

June 2021 Terror Attacks

In June 2021, two terror attacks were registered in Europe

June 18th, Rome, Italy: a 44-year-old African illegal immigrant, armed with a knife, threatened people outside Rome's Stazione Termini before turning his rage against police officers who rushed to the scene in order to block and place him under arrest.

In the scene, fully caught on camera, the attacker can be seen jumping on top of some parked scooters and then quickly move back and forth towards the officers, armed with a knife held in reverse grip mode. After realizing that the individual had no intention of surrendering, one of the officers was forced to shoot, non-lethally injuring the attacker to the groin, in order to place him under arrest.

June 25th, Würzburg, Germany: at around 5 pm local time, 24-year-old Somali refugee Abdirahman Jibril A. entered a store, grabbed a large knife from the kitchen section, and began stabbing people, killing three customers and wounding four more. The attacker then exited the store and began stabbing pedestrians, injuring three people, before being confronted by civilians. As the police reached the scene, an officer shot the attacker in the leg and placed him under arrest.

Summary Table

Location	Site	Year, month	Day	Target	Attacker(s)	Sex	Weapon(s)	Nationality	Age	Mental ill.	Motivation	Dec. attackers	Dec. vict.	Inj. vict.	Previous Conviction
Rome (Italy)	Urban	2020, 06	18	Civilians, police		1 M	Knife	n/a	44	n/a	Islamist	0\1	0	0	yes
Würzburg (Germany)	Urban	2020, 06	25	Civillians (women)		1 M	knife	Somali	24	no	Islamist	0\1	3	7	yes

Comments

Regarding the Würzburg case, the attacker was identified as 24-year-old Abdirahman Jibril A. Born in Mogadishu, Somalia, he had reached Europe through Italy as an asylum seeker in early 2015, before moving to Germany in May of the same year.

Jibril had been living in a Würzburg location for homeless people since September of 2019 and was already known to authorities due to several violent attacks against other refugees and staff members of the asylum-seeker center, one of which with a knife.

The individual had also been placed under examination in a psychiatric hospital one month before the attack, but no mental illnesses were detected.

A few months before the June 25th attack, another refugee had warned German authorities that Jibril claimed to be an al-Shabaab member who had killed people in Somalia; however, no connections between him and the terrorist group were found.

The attacker can be classified as an Islamist attack, as numerous witnesses, including police officers, civilians and the store employees, indicated that Jibril yelled several times “Allahu Akbar” during the attack. After the arrest, the attacker also told officers that the attack was “his jihad”. It is interesting to notice how the attacker mainly targeted women, killing three and wounding four.^{1 2 3 4}

Jibril had reached Europe through Italy, just like many other attackers including Anis Amri, Zahir Hassan Mahmoud, and Brahim Aouissaoui.⁵

As to the Rome train station attacker, known as Ahmed Ibrahim, his real identity and nationality were never uncovered, due to lack of cooperation by the Consular offices of the potential countries of origin of the individual (Nigeria, Gambia, Ghana, and Ivory Coast).

The individual is well-known to Italian authorities for previous convictions, for violent acts against Christian places of worship, and for jihadist propaganda while in prison.

In 2016 he wrecked four churches in Rome (San Martino ai Monti, Santa Prassede, San Vitale, and San Giovanni dè Fiorentini), destroying statues, candle holders, crosses, and icons because “unrespectful of Islam”. In 2020 he was reported twice for disturbing religious ceremonies in Saint Peter Square, and attacking police officers.

Another time he was stopped and found in possession of illegal substances and he attacked the police with an awl. He had several additional reports for vandalism, violent acts, and he had also injured an imam with a glass bottle.

However, the interesting part comes from the Central Police Department of Prevention, which indicates that Ibrahim was active in jihadist and pro-Isis proselytism while in prison, and was also known for hatred against Christians and law enforcement. His name had been present for a long time in the Italian law enforcement database and classified as a socially dangerous subject.⁶

¹ <https://www.thelocal.com/20210629/islamist-motive-likely-in-deadly-knife-attack-in-wuerzburg/>

² <https://www.timesofisrael.com/german-police-say-several-killed-in-knife-attack-in-wuerzburg/>

³ <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/latest-news/german-investigators-seek-motive-in-deadly-knife-attack/news-story/15179484bae414540146783eb05db3ce>

⁴ <https://www.sueddeutsche.de/bayern/wuerzburg-messer-attacke-verletzte-taeter-polizei-opfer-1.5334204>

⁵ <https://www.centromachiavelli.com/2021/05/19/terrorista-barcone-bardo-immigrazione/>

⁶ <https://www.iltempo.it/attualita/2021/06/21/news/ahmed-ibrahim-coltello-morto-pericolo-sparo-poliziotto-stazione-termini-roma-panico-terrore-27668108/>

