

POLITICALLY INCORRECT (PI-NEWS)

IMPACT: The most influential anti-Muslim blog in Germany, Politically Incorrect (known as PI-News) criticizes what it perceives as the “Islamization of Europe” and “political correctness” towards Muslims in German politics and media. PI-News has connections with far-right, anti-Muslim political parties and figures in Germany and across Europe.

- **A German-language blog, Politically Incorrect (known as PI-News) was founded in 2004 by Stefan Herre**, known only for his blogging activities and connections to right-wing politicians, in order to counteract the polemics against George W. Bush, the Global War on Terror, and the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.
- According to the Evangelical Church of Germany’s Institute for Research on Religious and Ideological Issues (EZW), **PI-News is located at the “center” of an “expanding” network of organizations and individuals in Germany and Europe that “agitate” against Islam and Muslims.**
- *PI-News’* funding sources and the leadership are not publicly known.
- According to its website, **PI-News criticizes what it perceives as “creeping Islamization” and “political correctness” in German media and politics. Specifically, PI-News describes itself as “Pro-American and Israeli” and “against the Islamization of Europe.”**
- On its website, **PI-News also claims that there are “parallel societies” in Germany and Western Europe due to the “widespread acceptance of Islamic ethics and culture”** where “neither the Constitutional Law nor human rights can be effective.”
- It **claims that Islam is not a religion, but a “social system that legitimizes itself religiously,”** and argues that ethnic Germans “will have to live in a largely Islamic society based on Sharia and the Koran in two or three decades.”
- **Some of PI-News’ blogs have included derogatory titles such as “Islam is a voluntary mental illness”** (Islam ist eine freiwillige Geisteskrankheit) and **“Islam is [...] in one word barbaric”** (Islam ist [...] mit einem Wort: barbarisch).
- **PI-News has used anti-Muslim and racist slurs in its blogs**, including “Afro-Abschaum” (Afro-scum), “Muselbrut” (Muslim breed, in which “musel” is a derogatory term used for Muslims in German), “Drecksvolk” (Filth nation), and “Moslemratten” (Muslim rats).
- Political scientist Thorsten Gerald Schneiders has demonstrated that **PI-News disproportionately covers news somehow connected to Muslims—from movie actors to Muslim politicians—giving the impression that Muslims are taking over the country.**
- Schneiders has also collected the derogatory vocabulary that is used by in the comments section on PI-News to describe Muslims: “Musels” (a derogatory term for Muslims), “Muselpack” (Muslim vermin), “Drecksmoslems” (Filth Muslims), “Kameltreiber” (Camel Jockey) “Ziegenficker” (goat f*cker), “Schleierschlampen” (veiled sluts), in addition to descriptions of Prophet Muhammad as a “pedophile” and “child-f*cker.”
- **PI-News is the most read anti-Muslim blog in Germany.** According to reporting in *Stuttgarter Zeitung* in December 2013, *PI-News* received 70,000 readers daily. Reporting by

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NEON in December 2017 noted that **PI-News receives 100,000 clicks a day**. In their 2010 [study on weblogs on Islam](#), a team of scholars found that **PI-News was the blog with the largest network**: it was linked 23 times by other blogs, used as a reference 106 times, and it had 880 blog participants, 45,477 comments, and 779 posts. Beyond the anti-Muslim blogosphere, **PI-News was among the top 47 most widely read blogs throughout Germany in 2009**.

- Islamic Studies scholar [Martin Riexinger](#) has shown that **one of the most anti-Muslim German authors, Hans-Peter Raddatz, is featured on PI-News as an authoritative scholar of Islam**.
- *PI-News* publishes news about crimes that are supposedly perpetrated by people of color and Muslims, racializing them and supporting a clash of civilizations narrative.
- **PI-News has links to right-wing political parties** such as the far-right ‘Pro parties’, organized in several parts of Europe before Germany’s anti-Islam, anti-immigration [Alternative for Germany](#) (AfD) came to power, and the now dissolved [Freedom Party](#) (*Die Freiheit*), formerly led by *PI-News* author [Michael Stürzenberger](#). *PI-News* is also [connected](#) to members of AfD—the [first far-right party to win seats](#) in the Bundestag in over 50 years.
- [According to reporting](#) by *Spiegel Online* in September 2011, *PI-News* is also connected with other far-right political and religious figures throughout Europe. Leaked emails show that **PI-News founder Stefan Herre was connected to far-right Swede Patrik Brinkmann. PI-News also coordinated online reporting with the far-right newspaper “Junge Freiheit” (Young Freedom)**. After the leaks were revealed, the [Swiss Reform Church priest Christine Dietrich](#) stepped down from her administrative position at *PI-News*.
- [According to the Evangelical Church of Germany \(EKD\)’s Institute for Research on Religious and Ideological Issues \(EZW\)](#), the Munich branch of *PI-News* has been **under surveillance by the Bayerisches Landesamt für Verfassungsschutz (Bavarian Office for the Protection of the Constitution), the Bavarian domestic intelligence agency**, since 2013. The Bavarian chapter of [Die Freiheit, which is connected to PI-News](#), is **also under surveillance by the Bavarian domestic intelligence agency**.
- In 2017, *PI-News* [organized](#) a trip to Israel that included participants who were members of AfD. Trip participants engaged in antisemitic historical revisionism (“[The SS was virtually an anti-terrorist organization against socialists](#)”), as well as calls to violence against Arabs and Muslims, including a call to bomb [Al-Aqsa Mosque](#) and “shoot anti-fascists and Arabs.” According to the [Jüdische Zeitung](#), a newspaper of the Jewish Community in Germany, *Politically Incorrect’s* philosemitism was nothing but a means to mobilize against Muslims.