

# syrian refugees

*by* Dr Anton Winardi

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# The Effect Of Islamophobia On The Security Of Syrian Refugees In Germany

Dr. Anton Minardi, S.IP., S.H., M.Ag., M.A.\*

Lecturer of International Relations Fisip Unpas  
Email: abdurrahmananton1975@yahoo.com

Feronika Melinda\*\*

Researcher of International Relations Fisip Unpas  
Email: feronikamelinda97@gmail.com

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Majoring in International Relations Faculty Of Social Science and Political Science, Pasundan University

## Abstract

This is resume of research were made to find out how the effect of Islamophobia on the security of Syria refugees in Germany. Anti-Islam and anti-refugee phenomenon spread to all parts of European countries including Germany. The refugee crisis that came to Germany got a response and protests both in Germany itself as well as various EU countries. Discrimination against Syrian refugees who are predominantly diverse in Islam is not only committed by the people but also supported by the right-wing conservative party of Germany. The anti-Islam group has had a negative impact on the security of Syrian refugees, the number of incidents that cornered Islam as a terrorist adds to the bad image of Islam among Germans especially after 9/11.

**Keywords:** Islamophobia, Security, Syrian Refugees, Human Security, Germany.

## Introduction

In recent years since the turmoil in the Middle East region, such as the conflict in Syria which is the main reason to evacuate to other countries. Syria is one of the countries in the Middle East region that gets the influence of Arab Spring. Arab Spring is a phenomenon of political transition experienced by Arab countries, where there is a massive demonstration that demands political reform and a change of regime that is considered dictator.<sup>1</sup>

The fifth anniversary of the Syrian revolution last March did not have much to celebrate—nothing at all really. The peaceful protests, once filled with hope, have been replaced by a brutal civil war with a much-hated dictator still in his seat and a country in ruins. Millions of people have been internally displaced or have fled the country, and thousands have been murdered or tortured, including children. Syria's infrastructure is in tatters and a whole generation has been lost.<sup>2</sup>

From a survey of Syrian refugees in Libanon show that majority of refugees want to free from Assad regime. The survey shows that the majority of Syrian refugees support one faction or another of the opposition, but a large minority sympathizes with the government. In line with existing accounts of the war, the government draws its popular support base from wealthier and less religious Syrians, as well as minorities.<sup>3</sup>

The conflict in Syria was sparked as anti-government protesters expressed their aspirations in mid-March 2011 in the city of Deraa. The conflict became more complicated and complex, consequently the demonstrators and civilians were injured and died. In addition, with the development of conflict many communities choose to flee to safer areas of various countries including Germany. Germany became one of the EU countries that received refugees from the Middle East because of their high sense of solidarity and humanity, as well as the

<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia, "Arab Spring", in [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab\\_Spring](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Spring) accessed on February 23, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Habet, Ingrid, Obstacles to a Syrian Peace: The Interference of Interests, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, 1 June 2016, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13530194.2017.1403307> retrieved on May 18, 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Corstange, Daniel, The Syrian conflict and public opinion among Syrians in Lebanon, British Journal of Middle East Studies, Volume 46, 2019 - Issue 1. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13530194.2017.1403307>. Retrieved on May 18, 2019.

historical experience of being a victim of war (World War I and II). Past historical values shape Germany's positive attitude toward the current refugee crisis.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>21</sup> By January 2017, the Syrian civil war had produced close to 5 million refugees, 6.3 million internally displaced persons, 13.5 million Syrians who required humanitarian aid (UNHCR 2016) and estimates put the number of fatalities due to the war at 500,000.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Syrian Refugees who found shelter in neighbouring countries may be able to return home or, alternatively, they may be able to be absorbed relatively easily in their current places of residence. With regard to the refugees in Europe, it is doubtful that they will ever return to their homeland, and, in any case, the Syrian regime is not at all interested in their return.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>20</sup> The German sense of responsibility is embodied in The Basic Law article 16A which states that anyone who fled from political oppression has the right to asylum in Germany. This then becomes the point declared by Angela Merkel as the German Chancellor that her closing borders and refusing to help refugees is the same as changing the German constitution. Germany argues that they should use approaches and policies that are open to refugees, including through open door policies. Germany has become the most populous country to receive refugees by 2015.<sup>7</sup>

The German government declared that Syrian refugees would be welcome in Germany and welcome to stay, regardless of which EU country they first entered. The policy has resulted in many refugees coming to Germany. However, Merkel's proposed open-door policy has provoked protests from other EU countries in the Balkan region, such as Serbia, Slovenia, Croatia and Hungary. They consider the German policy to open his country for refugees from the

<sup>4</sup> D. Grammatica, "EU migrant crisis: Why Germany still welcomes migrants", in <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34262426> accessed on February 23, 2018

<sup>5</sup> Steenkamp, Christina, The Crime-Conflict Nexus and the Civil War in Syria, Stability International Journal of Security and Development. <https://www.stabilityjournal.org/article/10.5334/sta.5212> Retrieved on May 18, 2019.

<sup>6</sup> Zisser, Eyal, Syrian Refugees, I 32 to Their Fate, Journal British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Volume 46, 2019, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13530194.2019.1526306?journalCode=cjme20>. Retrieved on May 18, 2019.

<sup>7</sup> Carrel, P & Barkin, N, "Refugee crisis shows the changing soul of Germany", in <http://www.reuters.com/article/useurope-migrants-germany-insight-idUSKCN0RD0JU20150913> accessed on February 23, 2018.

Middle East has made the Balkans overwhelmed by the refugees crossing the Balkans.<sup>8</sup>

In addition to receiving protests from several EU countries and as the escalating refugee crisis in Germany raises concerns to its people, the safety of their lives to the desire to make refugees move from Germany. Germany began to be overwhelmed with the number of refugees who headed to Germany. The high number of refugees who applied for asylum in Germany increasingly triggered the public's displeasure amid the rise of Islamophobic sentiments. Also the reality that not all refugees are in danger of their lives due to the war makes the protest rampant that the region does not want refugee camps.<sup>9</sup>

Islamophobia is one of the factors of public concern over the refugee crisis in Germany. This Islamophobia arises because of differences in perspective on Islam, most people who experience islamophobia have a negative view of Islam. Islamophobia increasingly strengthened by the tragedy 9/11 in America. After the 9/11 tragedy, America made a policy to combat terrorism around the world and invite all countries in the world to combat terrorism but terrorism that is fought by America is labeled with Islam so it raises the view of the international community that Islam is a terrorist.

Concerns amid the Syrian refugee crisis of the overwhelming majority of Islam and the rise of Islamophobic sentiments created protests from German society, especially from the right faction (Pegida) who voiced for a stop receiving Syrian refugees as they felt that a surge of refugees coming to Germany could jeopardize security and threaten the number a native of Germany. The presence of a rightist faction calling for patriotism in Germany aims to oppose Islamization and Islamic extremism, not Muslims as a whole.<sup>10</sup>

Pegida also believes that the massive refugee crisis is fueling the perception of the Islamization in Germany. They fear Islam will convert German values and culture and replace it with Islamic values and traditions. In this case,

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<sup>8</sup> BBC.Com. "Bendung laju migran, Kroasia tutup perbatasan", in [http://www.bbc.com/indonesia/d/37/2015/10/151017\\_dunia\\_hungaria\\_migran](http://www.bbc.com/indonesia/d/37/2015/10/151017_dunia_hungaria_migran) accessed on February 23, 2018

<sup>9</sup> "Warga Jerman mulai menolak pengungsi", in <http://www.dw.com/id/warga-jerman-mulai-tolak-pengungsi/a-18763584> accessed on February 23, 2018

<sup>10</sup> "Pegida", in <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pegida> accessed on February 24, 2018

Islamization is demonstrated through all activities undertaken by refugees under Islamic rules and sharia which are not the same as Western (Jewish-Christian) rules, values and cultures. If the process of Islamization is left then it is feared there will be a crisis of identity and tradition as a German.

The existence of legal guarantees in the right wing movement and anti-refugee sentiment thrives in Germany. The right-wing AfD Party (Alternative for Germany) has the objective of among others to spread anti-Islam stance and demand the government to tighten control over immigration. AfD's party supports Pegida's activities that propagate anti-asylum-seeker propaganda and islamophobia through demonstrations and campaigns in Facebook's social media that are claimed as part of freedom of expression and not as a crime. Both AfD and Pegida parties share ideological similarities and focus on refugees, asylum seekers and anti-Islamic movements so that sentiment towards Islamophobia is increasingly complex in Germany.<sup>11</sup>

To formulate the answer of the problem is :

"What is the effect of the growing understanding of Islamophobia in Germany on the security of Syrian refugees?"

### **Research Methods**

For the purposes of research and analyzing the author using several research methods, namely:

Firstly, Descriptive Analytical Methods are used to describes, clarifies, examines, and analyzes the existing phenomenon based on observation of some events in the problem that is actual in the middle of existing reality to solve the problem.<sup>12</sup>

Secondly, Explanation method is used to explain the relationship or causal influence or research variables accompanied by the steps of collecting, processing, presenting, and analyzing the data through hypothesis testing.<sup>13</sup>

### **Discussion and Findings**

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<sup>11</sup> Deutscher Bundestag, "Basic Law for The Federal Republic of Germany", (German Bundestag: Germany, 2012).

<sup>12</sup> Muhammad Nazir, *Metode Penelitian*, (Jakarta: Ghalia Indonesia, 1988) pp. II.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

## Background The Rise of Islamophobia In Europe

Islamophobia can be interpreted by separating the two words of origin ie Islam and phobia, so the understanding of Islamophobia is an attitude based on prejudice or irrational fears that result in hatred and fear of things related to Islam. This form of fear against Islam is not only aimed at Islam itself but in all elements from its teachings, its guidance (Al-Qur'anul Karim), its people, places of worship, and every form of activity undertaken by Muslims. Islamophobia is perpetuated as a negative stereotype that results in the discrimination and marginalization of Muslims from social, political, and social life. In 1997, The Runnymede Trust described this Islamophobia as two strands of racism, be it in terms of differences in the physical appearance of its adherents, and also in terms of intolerance in religious beliefs.<sup>14</sup>

Islamophobia is not a new phenomenon. In Europe, this anti-Islam attitude is evidenced by the Crusade which is a series of religious wars endorsed by the Latin Church in the Middle Ages. The term Islamophobia first appeared in 1922 in an essay by an orientalist Etienne Dinet entitled L'Orient vu del'Occident. In the essay, Islamophobia is stated to define Muslims who are discriminated against by Western European societies. However, the term Islamophobia is widely broadcast to the world community when there WTC tragedy of 11 September 2001 or often called the events of 9/11.<sup>15</sup>

After the 9/11 attacks, the US government then determined that the main perpetrator or the brains behind the attack were al Qaeda radicals. It became a turning point for US foreign policy towards the Islamic world. US foreign policy became a powerful tool for waging a war against terrorism where at that time the United States government linked terrorism with radical Islamists. In order to tackle the issue of terrorism that hit the United States, President George W. Bush later established a policy of "War on Terrorism" in response to the 9/11 incident. The policy set up by George W. Bush is expected to provide a sense of security

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<sup>14</sup> Farid, "Opini publik: Islamophobia dan Pesan dari Iran untuk Pemuda Eropa", in <http://liputanislam.com/opini/islamophobia-dan-pesan-dari-iran-untuk-pemuda-eropa/>, accessed on 26 April 26, 2018.

<sup>15</sup> Arif, Ainul, Qobidl, Muhammad, Politik Islamophobia Eropa, (Yogyakarta: Deepublish, 2000), pp. 1.

for the citizens of the United States and to safeguard the national security of the country.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>8</sup> While the French minister of education denounced the decision, unjust laws and policies are nothing new to Muslims in France or other parts of Europe. The minority faith group continues to grapple with increased bias, prejudice and discrimination perpetrated by individuals, groups and institutions in a variety of contexts including in schools, at work and on the street. Moreover, from banned burkinis, or modest swimwear, on French beaches to banning Muslim children from praying in German schools, anti-Muslim sentiment often victimizes the most vulnerable members of the minority faith community.<sup>17</sup>

After the 9/11 tragedy in the United States, terror also began to spread in mainland Europe such as the bombing incident in Madrid in 2004, Paris in 2015 there have been several acts of terror since the bloody attack in media office Charlie Hebdo, in March 2017 when a man crashed his car into pedestrians at the Westminster Bridge, London, England and then stabbed a policeman outside the parliament building as well as other terror.

The European community was immediately influenced to see Islam with suspicion. Such sentiments are then used by conservative right-wing groups to create prejudices, as well as fears against Muslims. Some conservative parties are also formed in the European Union such as the French National Front, the Alternative for Germany, <sup>34</sup> the British National Party, the Austrian Freedom Party, the Belgian Flemish Group ( Belgian Flemish Bloc), Italian Northern League League, and Patai Pim Fortuyn List of Dutch which made the issue of asylum seekers and Islamic culture their political merchandise.<sup>18</sup>

### **Development of Islam in the World**

History of the development of Islam in the world, certainly can not escape the role of the history of the struggle of Prophet Muhammad SAW own. Islam began when the first revelation was revealed, ie in 622 AD containing 5 verses of

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<sup>16</sup> Singh, Robert, *The 14<sup>th</sup> Doctrine and The War on Terrorism*, (Oxon: Routledge, 2006), pp. 69.

<sup>17</sup> Abdelkader, Angy, *A Comparative Analysis of European Islamophobia: France, UK, Germany, Netherlands and Sweden*, *UCLA Journal of Islamic and Near Eastern Law*, Vol. 16, 2016, Forthcoming. [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2844224](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2844224). Retrieved on 18 may, 2019.

<sup>18</sup> Arif, Ainul, Qobidl, Muhammad, *Op. Cit.*



the Qur'an ie surah Al-'Alaq. The first verse was down at Hira Cave, which is one of the favorite places of the Prophet in contemplating morally increasingly immoral human beings. Then in the seventh century, the Apostle began to continue his Islamic treatise in the Arabian Peninsula. After his death, Islam continues to expand to the Atlantic Ocean in the West as well as Central Asia in the East. The development of Islam increasingly rapidly, Islam is growing rapidly until the Muslims themselves are divided and also many who founded the Islamic kingdoms in various regions both in the Continent of Asia and the continent of Europe.

However, in the 18th century until the 19th century, many Islamic regions that stood began to fall into the hands of Europeans. Furthermore after World War I ended, the last empire of Islam that Ottoman Ottoman empire (Seljuq Turkey) was eventually collapsed. Before the arrival of Islam into the Arabian Peninsula, the country is a very reverse country. In the period before Islam came, most of the Arabs worshiped idols and many others who were followers of Judaism and Christianity. At that time Mecca was an area used as a sanctuary by the Arabs, the reason being that there are many idols in the place and more importantly in that place there is the Ka'bah is the Mecca of Muslims.

The development of Islam is increasing in various parts of the world such as America and Europe. The phenomenon in America itself is very interesting when the George W. Bush government issued a policy "War on Terrorism" after the WTC bombing on 11 September 2001 which claimed that Muslims are the perpetrators of such terror that caused a bad image of Islam to the international community. However, the efforts of the enemies of Islam by accusing them of being terrorists who destroyed the WTC building were incapable of mocking Islam, instead it added sympathy to Islam. The number of Muslims in America increased rapidly after the WTC tragedy.

From interviews conducted by American, European and Middle Eastern television to those who convert to Islam or blog videos that explains the motivation of these converters to Islam, they illustrate the diverse background settings. Firstly, because of their previously secular, unfocused, pointless lives, life is just money, music and fun. They feel the chaos of life, unlike the Muslims

they know. Second, feel the calm, peace and happiness that he never felt in the previous religion that is Christian. In Islam they feel the relationship with God is direct and close. Third, find the truth he is looking for. Some converters acknowledge the more rational or more sensible concepts of Islamic teachings such as the oneness of God, purity of scripture, resurrection and salvation rather than in Christianity. Fourth, many Muslim American women conclude that Islam protects and respects women. In other words, women in Islam are glorified and their position is highly respected.<sup>19</sup>

In Europe the development of Islam has also increased significantly, especially as the immense spreading of immigrant and refugee crises from Muslim Arab countries to Europe has been key to how Islam can flourish in Europe. Some scholars believe that the conquest of Europe is not by way of war but can take place in peace and without realizing it. With the rapid development of Muslims in America, Europe and other developed countries, will have a significant effect on several things. First, western society will be closer and more familiar with Islam through Muslims in the west itself. They will bridge the ever-prevalent misunderstanding of Islam and Muslims. The dislike of western society towards Islam is more due to the ignorance of Islam and this will decrease further. Second, due to the increasingly socialized teachings of Islam in the West and Muslim political voices are getting stronger, the bridge to create mutual understanding and understanding will be more conducive and stronger.

### **Syrian Refugees In Germany and Its Policy**

Germany is one of the EU countries that receive refugees from various countries such as the Middle East because of a sense of solidarity and high humanity, as well as historical experience because it was a victim of war. Germany has decided to open the door willingly to accept refugees from the Middle East indefinitely. Now Germany "opens the door" and its border for refugees seeking refuge and a safe place.

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<sup>19</sup> "Islam di Amerika Pasca WTC", in <http://www.fadhilza.com/2008/12/kehidupan-manusia/islam-di-amerika-setelah-tragedi-11-september-2001.html> accessed on April 29, 2018.

Historically, Germany was one of the countries that played an active role in World War I and II. Germany is famous for its powerful fascist ideology led by dictator Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party. Through the ideology of German fascism has committed mass murder or known as "The Holocaust". The Holocaust is a genocidal crime event in which Nazi Germany committed mass killings against Jews in Germany, German territory, and in the territory of German allies. However, the German power finally began to collapse due to Germany's defeat in World War I and repeated in World War II. The defeat of Germany in the two World Wars, made the German population suffer greatly and many of them fled to neighboring countries that were safer from war disturbances.

Germany indirectly feels responsible for the misery of millions of people due to Hitler's leadership.<sup>20</sup> Germany's sense of responsibility for its past mistakes is stated in The Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany article 16A which states that anyone who fled from political oppression has the right to asylum in Germany. This then becomes the point declared by Angela Merkel as the German Chancellor that her closing borders and refusing to help refugees is the same as changing the German constitution.

Germany's policy of accepting refugees from Syria can be seen as the obligation of Germany as a country that has ratified the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees or also known as The 1951 Refugee Convention. In its substance, The 1951 Refugee Convention has several principles that are the responsibility of the states that ratify the outcome of the convention. Some of these principles are about the principle of welfare services for people who ask for asylum or as refugees and the principle of international cooperation in handling refugees or asylum seekers.<sup>21</sup>

As proof of Germany's acceptance of Islam and Moslems, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Monday Islam "belongs to Germany", in a clear repudiation of anti-immigration protesters gathering in Dresden and other

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<sup>20</sup> K. Adler, "Germany struggling to cope with migrant influx", in <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35379341> accessed on Mei 4, 2018.

<sup>21</sup> UNHCR, "The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugee", in <http://www.unhcr.org/1951-refugee-convention.html> accessed on Mei 4, 2018.

cities.<sup>22</sup> Many Syrians receive subsidiary protection — a form of temporary protection lower than refugee or asylum status for people at risk of serious harm in their home countries. This protection tends to be offered to those in imminent danger in war-torn countries. In 2018, 17,411 Syrians were granted this security and 18,245 applicants were recognized as refugees.<sup>23</sup>

The Federal Republic of Germany is vastly perceived by Syrians as the best country to not only find refuge from persecution, but also job opportunities and an improved quality of life – official figures reveal a low unemployment rate (4,1%) and a solid economic growth (\$3.356 trillion GDP in 2015, according to the World Bank) in Germany.<sup>24</sup>

### Post-Conflict Displacement Flow In Syria

Since March 2011, as many as 2.7 million Syrians or about 10 percent of the total population in the country have fled to neighboring countries. By the end of 2014 the number of Syrian refugees is expected to reach 4.1 million. Then by the end of 2015 according to United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the number of Syrian refugees abroad reaches 4.6 million. In addition, 6.3 million other Syrians are listed abandoned domestically.

However UNHCR took prior roles in the issue. the UN has directly influenced the EU framework: Article 18 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU16 cites the 1951 and 1967 documents and the UNHCR has been a major player, be it through operationalization, monitoring or co-founding of the European Resettlement Network in 2012. In Germany, the UNHCR has recorded that the available pathways for Syrian resettlement have been humanitarian

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<sup>15</sup> Rinke, Andreas, Merkel says Islam 'belongs to Germany' ahead of Dresden rally, Reuters Online, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-islam-merkel/merkel-says-islam-belongs-to-germany-ahead-of-dresden-rally-idUSKBN0KL1S020150112>. Retrieved on May 25, 2019.

<sup>23</sup> DW.Com., Germany confirms, Syria still unsafe for asylum-seekers, <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-confirms-syria-still-unsafe-for-asylum-seekers/a-48742895>. Retrieved on May 26, 2019.

<sup>24</sup> World Bank, Germany, accessed in <http://data.worldbank.org/country/germany>. Retrieved on June 24, 2019.

admission (20,717), private sponsorship (22,803) and academic scholarships (186).<sup>25</sup>

The role of the UNHCR is widely effective as an international system which include of monitoring protection and advocacy. Their Office provided individual information, consultation and process to serving asylums and support Germany's Government in the programme of humanitarian admission and protection. UNHCR also can facilitate and bolster Germany and many countries actively provide and protect asylums better life including safety, healthy, education, work and pleasant.

The conflicts that occurred in Syria are still the main cause of forced displacement problems and human suffering that has been happening. And make its people seek protection and security to other countries. <sup>7</sup>Based on data released by the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), up to July 2016 there were 4.8 million people displaced from Syria during the conflict. Most of these Syrian refugees go to nearby countries such as Turkey which houses about 2.7 million refugees, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and some countries in the North African region.<sup>26</sup>

Based on UNHCR data it can also be seen that most refugees who entered the European region through the Mediterranean Sea since December 31, 2015 came from Syria (49%) <sup>7</sup>followed by Afghanistan (21%), and Iraq (8%). The sea line is the most risky route for the safety of the refugees. Most refugees leave Turkey and North African countries to reach Europe through that path. By 2014, as many as 3.5 thousand refugees died in the Mediterranean Sea in their quest for Europe. This number has increased in 2015, which recorded as many as 3.7 thousand refugees died on the same path. The year 2016 recorded 5.1 thousand people died in the sea lane, which is the highest number of refugee crisis to Europe, and 3.1 thousand people in 2017.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> UNHCR, Resettlement and Other Admission Pathways for Syrian Refugees, in <http://www.unhcr.org/docid/588b4af4.html>. Retrieved on 24 June 2019.

<sup>26</sup> "Syrian Refugee Response", in <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>. Retrieved on Mei 1, 2018.

<sup>27</sup> "Jalur Laut Mediterania", in <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean>. Retrieved on Mei 5, 2018.

## Islamophobia In Germany<sup>38</sup>

Pegida (Patriotische Europäer Gegen die Islamisierung des Abendlandes)<sup>55</sup> is a patriotic group of Europeans who rejected Islamization in the West founded in Dresden in October 2014. The mass of the Pegida group carried out a series of rallies spreading anti-asylum seekers, refugees and anti- Islam. Pegida is a group of right-wing movements in Europe as a channel for aspirations and fears of nationalist radical groups against Muslim immigrants who came to Germany.

Pegida Group adheres to the ideas of eurocentrism as the ideology used in its movement. It is based on ethnic similarities as whites and as Europeans, religions, values, traditions, and languages. The patriotism of the Europeans was an attitude directed by the Europeans (Germans) to protect Europe from any external threat, especially from immigrants or refugees entering Europe. The existence of friction between civilization that is West and East feared will trigger social conflict in the future. Thought is feared will eliminate or dissolve the identity as a European and replace it with Eastern civilization. Eurocentrism plays an important role in shaping the thinking or social construction of European patriots associated with the phenomenon of the crisis of asylum seekers and Islam in Germany and Europe.<sup>50</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Prejudice towards Muslims and foreigners is rising in Germany, a study has revealed. More than 44 per cent of Germans believe Muslims should be banned from immigrating, compared to 36.5 per cent in 2014, the Competence Centre for Right-Wing Extremism and Democracy Research found. The poll found more than one in two (55.8 per cent) said the number of Muslims made them feel like strangers in their own country, while 43 per cent gave the same answer four years ago, the *Die Welt* newspaper reported.<sup>28</sup>

It also showed more than one in three Germans believe foreigners only come to the country to exploit the welfare state and 35.6 per cent feared Germany had already been “dangerously watered down” by foreigners.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> Osborne, Samuel, 2014, Islamophobia and xenophobia on the rise in Germany, new study claims. Independent Online. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/germany-islamophobia-xenophobia-racism-study-survey-extremism-a8622391.html>. Retrieved on May 25, 2019.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

Indeed, research evidence suggests many Germans <sup>28</sup> hold negative perceptions of Muslims. In 2016, approximately 40 percent supported a Muslim ban on immigration and 60 percent believed Islam has no place in the country. A 2015 study found anti-Muslim sentiment to be pervasive – transcending income, education levels and political affiliation. It revealed <sup>42</sup> that 57 per cent of Germans view Islam as a threat, and 61 per cent believe it is incompatible with Western values. Interestingly, three-quarters of respondents who tend to be dissatisfied with their own lives perceived Islam as a threat.<sup>30</sup>

The prolonged conflicts that occurred in the Middle East such as Syria prompted its citizens to execute to Germany. A wave of refugees and large asylum seekers fostered a perception of an Islamization in Germany. They fear Islam will convert German values and culture and replace it with Islamic values and traditions. In this case, Islamization is demonstrated through all activities undertaken by refugees and asylum seekers of Muslims based on Islamic rules and sharia which are not the same as Western (Jewish-Christian) rules, values and cultures. If the process of Islamization is left then it is feared there will be a crisis of identity and tradition as a German.<sup>31</sup>

The number of Pegidis sympathizers has increased significantly since late 2014 to 2015. In less than three months, recorded in January 2015 the number of Pegida supporters has grown to 18,000. On October 19, 2015, celebrating Pegida's first anniversary, 40,000 sympathizers of Pegida gathered for a demonstration by mobilizing a crowd that filled the main streets of Dresden (Renegade Tribune, 2018). Pegida groups also have certain names according to their geographical location. The names of the Pegida Group are those of <sup>27</sup> Dresden (Pegida), Bavaria (Bagida), Darmstadt (Dagida), Bonn (Bogida), Dusseldorf (Dugida), Ostfriesland (Ogida), Leipzig (Legida).

Pegida group movement can be seen from the activities that have been done, such as routine activities is Monday Demonstration. In addition to the demonstrations Pegida group also conduct propaganda related to his attitude that

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<sup>30</sup> Abdelkadr, Engy, A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF EUROPEAN ISLAMOPHOBIA: FRANCE, UK, GERMANY, NETHERLANDS AND SWEDEN. SSRN (Online). [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2844224](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2844224). Retrieved on May 25, 2019.

<sup>31</sup> "Nilai–Nilai Jerman", in <http://www.dw.com/id/islam-tidak-punya-tempat-di-jerman/a-40282410>. Retrieved on Mei 5, 2018.

rejects the existence of asylum seekers and refugees as well as hatred against Islam in Germany even in Europe.

The existence and movement of Pegida is also supported by social groups, among others, derived from the German National Constitution which apparently has regulations to regulate the social groups that develop in society. In addition, the affiliation of political norms of AfD Party also has an influence on the existence of the Pegida group. The existence of legal guarantees in Germany's national regulation is the reason why up until now the Pegida group still exists in the midst of German society. Although it seems contradictory to Europe, especially Germany which incidentally has a record track both in the enforcement of international human rights instruments about "refugees and asylum seeker".<sup>32</sup> In this regard, AfD's Party supports the activities of the Pegida group spreading the anti-asylum-seeking propaganda and Islamophobia through demonstrations and campaigns in Facebook's social media that are claimed to be part of freedom of expression and not as a crime.<sup>33</sup>

The right-wing populist party Alternative für Deutschland (AfD, Alternative for Germany) specifically began to mobilize around anti-Muslim racist concerns in late 2015. Alexander Gauland, its co-founder, demanded an immediate ban on Muslim immigration to Germany. Jörg Burger and Jana Simon, 'Neue deutsche Welle', *Zeit Magazin*, no. 52, 5 January 2017. View all notes The AfD party manifesto advocated the permanent closure of the European Union's external borders, and called for a ban on 'symbols of Islamic domination in public', such as minarets, as well as on the hijab in the public services.<sup>34</sup>

View all notesThe AfD subsequently was seen as *the* anti-refugee party and parachuted into five regional parliaments with double-digit election results in 2016. In the 2017 general election, the party secured 12.7 per cent of the vote and became the third-largest grouping in the Bundestag. The results indicate a more emphatic reception of the AfD in the former East, where scores were around and

<sup>32</sup> Deutscher Bundestag, Basic Law for The Federal Republic of Germany, (Germany: German Bundestag, 2012), pp. 23.

<sup>33</sup> <sup>24</sup>.

<sup>34</sup> Lewicki, Aleksandra, Race, Islamophobia and the politics of citizenship in post-unification  
<sup>31</sup> many. *Patterns of Prejudice Journal*, Volume 52, 2018. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0031322X.2018.1502236>. Retrieved on May 25, 2019.



<sup>2</sup> above 20 per cent. Yet, with an average of at least 10 per cent, the AfD also gained a higher proportion of votes than any other far-right party ever achieved in post-war West Germany.<sup>35</sup>

Social movements may turn negative if the movement is mobilized to respond to changes that are judged poorly after the occurrence of changes in general social tendencies resulting in undesirable effects. The crisis of asylum-seekers and refugees raises various social issues, especially regarding crimes directed against asylum seekers and refugees. In Germany it shows crimes committed by right-wing extremist groups against refugees and asylum seekers such as attacks, violations of laws, graffiti, and speeches that spread hatred against others.

<sup>12</sup> Some events are happened in germany. Stachus is one of Munich's nicest squares. It is rich in tradition and filled with pedestrians -- and perfect for Michael Stürzenberger's purposes. Hand balled into a fist, he paces back and forth and screams, "The Koran is the most dangerous book in the world." Because a couple dozen people have come to demonstrate against Stürzenberger, police officers in bullet-proof vests are watching over the area.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>18</sup> The Freiheit leader isn't alone. Several supporters, have joined him on Stachus, some carrying signs such as "No mosque on Stachus," or "Stop the enemies of democracy." Stürzenberger screams that Sharia instructs men to hit women. His voice cracks. "We don't want that in Bavaria!" A retiree asks where he can sign "against Islam."<sup>37</sup>

### Security Dynamics of Refugees in Germany

<sup>26</sup> Germany is experiencing growing Muslim growth due to the large number of immigrants and refugees who came to Germany starting from the 1950s to the present. Migrants and refugees who come for the purpose of seeking security and protection to other countries because of the prolonged conflict in their home

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> Gude, Hubet at. al., <sup>23</sup> Germany's New Islamophobia Boom, Spiegel Onlie, <https://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/islamophobic-hate-groups-become-more-prominent-in-germany-a-956801.html>. Retrieved on May 25, 2019.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

country. Post-terror attacks in various places such as the WTC building in the United States, in the office of Charlie Hebdo and the Paris bomb who claimed the terror was done by Muslims. So as to bring up anti-Islamic social groups that conduct various attacks against Muslims residing in Europe. Attacks on Muslims where women and children are targeted for attacks that are discriminatory, racial and even murder and destruction of places of worship.

After the Paris bombings physical attacks on Muslims began to wane, but verbal attacks continued to rise. In addition, the destruction of Muslim worship places and refugee camps was often done by German anti-Islamic social groups. On April 17, 2015, the Jami Sultan Ahmed Mosque in the city of Witten University, located in the German district of Rhine-Westphalia, was burned by German extremist groups at night. In addition to the mosque of Jami Sultan Ahmed, there are several other mosques that have been destroyed by German extremist groups, among others; Suleymaniye Mosque, Koln Great Mosque, Turkish Religion Department Mosque, Fatih Sultan Mosque, Bait-ul Aleem Mosque, and so on.<sup>38</sup>

Attacks by anti-Islamic social groups against places of worship in Germany share similar similarities and motives. The attack was carried out by burning and using Molotov cocktails and marking the Nazi swastika by scrawling the walls of the mosque and writing "let Islam die in Germany" and burning the holy book of the Qur'an. In addition, AfD's right-wing party in its congress said it prohibits the existence of minarets, azan and hijab or burqa for women. The AfD Party also supports the anti-Islamic extremist groups in Germany. Anti-Islamic sentiments and asylum seekers and refugees are propaganda tools for their political interests.

The destruction also took place in refugee camps, by 2016 in Bautzen city and even the local people applauded and cheered when the refuge was burned.<sup>39</sup> According to the German government in 2016 there were 3,500 attacks

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<sup>38</sup> "Masjid di Jerman", in <http://www.republika.co.id/berita/internasional/global/15/04/17/nmxk78-serangan-terhadap-muslim-meningkat-masjid-di-jerman-dibakar>. Retrived on Mei 9, 2018.

<sup>39</sup> The Independent.co.uk, "Refugee Shelter Burnt Down In Germany After Dispute Among Aylum Seekers Over Ramadan Meals", in <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/>

on refugees and **refugee** homes. The next year in 2017 occurred 2,219 attacks. At the request of the parliament, the Interior Ministry mentioned in detail **there were 1,906 attacks on refugees and 313 attacks on refugee homes**. More than 300 people were injured. The listed crimes include physical harm, property damage, humiliation, hate speech, abuses, arson, and blasting.<sup>40</sup>

We knew that the crisis can't over without the initiative and international involvement. We hope international organization such as UNHCR, Europe Union and Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) could contribute actively in resolving the humanitarian crisis especially in asylums issue. Firstly, UNHCR can invite authorized and interested parties to consultate and resolve the problems. Secondly, in the humanitarian solidarity commitment they can make division in providing funds, caring of injured, feeding, housing and also working vacancy for Syrian refugees. Thridly, in serious tention it can brought the sad facts into the international forum to urgent whole actors to reduce and finally stop the conflict.

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refugee-shelter-burnt-down-in-germany-after-dispute-among-asylum-seekers-over-ramadan-meals-a7074831.html. Retrieved on Mei 10, 2018.

<sup>40</sup> "Serangan di Jerman", in <http://www.dw.com/id/tahun-2017-terjadi-lebih-2200-serangan-terhadap-pengungsi-di-jerman/a-42772934> accessed on Mei 10, 2018.

With the whole efforts international organizations and states activate whole potential interest groups to play a role to create a solution for victims and Syrian refugees to get their home in overseas including academic and student circles. They are neutral and strategic part to actively involve to voice the solving of crisis.

In relations with issue of acceptance and integration of refugees this is include Phobia attitudes as Filippo Grandi (UNHCR) stated <sup>3</sup> Students can play a pivotal role in Europe's debate over refugees and they should push for their acceptance and integration. <sup>3</sup> Students should volunteer and help refugees learn the language of their host country because it is vital for integration. At the same time, universities should apply rigorous analysis to the world's refugee crises to counter superficial narratives used in some countries to foster opposition to refugees.<sup>41</sup>

Education as the invention way of eradication of ignorance, suspicious, exclusive, and stress of conflict. As is Grandi emphasized that <sup>3</sup> "Without education there is only a life of dependency, a life of exclusion and sometimes worse, the temptation to embrace bad ideas and bad practices".<sup>42</sup>

Germany took acculturation policy through education by Islamic teaching in public schools. <sup>13</sup> Today there are only about 120 Islam teachers who teach in Germany, and 80 of them are in the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia alone. Even there, eight times as many teachers are needed. And although a few dozen university students have already registered for Islamic religious studies programs in Münster, Erlangen and Osnabrück, it will take years before they graduate and are ready to teach.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>  
<sup>41</sup> Bigg, Mpoke, Matthew, Students can play a pivotal role in Europe's debate over refugees and they should push for their acceptance and integration, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, said in a keynote address on education today, in <https://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2019/6/5d09683e4/students-play-vital-role-advocating-refugees-unhcr-chief.html>. Retrieved on 24 June 2019.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup>  
<sup>43</sup> Lacotta, Beate, German Schools Introduce Muslim Classes 'Anyone Who Wants Integration Has to Provide Islam Instruction', <https://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/german-schools-introduce-muslim-classes-anyone-who-wants-integration-has-to-provide-islam-instruction-a-541440-2.html>. Retrieved 9 July 2019.

Islamic teaching is needed as the efforts to create better understanding between Germany and “Immigrants”.<sup>10</sup> Some German politicians are pushing for an expansion of Islam classes in public schools as a way to encourage the cultural integration of Muslim students and to promote an interpretation of Islam that highlights German values. “We need more religious education,” Kerstin Griese, a lawmaker from the governing centre-left Social Democratic Party, wrote in an op-ed, “because it’s the only way to start a dialogue about our own traditions and values and to understand those of others”.<sup>44</sup>

## Conclusions

Islamophobia comes from two words namely Islam and phobia, which is an attitude based on prejudice or irrational fears that result in hatred and fear of things related to Islam. Whereas in the teachings of Islam itself is not allowed to harm or apply arbitrarily to fellow creatures of Allah SWT. Islamophobia is not a new phenomenon. In Europe, anti-Islam attitude is evidenced by the crusade. The increasingly complex sentiments of Islamophobia after the WTC bombing on September 11, 2001, when the United States claimed that the attacks came from an Islamic radical group (Al-Qaeda) and made the international community into Islam a terrorist.

Islamophobia occurring in Europe is caused by several factors, one of which is the difference between Jewish-Christian identity and Islam. These views are rooted in a misunderstanding of the European community itself, who regard as if the identity now embedded in the traditions of European society such as liberalism, secularism, and rationalism is a single conception.

An open-door policy issued by Germany has allowed refugees and asylum seekers to come to Germany to seek refuge and security that are not available from their home countries. As the refugee crisis and asylum seekers from Syria,

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<sup>16</sup> Beck, Luisa, German schools teach Islam to students to give them a sense of belonging, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/germany-islam-muslims-rightwing-extremism-afd-merkel-a8616886.html>. Retrieved on 9 July 2019.

who are predominantly Muslim, to Germany, create anxiety in German society. After the occurrence of various terrorists in Germany and even Europe who claim that Muslims are the culprit.

The difference of German (Jewish-Christian) identity and the surge of refugee crisis from Syria formed a social group of German society itself. The group is called Pegida, a patriotic group of Europeans who rejected Islamization in the West founded in Dresden in 2014. The mass of the Pegida group carried out a series of rallies spreading anti-asylum, refugee and anti-Islam sentiment in Germany as well as propaganda in various social media. The activity and existence of Pegida is supported by the AfD party in Germany which has a right-wing political similarity that tends to be skeptical of Europe's (eurosceptic) future post-crisis refugees.

The activities of the Pegida group may turn negative if the group is mobilized to respond to poorly assessed changes after the asylum seeker and refugee crisis raises various social problems. In Germany it shows crimes committed by right-wing extremist groups against refugees and asylum seekers such as discriminatory attacks, racism and even murder and destruction of Muslim worship sites or in refugee camps.

Suspicion of the refugees that has brought to rejection and Islamophobia would rather be reduced when refugees could perform manner attitude and also host appeared friendly. Both attitudes could be created if they have enough sphere to dialog through education, communicate and associate each other as the world's inhabitants.

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