

What are the lessons from the brutal attack on SPD politician Matthias Ecke?

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The brutal attack on Social Democrat Member of the European Parliament Matthias Ecke in Dresden shows just how far right-wing extremist terror has progressed in Germany.

The 41-year-old Social Democratic Party (SPD) politician, who is once again running for the European Parliament, was attacked and beaten to the point of hospitalisation by four young men late on Friday evening as he was putting up election posters in the Striesen district of Dresden, Saxony. He sustained serious head injuries and had to undergo surgery. Shortly before, the same group is suspected of attacking and injuring a 28-year-old Green Party campaign worker.

All indications are that the attackers were right-wing extremists. A witness confirmed this. The police kept a low profile. Although a 17-year-old youth accompanied by his mother contacted them the following night and confessed to the offence, they did not comment on their motive for the attack. They released the teenager saying there was no danger of him going into hiding. He had apparently refused to give the names of his accomplices. According to press reports, the police are still searching for persons unknown.

The attack on Ecke was preceded by a significant increase in right-wing extremist violence. In Saxony alone, there were 248 right-wing motivated attacks last year, 21 percent more than in 2022. At least 380 victims were affected. The fact that politicians from Chancellor Scholz's party, the SPD, are now also brutally attacked shows that the right-wing extremists will stop at nothing.

The far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD). And in terms of social policy, it is working with the trade unions to reduce wages and social benefits, while the wealth of the rich is exploding. In this climate of social and political reaction, the political big game of Hitler now thrive. They can also present themselves as the only opposition because the Left Party—which holds the state prime ministership in neighbouring Thuringia—supports government policy on all key issues. And, like the Left Party split-off Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance (BSW), competes with the AfD for the most reactionary anti-refugee policy. Saxony has long been notorious as a hotbed of right-wing

The Sozialistische Gleichheitspartei (Socialist Equality Party) condemns the attack on Ecke. In a video recorded on the

violence under the regime of the CDU, which the SPD has managed even after the attack on Ecke.

erved as a coalition partner for 10 years. A trail of right-wingOnly the building of an independent movement of the
extremist scandals runs through the police and judiciary. The international working class that combines the fight against
fascist National Socialist Underground (NSU) trio fascism with the fight against war, social inequality and for a
murderers were able to operate out of here undisturbed for a socialist programme can stop the right-wing danger. This goal
years. When a right-wing extremist mob raged in Chemnitz in at the centre of the European election campaign of the
2018, it was not only defended by the head of the domestic Sozialistische Gleichheitspartei.

secret service, Hans-Georg Maaßen, who lost his office as a
result, but also by Minister President Michael Kretschmer
(CDU), who is still in office.

Now, leading representatives of the SPD and the Greens
express outrage at the attack on Ecke and are calling for the
police to be strengthened. Federal Interior Minister Nancy
kaeser has called a special conference of state interior
ministers for Tuesday to discuss “tough action.” SPD party
leader Lars Klingbeil is urging an “unequivocal response from
the constitutional state.”

However, the establishment of a police state does not weaken
the right-wing extremists, it strengthens them. The police are
themselves permeated by right-wing extremist networks.
Police officers in Saxony receive their baptism of fire when
they beat up left-wing demonstrators in Leipzig. In some cases,
they also work directly with right-wing extremists.

Solidarity demonstrations for Matthias Ecke took place in
Dresden and Berlin on Sunday. According to the organisers,
around 3,000 people attended in Dresden and 1,000 in Berlin.
They were mainly SPD and Green Party officials and members
and people close to them.

Speakers in Dresden included SPD Chairwoman Saskia
Landsagen, Saxony’s Economics Minister Martin Dulig (SPD) and
Bundestag (federal parliament) Vice-President Katrin Göring-
eckardt (Greens). CDU representatives, such as former Saxony
and Federal Interior Minister Thomas de Maizière, also
attended the rally.

Speakers in Berlin included SPD Chairman Lars Klingbeil,
SPD General Secretary Kevin Kühnert, Green Party Co-chairs
Ulrike Gode and Omid Nouripour, Green Party politician and
Member of Parliament Luisa Neubauer, as well as the
Minister Presidents of Saxony and North Rhine-Westphalia,
Michael Kretschmer and Hendrik Wüst (both CDU).

The speakers spouted hollow phrases about the “unity of all
democrats” and blamed the AfD for the growing violence but
uttered not a syllable about their own reactionary role. With
their right-wing and dictatorial policies, they have created the
basis for the far right and deliberately built up the AfD and the
fascist networks in order to suppress any opposition to their
pro-war policy and devastating social cuts. This will not



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