green, 2016).

These numbers predate the European Immigration Crisis of 2015, which secured Germany's status as the number one country in Europe for asylum seekers. In 2015, the number of first time asylum seekers received in Germany alone was 441,800 which have increased from 173,000 in 2014 (Eurostat, 2015). As at January 2016, the government announced that approximately 1.1 million people entered Germany in search of asylum (Thomas, 2016). This makes it the largest annual inflow of people seeking asylum of any OECD country ever recorded (OCDE, 2015). The World Bank reported that of the Germany population of 81.41 million, around 10 million of them are immigrants (World Bank, 2016); with many of them holding German citizenship. 40 % of German residents are discovered to be foreigners (die Zeit, 2012). From this number of foreigners, the Turks have the highest number (Der Spiegel (2009), with Italians and people from former Yugoslavia coming behind the Turks. Kosovo and Syria each accounted around 20% of the total asylum seekers; with Albanian citizens contributed 15% of the number of refugee applicants in Germany.

As at the time of Weimar Republic, terrorism was highly noticeable as elected official were beaten and murdered due to the emergence of radical groups such as the Nazis and the Red Army Factions (RAF) and the attack was against Western imperialism (Gohel 2011). Later the Far-right and Far-left groups appeared in the political space. It was in 2005 that the presence of Islamic militias began to emerge with the identification of 105 individuals found to be posing security risk in Germany. In 2011, the number

of individuals discovered to posing potential risk increased to 130, out of which, 59 were German natives (State Bureau of Investigation, 2011). The growth of terrorism in Germany was also promoted by the incidences of Germans convert to Islam who later became radicalized; and by 2010, the percentage of German converts had risen to 17.7% from 8.2% in 2007((State Bureau of Investigation, 2011). Report from Germany Police Office(BKA) revealed that crimes rate increased rapidly in 2014 and got to its peak in 2015 when the influx of migrants to Germany was at its highest as reported by German Minister of Interior(Spiegel,2016). Coincidentally, the security challenges in Europe especially, Germany within this period of Migration Surge, increased tremendously with crime rates assuming high proportion and more people killed in terrorist attacks and attack plots than all previous years combined (Petter et al, 2014).

The paper therefore, takes a critical look at the place of domestic terrorism in Germany with a view to identifying the role of domestic terrorist groups in the growing rate of terrorism in Germany following the migration surge in that country.

II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The application of System Theory is deemed necessary in this study. The Theory was propounded in the 1940s by the biologist, Ludwig Von Bertalanffy and later developed by Ross Asbhy in 1964. System Theory becomes an analytical tool in Political Science through the work of David Easton; while Morton Kaplan was one of the first writers to use system concepts in International Relations. In the analysis of System Theory, a system is an autonomous unit of complex elements which interact and capable of adopting within itself; and each set of elements is independent. David Easton argues that political system is existing with other system as physical, biological, social, psychological among others which affect it and in turn affected by political system through continuous interaction and exchange and that the functioning of political system evolved from the environment and they evoke responses from it (Easton, 1966). Akpotor (2011) stated that System Theory aids in determining political systems capacity to maintaining its equilibrium in the face of stress and for adapting to changes that are forced internally and externally. It also helps to understand behaviour and interaction of system units in the general system. The emergent of political radical groups in Germany that later adopted violent approaches in their agitations, thus domestic terrorism is as a result of the failures of the political system to maintaining its equilibrium in the face of stress. The present high rate of domestic terrorist manifestation is orchestrated by the political system's inability to interface with the already known radical anti - migrant bodies in Germany such as the far-right and the Neo-Nazis members who saw the presence of large numbers of refugees that entered Germany through Migration Surge as posing threat to their security and the general well-being of the Germans. These anti-migrants' groups became more frustrated with the government indifference to their observation, and therefore, carried out attacks on the refugees and some government officials for registering more refugees in Germany.

Refugee Crisis in Germany

By 2013 Germany has received the largest number of asylum applications of 126,995, which account to 30% of all EU applications (Lehr, 2015). As at 2014, over 8.2 million non-nationals were living in Germany and more than 20% of its population had migrant background (Hels & Green, 2016). The European immigration crisis of 2015 positioned Germany as the number one country in Europe for asylum seekers. According to Eurostat (2015) Report, Germany alone received 441,800 first time asylum applications in 2015, which shows an increase from 173,000 in 2014 to 442,000 in 2015. Report from Federal Statistic Office published in politico, a news magazine, on 16th November 2016 revealed that Germany recorded its highest ever number of migrants in a single year in 2015 with 2.14 million people arriving in the country.

The United Nations also reported that at the end of 2018, there were 1.06million refugees in Germany. Only four countries worldwide have more refugees – Turkey, Pakistan, Uganda and Sudan. The report stated further that out of the top ten refugee host countries, Germany is the only Western industrialised nation (UN 2019). Marion (2019) argues that the number of people claiming asylum in Germany in 2018 continues to decline, but in relative terms, Germany is still among the nations receiving the most applications with 161,900 in 2018, more than the USA and Peru. As at 2019, the Germany's Interior Ministry reported that the number of refugee in Germany was 1.83 million but later reduced to 1.77million in 2020 (Dw 2020). From the recorded number of 1.83 million refugees in Germany in 2019, 1,146,685 refugees were granted asylum. According to the report from UNHCR (2019), Germany has one of the highest numbers of refugees of any country worldwide.

Terrorist Attacks in Germany

Observations and experience shows that terrorist attacks in Germany and the EU member states have increased tremendously since 2010 with the outbreak of uprisings in the Arab States of the Middle East and became deteriorated as a result of the civil war in

Syria. The reasons being that more ardent terrorists fused into the displaced persons who found themselves in Europe especially Germany as refugees. According to United States Department of State (2018) report, several international terrorist groups that target U.S. government personnel and interests have their presence and operational base in Germany, including ISIS, al-Qa'ida, Islamic Jihad Union (IJU), Kongra Gel (Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK), Hizb'allah, and Hamas. In 2017, German security officials estimated that there were roughly 25,800 residents in Germany who belonged to radical Islamist groups. The estimated number of Salafists was 11,300 in 2018. German authorities currently consider 760 radical Islamists involve in serious crime or violent act. Security officials estimate over 1,050 residents of Germany have departed the country to participate in the conflicts in Syria and Iraq since 2012, the majority of whom joined violent radical Islamist extremist groups in the fighting; an estimated 200 have died there, while one-third of the total group (or roughly 350) have returned to Germany. German officials actively investigated these returnees for terrorist threat resulting from their experience abroad and possible desire to continue to support violent extremist causes. The German Federal Criminal Police (BKA) report shows that terror threat in Germany still remain very high (BKA 2016).

Number of Terrorist Incidents and Victims in Germany by Year

Year	Incidents	Deaths	Injuries
2019	12	3	14
2018	22	0	8
2017	27	1	10
2016	44	27	117
2015	66	1	38
2014	13	0	0
2013	0	0	0
2012	5	0	0
2011	8	2	2
2010	1	0	0
2009	4	0	0
2008	3	0	2
2007	3	1	1

Source: Global Terrorism Database (2019)

Terrorist Groups in Germany

a) **Islamic Terrorist:** The Islamic State (ISIS), Al-Qaeda, the Lone Wolves and the Turkish and Kurdish Islamist groups especially Hezbollah and Ansar al-Islam come under the Islamic terrorist groups that have been in existence since the late 20th century. Starting with the Al-Qaeda whose activities of co-ordinate bombings became more pronounced in the early 2000 especially the 2004 Madrid train attack that led to the death of 193 civilians. The Madrid attack was followed by another deadly London bombing attack that took place on 7 July 2005, with a casualty figure of 52 persons. The Islamic terrorist attacks in Europe increased between 2014 and 2016 (Irish Times, 2017); with more people killed in various attacks (Petter, Anne & Emilie, 2016). As at January

2005, 105 persons were discovered to pose threat on Germany national security which later went to 130 individuals as at 2011. Unfortunately, from these 130 individuals, 59 were German natives that were radicalised; having their operational base in Berlin, Hamburg, and North Rhine-Westphalia (State Bureau of Investigation 211). In 2015, 11 verdicts concerning jihadist terrorism related offences were issued by German courts while in 2016, 28 verdicts for jihadist terrorism related offences were delivered while 27 verdicts were given in 2017 (Europol 2017). Initially, their mode of operation was bombing but from 2014, the terrorists adopted other means such as carrying out guns and knives attack on people as well as the use of vehicles. The existence of Islamic terrorist groups brought about the increase in the number of German converts to Islam. These converts became more radicalized that in 2007, the percentage of radicals in Germany who were converts to Islam was 8.2% and later increased to 17.7% at the end of 2010 (State bureau of investigation).

b) Local terrorist groups in Germany

The local terrorist groups promoting terrorism in Germany are Right Wing Extremist, Anarchists, Left Wing Extremists and the Neo-Nazis among others. The emergent of these groups is traced to the effect of the First World War. Germany's loss in the First World War resulted in a chaotic situation, with multiple far-left and far-right organisations attempting to seize power. Both organised their own militias, and carried out assassinations. According to Gohel (2011), during the Weimar Republic, terrorism was routinely practiced as elected officials were beaten and murdered. The political climate eventually led to the rise of the Nazis. In the 1960s, the Red Army Faction (RAF) appeared on the scene. Several generations devoted themselves to targeting what they saw as Western imperialism. With the emergence of the Arab militias groups, the rate of domestic terrorism in Germany increased. The increase was as a result of German converts to Islam that were radicalized. In 2017, the percentage of radicals in Germany who were converts to Islam was 8.21 but later increased to 17.7 in 2010 (Gohel, 2011). The Arab Islamists concentrated in getting more Germans into their fold with the hope that the successes in future attacks would be enhanced by the presence of native Germans in their midst. Converting more Germans to Islam is also hoped to promote the ideology of the Muslim world and that Islamic extremism in Germany could be growing and proliferating at a fast rate than in other Europe countries as long as Germans are fast joining Islamic Jihad Union, at Qa-Ida central and lone Wolf terrorist groups.

Some Incidents of Terrorist Attacks in Germany (2010-2019)

- i. 2009 Berlin Bomb attack: On 30 December, the Left-wing extremist group Revolutionäre Aktionszellen (RAZ) bombed an employment agency building in Berlin. (www.berliner-zeitung.de/radikale)
- ii. 2010 Berlin Firebombing: On 19 November, the Left-wing extremist group Revolutionäre Aktionszellen (RAZ) firebombed the German Federal Administrative Office Berlin. ([https:// taz.de/RAZ-](https://taz.de/RAZ-))
- iii. 2011 Göttingen Firebombing: On 3 December, the Left-wing extremist group Revolutionäre Aktionszellen (RAZ) bombed the Courthouse in Göttingen. The bombing was their fifth attack. ([https:// web. archive. org/web](https://web.archive.org/web))
- iv. 2012 Cologne Knife Attack: On 17 September, 44 year old Frank S, a Right-wing Extremist member seriously injured Henriette Reker (politician) with a knife in an assassination attempt. He then injured 4 additional people who tried to disarm him. (<http://www.bpb.de/politik/extremismu>)
- v. 2015 Freital Explosive Attack: On 1st November, Gruppe Freital, a Right-wing extremist detonated an explosive in front of a window of refugee housing. One refugee was injured in the face. (<http://www.szonline.de/sachsen/wie-die>)
- vi. 2016 Hanover Arson Attack: On 5 February, 17-year old Saleh S. an Islamiat threw two Molotov Cocktails at the entrance of a shopping-mall in Hanover. He was later charged with 7 counts of attempted murder after admitting that he wanted to kill as many people as possible. Just 3 weeks later his sister Safia S. attacked a Police officer with a knife. (faz.net/aktuell/)
- vii. 2016 Hanover Knife Attack: On 26 February, a policeman was severely injured by a 15-year old girl, Safia S., who was acting "on behalf of the Islamic State. ([://www.thelocal.de](http://www.thelocal.de))
- viii. 2016 Essen Improvised Explosive Device: On 16 April, two radicalized youths threw an improvised explosive device onto the grounds of a Sikh-temple in Essen. Three people were injured by the bombing (www.tz.de/politik/)
- ix. 2016 Würzburg Axe Attack: On 19 July, there was Würzburg train attack. Riaz Khan Ahmadzai Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant carried out the attacks.
- x. 2016 Dresden Pipe Bomb: On 26 September, Nino K., a Right-wing terrorist set up two bombs in Dresden, one targeting a Mosque and the other targeting the International Congress Center Dresden. He pleaded guilty in February 2018. ([bpb.de](http://www.bpb.de), 2016, /www.zeit.de/)
- xi. 2018 Multiple Cities Arson Attack: In March, the Kurdish and Left-wing extremists committed numerous arson attacks in Germany. (sz-online.de,2018; mdr.de,2018)

- xii. 2018 Berlin Arson: On 26 March, there was an attack on part of Berlin's power supply system by a Left-wing extremist, leaving 6.500 households without electricity for numerous hours. (sueddeutsche.de,2018)
- xiii. 2018 Hambach Forest Arson Attack: On 24, December, as part of the demonstration- and occupation movement against the destruction of the Hambach Forest, an eco-anarchist group "Hambi Chaos Crew" claimed responsibility for an Arson attack against a pumping station. (thelocal.de,2018)
- xiv. 2019 Bottrop Essen Vehicular Attack: On 22 January, a Right-wing extremist Andreas N. intentionally drove his car into crowds of Muslim pedestrians in three different locations. (tz.de,2019).
- xv. 2019, Döbeln Bomb Attack: On 3 January, after a bomb attack on the AfD office in Döbeln, three Left-wing extremists were arrested and convicted. (zeit.de 2018).
- xvi. 2019 Wolfhagen Assassination Attack: On 2nd June, Walter Lübcke, President of the district Kassel and a member of the Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU) was shot dead outside his home in Wolfhagen. A political, Right-wing motive has been confessed by the murderer Stephan Ernst who is a member of the terrorist group "Combat 18 (C18)" and the National Democratic Party of Germany (NPD (.welt.de,2019)
- xvii. 2019 Cologne Arson: On 17 June, four Porsche vehicles were burnt at a car dealership in Cologne. A Left-wing group later claimed responsibility for the Arson attack. (t-online.de,2019)
- xviii. 2019 Zittau Bombing: On 23 July, Right-wing extremists caused an explosion that destroyed multiple windows of the home of the targeted Left-Wing politician. (/blog.zeit.de)
- xix. 2019 Berlin Arson attack: On 28 September, a Left-wing group has claimed responsibility for an arson attack on a SUV's in Berlin, which destroyed 4 cars and damaged 5 additional ones. (tagesspiegel,2019)
- xx. 2019 Halle Saale Attempted Mass Shooting: On 9 October, a Right-wing extremist armed with multiple firearms and home-made bombs unsuccessfully attempted to force his way into a synagogue during Yom Kippur prayers, shooting and killing one passer-by. He subsequently fired into a nearby kebab restaurant, killing one customer. Pursued by police, he shot and wounded another man in an attempted car-jacking, before being captured. (Tagesschau.2019)
- xxi. **Olympia Shopping Mall Attack:** The attack took place on 22 July 2016 in which there was a mass shooting in the Olympia shopping mall in the moustache district of Murnau Germany. A man opened fire on teenagers at McDonald restaurants, later shut bystanders in the street outside and in the mall itself (Fenton 2016). German police record shows that nine (9) person died from the shooting and injuring 36 other persons. The attack was carried out by David al Sonboly, Iranian German. (Washington Post,2017).
- xxii. **Heilbronn Attack:** In 2007, there was the killing of a German Police Officer, Michael Kiesewetter by Neo-Nazi Terrorists in Heilbronn. Other police officers were also attacked and injured. (Buchholz 2012)
- xxiii. **Ansbach School Attack:** On 17 September 2009, George R. a German attacked a Secondary School at Ansbach in Bavaria at the Gymnasium Carolinum. Police Report shows that 15 people were injured in the attack (DPA. 2010.).
- xxiv. **Germany Hanover Stabbing:** On 26 February 2016, a police officer was critically injured in a stabbing attack by a 15-year-old jihadist girl. (Europol, 2016).
- xxv. **Germany Würzburg Train Attack:** On 18 July 2016, a 17-year-old Afghan asylum seeker attacked passengers on a train with an axe and a knife. The attacker was killed by the police (Europol, 2016).
- xxvi. **Reutlingen Attack:** On 24 July 2016, a Syrian asylum seeker armed with a knife attacked his girlfriend and bystanders in Reutlingen, Germany, killing his girlfriend, a Polish woman, and wounding two other people in the forearm and head, before being struck accidentally by a car and arrested by police. (Janjevic 2016).
- xxvii. **Ansbach Bombing:** On 24 July 2016, a 27-year-old Syrian refugee detonated a bomb at a wine bar after being denied entry to a nearby music festival, killing himself and wounding 15 civilians. Authorities found a recorded video message on the attacker's phone, pledging his allegiance to ISIL. Europol classified the attack as jihadist terrorism. The Ansbach bombing was the first suicide bombing in Germany by Islamist terrorists (BBC, 2016).
- xxviii. **2016 Berlin Truck Attack:** On 19 December 2016 in Berlin, Germany a Tunisian man drove a truck into a Christmas market in Berlin killing twelve people and wounding 56 others(MailOnline,2018). ISIL claimed responsibility for the attack (Dw.com, 2016).
- xxix. **Hamburg Attack:** On 28 July 2017 in Hamburg, Germany, 26-year-old Palestinian jihadist who was an asylum seeker stabbed seven people with a 20 cm-long kitchen knife. One person was killed and the other six were injured (BBC, 2017). In March 2018, he was sentenced to life in prison. The attacker said that "he would die as a martyr" and that "his aim was to kill as many Germans as possible to avenge Muslim suffering worldwide"(abcnews.com 2017).
- xxx. **Frankfurt Airport Attack:** This attack occurred on March 2, 2011, when Arid Uka travelled to Frankfurt airport armed with a pistol and two knives. Uka spotted two U.S. airmen emerging from a baggage claim area and followed them to an exit where a U.S. Air Force bus was waiting. Uka watched as 16 U.S. military service members gradually arrived, then asked one of them for a cigarette and where the soldiers were heading. After the airman confirmed that they were on their way to Afghanistan, Uka turned around, reached into his backpack and loaded a magazine into his pistol. Uka waited until almost all the airmen had boarded the bus, and then shot dead a senior airman as he returned from a luggage trolley. Boarding the bus, Uka then fatally shot an airman in the driver's seat while repeatedly shouting

“God is great” in Arabic. He seriously wounded two other men standing in the bus aisle. Uka is believed to have fired nine times before his gun jammed. He then fled from the bus into a terminal where he was tackled and detained by German authorities (Independent, 2017). Uka, an ethnic Albanian from Kosovo, was a devout Muslim. Although born in Kosovska Mitrovica, his family had been living in Germany for 40 years.

Planned Attacks or Plots

This part contains incidents of planned terrorist attacks that were foiled by German authorities of which the planners were arrested before carrying out the operations.

- i. **2018 Cologne Terrorist Plot:** This attack plot was foiled by the proactive action of German police officers who arrested the plotter, Sief Allah H., a 2016 migrant from Tunisia (*BBC News. 2018*) in the process of manifesting the explosive device to carry out the action (*Diehl & Schmid 2018*).
- ii. **Chemnitz Terrorist Plot:** The 2016 Chemnitz Terrorist plot was planned by Haber al-Albahr, a Syrian 2015 refugee. (N-tv.de,2016,)
- iii. **Bombing and shooting in multiple sections of the German city of Dusseldorf:** In 2016 there was a terrorism plot to carry out series of bombing and shooting in multiple sections of the German city of Dusseldorf by Salch A, Hamza C, Abd Arahman A.K. and Mohood B. an ISIS members who were registered as refugees in 2016). The plot failed when one of the conspirators turned himself in to French authorities. Other members were arrested thereafter.
- iv. **Perpetrator: 2006 German Train Bombing Attempts:** On 31 July 2006, two Improvised Explosive Devices packed in suitcases were placed aboard regional trains but the plan failed. The suspects, two Islamist Lebanese nationals studying in Germany, were motivated by Jyllands-Posten's publication of Muhammad cartoons and they were caught on CCTV cameras. One of the attackers fled to Lebanon after the attack and the other was sentenced to life in prison by the court in Düsseldorf.
- v. **2007 Bomb Plot in Germany:** In March 2010, four men, including two German convert to Islam, one Turk and one Turk-German were sentenced for having planned bomb attack against US soldiers. According to the judge, the four Islamists wanted to create a bloodbath due to religious blindness.
- vi. **2015 Hannover, Germany:** On 17 November 2015, a football friendly between Germany and the Netherlands labelled a "symbol of freedom" in the aftermath of the Paris attacks was cancelled and the spectators evacuated shortly before the match due to a bomb threat. A German newspaper later claimed that a French intelligence dossier, detailing plans to carry out five bombings had prompted the Germans to order the evacuation.
- vii. **2016 Düsseldorf Terrorist Plot:** On 2 June 2016 at Düsseldorf, Germany, Four migrants were arrested on suspicions of being part of a cell of up to ten ISIS terrorists from Syria who had planned to launch attacks in Düsseldorf similar to the November 2015 Paris attack. Europol classified the plot as jihadist terrorism. (*Deutsche Welle 2016*).
- viii. **2016 Schleswig-Holstein, Germany:** In mid-September 2016, three Syrian refugees of between 17–26 years of age were apprehended by Special Forces in Germany in different locations in Schleswig-Holstein. This was one of the two terrorist cells the Islamic State sent to Europe in 2015 to carry out attacks in Europe. The other carried out the November 2015 Paris attacks.

According to the Federal Criminal Police Office in Germany (BKA), about 13 terror attacks planned by Islamist and Hamas on German soil between 2010 and 2019 have been prevented. Out of these 13 planned attacks, at least five were planned to take place in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW). They include the 2011 planned bomb attack and a fire arms attack in the capital of Dusseldorf (Dusseldurfe cell), the failed bomb attack at Bonn central station in 2012 and the failed attack on the chairman of the pro NRW party. There were also the targeted attacks on Bundeswehr (army) soldiers in 2016 and 2017.

III. INTERROGATING DOMESTIC TERRORIST GROUPS IN GERMAN TERRORISM FOLLOWING MIGRATION SURGE

An analysis of the incidents of terrorist attack in Germany shows that domestic terrorist attacks have been on the increase. From the era of the First World War to the period of the unification of East and West German in 1990, the activities of the local German's terrorist groups especially the Far-Right wing and the neo-Nazis have been a challenge to the security of Germans in their country. With Migration Surge in Europe especially Germany, the trend of attacks against the refugees has officially been interpreted by German government officials and the security apparatus particularly the BKA as terrorist oriented. In their attempt to expressed disappointment with the German government migration policy that accommodated refugees, the groups committed more crime and carried out lot of terrorist attacks on the refugees.

The US State Department Travel Advisory expressed the following about extremism in Germany:

Right-Wing extremism remains a center-stage issue, despite a recent drop in the number of related crimes. Authorities estimate that there are 24,000 Right-Wing extremists in the country, of whom 12,700 are potentially violent. Far-Right extremists committed 20,520 politically motivated crimes in 2017, including 1,130 violent acts, including four attempted murders. In 2017, police recorded 312 offences against refugee accommodation, 46 of which were violent. These figures both showed an approximate drop of 70% compared to 2016. In late 2018, a series of incidents occurred in Chemnitz following the fatal stabbing of a local man, allegedly by two refugees. Protests attracted up to 6,000 people including members of hooligan and extreme right groups, who chased several migrants through the streets. Several apparently xenophobic attacks have since taken place in Chemnitz.

In April 2017, authorities arrested and later charged a *Bundeswehr* soldier with preparing a serious act of violence against the state. In March 2017, authorities jailed four members of a right-wing terrorist group for planning bomb attacks against Islamic and refugee-related targets. Left-wing extremists committed 9,752 politically motivated crimes in 2017, of which 1,967 were acts of violence. Both figures represented significant increases from prior years, and three were attempted murders. There were also 1,318 violent acts against the police and security services, an increase of 35.2%. The left-wing extremist scenes in Berlin, Leipzig, and Hamburg are particularly active, and best exemplified by frequent luxury auto burnings, especially in Berlin and Hamburg. Repeated left-wing demonstrations at a startup Google campus in Berlin prompted company officials to pull the plug on the burgeoning project and search for alternate locations. Left-wing extremists continue to conduct attacks on the police. In 2017, predominantly left-wing autonomists rioted over several days at the G20 Summit in Hamburg. Hundreds of police officers were injured, and hundreds of criminals remain under police investigation. During the evenings, left-wing extremists heavily damaged areas of Hamburg as police pulled out to await reinforcements. Right- and left-wing extremists have increasingly come into direct conflict with each other, especially when right-wing protests encounter larger and more violent left-wing counter protests. This phenomenon played out repeatedly over the past year during a series of “Merkel Muss Weg” (Merkel Must Go) demonstrations in Hamburg (US Department of State)

2019 Crime Report shows that Neo-Nazis and other Far-right groups have committed 8,605 crimes. Among the crime committed are 363 violent crimes with about 179 people said to have been injured. In presenting the Germany’s Domestic Security Agency’s (BfV) 2018 Report, Interior Minister Horst Seehofer and BfV head Thomas Haldenwang revealed that there were 24,100 Right-Wing extremists in Germany of which 12,700 have violent-orientation. The Report also shows that the number of violent cases increase from 1054 in 2017 to 1088 in 2018. The refugees have been the target of the attacks by the Neo-Nazis and the Far-right groups, showing expression of rejection of refugees in Germany. 2016 study revealed that there were 1,645 instances of anti-refugee violence and social unrest in Germany during 2014 and 2015 (Benček & Strasheim, 2016). The German Federal Criminal Office (BKA) Report also revealed that there were 797 attacks against residence of refugees or migrants from January to October 2016, and that 740 attacks have a Far right-wing background.

Die Zeit (2016) record puts the attacks against refugees and or their residence at 1,029 in 2015 and 199 cases in 2014 leading to 560 people that sustained injury. In 2015, the German Justice Minister frowned at the rise in attack on refugee hostels by German Far-Right group as reported by German Federal Criminal Office. The VBRG 2018 Report shows 81% increase in the number of attack carried out by Far-Right in Eastern Germany. This shows a total of 1200 such attacks that took place in Berlin, Brandenburg, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia (Daily Sabah 2019). According to Amy (2017), the sexual assault by migrants in Cologne and other German cities on New Year Eve in 2015 led to the formation of vigilantism against immigrants in Germany. These Far-Right groups and other anti-immigrant groups used the vigilante forum as an avenue to carry out protest and in the process committed more crime in Germany and particularly, against the refugees. In 2016, a mob attacked group of Pakistanis in Cologne and Bautzen, committing arson on a hostel occupied by asylum seekers. Jon (2018) also stated that in Heilbronn, a 70-year old man attacked three migrants with a knife in reaction against German government migrants’ welcome policies. These series of attacks on the refugees by the anti-migrant groups in Germany have been condemned by the German Chancellor, Angel Merkel, calling on the Far-right perpetrators to stop the action forth-with.

A study of the incidents of terrorism in Germany reveals that the German Far-Right groups and the other terrorist groups that were formed long before the Migration Surge especially at the fall of Berlin Wall were predominantly more involved than the actual people that came in through the Migration Surge. Complementing the activities of these groups is the presence of Islamic militias that have also threatened the national security of Germany. The Islamic militias were not only the Arabs but native Germans who have been converted to Islam and radicalized. With their knowledge of the Germany federation, carried out more deadly attacks.

Gohel (2011) argues that the feature of the terrorist movement in Germany is the growth of German converts to Islam who have become radicalized. Gohel Stated further that in 2017, the percentage of radicals in German who were converts to Islam was 8.21 but later increased to 17.7 in 2010. The Arab Islamists concentrated in getting more Germans into their fold with the hope that the successes in future attacks will be enhanced by the presence of native Germans in their midst. Converting more Germans to Islam is also hoped to promote the ideology of the Muslim world.

Furthermore, most crimes committed by Germans who belong to these local terrorist groups were in reactions to the pressures generated by the presence of large number of migrants in Germany. Anti-migrant movements came up suddenly with intention to kick out migrants out of Germany. Such groups like Neo-Nazis and the Far- Right wing among others committed series of crimes against the refugees. The situation shows that Germans high involvement in extremism is as a result of pressure put on the system by the influx of the migrants. The reactions against the presence of migrants by the anti-migrants' groups manifested through violent attacks on refugees and the German government officials. The Far-Right wing has maintained strong opposition against the government's open door policies that allow more migrants into Germany than any other European country. According to the Guardian (2019), a conservative German politician Watter Luboke who supported Angels Markel's pro-refugee policy was shot as a result of grievances toward immigrants. Data by the Global Data Base revealed that from 2007 to 2015, there were 86 terrorist attacks in Germany, 60 of them could reasonably be described as Right-wing terrorism and are more likely to be present in areas where a higher share of the population is foreign-born directed against immigrants or against public housing dedicated to asylum seekers (Richard 2019). Richard emphasized that Immigrants do not pose security risk but that Right-wing extremist who hate immigrants increase the threat of terrorism.

A critical study of the data on terrorist attacks in Germany reveals that local terrorist groups including the Far-Right, Far-Left, Neo-Nazis among others not mentioned in this work have higher involvement in the rate of terrorist attacks in Germany as a result of their violent opposition to the presence of the high number of refugees in Germany.

IV. CONCLUSION

The work examined the refugee crisis and the terrorist attacks that took place within the period in Germany to ascertain the role of domestic terrorism and its level of contributions. A thorough analysis of the evidence of terrorist groups in Germany was done while incidents of terrorist attacks and the perpetrators were also critically studied. The origin of terrorist groups in Germany was investigated and a critical analysis of the developmental stages was done. The study discovered that the chaotic situation in Germany caused by the effects of the defeat in the First World War led to the emergence of radical political groups like the Right Wing and Left Wing, the Nazis, the Anarchist and the Red Army Faction (RAF) that later adopted violence approaches to agitations. It was also deduced that with the emergent of the Arab militias in Germany, more German converts were recruited thereby increasing the temple of domestic terrorist attacks. Furthermore, the refugee crisis added more strength to domestic agitations as these extremist groups that were not disposed to welcoming refugees carried out more attacks on the refugee shelters and government functionaries to exhibit their disappointment with the government

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

From our findings we recommend the following:

1. The German Government should interface with the known radical groups such as the Far Right, For Left, the Neo-Naxis among others so as to drop their violent method of agitations
2. More information and re-orientation programme is needed to re-orient the anti-migrants' groups to appreciate and accommodate the refugees for the benefit of migrant's labour in this period of aged labour in the economy of Germany.
3. More security measures should be deployed to checkmate the rate of German convert to extremism.

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