

# Germany arrests 25 accused of plotting coup

Twenty-five members of a far-right group inspired by the so-called “Reichsbürger” movement, have been arrested in raids across Germany on suspicion of plotting to overthrow the government



## REICHSBÜRGER FACTFILE

- “Citizens of the Reich” group does not recognise modern-day Germany as legitimate state
- Believes in continued existence of German empire, or Reich, dating back to 1871 or 1937
- Many members anti-Semitic. Around 5% belong to far right
- Print their own passports and driving licences
- Group has some **21,000** followers, with minority prepared to use violence to achieve goals



## KEY EVENTS

- **2017:** Reichsbürger member **Wolfgang P.** given life sentence for killing officer during police operation to seize firearms at his home
  - **2019:** **Adrian Ursache** sentenced to seven years in jail for attempted murder of two officers in 2016 raid
  - **Apr 2022:** Four members of “United Patriots” – affiliated with Reichsbürger and groups protesting against Covid-19 restrictions – detained for plotting to kidnap health minister **Karl Lauterbach**
  - **Dec 7:** Special Forces arrest 25 people said to be planning to storm Reichstag and seize power
- Plot envisaged by Prince Heinrich XIII (left), former member of German royal family who had allegedly reached out to representatives of Russia**

