

# **KNOWLEDGE PRODUCT**

## **Animal Rights Extremism**











Quarterly Bulletin

October – December 2010

  
The Hague, [18 February 2011]

This Europol product aims at sharing knowledge, which is available at Europol

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## **1.1 Background**

The increase of Animal Rights Extremism (ARE) incidents in Europe for the past 5 years has forced EU MS to take this type of criminality into consideration.

During the Conference on Animal Rights Extremism (ARE) held in Stockholm, Sweden (14-16 May 2007), participating EU countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and Sweden agreed that there is an urgent need to monitor ARE related incidents across Europe.

It was decided that ARE incidents should be contributed to EUROPOL by all EU Member States, and Norway and Switzerland.

EUROPOL compiles all these incidents in a document called the ARE QUARTERLY BULLETIN.

The European Police Chiefs Task Force in their meetings (October/November 2007) expressed a positive approach to this project.

## **1.2 Aims and Objectives**

This bulletin aims at reporting ARE incidents from the competent authorities of EU MS, Switzerland and Norway only. It will not be supplemented by Open Source material. Furthermore it does not contain personal data.

## 2 Incidents in Member States

### 2.1 Austria

#### 2.1.1 Number of incidents: 7

*01/10/2010*

##### **8480 Mureck, Border Crossing Mureck, Austria/Slovenia**

An Austrian EU border sign was covered with adhesive film, on which was written in large red letters "PRAVNY STAT" and "RECHTSSTAAT" was struck through in red. The incident took place in the context of the so-called "Shame on Austria" campaign. The amount of damage caused is unknown.

*02/10/2010*

##### **4822 Bad Goisern**

A hunting shelter and a bird cage were damaged. The installations were damaged by unknown perpetrators during the hunting of singing birds. The amount of damage caused is unknown.

*06/10/2010*

##### **2421 Kittsee, Autobahn A6, Austria/Slovakian border**

An Austrian EU border sign was covered with adhesive film, on which was written in large red letters "PRAVNY STAT" and "RECHTSSTAAT" was struck through in red. The incident took place in the context of the so-called "Shame on Austria" campaign, in support of 13 Animal Rights activists and for the abolition or amendment of the so-called "Mafia-Paragraphen", § 278a StGB). The amount of damage caused is unknown.

*08/10/2010*

##### **2425 Nickelsdorf, Border Crossing Austria/Hungary**

An Austrian border sign was covered with adhesive film, on which was written in large red letters "Jogallam" and "RECHTSSTAAT" was struck through in red. The incident took place in the context of the international protest and solidarity "Shame on Austria" campaign. The amount of damage caused is unknown.

*03/11/2010*

##### **3141 Thalheim Nr. 2**

Unknown perpetrators broke in through an unlocked door. Panic caused a few animals to be crushed. An undetermined number of animals were stolen. No claim of responsibility.

*20/11/2010*

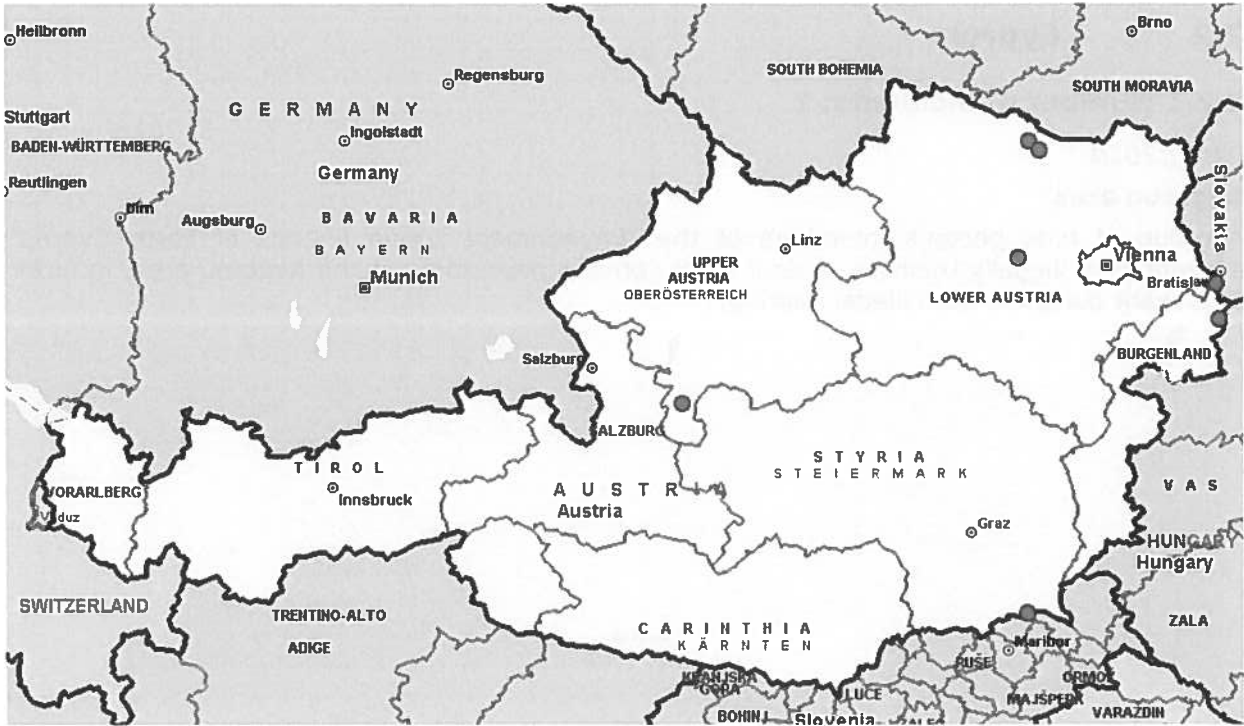
##### **2051 Zellendorf, Zellendorf 109**

At the meeting place of the Zellendorf hunting association, 7 of a total of 25 vehicles were damaged with a pointy instrument. No claim of responsibility.

*06/12/2010*

##### **2073 Obermarkersdorf (Hegering)**

A shelter of the Obermarkersdorf hunting association, about 1 km from the village, was damaged by unknown perpetrators. The amount of damage caused is unknown.



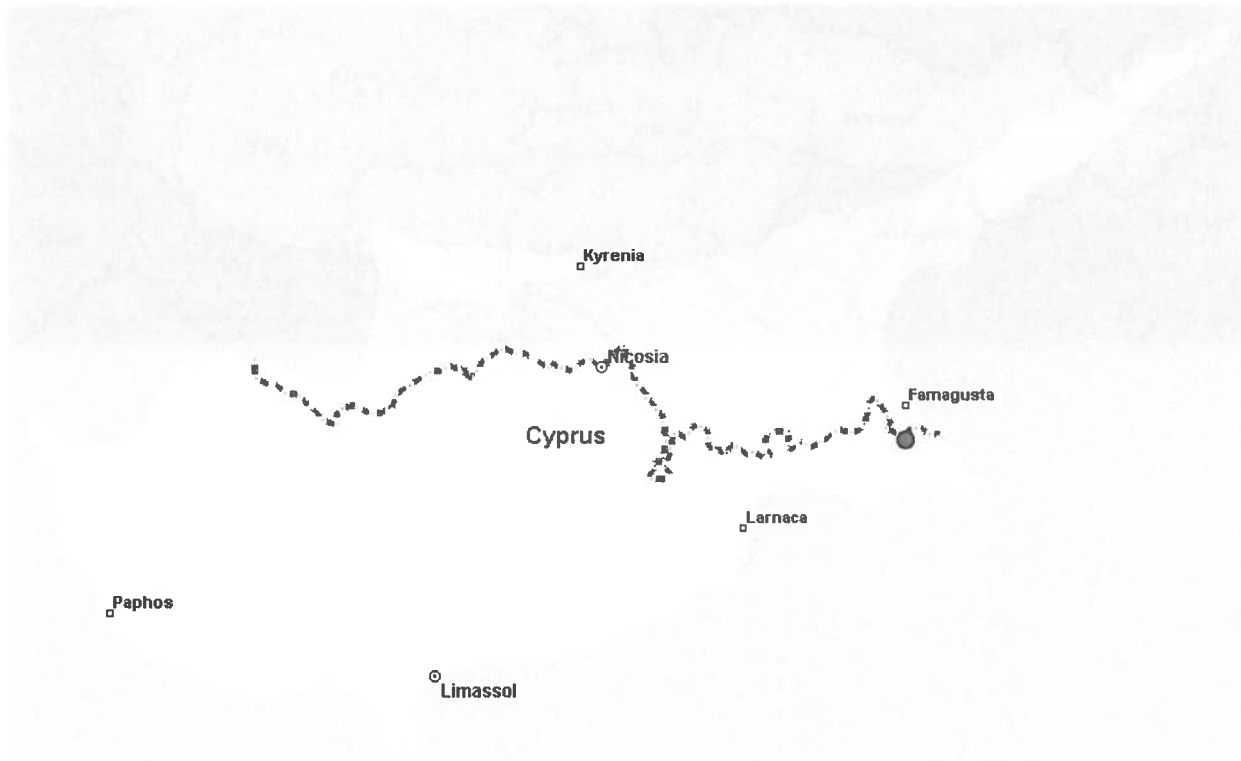
## 2.2 Cyprus

### 2.2.1 Number of incidents: 1

02/10/2010

#### Avgorou area

A group of nine persons, members of the "Environment Group Friends of Earth Cyprus" attempted to illegally trespass several fields (private properties) at the Avgorou area, in order to prevent poachers from illegal hunting.



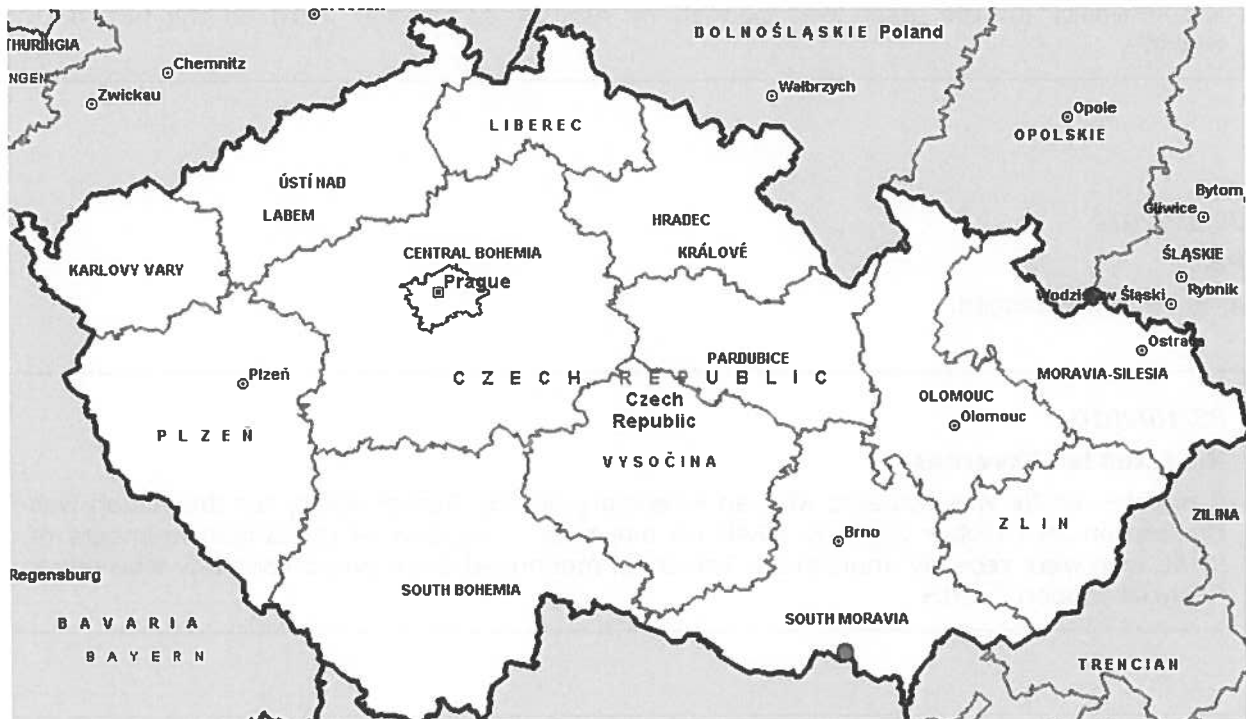
## 2.3 Czech Republic

### 2.3.1 Number of incidents: 1

15/11/2010

#### Czech/Austrian border Mikulov

On 15.11.2010 the ARE – activists blocked the Czech-Austrian border Mikulov as an act of solidarity with 13 arrested Austrian activists within the international protest “Shameonaustria”



## 2.4 ■ ■ France

### 2.4.1 Number of incidents: 10

*16/10/2010*

#### **Jouy**

Transport lorries owned by a slaughterhouse were set on fire in the company's parking lot. Responsibility for the arson was claimed by ALF on 22 October 2010 on the bite back website.

*20/10/2010*

#### **Paris**

A fur shop was tagged.

*25/10/2010*

#### **Ribautes les Tavernes**

A private vehicle was targeted with an incendiary device. Responsibility for this action was claimed on 29 October 2010 by MFAH on bite back in support of the British members of SHAC who were recently imprisoned. The claim mentioned the Nomura company who offers financial support to HLS.

*29/10/2010*

#### **Vaxy**

A private vehicle was targeted with an incendiary device. Responsibility for this action was claimed on 31 October 2010 by MFAH on bite back in support of the British members of SHAC who were recently imprisoned. The claim mentioned the Nomura company who offers financial support to HLS.

*31/10/2010*

#### **Mézilles (89)**

The directors of a beagle farm received threatening phone calls. These calls were made following a national demonstration against their farm, that had more than 300 participants.



05/11/2010

**Cessy**

A private vehicle was targeted with an incendiary device. Responsibility for this action was claimed on 8 November 2010 by MFAH on bite back in support of the British members of SHAC who were recently imprisoned. The claim mentioned the Nomura company who offers financial support to HLS.

18/11/2010

?

On 18 November 2010, the blog of ALF France published a call for threatening phone calls to 4 employees of the bank Nomura in Paris.

02/12/2010

**Rambouillet (78)**

Six hunting posts were destroyed. The slogans ALF and No hunt were found. Responsibility was claimed on Bite Back on 6 December 2010.

12/12/2010

**Chasse-sur-Rhone (38)**

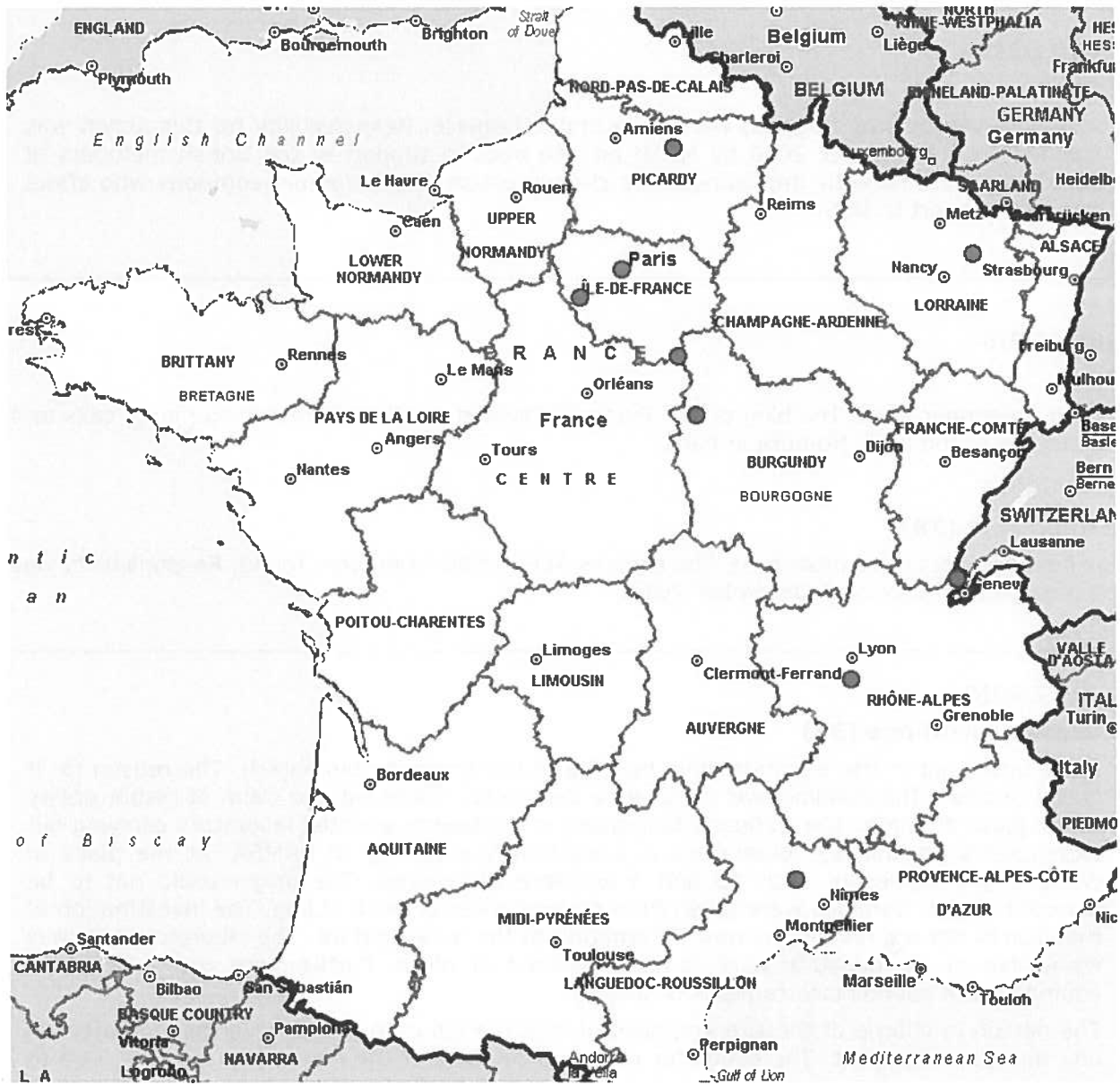
A fire broke out in the administrative building of the company Biomatech. The reason for it is still unclear. The building was completely destroyed. There was no claim of responsibility at the place of crime. The company Biomatech is a research scientist laboratory carrying out experiments on animals. Biomatech is a subsidiary company of NAMSA. At the place of crime 2 gas bottles of each 13 and 5 kg were discovered. The origin could not be determined yet. Samples were taken from several areas of the building. The investigation of the vicinity did not reveal any new information to the investigators. The laboratory which is embedded in an industrial park is quite isolated at night. Furthermore the area is not equipped with surveillance cameras or guards.

The person in charge of the site emphasized that the laboratory had never been subject to any threats in the past. The computer data and the files of the laboratory are safe, due to their storage in a fire-resistant cupboard. Although there is no claim of responsibility yet, it can be assumed that animal rights extremists have launched this attack.

23/12/2010

**Paris**

In Paris, a famous butcher's shop that caters to the President of the Republic was damaged with glue and tags. The slogan VIANDE = MEURTRE was written on the entrance and the shop window. Responsibility was claimed by ALF on bite back on 11 January 2011.



## 2.5 Germany

### 2.5.1 Number of incidents: 31

02/10/2010

#### **D-58515 Lüdenscheid**

A hunting post was damaged. The amount of damage caused is unknown.

05/10/2010

#### **D-73660 Urbach**

A hunting post was damaged.

The anonymous responsibility claim was published on [www.BiteBack.de](http://www.BiteBack.de):

Between 5 and 6 October 2010, the 4th hunting post was attacked between Schorndorf and Urbach. The target of our resistance, this time, was a new mobile post built on a tractor trailer. This construction, approx. 2.8 metres high, went up in flames in about 1 second. Eight hours later it was still smoking. All that was left was a load of ashes and a burnt trailer. It is for sure that no deadly shots will be fired from this murderous turret anymore. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust! We ask you once more: exterminate all installations that perpetrate murder or torture, worldwide! "who, if not I", "when, if not now"

And now in the autumn we ask you to sabotage the hunt! Stop the million murders of our wildlife and pets! In case you hunters dare to lie in wait for us you will really regret it. Then you'll hope that only your hunting posts were attacked... You should be grateful that we let you sleep at night! Stop the murder immediately!

ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT

07/10/2010

#### **D-30175 Hannover**

The window shop of a fur shop was broken.

09/10/2010

#### **D-80539 München**

The entrance of an ESCADA shop was blocked with a bicycle lock.

13/10/2010

#### **D-53840 Troisdorf**

The walls and shop window of a fur shop were tagged with „Mörder“. The amount of damage caused is not known.

15/10/2010

#### **D-29693 Böhme**

The walls of a fattening unit were tagged with graffiti.

15/10/2010

#### **D-85609 Aschheim**

Fake blood was thrown on the forecourt of the headquarters of ESCADA and the words "Hört auf zu Morden" were written in chalk.

16/10/2010

**D-79539 Lörrach**

In a fashion shop, women's jackets with fur were ripped. The amount of damage caused is not known.

17/10/2010

**D-73655 Plüderhausen**

A hunting post was damaged.

22/10/2010

**D-10785 Berlin**

Breach of the regulations on public gatherings with a demonstration of international solidarity took place in front of the Austrian embassy, in the context of the trial of Austrian animal rights activists.

23/10/2010

**D-73660 Urbach**

A hunting post was damaged. The claim of responsibility was published on [www.directaction.info](http://www.directaction.info):

"In week 43 two hunting posts around Urbach were put out of action. Only a few hundred meters away from a murderous post that was mounted on a trailer which we recently burned, another hunting post was sawn down. We had fun taking pictures, including one from a perspective in which you can see in the background the recently incinerated trailer.

We're pleased to announce that now our friends of the forest may move freely for the time being, without fear of assassination by hunters!

In addition, a tree was freed from a hunter's ladder which was also to kill our wild friends. The demolition work continues...!

ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT"

29/10/2010

**D-50999 Köln**

Butyric acid was thrown at a butcher's shop. The amount of damage caused is not known.

31/10/2010

**D-73655 Plüderhausen**

Two hunting posts were damaged.

10/11/2010

**D-79576 Weil am Rhein**

15 women's jackets with fur were damaged in a shopping mall.

12/11/2010

**D-06406 Bernburg**

Five circus wagons were tagged with graffiti: "Tierquäler", "TIERLEID", "ZIRKUSTIERE LEIDEN", "Kein Applaus für Tierquäler", "TIERE HINTER GITTER", "MÖRDER", and "TIERFOLTER".

14/11/2010

**D-38640 Goslar**

A fur shop was tagged with graffiti. The amount of damage caused is unknown.

"Pelz ist Mord", "Mörder", "ALF"

26/11/2010

**D-51674 Wiehl**

A fur shop was tagged with graffiti "Pelz ist Mord". The amount of damage caused is unknown.

28/11/2010

**D-45219 Essen**

The walls of a house were tagged with graffiti. The house is owned by an employee of GAGFAH (affiliate of Fortress). Fortress offers financial support to Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). The amount of damage caused is not known. Claim of responsibility was published on [www.directaction.info](http://www.directaction.info):

"29 November 2010

Let me tell you a little story about a silly little man, who lives a quiet happy life in Essen Germany. He has a good job and works hard. This silly little man's name is [REDACTED] works for Fortress, as a matter of fact he is [REDACTED]. His life was good, but then one morning after breakfast when he was ready to go to work he noticed that he was locked-up in his own garden. The gate was locked and there was red paint all over. Then when he finally got out of the garden he saw his name on a wall with PUPPY KILLER underneath it, when he got further in the street again he saw his name on a wall. This time with PUPPY KILLING SCUM and a ALF Logo next to it. He wasn't so happy anymore. The moral of this story: Withdraw the loan Fortress gave Huntingdon Life Sciences or expect resistance from the ALF (based on a true story happening the same night)

28/11/2010

**D-50189 Elsnorf**

An IID failed to ignite. The victim shares a surname with an employee of NOMURA, who is a target because of its financial services to HLS.

The action was claimed on [www.directaction.info](http://www.directaction.info):

"GERMANY, 2010 This is a message to Nomura. LET FORTRESSWITHDRAW THEIR 70 MILLION DOLLAR LOAN TO HUNTINGDON LIFESCIENCES! To make this message a little bit clearer the [REDACTED] has to walk to work from now on. His car burned to the ground in the night of November 29th. Militant Forces Against Huntingdon"

29/11/2010

**D-32756 Detmold**

A house wall was tagged with graffiti. The victim shares a surname with an employee of NOMURA, who is a target because of its financial services to HLS.

ALF claimed responsibility:

"In the night of 30 November 2010 the ALF visited [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 32756 Detmold, Germany. Paint was thrown over the steps in front of his apartment building and graffiti saying [REDACTED] Animal Abuser was spray-painted on the wall.

Fortress needs to stop dealing with Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) and retract

30/11/2010

**D-28201 Bremen**

The shop window of a butcher's shop was tagged with "Mörder", "Think about Vegan". The

amount of damage caused is unknown.

01/12/2010

**D-63263 Neu-Isenburg**

A house was tagged with graffiti. The victim shares a surname with an employee of NOMURA, who is a target because of its financial services to HLS.

ALF claimed responsibility:

www.directaction.info

"In the early morning of December the 2th the ALF visited [REDACTED] in Neu-Isenburg, Germany. [REDACTED] probably didn't know that her husband [REDACTED] makes it possible that 500 animals a day die horrible deaths in HLS. The ALF let her know about this holocaust by spray-painting a little message on the wall of their apartment building, [REDACTED] Puppy Killer'. Nomura its time to let Fortress know that they have to retract the loan to HLS. This fight

02/12/2010

**D-63517 Rodenbach**

A house was tagged with graffiti. A truck was damaged with acid. The victim shares a surname with an employee of NOMURA, who is a target because of its financial services to HLS.

MFAH claimed responsibility on www.directaction.info:

"Nomura, HLS has to go, we will go on until this happens so you have only one choice, make Fortress retract the loan to HLS. In the morning of December the 2nd, the Militant Forces Against Huntingdon paid a little visit to [REDACTED] an executive director at Nomura. The MFAH paint stripped his nice new car and emptied a bucket of paint on his driveway. Also a message to his neighbours was left on some garage boxes further down the street [REDACTED] Puppy Killing Scum'

05/12/2010

**D-23843 Bad Oldesloe**

Eggs were thrown against the facade of a fur shop. The amount of damage caused is not known.

05/12/2010

**D-49453 Rheden**

A hunting post was damaged. The amount of damage caused is not known.

05/12/2010

**D-73655 Plüderhausen**

A hunting post was damaged.

09/12/2010

**D-22880 Weden**

The facade of a pharmaceutical company was damaged. 4 IIDs were placed in the building, of which 3 failed to ignite. AstraZeneca is targeted because of its cooperation with HLS.

MFAH claimed responsibility on [www.directaction.info](http://www.directaction.info):

"In the night of 9 December 2010 an arson Zeneca(AZ) in Wedel, Germany. After cutting were placed at strategic points around Astra Zeneca is one of the most important Sciences (HLS) a contract lab that tests pays them for it. This sick company is notorious filmed by under cover people is workers monkeys that wake up while their rib cage any means necessary. This attack is meant as a warning to Astra HLS. Drop HLS or deal with us. This action is dedicated to all SHAC prisoners.

Militant Forces Against Huntingdon"

10/12/2010

**D-10117 Berlin**

Breach of the regulations on public gatherings. A demonstration against the fashion house Max Mara was not announced in advance.

11/12/2010

**D-01067 Dresden und D-01219 Dresden**

10 windows were damaged at GAGFAH. The company is targeted because of its financial services to HLS. The amount of damage caused is unknown.

Responsibility was claimed on [www.directaction.info](http://www.directaction.info):

"In the early hours of 11th of December the ALF attacked two Gagfah offices in Dresden, Germany. Gagfah is a housing company owned by Fortress. Fortress gave Huntingdon Life Sciences a 70 million dollar loan. This loan saved HLS, and is killing a lot of innocent lives. 500 animals die every day within the prison walls of HLS. This has to stop, Fortress has to make the decision to retract the loan, and save millions of animals from the torture inside HLS. At the first office we smashed the windows of the fancy entrance and about 6 office windows. After we left, we saw the cops talking to people in front of the building. When big capital gets attacked the cops will come off their lazy asses within minutes. The second office we smashed all the windows on one side of the building while a lot of people were sitting inside a tram stop on the other side of the street. Lets attack the forces that destroy our earth, lets fight against

20/12/2010

**D-20535 Hamburg**

The shop windows of a butcher's shop were tagged with „Mord“.

22/12/2010

**Bonn**

Stickers were placed on circus advertising posters with the following slogans: "Abgesagt wegen Tierquälerei/Canceled because of cruelty to animals". The amount of damage caused is unknown.





## 2.6 Italy

### 2.6.1 Number of incidents: 2

15/11/2010

#### **Borgoforte (Mantova)**

Unknown perpetrators freed 500 mink from a breeding farm called "Antoniazzi". The incident was claimed by ALF.

12/12/2010

#### **Bologna**

On 20/12/2010 on the website "finoallafine.info" was published a mail claiming responsibility for the damage inflicted on "Roadhouse" located in Via Stalingrado nr. 40, in solidarity with three well-known environmental anarchists [REDACTED] who were arrested in Switzerland on 15 April.

The mail reads as follows: "In the night of 12 December we attacked the Roadhouse Grill of Bologna, in Via Stalingrado. We broke a window and set fire to the place with two bottles of alcohol with a rag and two liters of flammable liquid. A small act against whoever profits from the suffering of other living beings, who are made objects by the capitalist system. In the week of solidarity with [REDACTED] we wanted to reply to the system they are fighting and that is now holding them hostage. We hope that this destructive and liberating fire will reach them!". A first assessment by the Squadra Mobile found that unknown perpetrators, having broken the window and thrown in solvents with a rag soave in flammable liquid, started a fire that damaged the window and some furniture close to it. Firefighters who were called by [REDACTED] who happened to be there, put out the fire. No claim of responsibility was found.



## 2.7 United Kingdom

### 2.7.1 Number of incidents: 7

09/10/2010

#### **Heythrop Hunt, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire**

One of the hunt monitors alleges she was struck from behind on the back of the head by a member of the hunt. Complaint of common assault made to police.

19/10/2010

#### **Home address in Rudgeway, Somerset**

Person(s) unknown set fire to a Mercedes vehicle parked on the driveway which spread to the front door and the plastic guttering of the address. At the same time a large concrete stone was thrown through the UPVC double glazed lounge window.

20/10/2010

#### **Beyond Retro, Vine Street, Brighton, BN1 4AG**

A disturbance occurred at the demonstration and a known male protestor was arrested to prevent a Breach of the Peace.

16/11/2010

#### **Home address in Ely, Ely, Cambridgeshire**

Between 11.30 and 16.30 hours a brick was thrown at a patio door causing damage. No entry was gained to the property. The property was owned by [REDACTED]. Incident is unknown to be linked to animal rights extremism; however this cannot be ruled out.

20/11/2010

#### **Badsworth and Bramham Hunt, Hillthorpe Hall, West Yorkshire**

Approximately 26 persons attended the hunt meet near Church Fenton. They used intimidating tactics towards the riders and the land owner. One arrest made, reason unspecified.

02/12/2010

#### **Aquamania, Blackburn, Lancashire**

The store received a letter sent 2nd class from Gloucester mail centre. The letter read "we know where u stay were kumming for you".

The letter was hand written and on the other side was what appeared to

27/12/2010

#### **Crawley & Horsham Hunts Party, Shipley (near Horsham), West Sussex**

West Sussex Hunt Saboteurs claimed responsibility for monitoring the hunts party.

There were two claims of assault which after assessment by the officers present were deemed to be minor and inline with common assault. No arrests were made.



## 3 Corrigendum

The following incidents happened throughout the third quarter of 2010 but were contributed to O4 at a later stage:

### 3.1 Austria

29/09/2010

#### **2276 Reintal, Border Crossing Austria/Czech Republic**

An Austrian EU border sign was covered with adhesive film, on which "RECHTSSTAAT" was struck through in red. The incident took place in the context of the so-called "Shame on Austria" campaign. The amount of damage caused is unknown.

### 3.2 Belgium

18/08/2010

#### **Lotenhulle**

During the night of 18 August 2010 approximately 300 mink were freed from cages at a fur farm in the village of Lotenhulle (nearby Aalter). The farmer's son interrupted two individuals wearing balaclavas inside a shed, but they escaped. On 15 August 2010 two British persons were checked in the neighbourhood of a mink farm at Aalter. One person was taking pictures the other person was waiting in a rented car (HERTZ). One of the two persons is a well known ARE activist in Belgium and the UK. The second one was not known. Both persons were released after the interrogation. It is not known whether the two interrogated persons were also the perpetrators of the incident on 18 August but the indication may lead to this assumption.

### 3.3 Ireland

13/09/2010

#### **Churchtown**

A shop of the company JM Bernardo, a fur coat manufacturing company, was damaged with red paint thrown on the 6 foot high entrance gates. The gates were locked by the offenders with a chain and chub lock. CCTV was available and the scene was technically examined. No offenders were noted on this incident. [REDACTED] works for JM Bernardo, Fur Traders, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Dublin 2. This premise has 15 PULSE incidents relating to it. 2 are theft, but the other 13 relate to various forms of Fur Protest, (5 attention & complaints, 2 Public Order, 5 criminal damages, 1 assault)

26/09/2010

#### **Meenavally Ardara, Donegal (Glenties District)**

An unknown person entered the property, cut the fence and released between 5000- and 7000 mink. As of 7th December 2010 the majority of mink had been recovered, with only 100 still unaccounted for.

## 4 Findings

- A total of 59 incidents were reported to the police in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2010. The amount of incidents increased from the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2010 (45 incidents plus additional 4 – see Corrigendum).
- Eleven arson attacks were reported. This shows a significant increase to the last quarter which referred to only two arson attacks. Four countries were affected by the attacks (5 in FR, 3 in DE, 2 in IT and one in the UK). Five out of the 11 arson attacks were committed by use of IIDs. Six incidents were committed in the framework of antivivisection campaigns. *The framed text in this document indicates the arson attacks.*
- 35,5% of all incidents were related to antivivisection (18,6%) or anti fur (16,9%) campaigns. From only 4,4% in the last quarter the amount of anti fur incidents increased again in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. A significant increase of cases can be seen in anti hunting campaigns. The cases raised from 3,8% in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter to 15,3% in the last three months of the year. Campaigns with an antivivisection background raised around 3% from 8 cases in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter to 11 in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.
- 16 incidents have reportedly been claimed by either the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) or Militant Forces Against Huntingdon (MFAH). The claims were made via Internet on either [www.directaction.info](http://www.directaction.info) or BiteBack websites.
- Since the beginning of the court proceedings in March 2010 against 13 individuals accused of crimes in the framework of animal rights extremism, Austria has become subject to national as well as international supporting campaigns mainly via the internet ([www.shameonaustria.org](http://www.shameonaustria.org))<sup>1</sup>. Since at least end of September 2010 Austria has also experienced some crimes which seem to be organised actions targeting deliberately government institutions mainly in the border area to the Czech Republic.
- In eight cases alleged employees of the companies Nomura and Fortress Investment Group were attacked in France (3 incidents) and Germany (5 incidents).  
All of these incidents happened in the framework of home visits<sup>2</sup>.  
It is interesting to note that in seven out of these 8 cases the victims were not employees of the companies but had identical names to employees, which indicates a rather poor attack preparation compared to previous attacks in the past<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Additional information received from Austrian representative [REDACTED]

<sup>2</sup> Additional information received from French and German representative [REDACTED]

<sup>3</sup> Additional information received from French and German representative [REDACTED]