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NATIONAL POLICE FORCE IN GERMANY. INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Law enforcement in Germany is constitutionally vested solely with the states, which is one of the main features of the German political system. Policing has always been a responsibility of the German states even after 1871 when the country was unified. The 1919 constitution of the Weimar Republic stated the possibility of creating a national police force, but it was only in the Nazi era that state police forces were unified under central control and a national police force was created. The police became a tool of the centralized state and the Nazi party. Following the defeat of 1945, Germany was divided; in 1949 the three western zones were turned into the West Germany, the Soviet zone became East Germany. Each country pursued a different path concerning law enforcement.

In the light of the gross abuse of power by the centralized Nazi state, the new West German constitution provided a strict separation of powers, placing law enforcement firmly in the hands of the states. The only policing agencies allowed at the federal level were the paramilitary Federal Border Guard, also responsible for coast guard services and the Federal Criminal Police, both under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. Because Germany's borders became largely open since 2005, due to the development of the European Union and the Schengen Agreement to all neighbourhood countries, the former *Bundesgrenzschutz* was renamed to *Bundespolizei* - Federal Police. The duties of the Federal Police still are limited to the security of railway lines, main railway stations, airports, sea ports, and other special duties.

East Germany created a centralized police force under the Ministry of the Interior, the paramilitary *Volkspolizei* (literally "People's Police"). It also established a border police force, initially an independent force, later integrated into the army and then reorganized as an independent military organization.

German police officers rarely use their guns - for good reason. But when deadly shootings occur, the victims are often part of an especially vulnerable group in society.

German police officers are deployed around the world to stabilize countries in crisis. For nearly 30 years, German police officers serving in mandated peace-keeping missions and bilateral police projects, mainly as trainers, instructors and observers, have helped stabilize countries in crisis. Their deployment is managed by the Federal Ministry of the Interior,

Building and Community and the joint federal–state working group on international police missions (AG IPM) of the standing conference of German interior ministers.

More than 200 officers from the Federal Police, the state police forces, the Federal Criminal Police Office and the Federal Customs Administration are currently serving in missions organized by the EU, the UN and the OSCE as well as in the bilateral police project in Afghanistan and with FRONTEX at the EU's external borders. They are helping mitigate the causes of illegal migration where they arise: in the countries of origin and transit. The duties of German police officers include advising high-ranking officials in security ministries and police administrations in the sub-Saharan region as well as training instructors, criminal investigators and border guards at the police academies in Bamako, Mali and Kabul.

In this way, police missions provide a lasting and effective contribution to the fight against human smuggling and illegal migration. The goals of German police participation in missions are thus closely linked to ensuring the internal security of Germany and Europe.

In view of the fact that Germany's federal and state police forces currently have their hands full at home and at the EU's external borders in dealing with migration and the threat of international terrorism, the Federal Government and the IPM working group select law enforcement and geographic priorities very carefully.

Most German police officers are currently serving in UN and EU peace-keeping missions in the Sahel and in Ukraine in the bilateral German Police Project Team in Afghanistan.

In future, these priorities could be expanded to include Libya or North Africa as soon as the security situation and political conditions there allow.

Sending as many police officers as possible is less important than providing the necessary expertise in the right place. For example, the number of EU member state experts seconded to EU missions has fallen by more than half since 2012, from more than 1,600 to fewer than 800.

German police officers have gained an excellent reputation among countries in crisis and mission organizers as highly competent and yet modest. Their service to stabilize countries in crisis will continue to be an important contribution to the internal security of Germany and Europe.

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PROCESS OF A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Criminal justice is a process, involving a series of steps beginning with a criminal investigation and ending with the release of a convicted offender from correctional facility. Rules and decision making are at the center of this process [1].

Investigation initiates from that moment that the police receives the phone call. Reports can be received by the victim itself, neighbour or anyone else that may have noticed or suspected any different movements or noises. One should be very cautiously due to the fact that the crime could have occurred any time and perpetrators could still be inside the premises or nearby. Solving crime is about finding the right balance between so called «activity» – for example, better analysis of trends in order to improve prevention – and reactivity. Criminal investigation is a reactive activity that must be oriented towards a final goal, and this can only be achieved by reducing bureaucracy and increasing efficiency [2]. Investigators should be on the alert for any persons fleeing the area, suspicious or well-known persons that are known by the police and suspicious vehicles. The first officer to respond a burglary call is usually the patrol officer. Officers should first determine whether a crime is currently in progress. When a crime is still being carried out, officer must call for more help in order to prevent the escape of the suspect/s. On the way to the scene of crime, officer should approach the burglary location without warning emergency lights or siren. After arriving, one can observe certain reliable indicators that a burglary has been or still being (for example open doors, windows). The first attendant officer should immediately preserve the crime scene, in order to maximize forensic opportunities due to the fact that there is few amount of time before the evidence will be contaminated. The crime scene should be secured and the victims are to be escorted to another area. It is made in order to ensure that victims won't touch anything