

# THE FPÖ AND RIGHT-WING EXTREMISM

Many individual cases =  
one pattern

## Individual case 6

In the federal state Carinthia is the only erection of a memorial to the Nazis at the former concentration camps in Klagenfurt.

## Individual case 41

FPÖ treasurer from Zams, Patrick Oberbauer, is attaching a quote to a party chairman who was used as a model for the character Joseph.

## Individual case 91

The public became aware that Jürgen-Michael Kleppner, district councilor in Vienna, was used as a model for the character Joseph.

## Individual case 169

Markus Gudenus, FPÖ District Councilor in Vienna-Wieden, demanded on Facebook the death of a man who in 1941 killed an eight-year-old boy from Eritrea. The boy was himself from Gudenus' district and at that time represented the district council.

## Individual case 110

Michael Zech, functionary of the FPÖ list "AUF" at the Austrian Armed Forces, was sentenced to two and a half years prison by the District Court of Feldkirch for National Socialist reaction, incitement, dangerous threats and torture of prisoners. Out of these, ten months are unconditional imprisonment. Among others, the sergeant had told antisemitic "jokes", and at his assistance deployment in Burgenland, he called the refugees "pigs". In addition, he threatened refugees and abused them by kicking and punching them in the face. The armed forces suspended Zech from the service and filed a complaint against him. Later he quit the army.



On two occasions, the Mauthausen Committee Austria had already researched the extreme right-wing activities of FPÖ politicians and presented them in a chronological way. The documentation “Nothing but individual cases?” had been published before the parliamentary elections in fall 2017. It received a strong response. Since then, the term “individual cases” had become commonplace for describing the continuous anti-democratic activities of the FPÖ. The attempt of an FPÖ Member of Parliament to disparage the documentation as “fake and based on lies” failed after the Mauthausen Committee took legal action, and the politician had to explicitly revoke his statement.

The sequel followed with the publication of “Individual cases and repeat offenders” in June 2018. It proved that the FPÖ even as a governing party did not become more moderate. For the period since the beginning of 2013, i.e. for five and a half years, the documentation thus comprised a total of 106 extreme right-wing activities.

In May 2019, the so called “Ibiza affair” caused a sudden end for the ÖVP-FPÖ-led coalition government. However, already in the weeks and months before that, the individual cases had burdened the coalition increasingly. After the end of the coalition, ÖVP Federal Party Chairman Sebastian Kurz complained that they had “drained a lot of my strength”.

With this third documentation, the Mauthausen Committee investigates the most recent individual cases - dating from June 2018 until the end of July 2019. On one hand, it aims to show the pattern behind the cases. The fact that the FPÖ is constantly coming up with new extreme right-wing activities despite their negative public perception suggests that the party is deeply imprinted by this mindset.

On the other hand, it aims to clarify an important question: Is it possible that there will be any improvement in the foreseeable future? Could the FPÖ in the near future develop itself into a party that does not continuously violate the democratic and anti-fascist values of the Austrian Federal Constitution? In other words: Could it be capable of governing? Or does it give reason to assume that the FPÖ as a ruling party would continue to cause serious damage with its right-wing extremism? Its last attempt to participate in the government did already fail in May, in fact because of the individual cases (see above).

The following account is based on extensive research. Nevertheless, it does not claim to be comprehensive

## June 2018:

### Individual case 107

With the consent of the FPÖ Mayor of Wels, Andreas Rabl, the FPÖ Municipal Councilor Ralph Schäfer became Faction Chairman of the FPÖ of Wels. Schäfer had attracted attention through National Socialist reactivation and by founding a “vigilante group” (see individual case 30).

### Individual case 108

Upper Austrian FPÖ Provincial Councilor, Elmar Podgorschek, (see individual case 81) gave a speech at the extreme right party AfD Thuringia. He gave advises on how to take over the power and massively attacked the institutions of democracy. As this was made public, Podgorschek got confronted with fierce criticism and resignation demands. However, the FPÖ and ÖVP made sure that he remained in office.

### Individual case 109

It was made public that the fraternity “Germania zu Ried” had performed a secret concert together with the German neo-Nazi songwriter “Fylgien”. Insiders who wanted to register for the event, had to send an e-mail to an address with Wolfgang Kitzmüller as a contact. Kitzmüller is the husband of the FPÖ Third President of the National Council Anneliese Kitzmüller and a fraternity brother in the “Germania zu Ried”. The Upper Austrian FPÖ Provincial Councilor, Elmar Podgorschek, (see individual cases 81 and 108) is also a member of this fraternity. He considered the secret concert with the neo-Nazi songwriter as no reason enough for him to terminate his membership.

## July 2018:

### Individual case 110

Michael Zech, functionary of the FPÖ list “AUF” at the Austrian Armed Forces, was sentenced to two and a half years prison by the District Court of Feldkirch for National Socialist reactivation, incitement, dangerous threats and torture of prisoners. Out of these, ten months are unconditional imprisonment. Among others, the sergeant had told antisemitic “jokes”, and at his assistance deployment in Burgenland, he called the refugees “pigs”. In addition, he threatened refugees and abused them by kicking and punching them in the face. The armed forces suspended Zech from the service and filed a complaint against him. Later he quitted the army.

### Individual case 111

The Lower Austrian FPÖ Provincial Councilor Gottfried Waldhäusl demanded that the recipients of kosher meat have to register themselves. This plan to constrain Jewish life evoked strong criticism, among others from the Jewish community. The President of the Jewish Community, Oskar Deutsch, spoke of an “adverse Aryan Act”. The ÖVP Lower Austria reacted to the criticism and prevented the registration.

## Individual case 112

Robert Kiesinger, speaker at the FPÖ educational institute (see individual case 99), incited on Facebook in Nazi manner against the “mixture of races”.

## Individual case 113

Deputy FPÖ Local Party Chairman of Bruck an der Großglocknerstraße, Andreas Giezinger, insulted the members of the French national football team on Facebook as “Congo monkeys”. Giezinger already attracted attention a few weeks earlier, when he threatened on Facebook all those with violence who would not share his opinion on the EU. After the intervention on the part of the provincial FPÖ, he resigned from his political positions and quitted the party.

## Individual case 114

FPÖ Deputy Head of the Provincial Government of Upper Austria, Manfred Haimbuchner, and the FPÖ Mayor of Wels, Andreas Rabl, invited the Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini from the extreme right Lega party for spending his holidays in Wels. Among other things, Salvini advocates a census of the Roma and Sinti living in Italy - a racist plan that is reminiscent of Nazi ideology. The hotel owners in Wels criticized the in their opinion harmful effects of the “tourism marketing” by the FPÖ politicians.

## August 2018:

### Individual case 115

FPÖ Member of Parliament Christian Höbart (see individual case 13) claimed in the news portal “Heute” that he caught three young asylum seekers who were shoplifting in Guntramsdorf and had handed them over to the police. According to the state police department Lower Austria, Höbart had indeed called the police, but there was no case of shoplifting.

### Individual case 116

FPÖ City Councilor Bruno Weber from Amstetten commented on Facebook on an ÖBB advertising poster: “2 alleged faggots with baby and one even a nigger. Disgusting...”. This anti-gay and racist posting evoked fierce criticism nationwide as well as resignation demands. While the FPÖ Lower Austria distanced itself from the case, the FPÖ Amstetten defended Weber’s statement. The FPÖ politician resigned as Chamber Councilor of the Chamber of Labor Lower Austria, but remained City Councilor. In November 2018, the criminal case for incitement was concluded with diversion: Weber has to participate in the project “Dialog statt Hass” (dialogue instead of hate) by the association “Neustart”.

## September 2018:

### Individual case 117

The FPÖ defamed a young asylum seeker, who was visited at his apprenticeship place by Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen and the Provincial Councilor from the “Grüne” party, Rudi Anschöber, as “terror sympathizer”. A few days later, the

accusation turned out to be completely wrong. In order to avoid legal consequences, the FPÖ Upper Austria had to publish a corrective statement. In January 2019, the federal FPÖ was fined 12,000 euros for defamation. The party lodged an appeal. In the end, the open procedures were concluded by a settlement.

### Individual case 118

The Federal Government (the coalition of ÖVP and FPÖ) proposed the Federal President to appoint Hubert Keyl as Judge of the Federal Administrative Court. This court is also responsible for appeals in asylum procedures. The proposed staffing evoked protests. Hubert Keyl, a former employee of FPÖ Member of Parliament Martin Graf, became publicly known in 2010 for being involved in a fight in front of a red-light bar. His wife Elisabeth apparently ran to call the convicted neo-Nazi Gottfried Küssel for help. In the FPÖ-related weekly newspaper "Zur Zeit", Keyl had insulted the Catholic Nazi opponent Franz Jägerstätter, who had been executed, as a "traitor". In addition, a photo showed Keyl while making the extreme right-wing "Kühnengruß", a variation of the Hitler salute. Finally, he withdrew his application for the Federal Administrative Court. Shortly after, Keyl became department head in the FPÖ-led Ministry of Transport - without any call for tender.

### Individual case 119

The FPÖ Vöcklamarkt adopted neo-Nazi propaganda on its Facebook page. The text under the photo of a woman with a blond braid reads: "Protect your race, it is the blood of your ancestors!"

### Individual case 120

Bernd Babitsch, Deputy City Party Chairman of the FPÖ Pinkafeld and close party colleague of FPÖ Transport Minister Norbert Hofer, defended the neo-Nazi propaganda that was propagated by the FPÖ Vöcklamarkt (see individual case 119). Babitsch wrote on Facebook: "So, where is the problem? Any reliable breeding of animals makes it necessary not to mix anything". After the newspaper "Standard" reported about the racist posting, it evoked strong criticism. Babitsch resigned his political functions and quitted the FPÖ.

### Individual case 121

The Ring of Freedom Youth (the youth wing of the FPÖ) Upper Austria distributed a School Diary that contained incitements against immigrants and distort history. In the past, Austria was "peaceful, clean and prosperous". Now, because of the immigration "it is in a state of emergency" and has to be "returned" to the Austrians, claimed the Freedom Youth. The racist diary evoked hundreds of indignant comments on Facebook and Twitter.

### October 2018:

#### Individual case 122

Walter Seledec, Deputy Leader of the FPÖ parliamentary group in Vienna-Döbling, published a comment in the FPÖ-related weekly newspaper "Zur Zeit" by accusing the Allies, who liberated Austria from the Nazi regime, of terrorism.

## Individual case 123

In the preface of a book, the FPÖ Mayor of Wels, Andreas Rabl, described his grandfather Max Rabl as a Nazi opponent. The initiative against fascism of Wels however revealed: Max Rabl was a committed National Socialist who benefited professionally from the “Anschluss” of Austria to Hitler-Germany in 1938. The reasons for a brief Gestapo arrest in 1939 are unclear. A newspaper of that time had reported of “financial irregularities”.

## November 2018:

### Individual case 124

Alfred Reisinger, official of the FPÖ list “AUF” at the Austrian Armed Forces and FPÖ member in Vienna-Floridsdorf, disseminated on Facebook an aggressive anti-Semitic conspiracy theory without comment. The text starts with the sentences “Humanity awakens!!! Satan’s synagogue will now definitely be rendered innocuous. This is how it is - Salvation to us all!!!”.

### Individual case 125

It became public knowledge that Konrad Markwart Weiß, press spokesman of FPÖ Vice Chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache, wrote in the extreme right-wing magazine “Sezession” about the “disaster of 1945”. Apparently he referred to the downfall of the Nazi regime.

## Individual case 126

It was made public that the FPÖ Local Party Chairman of Henndorf am Wallersee, Josef Brandstätter, had belonged to a WhatsApp group, which shared Nazi-glorifying content. Among others, there was a message referring to Hitler’s birthday with the words “Today is a National Holiday. Sieg Heil!” Brandstätter also has a personalized license plate with the number 88, a neo-Nazi code for “Heil Hitler”. Apparently he resigned from the FPÖ.

## Individual case 127

While Austria commemorated the persecution of the Jews during the November Pogrom in 1938, FPÖ politicians commemorated the Nazi pilot Walter Nowotny at the Viennese central cemetery. The National Socialists had worshiped Nowotny as a war hero. His being an enthusiastic supporter of Hitler until the end gave reason to deny his grave the status of an honor grave 15 years ago. The Viennese FPÖ Members of the Provincial Assembly Wolfgang Jung, Johann Herzog and Wolfgang Irschik participated at the commemoration for the Nazi idol, as well as Walter Seledec, Deputy Leader of the FPÖ Parliamentary Group in Vienna-Döbling. There were also Neo-Nazis present.

## Individual case 128

The FPÖ shared a racist video on Facebook that shows a person named “Ali” wearing a Fez (i.e. an oriental headdress) who wants to abuse the e-card (social insurance card) of his cousin “Mustafa”. But in the future, the e-card will be equipped with a photo, so his attempt fails: “Bad luck, Ali.

This means now: Good bye, social abuse”. This incitement triggered wide rejection. The FPÖ leadership claimed that a simple employee in the party headquarters is solely responsible for the video. However, ORF journalist Armin Wolf pointed out that the FPÖ Upper Austria had been broadcasting a similar video since 2014.

### Individual case 129

The FPÖ Wien-Döbling commanded that “no further Muslim migrants should be allowed as tenants in Döbling’s public housing”. In addition, Klemens Resch, Leader of the FPÖ Parliamentary Group in Vienna-Döbling, disseminated a conspiracy theory: He claimed that the SPÖ would deliberately establish Muslim immigrants in order to secure their votes. The human rights organization “SOS Mitmensch” filed a complaint against the FPÖ Vienna on suspicion of incitement. A week later, the Viennese FPÖ leadership changed the demand and required a “citizenship bonus for public housing”.

### Individual case 130

The FPÖ Third President of the National Council Anneliese Kitzmüller invited the folklore group “Lords of Darkness” into the parliament. Members of this group displayed tattoos on Facebook that are reminiscent of swastikas. After the electoral victory of Alexander Van der Bellen in the presidential election, the Chairman of the “Lords of Darkness” group, Marcel Delija, posted that he will get himself a gun. Anneliese Kitzmüller is a member of the sororities “Iduna zu Linz” and “Sigrid zu Wien”.

## December 2018:

### Individual case 131

It was made public that FPÖ Municipal Councilor Salvatore Angelo Raineri from Kleinzell had claimed on Facebook that the term “Nazi” is a 2000-year-old invention of the Jews by saying that this term is connected with Nazareth and means “holy persons, chosen by God”. FPÖ District Party Chairman Christian Hafenecker, who is also the Secretary General of the party, considered the posting inappropriate, but satirical. In the end, Raineri received a warning.

### Individual case 132

FPÖ Provincial Councilor for Lower Austria, Gottfried Waldhäusl, called for a “special treatment” for “asylum seekers unwilling to integrate”. The term “Sonderbehandlung” that he used for “special treatment” was used in the Nazi era for the murder of undesirable humans. A few days before, Waldhäusl provided that refugee minors shall be locked up in a desolate lodging with a barbed wire fence and guard dog. After the children’s and youth advocacy gave a very negative assessment of the lodging, the adolescents were moved to a decent housing.

### Individual case 133

The human rights organization “SOS Mitmensch” filed a complaint against Martin Pfeiffer, who was the editor-in-chief of the FPÖ-related magazine “Aula” until its suspension in June 2018 (see individual cases 65 and 106). The exposition of the facts that underpinned the complaint compri-

sed 300 pages. According to that, the magazine “Aula” had been systematically used for National Socialist reactivation over a period of ten years. Martin Pfeiffer is the FPÖ Deputy District Chairman in Graz-St. Leonhard. He writes for the extreme right-wing magazine “Info-Direkt” (see individual cases 71, 81 and 103).

### Individual case 134

David Chloupek, FPÖ Treasurer and Substitute Municipal Councilor in Natternbach, insulted on Facebook the politician Alev Korum from the “Grüne” party in an extremely aggressive and misogynist manner. In addition, he wished her to be the subject of a gang rape. When this became public knowledge, he quit the FPÖ and resigned from his position as Substitute Councilor.

## January 2019:

### Individual case 135

The FPÖ City Party Chairman of Pregarten, Michael Prückl, got into an argument with a teenage boy in road traffic and beat him with the fist in the face. When this became public knowledge, he quit the FPÖ. But Prückl has already attracted attention several times: Among others, in 2015, he had shared content of a Holocaust denier on his Facebook page. Also in 2015, he allegedly liked a Hitler speech. At that time, the FPÖ politician claimed that his Facebook page had been hacked.

### Individual case 136

FPÖ Interior Minister, Herbert Kickl, attacked again the European Convention on Human Rights (see individual case 28): According to him, there are “some strange

legal constructions, part of which are ancient and conceived of completely different situations, that prevent us from doing the necessary things.” After which Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen stated that shaking the foundations of the European Convention on Human Rights would be like “terminating the basic consensus of the Second Republic”. ÖVP Justice Minister Josef Moser emphasized that the Convention on Human Rights has stood the test of time and is the basis of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

### Individual case 137

The extreme right-wing “Identitarians” held their annual conference in Linz. Apart from Vienna and Graz, Linz is one of their strongholds. The Identitarians are closely connected with the extreme right-wing fraternity “Arminia Czernowitz”. The FPÖ leadership of Linz draws its members from this fraternity: The long-standing FPÖ Vice-Mayor and FPÖ City Party Chairman Detlef Wimmer belongs to the fraternity as well as his successor Markus Hein and the new FPÖ City Councilor Michael Raml.

## February 2019:

### Individual case 138

FPÖ Vice Chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache withdrew his complaint against political adviser Rudolf Fußi. Fußi had posted a photo on Twitter, which showed Strache in 2015 sitting with two Identitarians at a table. One of them was Patrick Lenart, a leading activist. Strache claimed that the photo was a fake, but his claim had



been disproved in court. At that time, the FPÖ Vice Chancellor also admitted the distribution of videos of the extreme right-wing Identitarians.

### Individual case 139

The human rights organization “SOS Mitmensch” disclosed that Harald Vilimsky, FPÖ Secretary General and top party candidate for the EU election, had used taxpayers’ money to place five full-page advertisements in the magazine “Info-Direkt”. “Info-Direkt” disseminates racist, anti-Semitic and conspiracist content. The magazine that Vilimsky supported also promotes the Identitarians. The Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance classifies it as “extreme right-wing with neo-Nazi background”.

## March 2019:

### Individual case 140

FPÖ Interior Minister Herbert Kickl called for renaming the initial reception centers for asylum seekers in Traiskirchen and Thalhambach in “Departure centers”. This cynical act evoked strong criticism. Following the dismissal of Interior Minister Kickl in May 2019, the Platform “Menschen Würde Österreich” removed the “Departure center” sign in Traiskirchen. Kickl’s short-term successor Eckart Ratz revoked the name change.

### Individual case 141

Christian Tiefenbacher, FPÖ candidate for the post of Mayor in Niedernsill, wrote on Facebook that a surprise visit by FPÖ Provincial Party Chairman Marlene Svazek was finalized with a “sauSSage meal

in Stuhlfelden”. As the FPÖ Salzburg explained, Tiefenbacher had mistakenly typed “SS” instead of “ss” on the keyboard.

### Individual case 142

It was made public that the Ring of Freedom Youth (the youth wing of the FPÖ) had co-opted André Taschner as a consultant for social media for the federal board. In 2011, Taschner was excluded by the FPÖ Styria from the party because of his neo-Nazi contacts. Michael Raml, acting Federal Chairman of the Freedom Youth and FPÖ City Councillor in Linz, nevertheless considers Taschner to be “absolutely a man of integrity”.

### Individual case 143

It was made public that the FPÖ Members of Parliament Edith Mühlberghuber and Peter Gerstner are part of the closed Facebook group “Deutsches Reich” (German Reich). The group was founded by the “citizen of the Reich” Karl Dettmer and distributes Nazi-glorifying and anti-Semitic content. The members also deny the Holocaust: “Not a single Jew has been killed by a gas chamber.” The two MPs quit the Facebook group. The FPÖ claimed that they were added to the group without being asked. However, Mühlberghuber was also a friend with the group founder Dettmer on Facebook, which could not have happened without her consent.

### Individual case 144

The Styrian SPÖ Member of the Provincial Assembly, Michaela Grubesa, criticized sexist postings on the Facebook page of the Ring of Freedom Youth, which showed “women in dirndl dresses with plunging necklines”. Thereupon, the FPÖ Member of the Provincial Assembly Helga Kügerl responded with a racist statement hinting at the Croatian migrant background of Grubesa: “I won’t let even a Yugoslav woman degrade the Dirndl, the Styrian traditional costume.”

### Individual case 145

When it was known to the public that the extreme right-wing mass murderer Brenton Tarrant had financially supported the Austrian Identitarians, the FPÖ claimed not to have any connection to the latter. FPÖ Vice Chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache: “The Freedom Party has nothing to do with the Identitarians.” This claim is demonstrably untrue (see individual cases 25, 36, 38, 40, 83, 85, 91, 137, 138, and 139). Also the website “stopptdierechten.at” points out numerous connections extending all the way into the FPÖ parliamentary club. Some examples: Siegfried Wachschnig, parliamentary employee of FPÖ Member of Parliament Axel Kassegger, was treasurer of an Identitarians association in Graz and speaker at demonstrations of the Identitarians. Bernadette Conrads, parliamentary assistant of the FPÖ Member of Parliament Christian Pewny, was for

many years an activist of the Identitarians in Vienna. Géza Molnár, Deputy Provincial Party Chairman of the FPÖ Burgenland, had participated in a meeting of the Identitarians and declared their ideology as being “completely harmless”. Johannes Schüller, deputy editor-in-chief of the FPÖ-related newspaper “Wochenblick”, had co-founded the Identitarians in Germany.

### April 2019:

#### Individual case 146

It was made public that in January 2019, the Heeresabwehramt (one of the two intelligence services of the Austrian Armed Forces) had withdrawn the restriction notices of soldiers who are activists or supporters of the extreme right-wing Identitarians. This would have affected 56 militiamen, seven professional soldiers and seven servicemen in compulsory military service. After outraged reactions on the part of the opposition parties, FPÖ Defense Minister Mario Kunasek introduced the restriction notices again. He claimed that the withdrawal was done without his instructions. According to Member of Parliament Peter Pilz from the party “Liste Jetzt”, Kunasek clearly had the responsibility: “The intelligence service did not want to do that.”

#### Individual case 147

The FPÖ Third President of the National Council Anneliese Kitzmüller (see individual case 130) appointed Dimitrij Grieb as her office manager. This decision triggered wide rejection. Grieb had been sentenced to a conditional fine because he had insulted the Life Ball organizer Gery Keszler in the FPÖ-related weekly newspaper “Zur

Zeit” by calling him a “professional fagot”. Grieb is also spokesman of the fraternity “Moldavia”. He had once complained on the fraternity website that “astonishingly rigorous judicial procedures” make it no longer possible to question “historical dogmas” of the 20th century. In 2014, Grieb appeared to be the author of a protocol of the extreme right-wing “Junge Landsmannschaft Ostdeutschland” (Young Homeland Association of East Germany).

### Individual case 148

Andreas Pable, candidate of the FPÖ list “AUF” at the magistrate of Wels and employee of the municipal police station, was trading swastika badges on a flea market. After a report in the newspaper “Standard”, Pable was dismissed.

### Individual case 149

FPÖ Vice Chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache shared on his Facebook page an anti-Muslim contribution of the neo-Nazi website “ZaroneWS” and wrote: “No, I will not allow myself to be silenced!” On the “ZaroneWS” website, the Holocaust is referred to as the “biggest lie in world history” and Hitler as the “savior”. FPÖ Member of Parliament Peter Gerstner (see individual case 143) shared the same contribution from the neo-Nazi website as Strache did. Gerstner wrote: “The Muslims believe that they are above the law.”

### Individual case 150

FPÖ Vice Mayor of Braunau, Christian Schilcher, published a racist poem in the FPÖ city newspaper and evoked strong

and international criticism: In the poem, he compared people with rats and wrote of “sewerage background”. ÖVP Chancellor Sebastian Kurz demanded that the FPÖ Upper Austria shall distance itself from this text. Schilcher resigned and quitted the FPÖ.

### Individual case 151

In an interview with Harald Vilimsky, FPÖ Secretary General and top party candidate for the EU election, ORF journalist Armin Wolf (see individual case 128) illustrated the similarity of a cartoon of the Freedom Youth Styria with the caricature of a Jew in the Nazi hate sheet “Stürmer”. The cartoon shows how a native family in green traditional dresses is threatened by sinister immigrants with long noses, beards and hunchbacks. Vilimsky reacted with outrage to the comparison and announced towards Wolf: “This will be followed by consequences.”

### Individual case 152

The non-executive Councilor of the FPÖ Vienna, Ursula Stenzel, compared the ORF journalist Armin Wolf with the Hanging Judges of the Nazi regime: He could “appear before the People’s Court”. The reason for this statement is the critical interview that Wolf conducted with FPÖ’s leading candidate for the EU election, Harald Vilimsky (see individual case 151). Stenzel’s comparison triggered wide rejection. Former Federal President Heinz Fischer (see individual case 60) stated: “Anyone who has learned anything from history will not accept this, but condemn it.”

### Individual case 153

It was made public that Erol Prager, functionary of the FPÖ list “AUF” at the Viennese Professional Rescue Organization, had over a year and a half shared Nazi symbols and Hitler pictures on Facebook. Among other things, he had posted a picture of an old woman with biscuits in swastika shape and commented: “Grandma’s biscuits are the best!” The Viennese Professional Rescue Organization suspended Prager from the service. Also a report was made. FPÖ Secretary General Christian Hafenecker claimed that Prager is no longer part of the AUF. But the AUF website and the “younion” trade union showed the opposite.

### Individual case 154

FPÖ Vice Chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache used the extreme right-wing propaganda term “population replacement”. Despite strong and international criticism, Strache stuck to it: This is a “term of reality”, which the FPÖ has “always used”. Martin Sellner, spokesman for the extreme right-wing Identitarians commented happily on Twitter on Strache’s choice of words: Now we have an “open and free” talk about the “population replacement”.

## May 2019:

### Individual case 155

The FPÖ Deputy Local Party Chairman of St. Martin im Innkreis, Annemarie Scheibhofer, disseminated extreme right-wing and anti-Semitic content on Facebook and via the Russian network vk.com, among others content in which she denied the Holocaust. After this was known to the public, she resigned.

### Individual case 156

It was made public that the FPÖ City Councilor of Leonding and candidate for the post of Mayor, Peter Hametner, is the contact person of the fraternity “Donauhort zu Aschach”. The song of the fraternity is the “Treuelied” (song of faithfulness) of the SS. In addition, the fraternity threatens with “German blows”. International umbrella organizations of concentration camp survivors are evidencing both facts.

### Individual case 157

The FPÖ Upper Austria nominated the FPÖ affiliated painter Manfred “Odin” Wiesinger as a member of the regional advisory council on the arts. Wiesinger had published in extreme right-wing media such as “Info-Direkt” and “Aula”, had named a picture series “Endsieg” (Final Victory) and had insulted the Rector of the Academy of Fine Arts, Eva Blimlinger, in an extremely misogyny manner. The nomination evoked widespread criticism. However, ÖVP Head of the Provincial government Thomas Stelzer explained that the FPÖ had a right to do so. Only after Wiesinger threatened his critics in an interview, spoke of the “Auschwitz lie” and the FPÖ was burdened by the “Ibiza video”, Stelzer enforced Wiesinger’s resignation and also the resignation of FPÖ Provincial Councilor Elmar Podgorschek (see in individual cases 81, 108 and 109).

### Individual case 158

According to a couple from Salzburg, three FPÖ politicians from Ebensee - Mu-

nicipal Executive Sebastian Heissl, Parliamentary Group Chairman Anton Mair and Municipal Councilor Harald Müller - had expressed a disparaging view on the “commemoration industry” at a concentration camp commemoration ceremony. The couple therefore showed dismay in a letter to SPÖ mayor of Ebensee, Markus Siller. After the letter was made public, the FPÖ Upper Austria denied the disparaging statements of the FPÖ politicians.

## June 2019:

### Individual case 159

After the EU elections, a new right-wing extremist faction with parties such as the German AfD and the Italian Lega developed in the EU Parliament under the name “Identity and Democracy”. Also the FPÖ joined this faction and thus demonstrated its political position.

### Individual case 160

In representation of the Third President of the National Council Anneliese Kitzmüller, the FPÖ assigned the Member of Parliament Martin Graf to the Board of Trustees of the National Fund for the Victims of National Socialism. This assignment evoked widespread criticism. Graf is a member of the extreme right-wing fraternity “Olympia”, which is time and time again inviting neo-Nazis and Holocaust deniers. The Jewish Community stepped down from his Board of Trustees position for the period of Graf’s assignment.

### Individual case 161

The FPÖ Lower Austria nominated its District Party Chairman of Tulln, Andreas Bors, for the FPÖ candidate list for the parliamentary elections. In November 2014, a photo was published showing Bors and two other men while making the Hitler salute. Therefore, in November 2017, Bors was forced to renounce a position in the Federal Council (see individual cases 14 and 69).

### Individual case 162

The FPÖ-related weekly magazine “Zur Zeit” disparaged the president of the Jewish Community, Oskar Deutsch, as “Ayatollah”. The Jewish Community accused the magazine “Zur Zeit” to secretly influence the legislation. The background of the anti-Semitic attack: the Jewish Community had protested against the assignment of FPÖ Member of Parliament Martin Graf to the Board of Trustees of the National Fund for the Victims of National Socialism (see individual case 160). Following a demand of the human rights organization “SOS Mitmensch”, Defense Minister Thomas Starlinger reacted: He stopped the advertisements of his ministry in the magazine “Zur Zeit” and in other extreme right-wing media. These advertisements had been approved by his predecessor, former FPÖ Defense Minister Mario Kunasek.

## July 2019

### Individual case 163

The news magazine “profil” reported that right-wing extremist media had received a total of at least 116,000 euros in taxpayers’

money from FPÖ ministers of the dissolved federal government and from politicians from the FPÖ Upper Austria. The leading person behind it was FPÖ Transport Minister Norbert Hofer, the now Federal Party Chairman. With these public advertisements, they promoted the dissemination of racist, anti-Semitic and conspiracist content. Among the beneficiary media were “Wochenblick”, “Alles Roger?”, “Zur Zeit”, “unzensuriert.at” and “Info-Direkt”. According to the news magazine “profil”, the actual funding amount could be even higher because, for example, the FPÖ-led city of Wels has so far refused to forward any information on this subject.

### Individual case 164

The FPÖ Provincial Party Chairman of Styria, Mario Kunasek, and FPÖ Member of Parliament Hannes Amesbauer demanded “education camps” for strongly conspicuous and potentially violent young people. Amesbauer especially sees students from migrant families as a problem. However, as a teenager, he would have been a candidate for an “education camp” as well because he was then convicted of painting swastika graffiti. When he was already FPÖ politician, he contributed texts to the extreme right-wing, now discontinued magazine “Aula” (see individual cases 65, 106 and 133).

### Individual case 165

Alexander Böhm, FPÖ Local Party Chairman of Kaprun, claimed on Facebook that in a pizzeria in Kaprun, Austrian guests were no longer served, “only Arabs”. As a result, the landlord - an Austrian citizen

of Turkish-Kurdish origin - became the target of insults and threats. After a “fact check”, the “district newspapers” reported that the landlord is leasing his place in the summer, but also the leaseholder is welcoming all guests. Thus, Böhm’s accusations proved to be wrong.

### Individual case 166

Karl Dieter Trucker, FPÖ Local Party Chairman of Bergheim, fired several shots from the balcony of his apartment. The police unit “Cobra” arrested Trucker and confiscated several weapons at his place. According to the APA, the FPÖ politician had acted in anger over the dismissal of Herbert Kickl as Interior Minister. Trucker allegedly imagined to shoot at Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen and ÖVP Federal Party Chairman Sebastian Kurz. The FPÖ expelled Trucker from the party. The prosecution of Salzburg is investigating on suspicion of danger to physical safety.

### Individual case 167

The FPÖ Member of the Provincial Assembly Salzburg, Ernst Lassacher, shared a picture on Facebook that showed a rapid-fire rifle with the following text: “The more you learn about the state, the more you understand why our politicians do not want to allow citizens to have arms.” Thereupon, Daniela Gutsch, ÖVP Leader of the Salzburg Provincial Assembly, warned of a climate of violence and extreme right-wing attacks.

## Individual case 168

The FPÖ expelled its City Party Chairman of Hallein, Oliver Mitterlechner, from the party. Mitterlechner had publicly criticized that there were too few consequences for potentially violent and extreme right-wing functionaries in the FPÖ: “It is high time to clean up in this party.” As a reaction to Mitterlechner’s expulsion, two other FPÖ Municipal Councilors of Hallein quitted the party.

## Individual case 169

Markus Gudenus, FPÖ District Councilor in Vienna-Wieden, demanded on Facebook the death penalty for a mentally ill man who in Frankfurt am Main had pushed an eight-year-old boy under a train and thus killed him. The man is originally from Eritrea. The FPÖ Vienna distanced itself from Gudenus’ demand by saying that it represents a “private opinion”.

Many individual cases = one pattern.

**Which pattern  
becomes clear  
through these  
individual cases?**



- » **The amount of extreme right-wing activities of FPÖ politicians has increased considerably. Never before have there been so many new cases.** The Mauthausen committee was able to properly document a total of 106 individual cases in the period of about five and a half years, from the beginning of 2013 to the end of May 2018. In the period since then, which is approximately one year, there have been already 63! Only in July 2019, in the last month that was documented, 7 individual cases were registered.
  
- » **The new individual cases also occur at all levels of the FPÖ.** Heinz-Christian Strache, Norbert Hofer, Herbert Kickl, Mario Kunasek, Harald Vilimsky, Manfred Haimbuchner and Anneliese Kitzmüller are as well the actors of relevant activities as are many low and middle ranking officials of the party.
  
- » **Anti-Semitism in the FPÖ, which existence had been denied in the past years, arises openly time and again.** FPÖ-related media disseminate anti-Semitic content and are funded with taxpayers' money. An FPÖ politician even claims that the term "Nazi" is an invention of the Jews. While still holding the position of Vice Chancellor, Heinz-Christian Strache shared a post on a website that described the Holocaust as the "greatest lie in world history".

- » **The FPÖ is inciting aggressively against refugees and minorities.** The party does not even shy away from completely baseless defamations of individuals.
- » **Cynical contempt for mankind and potential violence are common features of the individual cases.** An FPÖ Provincial Councilor arranged that young asylum seeker were locked behind barbed wire. An FPÖ functionary tormented refugees. Another one wished a politician from the "Grüne" party to be the subject of a gang rape. Again another one fired bullets from the balcony of his apartment while imagining to shoot at the Federal President and the former Chancellor. These are only a few frightening examples.
- » **The FPÖ shows a close proximity to Nazi ideology.** Many new individual cases demonstrate a National Socialist or neo-Nazi connection.
- » **The anti-democratic activities in the FPÖ only have consequences once they are made public and if the party leadership is afraid of disadvantages.** However, they prefer to deny or downplay the situations if possible.
- » **Extreme right-wing activities are no obstacle to climb the career ladder in the FPÖ.** In Wels, a person who was active in National Socialist reactivation, became Parliamentary Group Chairman of the FPÖ. In Lower Austria, an FPÖ

politician, who was photographed while doing the Hitler salute, runs for the National Council. The Freedom Youth has co-opted a former FPÖ official in their federal board, who was expelled from the party because of his neo-Nazi contacts.

- » **Among the federal states, Upper Austria is by a wide margin clearly at the top.** Of the 63 new individual cases, 21 - which is a third! - show a direct connection to politicians of the FPÖ Upper Austria. Through the FPÖ, right-wing extremism in Upper Austria reaches as far as the provincial government. It is incomprehensible that the ÖVP Head of the Provincial Government, Thomas Stelzer, sticks to a "working agreement" with a party that is inciting even in schools against immigrants and disseminating neo-Nazi propaganda such as "Protect Your Race!". With regard to the size of the state, Salzburg is also remarkably well represented with seven new individual cases.

The historian Margit Reiter teaches at the University of Vienna and is an expert on the history of the FPÖ. She stated:

**"The individual cases reveal the ideological core."**

# Could the FPÖ be capable of governing?

- » **The FPÖ continues to work closely with right-wing extremists in Austria.** Many and especially leading FPÖ politicians belong to extreme right-wing fraternities. Despite all attempts to deny, they keep very good contact with the Identitarians.
- » **The FPÖ continues to work closely with right-wing extremists abroad.** Only recently, in June 2019, the FPÖ founded together with parties such as the AfD and the Lega a new extreme right-wing faction in the EU Parliament. Thus, the party demonstrates its political position also internationally.
- » **There is no sign that the FPÖ seriously wants to terminate its close ties with right-wing extremists in Austria and abroad.**
- » **There is not even a hint of a development of the FPÖ in the direction of being a more moderate party and thus being able to govern the country.** Rather, one has to assume that the party will continue with its extreme right-wing activities. In the event that the FPÖ would participate again in the government, it would again cause serious damage to the democracy and to Austria's reputation in the world.

ÖVP Federal Party Chairman Sebastian Kurz, who was the Federal Chancellor of the ÖVP-FPÖ-led coalition government for 17 months, came to the following conclusion:

**“If I would have thought  
that the Freedom Party  
would be capable of governing,  
there would have been no need  
to terminate the coalition.”**

However, it can be hoped, that this insight will outlast the parliamentary elections.

**The 106 individual  
cases from the  
beginning of 2013  
until the end  
of May 2018**

(from the documentations “Nothing but individual cases?” and “Individual cases and repeat offenders”)

## February 2013:

### Individual case 1

FPÖ municipal councilor Fabian Wetter from Franking is posting a photo on Facebook, which shows the German Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel with the Star of David and the insulting remark “traitor to the country”. As soon as this is known to the public, he resigns from the FPÖ.

### Individual case 2

In 2002, FPÖ municipal executive board member Michael Gruber from Auroldmünster had insulted the director of the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance (DÖW) with using the word “Judenschwein” (Jewpig) and threatened to kill him. For this reason, Gruber has been sentenced because of National Socialist reactivation and dangerous threat to a conditional prison term of 18 months. When this gets known to the public, he resigns from the FPÖ.

## April 2013:

### Individual case 3

The FPÖ parliamentary group chairman from Linz, Sebastian Orner, had to resign, because several extreme right-wing activities became public knowledge: in the past, he had among others practiced the assassination of political opponents at “paramilitary sports” with the neo-Nazi Gottfried Küssel.

## January 2014:

### Individual case 4

The previously convicted Michael Gruber from Auroldmünster who had been sentenced because of National Socialist reactivation and dangerous threat, and who resigned from the FPÖ a year ago, is part of the list of candidates of Freedom Party employees for the Chamber of Labour elections in Upper Austria. The regional chairman of the Freedom Party employees, Manfred Pühringer, calls this an “error”.

### Individual case 5

The regional chairman of the Freedom Party employees in Upper Austria, Manfred Pühringer, is posting an insult on Facebook directed to a municipal councilor of the SPÖ with Bosnian Serb roots (who had shortly before been a victim of an assassination), by calling him “hand granates Yugo”.

## February 2014:

### Individual case 6

In the federal state parliament, the FPÖ Carinthia is the only party that rejects the erection of a memorial for the victims of the Nazis at the former Gestapo headquarters in Klagenfurt.

### Individual case 7

The weekly paper “Zur Zeit”, which is edited by the right-wing populist EU member of parliament Andreas Mölzer and redacted by the Freedom Party member of the national parliament Wendelin Mölzer, is mocking the social democratic

resistance fighter Richard Bernaschek, who had been murdered by the SS, with stating that he had been “overtaken by the grim reaper” in Mauthausen.

## March 2014:

### Individual case 8

The German daily newspaper “Süddeutsche Zeitung” reveals that during a panel discussion right-wing populist EU member of parliament Andreas Mölzer compared the European Union with the “Third Reich” and called it a “Negro conglomerate”.

## April 2014:

### Individual case 9

When it gets known to the public that the right-wing populist EU member of parliament Andreas Mölzer also attacked the Austrian national soccer team member David Alaba with racist statements, he is forced to resign.

## June 2014:

### Individual case 10

The FPÖ municipal councilor and local party chairman for Groß-Enzersdorf, Rudolf Fischer, disseminates racist propaganda on Facebook. He is posting: “Human beings are like bananas ... nobody wants the black!”

### Individual case 11

The provincial party secretary of the FPÖ Lower Austria and member of the national parliament Christian Hafenecker dismisses those who criticise racist propaganda as being “moralizers”.

## September 2014:

### Individual case 12

The deputy federal party chairman Johann Gudenus expresses in a meeting of right-wing conservative and extreme right-wing politicians in Moscow a warning against a “lobby of homosexuals”, which may be extremely powerful with having its own newspapers and TV stations. The goal of this lobby would be to reach the equality of homosexuals. “It is hard to imagine where this all is going lead,” says Gudenus.

## November 2014:

### Individual case 13

FPÖ member of parliament Christian Höbart insulted refugees on Facebook by calling them “soil- and cavemen.”

### Individual case 14

The “Bezirksblätter Niederösterreich” (regional newspapers Lower Austria) published a photo showing Andreas Bors, FPÖ district chairman from Tulln, and two other men making the Hitler salute. After Bors claimed that it was in connection with “fan chants for Rapid”, the soccer club reacted with outrage: “No such gestures are used when cheering on the players.”



### Individual case 15

FPÖ municipal councilor Kurt Lindlgruber from Steyr incited in Nazi manner, claiming that those governing are “parasites and spongers” supported by the “leftist pen pushers of the regime”. He openly threatened opponents with forced labor on the “potato field.” The FPÖ parliamentary group chairman Helmut Zörtl distanced himself, however, there was no word of consequences for Lindlgruber.

### January 2015:

#### Individual case 16

The local FPÖ party chairman of Bad Aussee, Hans Wunner, has to resign when it gets known to the public that he is also actively working for the neo-Nazi “European Action” of Holocaust denier Bernhard Schaub.

#### Individual case 17

The FPÖ regional party chairman for Vorarlberg, Dieter Egger, created an uproar with an anti-Semitic statement: It should be clear to the director of the Jewish Museum in Hohenems, Hanno Loewy, “that decisions are made in the town hall and not in the Jewish quarter”.

#### Individual case 18

During its city council elections, the FPÖ Heidenreichstein is agitating against asylum seekers, claiming that they had “abused a prostitute” so that she had to be “brought to the hospital”. According to the county police commander, this claim is “simply wrong”.

### March 2015:

#### Individual case 19

FPÖ Member of the national parliament Barbara Rosenkranz is listed among the speakers of the extreme right German magazine “Zuerst!”. Among the speakers, there is also the Russian right-wing extremist Alexander Dugin, as well as the German revisionist of history Walter Post, who denies the war guilt of Hitler’s Germany.

#### Individual case 20

The deputy federal party chairman of the FPÖ Johann Gudenus denies of having agreed to take part at a European neo-Nazi meeting in St. Petersburg. Only when the APA publishes his own letter as a proof, he claims of having had “memory gaps” and says that shortly after his acceptance he had cancelled the commitment.

### April 2015:

#### Individual case 21

The FPÖ city party chairman of Eisenstadt, Géza Molnár, is insulting the ÖVP because of a Public Viewing for the Eurovisions Song Contest by stating that the party would have a “degenerate soul“, because it is making “a penetrating parade of queers to a major event in the city of Haydn“.

## May 2015:

### Individual case 22

The FPÖ municipal councilor Gerald Hraball from Gloggnitz insulted refugees on Facebook by calling them “human material”, which would be “completely useless and problematic for Europe”. The provincial party secretary of the FPÖ Lower Austria, Christian Hafenecker, first did not want to see this as a Nazi phrase. But shortly after that Hraball left the party.

## June 2015:

### Individual case 23

The FPÖ deputy district leader of Vienna-Ottakring, Christian Hein, is thanking the violent neo Nazi gang “Unsterblich” on Facebook for having supported his soccer team.

### Individual case 24

The FPÖ federal party chairman Heinz-Christian Strache uses the amok drive in Graz of a mentally ill person for agitation: “The perpetrator is from Bosnia. A religiously motivated attack cannot be excluded.” This attempt to use a person’s afflictions to score political points sparked several outraged reactions.

### Individual case 25

The Ring of Freedom Youth (the youth wing of the FPÖ) Burgenland is organising an event together with the extreme right “Identitarians” in Eisenstadt. The federal state chairman of the Freedom Youth, Werner Wassicek, emphasises that he is looking forward to invite “the ‘Identitarians’ to a red-blue Burgenland”.

## July 2015:

### Individual case 26

The FPÖ delegate to the county parliament of Tyrol, Hildegard Schwaiger, is forced to resign when it gets known to the public that she is the administrator of the racist Facebook-Group “Stop the asylum flood - also in Tyrol”.

## August 2015:

### Individual case 27

The FPÖ municipal councilor, Markus Ripfl, from Orth an der Donau is insulting the SPÖ, ÖVP and the Green Party on Facebook as being a “trio of betrayers of the nation”. In the Nazi era, the term „betrayers of the nation“ (Volksverräter) was used for enemies of the regime. Ripfl had already attracted attention by using right-wing extremist symbols, such as the Kühnen salute (a variation of the Hitler salute) and the Celtic cross.

### Individual case 28

Secretary General of the FPÖ, Herbert Kickl, criticised the European Convention on Human Rights, and stated that it would create a “gateway for illegal mass immigration” and should be changed or replaced for that reason. Minister of Justice, Wolfgang Brandstetter, replied that whoever questions the European Convention on Human Rights is acting outside the constitutional arch and would be a “gravedigger of the Western World”.

## September 2015:

### Individual case 29

The FPÖ local party chairman from Lambach, Johann Gibitz, explained that he is about to boycott the products of an Upper Austrian food producer, because the wife of the manager is giving free German lectures to refugees.

## October 2015:

### Individual case 32

The chairwoman of the FPÖ parliamentary group Sabina Kracher is writing on Facebook about refugees: "To many parasites are actually killing the host!" Even though city party chairman of the FPÖ, Wolfgang Mayer, has no problems with this comparison, Kracher resigns a few days later.

### Individual case 30

FPÖ municipal councilor candidate Ralph Schäfer from Wels gets known to the public as the founder of a "vigilant group". With this self-declared "vigilant group", he would like to combat "burglar gangs from abroad". It also gets known to the public that Schäfer glorified Hitler's deputy Rudolf Heß as "martyr" and thus had to stand trial because of National Socialist reactivation. The process ended in an alternative measure.

### Individual case 33

FPÖ member of the national parliament Susanne Winter likes an anti-Semitic posting on Facebook, which is directed against „rich Zionist Jews“. With public criticism getting stronger and stronger, the FPÖ excludes Winter from its party. Nevertheless, she remains in the National Council.

### Individual case 31

On the FPÖ affiliated website „unzensuriert.at“, an anonymous neo Nazi is insulting the director of the Jewish Museum Vienna, Danielle Spera, and the historian Oliver Rathkolb with the Nazi term "Volksschädlinge" (parasites to the nation). The website operators do not even remove this posting after the Austrian daily newspaper "Kurier" reported about it.

## November 2015:

### Individual case 34

The FPÖ substitution municipal councilor Michael Grünwald from Feldkirchen an der Donau wrote on Facebook: "Fat wedding of Turks in Au an der Donau! Who will bring a little car bomb?" The FPÖ substitution municipal councilor Martin Hartl likes the posting. After public criticism by the SPÖ mayor, Grünwald and Hartl resign.

### Individual case 35

The FPÖ local party chairman from Taxenbach, Bernd Buchner, insulted the constitutional state on Facebook, because it is preventing a mentally ill amok driver from killing himself. "So, give him the desired string..." When this became public knowledge, the FPÖ provincial party chairman Andreas Schöppl defended his friend from the party for his "unfortunate wording".

### Individual case 36

The FPÖ city party chairman from Graz, Mario Eustacchio, participated at a demonstration against refugees from the extreme right-wing "identitarians" in Spielfeld. Also, neo-Nazis known to the authorities were among the protesters.

## January 2016:

### Individual case 37

FPÖ member of parliament Gerhard Deimek disseminated racist incitement propaganda together with his approving comment on the internet, including the insult of calling Muslim immigrants "permanently horny barbarians."

### Individual case 38

The liberal third president of the provincial assembly of Styria, Gerhard Kurzmann, participated at an anti-refugees demonstration of the extreme right-wing "identitarians" in Graz. Immediately after the demonstration "identitarians" attacked counter-demonstrators.

### Individual case 39

The FPÖ municipal councilor from Linz, Susanne Walcher, accused young Muslims on Facebook of having a tendency to child abuse, and her group colleague Markus Krazl accused them of having a tendency to sex with animals. The parties SPÖ, ÖVP and Grüne condemned the incitement propaganda. After a few days, Krazl resigned "for professional and familiar reasons". Walcher remained in the municipal council.

## February 2016:

### Individual case 40

FPÖ member of the national parliament Wolfgang Zanger is one of the speakers at a demonstration against refugees of the extreme right-wing "Identitarians" in Judenburg.

### Individual case 41

FPÖ treasurer from Zams, Patrick Oberprantacher, is attaching a quote to a picture of his federal party chairman Heinz-Christian Strache, which was used by the Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels: "Now, people rise up, and let the storm break loose!"

## April 2016:

### Individual case 42

The FPÖ municipal councilor Markus Ripfl from Orth an der Donau, who is also the chairman of the FPÖ student ring at the University of Vienna and Member of the extreme right student fraternity “Olympia”, is the person responsible for the invitation of Hungarian neo Nazis. The event of the “Olympia” is called “Revolution in Hungary – a role model for Austria?”

ce of the EP parliamentary group “Europe of Nations and Freedom” (of which the FPÖ is a part, together with the other parties) as an occasion.

### Individual case 43

The Viennese FPÖ city councilor Anton Mahdalik equates the followers of his party to the persecuted and victims of the Nazi regime.

## August 2016:

### Individual case 46

FPÖ municipal councilor Wolfgang Zistler from Schwechat wrote on Facebook that for him it is “an honor to be also called Nazi.” With this he referred to an accusation against the FPÖ presidential candidate Norbert Hofer. In addition, Zistler demanded that a judge who decided against Hofer shall “immediately be removed from her position.”

## June 2016:

### Individual case 44

The FPÖ Vienna refuses to name a school after the Nazi victim Friedrich Zawrel. As a child, Zawrel had survived the killing machinery of the Nazis in the euthanasia institution “Am Spiegelgrund”. Municipal councillor Dietrich Kops and FPÖ municipal councilor Werner Grebner are insulting the deceased by calling him a “criminal”.

## September 2016:

### Individual case 47

Elmar Podgorschek, FPÖ member of the Upper Austrian country council, agitates on Facebook against refugees. Among others, he claims that the country’s crime rate is exploding. The police disagrees: the number of crimes had declined. Podgorschek does not want to accept this fact and states that in his view “civil war is pre-programmed”.

### Individual case 45

With the motto “Patriotic Spring”, the FPÖ invites representatives of several extreme right-wing parties from other countries of the EU – among them Marine Le Pen from the French Front National – into the FPÖ’s parliamentary club, taking the 1st anniversary of the existen-

## October 2016:

### Individual case 48

At a folk festival, municipal councilor Andreas Lehner from Kremsmünster, insults the owner of a kebab stand in a racist way and smashes a window of the booth. Afterwards, he hurts an intervening police officer. When this gets known to the public, Lehner resigns and makes his FPÖ membership dormant. Later, he was sentenced to a conditional imprisonment of six months.

### Individual case 49

FPÖ Secretary General Herbert Kickl speaks at the extreme right-wing congress “Defenders of Europe” in Linz, which is target of broad international protests. Organisers of the congress are the extreme right-wing fraternity “Arminia Czernowitz”, whose most prominent members are the deputy major of Linz from the FPÖ party, and Detlef Wimmer, the FPÖ party leader of the city.

## November 2016:

### Individual case 50

Manfred Haimbuchner, the FPÖ deputy federal state chairman of Upper Austria, honours the NSDAP politician and SS brigade leader Anton Reinthaller in a speech. In 1950, Reinthaller was sentenced to three years imprisonment for high-reason, and in 1956, he became the first federal party chairman of the FPÖ.

## December 2016:

### Individual case 51

An FPÖ delegation travels to Moscow to conclude a “working agreement” with the party of Russian President Vladimir Putin. The delegation includes among others FPÖ federal party chairman Heinz-Christian Strache, the third president of the National Council Norbert Hofer, the deputy federal party chairman of the FPÖ Johann Gudenus and Stefan Magnet. In the past, Magnet was an activist of the extreme right-wing “Bund Freier Jugend” (Association of Freedomite Youth).

## January 2017:

### Individual case 52

FPÖ municipal councilor Andreas Freis from Aschach an der Steyr is insulting on Facebook the new Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen and his wife in an extremely aggressive manner. With regards to the Green Party, Freis writes that he would have loved to “strangle those idiots”. He suggests that a female journalist should be raped. When this gets known to the public, Freis resigns and makes his FPÖ membership dormant.

## March 2017:

### Individual case 53

FPÖ member of the national parliament Roman Haider enforces the termination of a lecture given by the extremism expert Thomas Rammerstorfer at a secondary school in Linz, of which also Haider’s son is a student. Rammerstorfer had mentioned the FPÖ in the context of right-wing fraternities. The director of the school re-

ports of massive threats by the liberal politician. Later on, the Province School Board comes to the conclusion that the termination was actually not admissible.

### Individual case 54

The FPÖ Upper Austria has set up a “reporting office” on its website: It calls upon students to denounce teachers who express themselves critically about the FPÖ.

## April 2017:

### Individual case 55

Franz Schardinger, member of the FPÖ district party leadership of Imst, congratulates Adolf Hitler on his birthday: “Happy Birthday, Adolf!” After the Green Member of the national parliament, Harald Walser, informed the public about it, the FPÖ excluded Schardinger. How the people inside the party are really thinking about this matter, has been revealed by Anneliese K. on Facebook: “Franz we accept and we love you, FPÖ Imst...” Franz Schardinger has already attracted attention by posing torture and murder fantasies.

### Individual case 56

The FPÖ city councilor of Linz, Markus Hein, announced a new edition of the extreme right-wing congress “Defenders of Europe” at the end of September in the Redoutensäle in Linz. Like his city party chairman Detlef Wimmer, Hein is also a member of the extreme right-wing fraternity “Arminia Czernowitz”. Later, the Congress will be postponed to March 2018, probably due to the National Elections in October.

## May 2017:

### Individual case 57

The FPÖ Lower Austria accused the ÖVP in a mailing of “blood disgrace”. In the time of the Nazis, the term “blood disgrace” was also used with the same meaning as “race disgrace”. As a protest, the SPÖ moved out of the provincial assembly, and the Grüne party also protested.

## June 2017:

### Individual case 58

FPÖ federal party chief Heinz-Christian Strache calls for a restriction of human rights in order to combat terror effectively. Strache refers to a statement by conservative British Prime Minister Theresa May.

## July 2017:

### Individual case 59

It gets known to the public that FPÖ member of the national parliament Johannes Hübner gave a speech at the 2016 annual convention of the extreme right-wing “Gesellschaft für Freie Publizistik” (Society for Open Journalism). Hübner, who is also the foreign policy spokesman of his party, said about the creator of the Austrian constitution: “Hans Kelsen - actually Hans Kohn, but he called himself Kelsen.” This anti-Semitic reference goes back to the leading Nazi legal practitioner Carl Schmitt. After massive protests, Hübner declined another candidature.

## August 2017:

### Individual case 60

The media is reporting all over Austria that in 2016, FPÖ municipal councilor candidate Manfred Sedovnik from St. Andrä am Zicksee had been sentenced to pay a fine of 4500 Euro because of National Socialist reactivation. He had demanded on Facebook to reopen the concentration camp Mauthausen and to send the then Federal President Heinz Fischer there. Sedovnik also became conspicuous by posting murder fantasies.

### Individual case 61

The Ring of Freedom Youth (the youth wing of the FPÖ) Carinthia is protesting against the newly elected “Mister Carinthia”, explicitly because of his origin and appearance. The background of the racist attack: Parsa Djawadiraad is an Austrian citizen and completely integrated, but comes originally from Iran.

### Individual case 62

It becomes publicly known that FPÖ municipal councilor candidate Walter Wolfgang from Bruckneudorf has also been active in the neo-Nazi splinter group “People’s Party”. On Facebook, he had called for the “unification” of Austria with Germany and disseminated an image of an SS soldier together with the saying “Our grandfathers were no criminals!”. The FPÖ deputy federal state chairman of Burgenland, Johann Tschürtz, commented these activities of the FPÖ politician: “As long as he does not have a criminal conviction, I don’t care.”

## September 2017:

### Individual case 63

On Facebook, the FPÖ Vomp publishes a list of elementary school children with foreign-sounding names. After outraged reactions, the Tyrolean FPÖ regional party chairman Markus Abwerzger explains that the posting had been cancelled. However, Abwerzger uses the word “scandal” with reference to the high proportion of migrants in some school classes, and not to the fact that his party is pillorying children.

### Individual case 64

Federal party chairman of the FPÖ, Heinz-Christian Strache, is disseminating a video on Facebook that shows several children from a migrant background together with their parents in front of an elementary school, without pixelated faces. He is commenting it with “Typical!”. Thus, he is also stirring up public opinion against children because of their origin.

### Individual case 65

The human rights organisation “SOS Mitmensch” criticises that the FPÖ continuously supports the FPÖ affiliated magazine “Aula” with large advertisements. Among others, they placed advertisements with federal party chairman Heinz-Christian Strache and the regional party chairman for Upper Austria, Manfred Haimbuchner. At the same time, the “Aula” repeatedly contains extreme right-wing, racist and antisemitic articles. The FPÖ affiliated magazine insulted for example survivors of the Mauthausen



concentration camp as “menace” and “criminals” – which it had to revoke after a court ruling in April 2017. The “Aula” also expresses sympathy for the German neo-Nazi party NPD. The NPD politician Karl Richter was even allowed to write for the “Aula” an article with the insinuation: what the Jews want is “surreptitiously obtaining sovereignty”.

### Individual case 66

It becomes publicly known that FPÖ municipal councillor candidate Friedrich Ugrinovits from Draßburg is since decades engaging in extreme right-wing and antisemitic activities. Among others, he insulted researchers who wanted to visit the Jewish Museum Eisenstadt with the term “Saujuden” (pig-Jews). Two times he was found guilty of incitement, most recently in 2013 with a conditional detention order for ten months. In the FPÖ, everybody claims to not have had any knowledge of these long-standing activities of the municipal councillor candidate – among them the local section chairman from Draßburg, René Tschögl.

### Individual case 67

The third president of the National Council Norbert Hofer from the FPÖ claims that the European Convention on Human Rights allows the implementation of the death penalty. Thus, it would need to be evaluated and, if necessary, to be replaced by an “Austrian Convention

on Human Rights”. However, his attempt to discredit the European Convention on Human Rights is failing quickly: all surveyed experts on international law point out that the Convention is clearly banning the death penalty in its additional protocols.

### Individual case 68

Martin Hochstätger, member of the FPÖ Tyrolean Party Committee, has put up a plaque in a room behind his pharmacy, which commemorates the “Return of the Ostmark into the Reich”. Moreover, in a showcase he exhibited an SS skull and other National Socialist devotional objects. After this becomes publicly known, Hochstätger steps down from his position in the Party Committee. The Public Attorney’s Office Innsbruck is investigating the matter. Hochstätger gets expelled from the FPÖ.

## November 2017

### Individual case 69

The FPÖ Lower Austria wanted to delegate the Tulln district party chairman Andreas Bors to the Federal Council. The media pointed out that in November 2014, a photo has been published showing Bors and two other men making the Hitler salute (see Individual case 14). Bors therefore renounced the Federal Council mandate but spoke of an “intolerable media campaign”.

## Individual case 70

The top candidate of the FPÖ Lower Austria for the provincial assembly election, Udo Landbauer, mocked the ÖVP head of the provincial government Johanna Mikl-Leitner with calling her “Muslim Mama”. Reason: According to the education plan, the state kindergartens should deal with different cultures. Landbauer perceived this as “forced Islamization”.

## Individual case 71

The Linz FPÖ city council faction organized an event in the Old City Hall together with the magazine “Info-Direkt”. This magazine disseminates racist, anti-Semitic and conspiracist content. The Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance classifies it as “extreme right-wing with neo-Nazi backgrounds”. Before the event in the Old City Hall, the responsible SPÖ city councilor had reacted to wide protests and cancelled an Info-Direkt “readers meeting”, which was planned in a municipal people’s house.

## December 2017:

### Individual case 72

The newspaper “Standard” reported that the FPÖ federal party chairman Heinz-Christian Strache and the Styrian FPÖ provincial party chairman Mario Kunasek had been in personal contact with Thomas Kirschner, the chairman of the neo-Nazi splinter group “Party of the People” in December 2015. Strache told Kirschner to “keep up the good work.” In May 2016, Kirschner was arrested for defiling a Graz mosque with blood from

a pig and a pig’s head. Two weeks after the “Standard” report, Heinz-Christian Strache became vice-chancellor and Mario Kunasek became defense minister.

### Individual case 73

Alexander Höferl became head of communications in the cabinet of the former FPÖ secretary general and new interior minister Herbert Kickl. Before that, Höferl was chief editor and co-owner of the FPÖ-close website “unzensuriert.at”. The Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution and the Fight against Terrorism had classified “unzensuriert.at” as “partly extremely xenophobic” and had attested “anti-Semitic tendencies” to the website.

### Individual case 74

The deputy FPÖ federal party chairman Johann Gudenus demanded that refugees should no longer be accommodated individually, but in mass accommodations on the outskirts of Vienna. Thus, the refugees will have to see, “that it is not as cozy in Austria, as everyone believes,” said Gudenus, who shortly after became executive FPÖ leader of the parliamentary group in the National Council.

### Individual case 75

FPÖ municipal councilor Bernhard Blochberger from Krumbach sent the title page of a Nazi women’s magazine from 1943 as his Facebook Christmas greeting. Since decades, Blochberger engages himself in extreme right-wing activities.

Among others, he was a member of the Lower Austrian state leadership of the “National Democratic Party”. This party was officially dissolved in 1988 because of National Socialist reactivation.

## January 2018:

### Individual case 76

FPÖ municipal councilor Markus Ripfl from Orth an der Donau, who is also a member of the extreme right-wing fraternity “Olympia”, “liked” a song of the neo-Nazi band “Division Germania” on Youtube on New Year’s Eve. In the past, Ripfl gained attention several times by his extreme right-wing activities (see individual cases 27 and 42). He was expelled from the FPÖ because of “imminent danger”, although he claims that an unknown person has “liked” the neo-Nazi song with his password. Party secretary Christian Hafenecker emphasized that the FPÖ does not constantly want to get bad press.

### Individual case 77

The FPÖ mayor from Wels, Andreas Rabl, was in need to explain, after it became public knowledge that the former municipal authorities’ employee Peter See has been the third on the FPÖ list for the 2014 staff representation election, and that he had been an FPÖ member from 2013 to July 2017. See was dismissed in December 2017 after a photo had appeared showing him with a swastika banner. Rabl had stated that See was never an FPÖ member and had concealed See’s candidacy and years of membership.

### Individual case 78

FPÖ defense minister Mario Kunašek claimed in an interview with the “Kronenzeitung” that he did not publish an article in the magazine “Aula”, and that only one of his press releases had been printed. The human rights organization “SOS Mitmensch” proved that this claim was not true. The “Aula” disseminates extreme right-wing, racist and anti-Semitic content. It also shows sympathy for the neo-Nazi NPD party in Germany (see individual case 65).

### Individual case 79

FPÖ interior minister Herbert Kickl declared his wish to keep refugees “concentrated” in mass quarters. This statement was perceived as a reference to the Nazi concentration camps and led to broad criticism.

### Individual case 80

The public became aware that Udo Landbauer, the top candidate of the FPÖ Lower Austria for the provincial assembly election, had collected donations for the extreme right-wing association “Junge Patrioten” (Young Patriots) in 2010. Furthermore, the Viennese weekly newspaper “Falter” reported that the song book of the fraternity “Germania zu Wiener Neustadt” contains anti-Semitic texts, also ridiculing the Holocaust. Landbauer is chairman of this fraternity. The Federal Government initiated proceedings to dissolve the fraternity. After the provincial assembly election Landbauer resigned

from his political functions and suspended his membership in the FPÖ. But he does not exclude his return to the party.

## February 2018:

### Individual case 81

The newspaper “Standard” reported that the Upper Austrian FPÖ provincial councilor Elmar Podgorschek belongs to the fraternity “Germania zu Ried”. In a commemorative publication in 2000, this fraternity had honored the fraternity brother and SS mass murderer Friedrich Kranebitter. In addition, Podgorschek had placed a half-page advertisement in the magazine “Info-Direkt”, paid with tax money. “Info-Direkt” disseminates racist, anti-Semitic and conspiracist content. The Documentation Centre of the Austrian Resistance classifies it as “extreme right-wing with neo-Nazi backgrounds”.

### Individual case 82

Martin Glier, press spokesman of FPÖ vice-chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache, used the Nazi term “Blutzeuge” (blood witness) on Twitter. He countered the criticism that followed with referring to the neo-Nazi online-encyclopedia “Metapedia”.

### Individual case 83

Despite massive protests, Heinrich Sickl was delegated for the FPÖ into the Graz municipal council. Sickl is co-editor of the magazine “Aula”, which disseminates extreme right-wing, racist and anti-Semitic content. He also took part in demonstrations of the extreme right-wing “identitarians” and offered them rooms for rent.

### Individual case 84

Miriam Rydl, board member of the FPÖ Tulln, insulted refugees who had left their families behind with calling them “Untermenschen” (subhuman beings) on Facebook. Rydl told the Media that she did not know that this was a Nazi term. On top of it, the FPÖ politician is also a member of a Facebook group, that is mocking Holocaust survivors. Rydl claimed that she also did not know anything about those contents and that she probably had been added to the group without being asked.

### Individual case 85

It became public knowledge that Reinhard Rebhandl, candidate of the FPÖ Salzburg for the provincial assembly election, belongs since decades to the extreme right-wing scene. Already in 1984, he was a “young comrade” in the “National Democratic Party”, which was officially dissolved in 1988 because of National Socialist reactivation. Rebhandl is a member of the fraternity “Gothia Salzburg”, which participated in a demonstration against refugees of the extreme right-wing “identitarians”. In 2010, as chairman of the ÖTB gymnastics club Golling, Rebhandl had carried a flag with the words “racial purity” for his gymnastics club.

### Individual case 86

The Viennese weekly newspaper “Falter” reported that also the songbook of the fraternity “Bruna Sudetia” contains anti-Se-

mitic texts, which are also ridiculing the Holocaust. The chairman of this extreme right-wing fraternity, Herwig Götschober, is FPÖ district councilor in Vienna-Leopoldstadt and press officer in the cabinet of the FPÖ minister of transport Norbert Hofer. The public prosecution started an investigation against the song book and seized several boxes with unknown material in the fraternity house of the “Bruna Sudetia”. Götschober declared that he will take leave as a press reporter until the end of the investigation. However, after only three weeks, he took up again his work in the Ministry of Transport.

## March 2018:

### Individual case 87

The FPÖ vice mayor of Graz, Mario Eustacchio, held a speech at the extreme right-wing congress “Defenders of Europe” in Aistersheim. According to the extreme rightwing magazine “Info-Direkt”, Eustacchio criticized the human rights in his speech. Media reports about it were followed by massive protests in Graz, a city that understands itself as a city for human rights. Eustacchio claimed that he did not make the statement about human rights.

### Individual case 88

The FPÖ district party chairman of Imst, Wolfgang Neururer, was pressed with charges because he had sent images of Adolf Hitler with WhatsApp to other FPÖ members. The text to one of the pictures reads “Adolf, please show up! Germany needs you!” Neururer claims that he had forwarded those pictures as a “warning”. The public prosecutor’s office

Innsbruck investigates against him and against Brigitte Gröber, the executive city party chairperson of the FPÖ Imst. Both suspended their duties and their FPÖ membership.

### Individual case 89

The former FPÖ provincial party chairman of Upper Austria, Lutz Weinzinger, caused a stir: In an interview he claimed that fraternity members were “persecuted by the Nazis like the Jews at the beginning”. Weinzinger defended a Holocaust mocking song text with claiming that it was only “meant ironically”. His successor Manfred Haimbuchner, who Weinzinger calls a “fatherly friend”, rejected a statement on Weinzinger’s remarks.

### Individual case 90

The public became aware that Wolfgang Preiszler, FPÖ municipal councilor in Guntramsdorf and high-ranking police officer in Vienna, had spread extreme right-wing and racist content on Facebook. The Viennese police initiated an inspection according to the employment law.

### Individual case 91

The public became aware that Jürgen-Michael Kleppich, FPÖ district councilor in Vienna-Leopoldstadt and Attaché at the Austrian Embassy in Israel, had spread on Facebook a picture of his grandfather in Nazi uniform with swastika and a picture of himself wearing a T-shirt of the extreme right-wing “identitarians”. After massive protests, the Foreign Ministry ordered Kleppich back to Austria.

### Individual case 92

The FPÖ member of the municipal executive board Andreas Zauner and FPÖ municipal councilor Daniel Boxrucker from Suben were pressed with charges because by using WhatsApp they have sent images of Adolf Hitler along with extreme right-wing slogans. The houses of the two FPÖ politicians were searched. They resigned from the FPÖ. Three weeks later, they also resigned from their municipal duties.

## April 2018:

### Individual case 93

Several FPÖ politicians attacked the Viennese physician and SPÖ politician Mireille Ngosso with racist postings. Reason: Ngosso was a refugee from the Congo and became deputy district leader of the first district of Vienna. For example, Wolfgang Reinold, FPÖ leader of the parliamentary group in Vienna-Meidling, posted on Facebook pictures of monkeys under an article about the SPÖ politician. After media reports and a request from the FPÖ provincial party secretary Michael Stumpf, Reinold deleted his hate posting.

### Individual case 94

Arndt Praxmarer, an employee in the cabinet of FPÖ transport minister Norbert Hofer, “liked” on Facebook a restaurant in Germany, whose host is a well-known neo-Nazi who celebrates the birthday of Adolf Hitler. At the request of the news-

paper “Standard” Praxmarer claimed that he cannot remember how it happened that the “Like” button appeared.

### Individual case 95

The FPÖ-close website “unzensuriert.at” reported that the singer Conchita Wurst has come out with being HIV-positive. A comment directed against HIV-infected individuals was followed by a number of anti-gay and racist hate posts on the website. The operators of “unzensuriert.at” also did not delete those hate posts when the newspaper “Standard” pointed out their legal obligation to do so.

### Individual case 96

Kevin Guttmann, an employee of Johann Tschürtz, the FPÖ deputy head of the provincial government of Burgenland, published a short video on Instagram. It shows dark-skinned runners of the Vienna City Marathon, with the comment “Having their day off today?” After the strong criticism that followed this racist statement, Tschürtz admonished his co-worker.

### Individual case 97

The executive FPÖ leader of the parliamentary group Johann Gudenus used an anti-Semitic conspiracy theory of the Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orbán. In an interview with the newspaper “Die Presse” Gudenus explained that there are “verified rumors” that the Jewish US billionaire George Soros is involved in “supporting migratory flows to Europe”. This statement led to wide protests.

## Individual case 98

FPÖ vice-chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache defended the anti-Semitic conspiracy theory, according to which the Jewish US billionaire George Soros is involved in “supporting migratory flows to Europe”. Strache claimed that these are “facts”. After the SPÖ federal party chairman Christian Kern sharply criticized this statement, the FPÖ vice-chancellor resorted to an old anti-Semitic accusation: He claimed that Kern tries to “poison the well”.

## Individual case 99

The public became aware that Robert Kiesinger, consultant at the FPÖ-educational institute, had sent the cover page of a Nazi calendar from 1943 as his Facebook Easter greeting. The cover page shows the “life rune”, a forbidden Nazi symbol. Kiesinger had already attracted attention with propaganda against Muslims.

## Mai 2018:

### Individual case 100

FPÖ secretary general and EU parliamentarian Harald Vilimsky held a speech at the invitation of the French Front National at a meeting of several extreme right-wing parties in Nice. In 2015, the FPÖ joined forces with these parties to form the EU group “Europe of Nations and Freedom”. Vilimsky is deputy group chairman.

## Individual case 101

It became public knowledge that Markus Hüttenmeyer, provincial chairman of the “Freiheitliche Jugend Salzburg” (Liberal Youth of Salzburg) and FPÖ local party chairman of Lofer, wrote in 2009 at the age of 15 on Facebook: “For us National Socialists, the declared belief in an ideology must never turn into a phrase...” This sentence originates from Nazi author Hansjörg Männel. Hüttenmeyer resigned from his political duties.

## Individual case 102

The FPÖ Upper Austria criticized two major cinema chains, because they refused to show a spot of the “Liberal Youth” about the shortage of skilled workers. The “Hollywood Megaplex” rejected the criticism: The spot gave the impression that foreign skilled workers would operate as car burglars in Austria.

## Individual case 103

It became public knowledge that the FPÖ vice mayor from Linz, Detlef Wimmer, and the FPÖ city councilor from Linz, Markus Hein, have placed advertisements in the media “Info-Direkt” and “Wochenblick” with using tax-money. “Info-Direkt” disseminates racist, anti-Semitic and conspiracist content. The Documentation Centre of the Austrian Resistance classified it as “extreme right-wing with neo-Nazi backgrounds” (see also the individual cases 71 and 81). Ulrich Püschel, the office manager of the FPÖ city councilor Hein, is co-owner of “Info-Direkt”. Like Hein and Wimmer, Püschel belongs

to the extreme right-wing fraternity “Arminia Czernowitz”. The Press Council had denounced the “Wochenblick” among other things because of its incitement against refugees.

### Individual case 104

The leader of the FPÖ parliamentary group Walter Rosenkranz claimed in the ORF feature “Im Zentrum”, that his party distanced itself from the magazine “Aula”. The human rights organization “SOS Mitmensch” proved that the FPÖ is still closely connected with the “Aula”. The magazine belongs to several Liberal Academic Associations with FPÖ politicians in leading positions. Among them the members of parliament Axel Kassegger and Wendelin Mölzer. The “Aula” disseminates extreme right-wing, racist and anti-Semitic content. It also shows sympathy for the neo-Nazi party NPD in Germany (see individual case 65).

### Individual case 105

FPÖ municipal councilor Kerstin Witzmann-Köhler from Bad Vöslau expressly praised her deceased father-in-law Rudolf Witzmann for his role as mayor of the city from 1940 to 1942. The appraisal included banners at the Witzmann-Köhler hotel in the center of the spa town. Rudolf Witzmann was - according to historian Dominik Zgierski - “very active” in the NSDAP local group and district leadership. At a minimum he supported the expropriation and expulsion of the Jewish population of Bad Vöslau.

### Individual case 106

The liberal third president of the provincial assembly of Styria, Gerhard Kurzmann, wrote in the “Aula” about the “linguistic disloyalty of the German elites”. Also an FPÖ advertisement with vice chancellor and federal party chairman Heinz-Christian Strache appeared in the journal. The same issue included racist insults against Austria’s participant in the Eurovision Song Contest, César Sampson, by calling him a “quota darky”. As this became public knowledge, followed by strong criticism, Strache wanted to apologize to Sampson. According to the FPÖ leadership, the name “Aula” should disappear. The Liberal Academics Associations shall give up their ownership of the “Aula”. But the Liberal Academics Associations Styria refused to do so. Norbert Hofer, FPÖ transport minister and deputy federal party chairman, threatened Kurzmann and other “Aula” writers with the loss of their political positions. Shortly after that, Heinz-Christian Strache revoked this threat. The “Aula” disseminates extreme right-wing, racist and anti-Semitic content. It also shows sympathy for the neo-Nazi NPD party in Germany (see individual case 65).

Finally the publication of „Aula“ was stopped after the „June“ edition, however it will be replaced by a new tabloid.



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In May 2019, the so called "Ibiza affair" caused a sudden end for the coalition government of the ÖVP and FPÖ. However, in the weeks and months before, the individual cases had burdened the coalition increasingly. After the end of the coalition, ÖVP Federal Party Chairman Sebastian Kurz complained that they had "drained a lot of my strength".

On two occasions, the Mauthausen Committee Austria had already researched the extreme right-wing activities of FPÖ politicians and presented them in a chronological way. The documentation "Nothing but individual cases?" had been published before the parliamentary elections in fall 2017. It received a strong response. Since then, the term "individual cases" had become commonplace for describing the continuous anti-democratic activities of the FPÖ.

The sequel followed with the publication of "Individual cases and repeat offenders" in June 2018. It proved that the FPÖ even as a governing party did not become more moderate. For the period since the beginning of 2013, i.e. for five and a half years, the documentation thus comprised a total of 106 extreme right-wing activities.

With this third documentation, the Mauthausen Committee investigates the most recent individual cases - dating from June 2018 until the end of July 2019. The new documentation clearly demonstrates that the many individual cases have a pattern in common. And it makes clear what this pattern looks like.

In addition, it addresses an important question: Could the FPÖ be capable of governing? Or does it give reason to assume that the FPÖ as a ruling party would continue to cause serious damage with its extreme right-wing activities?

The new documentation "Several individual cases = one pattern" provides a clear answer.