

CASE STUDIES

ANDERS BEHRING BREIVIK



Case Study: Anders Breivik

On July 22, 2011, Anders Behring Breivik, a 32-year-old Norwegian citizen, detonated a truck bomb adjacent to government offices in the Norwegian capital of Oslo, killing eight. While first responders swarmed to the area, Breivik traveled to the island of Utoya 19 miles away and, dressed as a police officer, shot and killed 69 people, most of them teenagers attending a political camp. He surrendered to responding police officers without resistance.

Breivik was unknown to law enforcement prior to the attacks. He enjoyed a middle-class upbringing. He was fond of hip hop and graffiti and had a Muslim best friend, but as he entered his 20s, his views hardened as he convinced himself of the need to protect Western civilization. Just hours before the bombing, Breivik released a 1,500-page manifesto online which provided a timeline detailing his evolving ideology, the tradecraft he used to avoid detection, and his final attack planning.

2002: Breivik perceives the effects of multiculturalism, particularly the “Islamization” of Europe resulting from large-scale immigration, to be a problem for which a political solution is insufficient. He and several others form a group called the “Knights Templar Europe.” No evidence points specifically to the 2011 plot at this time.

2002–2008: Breivik begins with the equivalent of \$360,000 in assets, allowing him to avoid seeking outside funding or engaging in any activity that might have triggered suspicious financial activity warnings. He does not hold a formal job from this point on and will have exhausted his funds by the time of the 2011 attacks. While conducting research for his manifesto, he concludes that other extremist movements attracted the attention of authorities because they lacked “subtlety and discretion” due to outdated, “amateurish” tradecraft.

2009–2010: The first evidence of attack planning begins. Breivik creates business proposals for a mining company and a small farm operation, providing him a cover story to purchase explosives and components. He creates websites and business cards for his fake businesses, but he lacks real-world experience in those industries. He believes his clean criminal history will protect him from terrorism charges if arrested at this time. Breivik maintains an online presence, communicating with right-wing “primary nationalists” and sharing extremist views, but taking care to omit details about his planned attack. He is concerned that his networking may have landed him on terrorism watch lists.

2010–2011: Breivik acquires equipment for his attack, beginning with relatively innocuous materials less likely to trigger suspicious activity reporting, and leaving

Outreach Strategy



Case Study: Anders Breivik

firearms and explosive precursor fertilizer for later. Along the way, he purchases police insignia items, a police riot suit, a shield, and liquid pure nicotine (a poison). He rents a small, remote farm and attempts to educate himself on farming methods and terminology, but some locals detect Breivik's inexperience with the agriculture industry. With more space and privacy at the farm, Breivik is able to assemble his explosives. Police are not alerted before the attacks.

Throughout his planning period, Breivik is not known to have maintained close or romantic personal relationships. His social interactions appeared to be mostly online, sometimes through the video game community. He had a habit of having Sunday dinners with his mother; he was estranged from his father, and his sister had moved to the United States. He maintained his physical fitness and reportedly underwent steroid treatments.

Soon after his arrest, he reportedly confessed to the bombing and shootings, but called them necessary to force a change in society and spark a revolution. Although he claimed to have collaborated with associates, police believe he most likely planned and committed the attacks on his own.

<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/norway/index.html?scp=2&sq=anders%20breivik&st=cse>

http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/b/anders_behring_breivik/index.html?scp=1-spot&sq=anders%20breivik&st=cse

(U) JRIC Special Bulletin: Oslo Suspect's "Compendium" Details How to Avoid Detection in the Planning Stages of an Operation, 25 July 2011

Norway — Breivik Attacks, July 2011

Updated: Nov. 29, 2011

Oslo Bombings and Utoya Attack

On July 22, 2011, at least 77 people were killed in the bombing of a government building in central Oslo and a shooting rampage at a youth camp at an island near the capital.

A man described as a right-wing fundamentalist Christian, [Anders Behring Breivik](#), was seized by the police at the island and later admitted to the killings in both incidents. Authorities said he was a religious, gun-loving Norwegian obsessed with what he saw as the threat of multiculturalism and Muslim [immigration](#) to the cultural and patriotic values of his country.

In November, Mr. Breivik was judged to be insane after undergoing a court-ordered psychiatric evaluation. The report will be reviewed by a panel from the Norwegian Board of Forensic Medicine before the court makes a ruling on whether Mr. Breivik is legally insane.

The killings pointed to a meticulous and well-organized attack on Norway's current and future political elite. Police assume that Mr. Breivik, having drawn security services to central Oslo when he exploded a car bomb outside government offices, then traveled to Utoya Island, the location of the camp sponsored by the Liberal party, dressed as a police officer. Once there, he said he had come to check on the security of the young political campers, gathered them together and proceeded, coldly, to shoot them and then hunt down those who fled. He killed 69 and injured many more.

ANDERS BEHRING BREIVIK ARTICLES

Utoya is a wooded retreat accessible only by boat about 19 miles northwest of Oslo. The police said that difficulty reaching the island delayed their response. For more on the killings, click [here](#).

Right-Wing Groups Shrinking

Norwegian analysts said that the country's right-wing groups were very small, having shrunk considerably since the 1990s, and had been quiet. Even the Progress Party, which began as an anti-tax protest and has been stridently anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim in the past, has moved more to the center, to the point that it is seen as a potential coalition partner for the Conservative Party in the 2013 general election.

Mr. Breivik had been a member of the Progress Party but quit in 2006, disappointed by its move toward moderation; his Internet postings also indicate contempt for the Conservative Party. He said it had given up a serious battle against multiculturalism, which he said was diluting the nation's character. He also criticized the government for spending too little of Norway's oil wealth at home.

Norway Overview

Norway is Europe's largest exporter of oil and gas. The country's carefully managed oil riches has let this fjord-fringed nation of 4.8 million people develop one of the world's most advanced social welfare models and weather the current global financial crisis with nary a wobble.

But the role of fossil fuels in the economy has been a major subject of debate, especially in the run-up to the country's parliamentary election in September 2009, when the country's left-leaning prime minister, Jens Stoltenberg, was re-elected.

Norway is the world's fifth-biggest crude exporter. However the powerful oil and gas lobby has said the future of the country hinges on gaining access to new Arctic areas to replenish dwindling North Sea resources.

Oil and gas pumped from North Sea platforms have made Norway one of the world's most affluent nations. But that wealth has also presented a challenge for sitting governments, who must balance the risk of overheating the domestic economy with Norwegians' high demands on the cradle-to-grave welfare system.

Multimedia



Loss and Healing in Norway

Scenes of grief and consolation played out in Norway as the nation attempted to recover from the scars of the massacre on July 22.

[Victims of the Norway Attacks](#)
[Dutch Confront Their Own Questions of Identity](#)



Victims of the Norway Attacks

The police in Norway have now confirmed the identities of all 77 people killed in July's attacks on Oslo and Utoya Island. Learn more about the victims.

Before the September election, the country's prime minister struggled in a closely fought race despite the relative buoyancy of Norway's economy, with its stock market rising and its unemployment rate hovering at 3 percent, among the lowest in Europe.

Immigration has skyrocketed by a factor of five since the early 1970s — more than 10 percent of Norway's population is of foreign origin. In recent years, the biggest groups of asylum seekers have come from Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia and Eritrea.

The top challenger to the prime minister, Siv Jensen, the leader of the right-wing populist Progress Party, channeled resentment over immigration, taxes and other contentious issues. Ms. Jensen also wanted to raise spending on hospitals and roads by tapping into the country's robust oil proceeds.

Most of Norway's vast riches from oil and gas are tucked away for future generations in a sovereign wealth fund currently valued at more than 2.4 trillion kroner (\$400 billion.) The fund moved toward green investments in 2009, with officials announcing plans to commit about \$3.5 billion dollars over a period of five years to companies it deems environmentally sound and engaged in sustainable growth in emerging markets.

As a result of its petroleum fund, Norway can pledge more ambitious reductions than other nations, and then dig deep into its plentiful public savings to buy up larger amounts of international credits to offset its carbon footprint. That frustrates some environmental groups like Greenpeace, which have warned Norway to do more at home rather than pay developing nations to reduce emissions.

ANDERS BEHRING BREIVIK ARTICLES

In October 2009, the Norwegian government said that by the end of the next decade, it would cut emissions as much as 40 percent from 1990 levels. The offer goes significantly beyond that made by the European Union, which has agreed to cut emissions 20 percent and could go to 30 percent.

Norway would make the cut “if this can contribute to achieving an ambitious climate agreement where the major emission countries take on concrete emission obligations,” according to a statement from the governing coalition.

There has been virtually no talk about joining the European Union, which Norwegian voters rejected in referendums in 1972 and 1994, and which on average has been more severely hit by the recession.

[Hide](#)

Highlights From the Archives

At Least 80 Dead in Norway Shooting

By ELISA MALA and J. DAVID GOODMAN

A gunman stalked youths at an island summer camp for young members of the governing party after explosions in Oslo hit government buildings. The police seized a man officials described as a right-wing extremist in connection with both attacks.

July 23, 2011 | WORLD | NEWS



Thriving Norway Provides an Economics Lesson

By LANDON THOMAS Jr.

Instead of spending its oil riches, Norway saved, and it is now growing in the midst of the global recession.

May 14, 2009 | BUSINESS | NEWS



ANDERS BEHRING BREIVIK ARTICLES

[HOME PAGE](#) [TODAY'S PAPER](#) [VIDEO](#) [MOST POPULAR](#) [TIMES TOPICS](#)

The New York Times

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Times Topics

[WORLD](#) [U.S.](#) [N.Y. / REGION](#) [BUSINESS](#) [TECHNOLOGY](#) [SCIENCE](#) [HEALTH](#) [SPORTS](#) [OPINION](#)

Anders Behring Breivik



Jon-Are Berg-Jacobsen/Aftenposten, via Scanpix, via Reuters

Updated: Nov. 29, 2011

Anders Behring Breivik is the 32-year-old Norwegian man who killed at least 77 people in an Oslo bombing and a shooting rampage at a summer camp for young political activists on July 22, 2011.

Mr. Breivik admitted the killings in a court hearing in July. He was later judged to be insane in a court-ordered psychiatric evaluation. The report will be reviewed by a panel from the Norwegian Board of Forensic Medicine before the court makes a ruling on whether Mr. Breivik is legally insane.

The authorities have described Mr. Breivik as a right-wing fundamentalist Christian, a gun-loving Norwegian obsessed with what he saw as the threat of multiculturalism and Muslim immigration to the cultural and patriotic values of his country.

Multimedia



Will the Norway Massacre Deflate Europe's Right Wing?

The killings could weaken nationalist fervor in Europe, as the Oklahoma City bombing cooled off militias in the U.S. in the late 1990s.

[Post a Comment](#)

[More Multimedia »](#)

ANDERS BEHRING BREIVIK ARTICLES

Mr. Breivik's lawyer, Geir Lippestad, has described him as a "very cold" person who lived in his own world, buttressed by drugs and the belief that he was a warrior doomed to die for a cause that others did not comprehend. He said that his client called the killings "atrocious," but "necessary."

One thing is certain: the killings point to a meticulous and well-organized attack on Norway's current and future political elite. Police assume that Mr. Breivik, having drawn security services to central Oslo when he exploded a car bomb outside government offices, then traveled to Utoya Island, the location of the camp sponsored by the Liberal party, dressed as a police officer. Once there, he said he had come to check on the security of the young political campers, gathered them together and proceeded, coldly, to shoot them and then hunt down those who fled.

As soon as the shooting started, witnesses said, people panicked, running in all directions, tumbling down the island's rocky hill in an attempt to reach the sea. Even after many made it into the water, Mr. Breivik calmly and methodically shot at those who were swimming.

He was equipped, the police said, with an automatic rifle and a handgun; when the police finally got to the island, about 40 minutes after the shooting started, Mr. Breivik surrendered when they called out to him, dropping his weapons.

Mr. Breivik appeared at court in a closed hearing on July 25 and said that two cells of extremists collaborated with him, but police say they found no evidence of collaborators. He was ordered held for eight weeks, the first four in solitary confinement. The judge said after the hearing that Mr. Breivik had acknowledged that he had carried out the attacks but had pleaded not guilty.

On Nov. 14, Mr. Breivik appeared in court in his first public hearing. He declared himself a "military commander" in the "Norwegian resistance" movement, but was quickly cut off by the judge, who extended his custody 12 weeks pending trial.

In late November, prosecutors said that Mr. Breivik was insane and should be sent to a psychiatric ward instead of prison. A psychiatric evaluation ordered by an Oslo court found that Mr. Breivik was psychotic during the July 22 attacks, which means that he is not mentally fit to be sentenced to prison.

The 243-page report was written by two psychiatrists who spent a total of 36 hours talking to Mr. Breivik. It will be reviewed by a panel from the Norwegian Board of Forensic Medicine before the court makes a ruling on whether Mr. Breivik is legally insane.

ANDERS BEHRING BREIVIK ARTICLES

In Norway, an insanity defense requires that a defendant be in a state of psychosis, or out of touch with reality, while committing the crime with which he or she is charged. In July, the head of the Board of Forensic Medicine panel, Dr. Tarjei Rygnestad, said that a psychotic person typically struggles to perform even simple tasks, and that the planning and skills required for the attacks Mr. Breivik is charged with did not point to psychosis.

Breivik's Writings

In a Facebook page and a Twitter account set up under his name days before the rampage, suggesting a conscious effort to construct a public persona and leave a legacy for others, Mr. Breivik cited philosophers like Machiavelli, Kant and John Stuart Mill. Although there did not appear to be calls for violence in his Internet postings, he hinted at his will to act in his lone Twitter post, paraphrasing Mill: "One person with a belief is equal to the force of 100,000 who have only interests."

In a 1,500-page manifesto, posted on the Web hours before the attacks, Mr. Breivik recorded a day-by-day diary of months of planning for the attacks, and claimed to be part of a small group that intended to "seize political and military control of Western European countries and implement a cultural conservative political agenda."

He predicted a conflagration that would kill or injure more than a million people, adding, "The time for dialogue is over. We gave peace a chance. The time for armed resistance has come."

Mr. Breivik's manifesto spells out plans for using anthrax as part of his war to defend Europe against what he called the rising threat of Muslim domination. But experts in biological weapons said the manifesto showed no evidence that he had actually obtained the lethal germ or could wield it as a weapon. They said the document — at least on the subject of germ attacks — evoked the air of an armchair theorist rather than someone poised to commit mass slaughter.

The manifesto was signed Andrew Berwick, an Anglicized version of his name. A former American government official briefed on the case said investigators believed the manifesto was Mr. Breivik's work.

The manifesto, entitled "2083: A European Declaration of Independence," equates liberalism and multiculturalism with "cultural Marxism," which the document says is destroying European Christian civilization.

The document also describes a secret meeting in London in April 2002 to reconstitute the Knights Templar, a Crusader military order. It says the meeting was attended by nine representatives of eight European countries, evidently including Mr. Breivik, with an additional three members unable to attend, including a "European-American."

Mourners gathered on Monday in Oslo to pay tribute to the victims of Saturday's bombing in Oslo and shooting on Utøya Island.



Aftermath of Norway Violence

As Norwegians began to cope with the killings in Oslo and on an island to the northwest, survivors met with their families and the search for bodies continued.



Scenes of the Attacks in Norway

Diagrams of the attacks in Oslo and Utøya Island in Norway.

[More Multimedia »](#)

ANDERS BEHRING BREIVIK ARTICLES

Horrors of the Attacks

The horror of the twin strikes on the government building and a political summer camp on Utoya Island, a remarkably meticulous attack on Norway's current and future political elite, came into focus in interviews with witnesses, who painted a picture of 90 minutes of hell that left at least 85 people dead, some as young as 16.

As soon as the shooting started, they said, people panicked, running in all directions, tumbling down the island's rocky hill in an attempt to reach the sea. Even after many made it into the water, the gunman calmly and methodically shot at those who were swimming.

The police also said that unexploded munitions were still in some downtown Oslo buildings, and they had not ruled out the possibility that Mr. Breivik had accomplices.

The police are working on the assumption that Mr. Breivik, having drawn security services to central Oslo when he exploded a car bomb outside government offices, then traveled to Utoya Island dressed as a police officer. Once there, he said he had come to check on the security of the young political campers, gathered them together and proceeded, coldly, to shoot them and then hunt down those who fled.

He was equipped, the police said, with an automatic rifle and a handgun; when the police finally got to the island, about 40 minutes after the shooting started, Mr. Breivik surrendered when they called out to him, dropping his weapons.

Utoya is a wooded retreat accessible only by boat about 19 miles northwest of Oslo. The police said that difficulty reaching the island delayed their response.

Norway's prime minister, Jens Stoltenberg, had been scheduled to speak to the campers; a former leader of Labor's youth wing, he had attended the camp every summer since 1974.

Background

Norwegian analysts said that the country's right-wing groups were very small, having shrunk considerably since the 1990s, and had been quiet. Even the Progress Party, which began as an anti-tax protest and has been stridently anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim in the past, has moved more to the center, to the point that it is seen as a potential coalition partner for the Conservative Party in the 2013 general election.

ANDERS BEHRING BREIVIK ARTICLES

When Mr. Breivik was not plotting mass murder and fine-tuning the bomb he detonated here, he was busy playing video games and blogging, listening to Euro pop and watching episodes of “True Blood” — except on Sunday nights, when he usually dined with his mother.

It was a parallel life he maintained meticulously in recent years. Former classmates and colleagues described him as unremarkable and easy to forget, qualities, perhaps inborn, that he cultivated — consciously, he would say — to mask his dedication to what he called his “martyrdom operation.”

For years, Mr. Breivik, who is 32, participated in debates in Internet forums on the dangers of Islam and immigration. It is not clear at what point he decided that violence was the solution to the ills he believed were tearing European civilization asunder. Before the attacks that he has admitted mounting on government buildings and a children’s summer camp, he was careful never to telegraph his intentions.

“He didn’t say anything you could remember,” said Stig Fjellskaalnes, who knew Mr. Breivik when he was a member of Norway’s conservative Progress Party in the early 2000s. “He’s one of the crowd, if you know what I mean. You forget him.”

Yet it was about a decade ago that Mr. Breivik started to change. Once a schoolboy who was fond of hip-hop and had a Muslim best friend, in his 20s he began to view the immigrants who flowed freely into Norway and elsewhere in Europe as enemies, and those who sought to accommodate them as traitors, worthy only of execution.

“Around year 2000 I realized that the democratic struggle against the Islamization of Europe, European multiculturalism, was lost,” he wrote in a manifesto that he published on the Web shortly before the attacks. “I decided to explore alternative forms of opposition. Protesting is saying that you disagree. Resistance is saying you will put a stop to this. I decided I wanted to join the resistance movement.”

ANDERS BEHRING BREIVIK ARTICLES

Early in life, Mr. Breivik, far from being a radical, appeared to be on a track to join Norway's political establishment. He grew up in Skoyen, a middle-class district of western Oslo. His father, a civil servant, and mother, a nurse, divorced when he was 1. Beyond that, his childhood seems to have been uneventful; Mr. Breivik said in his manifesto that it was happy.

He attended the elite high school where the country's current king, Harald V, and his son once studied. Former classmates remembered him as quiet but intelligent, with a small rebellious streak: he was a prolific graffiti artist.

Toward the end of high school, he joined the youth wing of the Progress Party, drawn to its anti-immigrant platform and market capitalist bent. But those who knew him from those days said that he failed to leave much of a mark.

He began to struggle with life, those who knew him said. He became estranged from his father, who moved to France. Then his sister, Elisabeth, on whom he seemed to rely in his father's absence, moved to the United States and married an American.

It was a time when, according to his manifesto, his political views began to transmute. He began to perceive what he said was the hostility of Muslim youth. He latched on to reports of attacks against ethnic Norwegian men and rapes of ethnic Norwegian women by immigrant gangs.

Dagbladet, a national newspaper, quoted an unnamed fellow student from Mr. Breivik's high school days as saying that Mr. Breivik started showing an interest in far-right and neo-Nazi movements around the age of 18, in the late 1990s, and that he was rumored to have worked as a doorman or bouncer at neo-Nazi events. He would later become critical of neo-Nazi groups.

Mr. Breivik wrote that the NATO bombing of Serbia in 1999 was a tipping point for him, describing the operation meant to halt a genocide as a betrayal of a fellow Christian people for the sake of Muslims.

He spent the next decade slowly working out his plan, though few people, it seems, had any inkling of it.

ANDERS BEHRING BREIVIK ARTICLES

To earn money for the attacks, he wrote that he had started a company that earned him millions. Neighbors cast doubt on this claim, however, saying that they thought he had inherited some money from relatives.

As he went about gathering six tons of ammonium nitrate fertilizer and turning aspirin powder into pure acetylsalicylic acid for his bomb, he led an active life online, railing against Muslims and Marxists in debate forums.

The police say he rented a farm in eastern Norway not far from the capital and holed up there for several months to prepare his bomb.

When not surfing conservative blogs, Mr. Breivik was fighting virtual demons, ogres and other fantastical creatures in online role-playing games. He was a regular in talk forums for players of "World of Warcraft," using a busty female as his avatar and the handle Conservatism.