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The perpetrator might want to commit suicide

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In Halle on the Saale, a man and a man were shot dead Wednesday in an attack allegedly committed by the Jewish community. The Attorney General has drawn the investigation. Federal Interior Minister Horst Seehofer (CSU) said: "According to the current state of knowledge, we must assume that it is at least an anti-Semitic attack." According to estimates of the Attorney General there is sufficient evidence for a possible right-wing extremist background.





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The shots were fired at twelve o'clock in the Paulus district, near the synagogue. The perpetrator tried to enter the synagogue, which at the time was about seventy to eighty people. Jews around the world committed Yom Kippur, the highest holiday of their religion, on Wednesday.

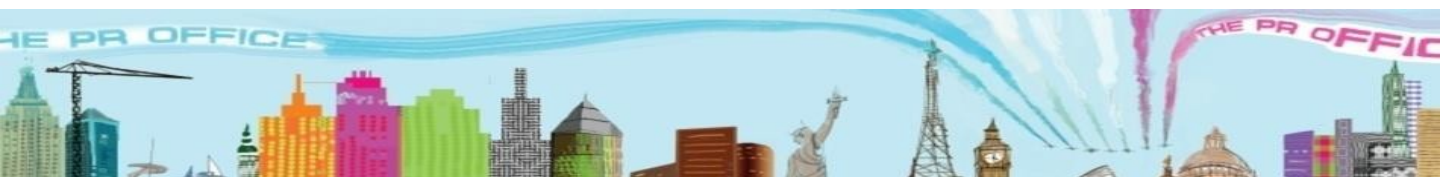
The perpetrator did not manage to open the door to the synagogue despite numerous shootings. He shot a passer-by who passed by the synagogue and later a man in a nearby doner kebab shop. Later, the perpetrator could be arrested in the wider hinterland of Halle. Previously, he had tried to capture a car and had injured two people.

Synagogue was not protected

According to security circles, the perpetrator is Stephan B. from Saxony-Anhalt. The 27-year-old man is said to have acted as a single perpetrator. From circles of the security authorities it is also said that the man has not been noticed by the police. In the hours after the crime, the security authorities had initially assumed that several perpetrators were involved.

According to information of the F.A.Z. The perpetrator Stephan B. has suffered a gunshot wound on his neck. The security authorities suspect that the perpetrator wanted to commit suicide before his arrest. However, the perpetrator can speak and should have already committed to the investigators to the facts.

The perpetrator also recorded the entire crime scene with the help of a helmet camera on video and streamed his act on the Internet. Also from this video there are clear references to an anti-Semitic and right-wing extremist motive. On excerpts of the video is also to recognize that the culprit was heavily armed and led explosives with him.





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The police urged people in Halle during the day to stay in their homes or to visit safe places. The station was closed. long-distance trains were diverted. The people in nearby Landsberg were also asked not to leave their homes. In the meantime, the police had spoken of several perpetrators. In the evening, the police lifted the acute danger situation. The Federal Police searched throughout Germany on the roads.

In many cities, the safety of synagogues was increased. According to information of the F.A.Z. The synagogue in Halle had not been protected by the police at the time of the attack. The Central Council of Jews made serious allegations against the authorities. It was scandalous and negligent that the security forces had not protected the synagogue on such a high holiday.

On the ongoing investigation, a spokesman for the Federal Prosecutor General told this newspaper that there was a suspicion of murder with a state protection character. The Karlsruhe investigation authority can seize the persecution of individual violent offenders, if the internal security is threatened and the case has a special meaning.

"Deeply affected and shaken"

The federal government was dismayed by the incidents. Government spokesman Steffen Seibert spoke of "terrible news". That there are two dead, is "horrible". Federal Interior Minister Seehofer said: "I am deeply shocked by this act and condemn it in the strongest terms". It is a "vile attack on our peaceful coexistence". He offered the necessary support to the Minister of the Interior in Saxony-Anhalt. Foreign Minister Heiko Maas (SPD) was also dismayed: "The fact that #YomKippur is being shot at a synagogue at the reconciliation festival hits us in the heart."

Saxony-Anhalt's Prime Minister Reiner Haseloff (CDU) condemned the deadly shots in Halle as a "despicable act". "It has not only torn people from our midst, it is also a cowardly





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attack on the peaceful coexistence in our country." he said on Wednesday in Brussels. He broke off his stay there. Interior Minister Holger Stahlknecht (CDU) was "deeply affected and shaken" by the violence in Halle.

"It's hard to put into words what happened and is happening in Halle today." said Stahlknecht, who stopped his holiday to coordinate further action at the Interior Ministry. The Conference of European Rabbis said after the attack of a "nefarious act of terrorism". "It is unbelievable that the violence against Jews in Germany is increasing more and more and more precisely at Yom Kippur, the Jewish reconciliation festival, people are shot." said the President, Pinchas Goldschmidt. It is a new dimension of hatred and violence against Jews in Germany.

<https://www.en24.news/2019/10/the-perpetrator-might-want-to-commit-suicide-5.html>

