

German police raid Iran-linked centre over suspected Hezbollah support

BERLIN, [Nov 16 \(Reuters\)](#) – German police conducted raids early on Thursday in seven states over the Islamic Centre of Hamburg’s suspected support for the militant group Hezbollah, the interior ministry said.



“I want to make clear that we are acting against Islamists, not against a religion or another state,” said German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser. “But we have the Islamist scene in our sights,” she said.

Authorities searched more than 50 properties connected to the centre, which has strong ties to Iran and whose activities are suspected of violating Germany’s constitutional order. The raids, which also targeted five other associations believed to be subgroups of the centre, were aimed at securing evidence as part of the ministry’s investigation, it said.

In Hamburg alone, 300 officers conducted 31 searches in connection with the centre, the city’s interior senator said.

“The suspicions against the Islamic Centre of Hamburg are serious,” and it has long been monitored by the domestic intelligence agency for Islamist activities, said Faeser. “Especially now, when many Jews feel particularly threatened, we do not tolerate Islamist propaganda or anti-Semitic and anti-Israel hate speech,”

Supporters of the Palestinians say they feel blocked from publicly expressing support or concern for people in Gaza without risking arrest, their jobs or immigration status.