

Europe turning blind eye to Hamas and Hezbollah networks in its territory — experts

Analysts say terror groups operate largely unchecked, running charities, lobbying public opinion and recruiting supporters — and the legal means to stop them are scant

By Gianluca Pacchiani / April 12, 2024

A stash of weapons was found hidden under a pine tree in southern Bulgaria last week. The arms were linked to four suspected Hamas members arrested in Germany and the Netherlands in December on suspicion of preparing an attack against Jewish targets in Europe, according to the German magazine Der Spiegel.

[...]

Israeli intelligence veteran **Danny Citrinowicz** made similar observations with regard to Hezbollah, warning against underestimating the expanding network of the Lebanese Shiite terror group on European soil.

“In Europe, the main terror threats are considered to be Sunni groups such as al-Qaeda and ISIS. You don’t really see them acting against Shiite radicalism,” said **Citrinowicz**, a **Research Fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies** and a non-resident fellow at the Atlantic Council. “They think they have bigger fish to fry.”

[...]

“Hezbollah as an organization has been growing, it has salaries to pay, stipends for the families and the widows of its fighters, and so on. There is a cap to how much aid it can get from Iran, so it does a lot of its fundraising abroad — including in Europe,” said **Danny Citrinowicz**, an expert on the Lebanese terror group.

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