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AUSTRIA briefing: **August**

2023

August 9th – September 12th
2023

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Counter-terrorism

New expert report handed to court in Operation Luxor case

- Guido Steinberg has been appointed as an expert advisor in the Operation Luxor case after the previous removal of Heiko Heinisch and Nina Scholz due to objections from survivors of the operation.
- Steinberg, a German academic regarded as a 'specialist' in Islam and terrorism, has a track record of providing testimony in [various controversial so-called "Islamist trials"](#) across different countries, including Austria. However, his appointment is not without controversy.

Steinberg's perspective aligns with the idea that [so-called "political Islamism" and "militant Islamism" are inseparable](#), effectively rejecting any attempt to distinguish between them, inherently eradicating any nuanced assessments of these ideologies.

- Steinberg's report on the Muslim Brotherhood, commissioned by the Graz Criminal Court, echoes many of the findings from the previous ousted experts.
- [It was clearly unable to implicate specific individuals in criminal activities](#), and was unable to offer concrete justification or proof for the violent Operation Luxor raids. It solely provides biased assessments and "background information".
- Therefore, as expected, Steinberg's stances will not differ drastically from those of his ousted predecessors Heinisch and Scholz, and mainly reinforce the Austrian government's preconceived notions about Muslims and Islam.

National Developments

Ex-Chancellor Sebastian Kurz to face trial over perjury allegations

minority communities and state-led Islamophobia in the country.

- Former Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz is facing a trial for suspected perjury during the Ibiza parliamentary committee hearings, as investigated by the Economic and Corruption Prosecution Office (WKStA).
- Kurz is accused of providing false information under oath, specifically denying any involvement in the appointments of key positions, such as Thomas Schmid as CEO of the sovereign wealth fund ÖBAG, and the ÖBAG supervisory board.

The investigation has uncovered chats that suggest his awareness of these appointments, which forms the basis for the perjury charges.

- The trial is scheduled for October 18th at the Vienna Regional Court for Criminal Matters and is expected to last three days, with verdicts anticipated on October 23rd.

If found guilty, Kurz could potentially face up to three years in prison.

- It is worth noting that other individuals, including Bernhard Bonelli, a close associate of Kurz, and Bettina Glatz-Kremsner, the former VP Vice-Chairwoman and Ex-Casinos CEO, are also implicated in the case.
- This investigation centres around the "Schiefer-Schmid Agreement," a critical aspect of state appointments during coalition negotiations.

However, it is essential to draw attention to the broader implications of corruption and lack of accountability of senior government officials, particularly concerning