

*The following is summarised information from a Security Intelligence Report. Where possible, excerpts of the original document have been used. Some details are withheld under section 6(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 as release would prejudice national security. The individual responsible for the Christchurch Mosque attacks is referred to as "the attacker". References to the individual's manifesto have been withheld under section 6(c) of the OIA as the document has been classified as objectionable material by the Chief Censor and therefore release would prejudice the maintenance of the law.*

## **Christchurch mosques shooter unlikely a member of any existing extremist group**

Report Date: 15 April 2019

Report No: DMS6-15-751

### **Summary**

- It is unlikely the Christchurch attacker was a member of, or was closely affiliated with, any existing extremist group prior to or at the time of his alleged attacks on two Christchurch mosques on 15 March 2019, judging from available information to date.
- In 2017 and 2018, the attacker communicated with or donated money to white supremacist and identitarian groups, although it appears he did not officially join these groups or become closely affiliated with them.
- Information available to date has not revealed any contact between the attacker and a group named the reborn Knights Templar, despite his claim a group using that name provided a 'blessing' for his attacks.
- The attacker's contact with white supremacist and identitarian groups highly likely helped shape his views on race and immigration, although none of the groups he is known to have contacted exhibit all aspects of his version of white nationalism.

### **Report**

- Current information indicates the attacker engaged with the following groups:
  - Génération Identitaire, a pan-European identitarian movement originating in France. The attacker made four donations to Génération Identitaire in late September 2017, including the messages, 'keep up the good work' and 'the fire rises' with two of them. Génération Identitaire advocates for the defence of the identity and culture of white Europeans and refers to the displacement of Europeans by immigrants as 'the great replacement'.
  - Identitäre Bewegung Österreich (IBO), an identitarian group based in Austria. In early 2018, the attacker donated €1500 to IBO's Austria-based leader, Martin Sellner. No further transactions between the attacker and Sellner have been identified to date, though reporting indicates the two exchanged several emails. IBO holds similar anti-immigration and anti-Islam values to those expressed by the attacker.
  - The Lads Society (TLS), an Australian white supremacist and national socialist group. The attacker was a member of a secret Facebook group associated with

TLS for most of 2018, and expressed anti-immigrant views in this forum, according to intelligence.

- Identitären Bewegung Deutschland (IBD), an identitarian group based in Germany. The attacker 'liked' IBD's Facebook page, but is not known to have had any contact with the group.

### **NZSIS Comment**

- Although current information indicates the attacker likely remained on the periphery of white supremacist and identitarian groups, his contact with them highly likely helped shape his views on race, immigration and the use of violence. The views the attacker expressed are compatible with and draw on social, political and racial ideas and concepts common to many extreme right-wing groups. However, none of the groups the attacker is known to have had contact with exhibit all aspects of his version of white nationalism.