

Austria probing far-right figure over New Zealand terror attack link



Vienna, March 27 (RHC)-- Austrian authorities have raided the apartment of a far-right group leader in a probe linking him to the man behind deadly attacks on two mosques in New Zealand. According to officials, Martin Sellner of the Identitarian Movement Austria (IBOe) said in a video uploaded online that he had received a donation possibly from the Christchurch gunman Brenton Tarrant.

But he denied having any connection to the March 15 assault, which claimed 50 lives, and instead blamed Tarrant for seeking to involve him by making the donation. "I have nothing to do with this terror attack," Sellner said in the video, adding his group was a peaceful anti-immigration movement.

He said he had had no contact with Tarrant, but prior to the New Zealand attack found an e-mail with a "disproportionally large" donation with the name "Tarrant" in the email address. Sellner said he had sent a "thank you" reply as he did with other donation e-mails.

The far-right leader added that authorities had seized his laptop and phone during a raid on his apartment in Vienna. An Interior Ministry spokesman confirmed the raid but did not give any further details.

The prosecutor's office in the southern city of Graz said authorities had noticed the suspicious e-mail address while probing the donation of around 1,500 euros (1,700 dollars), which exceeded the usual sums given to IBOe.

Tarrant, 28, was arrested minutes after the attack on the mosques and has been charged with murder. The Australian white supremacist streamed his shooting rampage online.

Last March, Sellner was prevented from entering the UK, with authorities saying his presence would not have been “conducive to the public good.”

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