

# Putin's friends in the UK are awake and active

By Gerry Gable

JUST OVER A WEEK after the assassination of the Russian opposition politician Boris Nemtsov in Moscow on 27 February, *The Sunday Times* ran two articles. One was a news report about the arrest of four suspects. They were all Chechens, one a deputy to Chechnya's State Intelligence Service chief, who is a close associate of President Ramzan Kadyrov, the man put in place by Russian President Vladimir Putin in 2007 to run the troubled Russian republic.

The second story, by Ben Judah, revealed the presence of up to 1,000 Russian informants in London, who brazenly track Russians opposed to the Kremlin and target figures in the British elite to gather intelligence about British plans or to "persuade" them into not criticising Russia. These informants, who riddle London's 50,000-strong Russian community, are mostly recruited with financial incentives, such as payments towards

the cost of studying in the UK, for medical treatment for a relative in Russia or by providing funding for a business.

It was timely for *Searchlight* as we were about to reveal the scale of organised infiltration of British universities – among students and academic staff – by right-wing extremists who help Putin through political choice or coercion.

Over the past two years we have watched the Russian-supported international Nazi movement Generation Identity grow in the UK from three or four people to more than fifty. All of them are students or graduates and many have come here from abroad. They operate in more than half a dozen universities including some of the most illustrious: the London School of Economics, Warwick, Manchester, King's College London and St Andrews, the latter noted for its conservatism and

security service links.

Our investigation, as so often in recent years, started with the Traditional Britain Group, its close relationship with the London Forum (formerly IONA London Forum) and both groups' close ties to some of the brightest young National Socialists in Generation Identity. Through patient analysis we can now reliably identify those who are most significant in helping Putin's cause.

We are grateful for the assistance of individuals who joined the Traditional Britain Group not realising it was run not by Conservatives but by Nazis and fascists who enjoy the support of some wealthy business people and links with Nazis and haters from all over the world.

All three of these organisations have growing number of students and graduates in their ranks including some who have attended international Nazi events and taken part in armed paramilitary training carried out in the UK by Russian and Polish fascists.

One person who attracted our attention was Anastasia Kayumova, a Russian student at the London School of Economics. Among her British Facebook contacts are the Nazi activist and thug Piers Mellor; Kevin Scott, a graduate of Newcastle University and former British National Party regional organiser who now runs Civil Liberty; and the Leeds University graduate Mark Collett, one-time high flyer in the BNP and the subject of the TV documentary *Young, Nazi and Proud* which exposed him as a ranting young Nazi.

Another person she would have met through the Traditional Britain Group is Jack Buckby, a one-time



Piers Mellor (left) on a Nazi protest at the Greek Embassy



Nazi paramilitary Matt Tait

BNP youth organiser, founder of the so-called National Culturists and now “outreach officer” for the tiny Islamophobic group Liberty GB. Others include Bain Dewitt of Generation Identity and Matt Tait, a violent Nazi who decided to give up his place at Surrey University after 11 months to dedicate his life to organising young Nazis and involvement in paramilitary training. Buckby, Dewitt and Tait all travelled to Budapest for an international Identitarian conference backed by US and Russian far-right extremists. The gathering ended in chaos and arrests after the Hungarian Government and police enforced a ban.

Kayumova also has a link with an active member of the UK Independence Party, Jennifer Vollsteed, a fellow LSE student who is proud of her partial South African heritage.

Turning to Kayumova’s overseas contacts, the first name that grabbed our attention was Manuel Ochseneiter, a contributor to Putin’s tame TV station, Russia Today. RT described him first as a German journalist, then as their German reporter and then as their expert on Syria. In fact Ochseneiter is the editor of the German glossy National Socialist magazine *Zuerst!* (First!).

Ochseneiter was one of the speakers at the London Forum

meeting on 17 November 2012, where his topic was President Assad “our ally”. Ochseneiter enjoys a close relationship with the murderous Syrian Assad regime.

In June last year Ochseneiter addressed a far-right conference in Stockholm titled “Identitarian Ideas VI”. It was hosted by the Swedish far-right think-tank Motpol (Antithesis) and the Swedish far-right periodical *Nationell Idag* (National Today). This time Ochseneiter’s subject was Ukraine. Other speakers at the conference included the chief

Generation Identity ideologue Markus Willinger, John Morgan from the Arktos far-right publishing house, and Patrik Forsén of the Swedish extreme-right Nordisk Ungdom (Nordic Youth).

At the end of September 2014 Ochseneiter attended the annual “New Horizon” conference in Tehran. The conference, organised by the Iranian authorities, brought together more than 30 participants to discuss “the Zionist 9/11 conspiracy” and “Israel lobbying” in various countries.

Kayumova has several other German contacts, mostly well known Nazis associated with the National-Democratic Party of Germany (NPD).

One is Sebastian Maass, a historian and author on right-wing subjects and contributor to the German extreme-right periodicals *Junge Freiheit* (Young Freedom), *National-Zeitung*, and the NPD publication *Deutsche Stimme* (German Voice).

Sigrid Schüssler writes for *Zuerst!* and is a member of the NPD in Berlin and supporter of “Hooligans against Salafism”. In 2013 she stood as an NPD candidate in Bavaria.

Another NPD contact is Thorsten Thomsen, a member of the NPD parliamentary group in Saxony and writer for the *National-Zeitung* and the Austrian extreme-right



Jack Buckby (right) with former BNP leader Nick Griffin





Young, Nazi and proud: Mark Collett

monthly *Die Aula*.

Then there is Hannes Schüller, a journalist and intellectual much concerned with establishing the identity of the German national community. Schüller advocates a Europe “united from Lisbon to Vladivostok” and condemns “unregulated immigration”, the “Brussels bureaucracy”, the euro and lack of sovereignty. In 2004 Schüller founded a New Right youth magazine called *Blaue Narzisse* (Blue Narcissus) in his home town of Chemnitz.

Karl Richter is another on her list of

contacts. Richter, until recently a local councillor in Munich for the Bürgerinitiative Ausländerstopp in München (Citizens’ Initiative Stop Foreigners in Munich), has done the rounds of the German extreme right. Starting in the Republican Party (REP) as spokesman for its six MEPs elected in 1989, he left after falling out with its leader Franz Schönhuber and helped found the Deutsche Liga für Volk und Heimat (German League for People and Homeland), becoming editor of its publication *Deutsche Rundschau*. He has contributed to several other extreme-right



UKIP activist Jennifer Vollsteed: proud of her South African heritage but strangely unwilling to show her face on her Twitter profile

periodicals and in 2004 joined the NPD, becoming editor of *Deutsche Stimme* in 2008, a position he held until January 2014. For a time he was the darling of the NPD leader Udo Voigt and felt so invincible that when he took his oath of office in Munich city hall on first being elected as an NPD councillor, he gave a Hitler salute. That act earned him a fine.

Kayumova’s NPD links would have given her a line of communication with Horst Mahler, a convicted former terrorist in the Baader Meinhof terrorist gang, who became the NPD’s lawyer and has accumulated several convictions for Holocaust denial and incitement of hatred. The 79-year-old is currently serving a long sentence in a prison near Berlin for Holocaust denial and banalisation of Nazi war crimes, but remains in constant contact with his far-right comrades.

There are many other names on Kayumova’s list of contacts but we have only listed those whose extreme-right involvement we have been able to establish so far. Others may have Nazi connections, such as a Greek named Paulos Papadimitriou whose Facebook profile picture depicts two people on the ground with their outstretched bent legs forming the shape of a swastika.

In the wake of Ben Judah’s *Sunday Times* article and this investigation we suggest it is time for MI5 and MI6 take a long hard look at Kayumova and her chums.



Former BNP North East regional organiser Kevin Scott



Manuel Ochsenreiter (right) at the Tehran antisemitic conference last year



Author Sebastian Maass



Karl Richter



Sigrid Schüssler, who stood as an NPD candidate in Bavaria



Thorsten Thomsen, NPD MP and media spokesman in Saxony



German identitarian Hannes Schüller