



Algemene Inlichtingen- en  
Veiligheidsdienst  
Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en  
Koninkrijksrelaties

# Left-wing activism and extremism in the Netherlands

a multi-faceted, volatile and fickle phenomenon

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## 1. Introduction

More and more left-wing activist and extremist groups are joining forces, and while they do keep their own focus areas - their “core business” - there is increased willingness to provide mutual support. At the same time, contacts between Dutch activists and their foreign peers have intensified.

Since most activists and extremists do not primarily focus on one item (single issue activism), the traditional barriers in left-wing extremism have gradually crumbled. In addition, the number of anarchist groups in the Netherlands is on the rise - they fight not only against their classic enemy, capitalism, but also against fascism, asylum and immigration policy, or financial institutions, to name a few.

These trends have been observed by the Dutch General Intelligence and Security Service (AIVD) while investigating left-wing extremism in the Netherlands. In this publication the service presents the latest developments in left-wing activism and, in particular, left-wing extremism.

Left-wing extremism is similar to peat fires slowly smouldering underground, then flaring up suddenly with a bang. These fickle developments call for regular updates of the situation. This publication describes the current de facto threat emanating from left-wing activism and extremism.

Chapter 2 of this publication lists trends observed by the AIVD across the left-wing spectrum. Chapter 3 paints a picture of the current activist and extremist landscape, followed by a description, in chapter 4, of developments likely to manifest themselves in the near future. This publication concludes by detailing the role of the AIVD.



## 2. Trends

The AIVD aims to draw a clear distinction between activists who operate within the law - as annoying as they may be - and extremists. Extremism can be defined as seeking for or accepting extreme measures while overstepping the bounds of the democratic rule of law. Restrictions imposed by the democratic rule of law are not considered binding and are deliberately transgressed against.

### 2.1 From “single issue” to co-operation

A broad leftist “movement” involved in all kinds of activist areas has existed in the Netherlands for nearly four decades. Initially, the movement was rather compartmentalized: most activists and extremists focused on one particular item, so-called “single issue” activism.

In 2009 the AIVD observed a gradual change across the entire left-wing activism and extremism spectrum: various groups, such as anti-fascists and animal rights extremists, increasingly joined forces. In subsequent years this trend continued to spread: anti-fascists started helping asylum extremists, who, in turn, received help from environmental activists.

In addition, those opposed to the Dutch asylum and immigration policy took over the modus operandi used by animal rights extremists and resorted to daubing and vandalising property, committing arson and conducting “home visits”. A home visit is a clandestine (night) “visit” to send a message of intimidation to activist targets.

There has been broad co-operation or at least mutual support ever since. The previous solidarity, which was mostly expressed verbally, has been replaced with actual joint actions against perceived injustice. Incidentally, the fact remains that most activists still prefer to focus on their own “core business”.

The joint anarchist ideology that fuels activists and the extreme methods they use (vandalism, arson, home visits) have led the AIVD to introduce the term *anarcho-extremism*.

As a result of the crumbling of traditional barriers in left-wing extremism, anarchist groups in the Netherlands are increasing in number and have shifted their focus away from fighting against the classic enemy (capitalism) to fascism and asylum policy, for instance.

### 2.2 International contacts

Internationalisation is a core factor in extremism and has been traditionally shaped by the autonomous, anarchist part of the (squatter) movement in particular. In the nineteen eighties and nineties Dutch extremists frequently took part in violent anti-eviction actions, for instance in Hamburg, Berlin and Copenhagen. International opposition to the implementation of the European Union also reared its head in those years. It is only natural that the rise of anti-globalisation triggered closer co-operation between Dutch extremists and their foreign peers. Their joint aversion to neo-liberalism was an important catalyst in this regard.

In recent years international solidarity increasingly manifested itself in symbolic action. It works both ways. If, for instance, anti-fascists or anarchists in Athens clash with the Greek police, paint bombs and rocks are hurled at Greek property elsewhere (diplomatic objects, travel agencies, etc.). The introduction of anti-squatting laws in the Netherlands resulted in similar actions abroad. The AIVD has seen an increase in the number of contacts and an exchange of ideas with Italian (anarcho-extremist) peers, among others, over the last years.

A specific manifestation of international solidarity are the writing networking evenings that are regularly held at various social (squatter) centres. The International Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) invites people to write cards and letters to “political” prisoners, including extremists who have shot and killed police officers.

In a number of cases, groups support each other directly. Particularly anti-fascists rally to oppose right-wing extremists and exchange information beforehand at gatherings held in various social centres. Dutch anti-fascists have taken part in annual protests in Dresden, Dortmund and Stolberg. Other Dutch extremists have even been arrested while protesting in favour of environmental preservation and/or against nuclear waste transports.

A specific form of co-operation is the so-called Black Bloc, an international ad-hoc coalition of (violent) extremists, whose actions spoil the peaceful activities of “regular” protesters. Incidentally, this phenomenon has been copied by right-wing extremists, but this has not yet resulted in a confrontation between the two blocs.

Black Bloc actions have particularly blackened the name of the anti-globalisation movement, because the media only pay attention to violent manifestations.

**A Black Bloc has the following characteristics:**

- There is no organisation or leadership, but participants do keep in touch;
- In many cases the decision to join forces in a Black Bloc is not made until participants meet on site;
- Participants are flexible in their response to situations: if there is no police presence, they commit acts of violence against objects. If the police are present, they are often targeted.
- Participants are dressed in black and usually wear face-concealing items, such as ski masks or motorcycle helmets;
- Violence is considered a legitimate tool;
- Participants want to generate media attention and promote the use of force to clarify the difference between the repression apparatus and the “population repressed by that apparatus”.

### 2.3 Undermining of legal protest

Extremist actions often spoil (abuse) legal activist protests. As a result, the authorities may choose or are sometimes forced to intervene indiscriminately, which often means ending peaceful demonstrations and restricting freedoms altogether. In the past particularly anti-fascist actions put an end to legal right-wing extremist protests. Acts of violence, mostly committed by extremists gathered in a Black Bloc, later caused the peaceful demonstrations of sometimes hundreds of thousands of pacifist anti-globalists to derail. Once again, local authorities often ended all protests, including peaceful demonstrations, by use of force.

Extremists regularly caused peaceful and legal actions, carried out by animal rights activists and asylum policy critics, to escalate.

A clear example of abuse of legal protest was provided by a small group of anti-fascists/ anarchists from The Hague, who turned a student demonstration against cutbacks into a police confrontation in January 2011. The anarchists redirected a few hundred students to the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, where they clashed with the riot squad. A total of 22 demonstrators were arrested, but there was only one anti-fascist among them.

### 2.4 Cycles and fluctuations in threats

Traditionally, left-wing activism is characterised by intense bursts of activity, followed by (sometimes lengthy) periods of silence. Due in part to pending court cases, it has been relatively quiet on the Dutch animal rights activism front in the past four to five years. However, the threat seems to be increasing slightly in recent years, particularly as a result of the campaign against the Landerd Campus.

In the nineteen nineties the Dutch asylum and immigration policy gave rise to various acts of violence. Revolutionary Anti-Racist Action (RaRa) was responsible for several bombings. These “anti-imperialists” spearheaded the opposition to asylum and immigration policy, in particular after the end of Apartheid in South Africa. In subsequent years some more moderate forms of activism arose, due in part to the self-dissolution of RaRa in 1996. Bombs were replaced with church asylum and direct support for homeless asylum seekers who had exhausted all legal avenues. In addition, the then Amsterdam Autonomous Centre came to the foreground by halting “deportations”, the expulsion of asylum seekers on Martinair flights. After almost a decade of peace, (partly violent) protests flared up - and continue - after eleven people died in a fire at Schiphol East deportation centre (October 2005).



When it comes to anti-globalisation, large numbers of Dutch, mostly moderate, activists joined the international protests against the new “economic world order” at the end of the nineteen nineties. This came to an abrupt end in mid 2001, when police violence in Goteborg and Genoa resulted in serious injuries and one fatality. Since then Dutch anti-globalists have only resorted to “symbolic action” in the Netherlands (paint bombs, shattered windows) when a relevant gathering takes place elsewhere, inspired by their motto “think globally, act locally”. Opposition has been growing slightly in recent years, in particular against the G8 (when it takes place in a neighbour country), but the once blossoming international movement has definitely lost a lot of power.<sup>1</sup>

Anti-fascist activities have dwindled significantly in the past two years, both in number and in scope. Various sections

of Anti-Fascist Action (*Antifascistische Actie - AFA*) have been discontinued, while others have shifted their focus, in particular to the Dutch asylum and immigration policy.

Environmental activism also shows significant fluctuations. The glory days of protest against nuclear energy - in the nineteen eighties and nineties - were followed by an era of relative peace. Nowadays, the adverse side-effects of new methods, such as the extraction of shale gas and the application of nanotechnology, attract the attention of activists.

<sup>1</sup> The Occupy movement that arose during the financial-economic crisis might be considered a continuation of the anti-globalisation movement, but it has hardly established a foothold in the Netherlands. Remnants are now mostly active in asylum extremism.

## 3 Current left-wing activism and extremism

This chapter describes the current activist and extremist spectrum.

### 3.1 Left-wing activism

Activism is not subject to investigation by the AIVD as such, but as some activists “turn into” extremists and the dividing line between activism and extremism can be blurry, the service does monitor developments in this field.

The AIVD considers the activities of individuals and groups striving to protect animal rights and welfare to be animal rights activism. Activists usually operate within the law, even though they sometimes resort to daubing, commit minor acts of vandalism and carry out - peaceful - blockades and occupations. There are many campaigns to help improve the living conditions of animals, as evidenced, for instance, by the campaign to stop the sale of factory-farmed chickens (broilers).

Critics of asylum and immigration policy also take a moderate approach. These individuals mostly aim to provide direct help to, sometimes homeless, asylum seekers who have exhausted all legal avenues, often by providing food and shelter. They also hold (silent) wakes and peaceful demonstrations outside detention centres.

“Fracking”, or the extraction of shale gas, is a new theme in modern environmentalism as land subsidence can cause (light) earthquakes. The drilling process causes the release of methane, a greenhouse gas. Public attention for and mass protests against nuclear energy have subsided. Only trigger events, such as plans to open a second nuclear plant in Borssele and the

Fukushima nuclear disaster, cause short revivals of this kind of activism.

Anti-globalists are opposed to any and all forms of globalisation, in part because they consider it a threat to third-world cultures and economies. They also feel that governments should have some control over multinationals. In the past few years Dutch anti-globalists, inspired by their motto “think globally, act locally”, have only taken symbolic action, including daubings and vandalism at banks, and they have only been active in relation to the G8.

### 3.2 Left-wing extremism

Investigation by the AIVD has shown that left-wing extremists are generally between the ages of 20 and 35, and mostly live in university cities. A large group of asylum extremists is also middle-aged or older. Teenagers and “neutral” apolitical activists, on the other hand, can be found among animal rights extremists.

#### 3.2.1 Animal rights extremism

Activism and extremism still overlap in the Netherlands, as pointed out in the 2009 AIVD publication “Animal rights extremism in the Netherlands - fragmented but growing”. International contacts continue to play an important role as well. The use of violence has, however, decreased (perhaps temporarily) over the past years, just like the number of actions and extremists. At the moment only a few dozen people, at most, use illegal methods to fight for animal rights in the Netherlands.

Several groups are active in animal rights extremism, namely the Coalition Against Animal Testing (*Anti Dierproeven Coalition, ADC*), Respect for Animals (*Respect voor Dieren, RvD*),

269Life Netherlands and, in the background, Green Front! (Groenfront!).

#### *Coalition Against Animal Testing*

The ADC has been steering a more moderate course since the end of 2009, after shifting its focus to more peaceful expressions of dissatisfaction over the suffering inflicted on animals. The ADC has successfully presented tens of thousands of signature petitions in an effort to obtain more general support, both to the Dutch and the European Parliament.

In May of last year the ADC announced the launch of a campaign against a new project in Schaijk, the so-called Landerd Campus, which uses animals in medical testing and research.

The ADC started the campaign with public demonstrations at the gate and email actions; part of these messages were perceived as threatening. Several participants felt intimidated when a seminar and business dinner were disrupted; some filed a police complaint because they felt threatened. Subsequently, in April 2013, the ADC freed a number of beagles from a kennel in Escharen and posted the owner's private details online. The AIVD takes into account that such campaigns may appeal to people who are willing to go further than expressing their discontent in peaceful ways only, and may therefore heighten the threat.

#### *Respect for Animals*

RvD dedicates much of its time to campaigning. Their goal is two-fold:

- (1) Unheard-of (*Ongehoord*), a new activist group initiated within RvD, sought publicity with two investigations into possible animal cruelty in intensive pig farming and rabbit farming.
- (2) Air France-KLM: RvD chose this new target in 2011 because of their transport of monkeys for the European animal testing industry. In addition to peaceful protests, employees were intimidated and public appearances of several KLM officials were disrupted.

The RvD campaign was discontinued after the court ruled in 2012 that two RvD leaders are to be extradited to the United Kingdom pending an international investigation. The two have appealed the verdict.

SHAC-NL (Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty Netherlands), which split off from RvD, targeted pharmaceutical companies with its unannounced, sometimes intimidating actions, mostly with verbal violence, but also by daubing property and committing vandalism.



#### *IARG*

In the many workshops and discussions of the International Animal Rights Gathering (IARG), held in mid July 2011 in the Frisian village of Appelscha, activists shared their ideas for new actions and campaigns. Subsequently, the RvD was closely involved in organising the IARG of 2012 in Poland. In August 2013 the IARG was held in Belgium. Again, it was organised by persons linked to RvD. In other words, the Netherlands continues to play an important role in European context.

#### *269Life Netherlands*

A new group has been active since the spring of 2013. 269Life Netherlands is part of an organisation established in Israel, deriving its name from the number used to label a veal calf in that country. 269Life Netherlands investigates (alleged) animal cruelty in factory farming (through break-ins) and publishes its findings on social media. A number of these activists, also in the Netherlands, had themselves branded or tattooed with the number 269.

#### *GroenFront!*

A bit of an odd one out is the “eco-anarchist environmental activist group” GroenFront!, which started to get into the issue of hunting, particularly the hunt on red deer and wild boar, in 2012. In October it launched [www.jachtkaart.nl](http://www.jachtkaart.nl), a site that accurately keeps track of hunting cabins and feeding

spots, especially in the Veluwe region. Since the launch of the website, dozens of hunting cabins have been smashed up by unknown perpetrators. A few people have been arrested.

#### **3.2.2 Opposition to asylum and immigration policy**

When it comes to opposition to asylum and immigration policy, there is a fine line between activism and extremism, as reported in the 2009 AIVD publication “The flames of resistance”. International co-operation continues to play an important role, too. As anticipated, the opposition radicalised after 2009, which manifested itself in a considerable increase in the scope of vandalism and arson, among other things. The development of alliances (see paragraph 3.2.3) has blurred the line between asylum policy and other activist areas, in particular anti-fascism. Even though such co-operation has increased the number of extremists, the overall number of people involved is still limited to a few dozen.

#### *No Border Network Netherlands*

Resistance to Dutch and European asylum and immigration policy has been growing in recent years, particularly after the establishment of the No Border Network Netherlands (NBN-N). Activists and extremists active in this network, including the Anarchist Anti-Deportation Group Utrecht (*Anarchistische Anti-deportatie Groep*

Utrecht, AAGU), the Stop Deportations Working Group (*Werkgroep Stop Deportaties, WSD*) and anti-fascists from The Hague, have joined forces to promote co-operation and co-ordination while preserving their own principles and activist methods.

The AAGU consists of a small core of, partly older, anarchists who completely shifted their focus to opposition to asylum and immigration policy after the fire at the Schiphol East detention centre in October 2005. Unlike other groups, the AAGU particularly targets the Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Department (IND), but also (the recruitment agencies of) security staff employed by immigrant detention centres. The AAGU carries out “direct action” (daubings, vandalism, occupations and/or blockades).

The WSD is a small group of extremely driven activists who specifically focus on detention centres for asylum seekers who have exhausted all legal means to stay in the Netherlands. It organised all kinds of activities, including occupations and blockades, during the construction of the Rotterdam-The Hague Airport detention centre and the Schiphol West Judicial Complex. The working group urged people to take action against BAM, the main contractor of Schiphol West, resulting in vandalism, arson and home visits. The Mayor of Haarlemmermeer was also targeted. His house was defaced with graffiti and the tyres of his car were slashed.

In early March 2011, right before BAM published its annual report, a false press release, with the official BAM letterhead, was sent to some one hundred economic and financial contacts. It reported fake financial figures painting a grim picture.

Aside from a few daubings (at the IND training centre and at the house of Mr Leers, the then Minister of Immigration, Integration and Asylum Affairs), the NBN-N steered clear of large-scale vandalism and arson in 2012, when much energy was invested in realising the network. In that year it took part in various tent cities set up for asylum seekers who have exhausted all legal avenues. The local and regional groups were particularly active in organising and running those camps. Anarchists from Amsterdam, for instance, initially played a role at the Osdorp tent city and Frisian anti-fascists were involved in the tented camp that was briefly set up in Ter Apel. Furthermore, anti-fascists/anarchists from The Hague using the name Right to Exist (*Recht op Bestaan*) were closely involved in the organisation and continuation of the Koekamp tent city in The Hague, as well as in the protests against the subsequent dismantling.

Both the international No Border Network and the Dutch No Border Network prepare and conduct campaigns against Frontex, the European Union (EU) agency established to co-ordinate operational collaboration between member states in the field of European external border security. In the

framework of “naming and shaming”, they have issued a (translation of a Swedish) brochure on the “militarisation of Frontex”, to which they have added a list of Dutch defence-related companies (which may be interesting targets).<sup>2</sup>

Individuals with the NBN-N used to be active during so-called No Border Camps, where they plotted and discussed campaigns with their foreign peers. In early August 2013 the annual No Border Camp was held in the Netherlands (Rotterdam). In 2010, in Brussels, this usually peaceful international gathering resulted in large-scale public order disturbances and vandalism, carried out mostly by Dutch extremists.



The No Border Camp Rotterdam took place from 2 through 10 August 2013. Discord between activists and extremists (who were greatly outnumbered), the lenient attitude of local authorities and a clear police presence reduced the number of extremist actions to a bare minimum. There were only a few daubings and arrests.

In May 2013 the hunger and thirst strike held by detained asylum seekers in Amsterdam and Rotterdam led to daubings and vandalism by left-wing extremists. They are proving more willing to take action, while their manifestations are becoming more radical in nature, as evidenced by the fact that unknown perpetrators paid a home visit to the director of the IND in the night of 1-2 June, defaced his home with slogans and sent written threats.

The NBN-N Anti-Deportation Working Group is particularly active. It mainly helps those on hunger and thirst strikes, but has also had some success preventing the deportation of asylum seekers who have exhausted all legal avenues.

#### Sedition

Part of the asylum policy critics particularly use verbal violence against individuals and institutions, and sometimes encourage followers to target specific people. After the self-immolation of an Iraqi asylum seeker, in 2011, people were urged to pay a home visit to the then Minister Leers, which resulted in the arrest and subsequent conviction of one person for sedition. Incidentally, it has not stopped this activist from voicing seditious and threatening texts.

<sup>2</sup> Militarising border security, <http://stopwapenhandel.org/node/1304>, 26 April 2012.



### 3.2.3 Anarcho-extremism

Over the last years “single issue” extremism has increasingly given way to broad alliances. Activists show solidarity with other groups of activists, not only in words, but - increasingly - in deeds also.

Since 2010 the AIVD has been using the term anarcho-extremism to describe this phenomenon. After all, they are all anarchists in theory (in word and thought), and extremists in practice (in their actions).

Anarcho-extremists want to change society and policy, if necessary by using force against objects. The “crème de la crème” of left-wing extremists increasingly help each other, while even “political” activists are sometimes supported by apolitical rioters.

The crumbling of traditional barriers in left-wing extremism comes with an increase in the number of Dutch anarchist groups that fight not only against their classic enemy - capitalism - but also against fascism and asylum policy, for instance. Anarchist groups from Amsterdam, Nijmegen and Utrecht have joined forces under the umbrella of the Free Union (*Vrije Bond*). Their aim is to establish a society free from classes, states or borders, and to fight for a healthy environment. “Direct action in words and in deeds” is their most important means to that end. Direct action partly translates into daubings and vandalism, and since oppression, exploitation and capitalism are world-wide phenomena, the fight is international in nature. The Free Union therefore has contacts in anarchist federations outside the Netherlands, but it is not affiliated with

the International of Anarchist Federations (IAF) - the organisation wants to remain autonomous.

In 2012 Free Union anarcho-extremists were involved in the organisation of the International Day against Capitalism. They also took part in the so-called *Blocupy* protests held in Frankfurt, where they clashed with the police.

Other unidentified activists, motivated by international solidarity with fellow anarchists detained in Italy, set fire to a branch of the Italian insurance company *Generali*. The detained anarchists are to stand trial over their alleged involvement in the Genoa G8 protests in July 2001.

Incidentally, anarchists are not unhappy with the current economic crisis. They want to abolish capitalism anyway. As a result, they do not feel the least bit inspired to help solve the crisis. They would rather add fuel to the flames, for instance by encouraging labour conflicts and gatherings protesting the budget cuts.

### 3.2.4 Anti-fascism

Since its inception in 1992, Anti-Fascist Action (AFA) has explicitly aimed to prevent “fascist” demonstrations. They do not shy away from confrontation in the process. They warn local authorities and meeting room owners against the severe damage allegedly caused by right-wing extremist demonstrations. Infiltration in right-wing extremist groups was one of AFA’s tactics. Serious clashes between AFA and the riot squad were no exception at counter-demonstrations.

Since 2009 such actions have been organised by an AFA working group known as Do Not Let Them March (*Laat Ze Niet Lopen, LZNL*). AFA itself has adjusted its modus operandi. AFA’s role has changed to being the organiser and instigator of actions, rather than being a participant. LZNL mobilises local and regional sympathisers way before a demonstration is scheduled to take place, including “left-wing” football hooligans who are eventually left to take the heat, while AFA is active in the background as facilitator and spokesperson, supporting those arrested, if necessary. The fact that AFA often fails to register its demonstrations nowadays has caused additional problems in various cities.

AFA has become less active in the past eighteen months, with the exception of AFA The Hague and AFA Fryslân. However, these two groups have increasingly focused on opposition to asylum and immigration policy, particularly in 2012. Overall, AFA still concentrates on activities abroad. Many right-wing extremists demonstrations in Germany are still “visited”, particularly from the border regions. The participation of German peers in demonstrations in the Netherlands has, however, dwindled in the past two years.

Large numbers of AFA representatives use and sometimes abuse Netherlands Administrative Law. Local governors have received information requests, and some have been pressured.<sup>3</sup> At times so many requests are submitted that the maximum term to reply to such a so-called WOB request is exceeded, which has financial consequences for the addressee. The AIVD has observed that AFA uses this tactic to secure an additional source of revenues.



<sup>3</sup> Activities of Anti-Fascist Action in relation to local government, AIVD publication, February 2010.



## 4. Preview

This chapter outlines short-term developments anticipated by the AIVD.

### 4.1 Animal rights extremism

The various campaigns launched by Respect for Animals (RvD) and the Coalition against Animal Testing (ADC) are likely to be continued and intensified. RvD will be faced with the extradition of two leaders in the anti-Air France/KLM campaign to the United Kingdom. The effects on RvD's capabilities are unclear.

With the release of dogs and the posting of the owner's private details (naming and shaming), the ADC has taken yet another step on its crusade against the Landerd Campus.

### 4.2 Opposition to asylum and immigration policy

There is no reason to assume that the opposition to asylum and immigration policy will wane. The rise of the No Border Network Netherlands has increased overall resistance, which will particularly result in more - peaceful - demonstrations. Clandestine, illegal actions are also likely to persist. The recently observed focus on Frontex will continue, due in part to the establishment of international alliances.

### 4.3 Anti-fascism

AFA and its working groups, including Do Not Let Them March, are stuck in a rut. Most activities that can be attributed to AFA nowadays, and more specifically to the Fryslân and The Hague sections, focus on asylum and immigration policy. Occasional actions by autonomous anti-fascists, acting on their own account, still remain possible though. The revival of a more widely supported anti-fascist movement is unlikely, unless new elections result in a more "right-wing" government.

### 4.4 Environmental extremism

The latest developments in shale gas drilling are of great significance to environmental activists and extremists. In various countries shale gas exploration has led to a growth in the number of activists and, in part, to violent protests.

The first initiatives in the Netherlands have immediately caused turmoil in the regions designated for test drillings. Once again, the battle between economic and environmental interests has caused discord and is all too often won by the economy, according to environmentalists. Another potential area of attention is the application of nanotechnology, which some perceive to be similar to "doing arts and crafts with the building blocks of life". This has already resulted in violent protests abroad.



The IBM Nanotechnology Centre in Rorschlikon, Switzerland, escaped a large-scale attack in 2010, when anarchists driving a van filled with gas cylinders were pulled over at a police checkpoint. In recent years a large number of attacks on researchers, committed by the obscure organisation “Individualists Tending toward the Wild”, startled the world in general, and Mexico in particular.

#### 4.5 Nuclear energy

The AIVD expects a new surge of interest in general opposition to nuclear energy in the run-up to the Nuclear Security Summit, NSS 2014. After all, the summit presents a great opportunity for activists to clarify their viewpoints to a wider audience.

## 5. Role of the AIVD

As laid down in article 6 of the Intelligence and Security Services Act (Wiv 2002), the AIVD investigates people and organisations which, by virtue of their aims or methods, give rise to a reasonable suspicion that they pose a serious danger to the democratic legal order, to our national security or to other interests of the state. It is in this context that the service investigates left-wing extremism.

Left-wing extremism is characterised by fickle developments showing many highs and lows. It is a politically sensitive theme, and the perceived threat does not always concur with reality and with the actual threat. The AIVD, assisted by the regional intelligence units, will continue to investigate left-wing extremism. The service will inform relevant public and private organisations of potential threats or (large-scale) extremist actions at an early stage, enabling them to take the necessary precautions.

The AIVD, together with the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and the Ministry of Security and Justice (NCTV), has worked towards raising awareness so that relevant parties may take measures themselves and counter future threats and risks. These activities will be continued in close co-operation with aforementioned parties.





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