

International Symposium:

**From Entebbe to Mogadishu:
Terrorism in the 1970s and its History, Memory and Legacy
40 Years after the “German Autumn”**

DAAD Center for German Studies
European Forum at the Hebrew University
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

16 - 17 January 2017

The Hebrew University, Mount Scopus
Maiersdorf Faculty Club, Room 501

Mishkenot Sha'ananim
Gilbert de Botton Auditorium

When, on December 19, 2016, a hijacked truck drove with full speed into a crowded Christmas Market at Berlin's landmark Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, nearly forty years had passed since the Federal Republic of Germany was last fundamentally shattered by a series of terrorist attacks known as the “German Autumn”.

In October 1977 a Palestinian terrorist commando hijacked Lufthansa flight 181, passenger plane “Landshut”, on its way from Majorca to Frankfurt. The hijacking was in support of the German left-wing terrorist organization Red Army Faction's attempt to free several convicted comrades from German prisons, among them RAF's founders Andreas Baader and Gudrun Ensslin. In order to put pressure on the West German government an RAF terrorist commando had kidnapped Hanns Martin Schleyer, head of the German Employers Association, weeks before on September 5, and provoked one of the biggest crises in post-war German history.

The hijacking of the Lufthansa plane to Mogadishu in Somalia was also a response to the German radical left's support of another attempted skyjacking a year earlier to Entebbe airport in Uganda. On June 27, 1976 two German terrorists had joined the Palestinian hijacking of an Air France flight from Tel Aviv to Paris at a stopover in Athens and because of that support the Palestinian hijackers of the Lufthansa plane to Mogadishu decided to choose the Palestinian nom de guerre of the German terrorist Brigitte Kuhlmann as the name for their violent mission.

The hijacking to Entebbe ended with the rescue of all the hostages remaining at the airport by an Israeli special military unit and the death of all terrorists, including the two Germans. The successful ending of the hijacking to Mogadishu, a year later, became the newly-established German anti-terrorist unit GSG 9's first successful hostage rescue. The unit was founded in response to the failed and bloody rescue attempts during the Munich Olympic attack in 1972.

Both events, Entebbe and Mogadishu are important chapters in an entangled German-Israeli history. However, while Entebbe became a significant part of Israeli collective memory it is nearly forgotten in Germany, despite the fact that Germans participated in the hijacking and in separating Israeli-Jewish and non-Israeli hostages at Entebbe airport. On the other hand, Mogadishu and the experience of terror during the "German Autumn" in 1977 remains to this day the main reference points for the experience of terrorism in post-war Germany, while in Israel it is not regarded as a significant chapter of international terrorism despite the fact that it can be seen as postscript to the events in Entebbe.

On the 40th anniversary of both historic incidents, the DAAD Center for German Studies in the European Forum at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is hosting an international symposium "**From Entebbe to Mogadishu**" to review the history and legacy of terrorism in the 1970s and its commemoration in Germany, Europe and Israel. International scholars and renowned experts will present new research on Entebbe and Mogadishu and discuss the relevance of past experiences of terrorism for today and its impact on our present societies and the future. In addition participants in the incidents, among them former hostages and anti-terrorist commandos from Israel and Germany, will recall their experiences during the tragic events.

The symposium opens on Monday, **January 16, 2017** at 9:00 at **Maiersdorf Faculty Club, Room 501** (Mount Scopus). Through Tuesday, January 17 scholars from Germany, Israel, the United States and the United Kingdom will present new research on Entebbe and Mogadishu.

A special evening event of conversations with former participants of the events from Germany and Israel will be held on Monday, January 16 from **16:00 to 20:00 at the Gilbert de Botton Auditorium at Mishkenot Sha'ananim** with the German Ambassador in attendance.

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Guests of Honor:

Dieter Fox (Germany)

Special Mission Team Leader and Deputy Unit Leader of the German Counterterrorist Unit GSG 9 that raided the hijacked Lufthansa Flight 181 in Mogadishu.

Gabriele von Lutzau (Germany)

Chief flight attendant of Lufthansa Flight 181 that was hijacked on October 13, 1977 by a Palestinian terrorist commando to Mogadishu. Von Lutzau is remembered as "The Angel of Mogadishu."

Matan Vilnai (Israel)

Deputy commander of the Israeli units that raided Entebbe airport during "Operation Yonatan" (Operation Thunderbolt) and rescued the hostages that were held by Palestinian-German terrorist commandos at the airport's old terminal.

Benny Davidson (Israel)

Hijacked with his family to Entebbe, he was on his way to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah in a coast-to-coast trip in the USA.

Ankie Spitzer (Israel)

Widow of Andre Spitzer who was murdered during the Munich Olympic Games hostage crisis in 1972. She is actively engaged in keeping the memory of the murdered athletes alive.

Keynote Speakers:

Professor Jeffrey Herf

(University of Maryland, College Park)

Dr. Annette Vowinckel

(Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung, Potsdam)

Dr. Martin Jander

(Hamburger Stiftung zur Förderung von Wissenschaft und Kunst)