Horrific Terrorist Attack in the Heart of Europe

By LINDA RUPP

VIENNA, Austria – On November 2 (8 p.m., local time) a gunman opened fire. Four people were killed and another 23 people were wounded. The heavily armed gunman, who was shot dead by the police, was a 20-year-old Islamic State sympathizer, recently released from prison, where he had served a sentence for acts of terrorism.

WEGA - Heavily armed special unit of the Austrian police protecting the capital city

In a popular nightlife district of Vienna, opposite a synagogue, which was closed at that time, the gunman opened fire.

It is not yet clear if the synagogue was the target of the terrorist attack. The attack happened when people came together in bars and restaurants, only a few hours before the enforcement of new restrictions concerning the corona pandemic.

The police urged people to stay at home and avoid public transport if they were out on the streets. The gunman was armed with various weapons.

A massive manhunt, in which the police eliminated the terrorist, could finally terminate the dangerous situation.

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"This has been the hardest day for the country in several years", the Austrian interior minister said.

Austria declared three days of national mourning after the horrible terror attack. Countries all over the world show their solidarity and sympathy.

Further investigations have shown that the gunman had already been reported to the police and known to authorities fighting against terrorism.

In July, the terrorist met radical supporters of IS who were already under observation by the German Office for the Protection of the Constitution. Nevertheless, no consequences were drawn.

This fact and the knowledge of the terrorist's failed attempt to buy ammunition in Slovakia should have alarmed the responsible authorities, which might have prevented this act of terrorism.