

# 'Radical Islamist antisemite' arrested in connection with attacks on Graz Jewish community

*From the [Jewish News Syndicate](#) Photograph from [warned](#) that the Austrian city faced "a stronger left-wing and anti-Israel anti-Semitism,"*

The next day, Mr Rosen was threatened with a wooden club when he caught the accused about to smash in the synagogue's windows. Mr Rosen told the JC he approached the synagogue in his car at about 6pm on August 22 and saw a man in a baseball cap with pieces of concrete.

Mr Rosen approached the man, who threatened him, hitting the community president's car. Mr Rosen told him to stop. No other words were exchanged. The suspect was seen and photographed by two bystanders before fleeing on his bicycle.

The wall that the Islamic attacker had vandalized was made out of bricks from the ruins of the original Graz synagogue that had been destroyed by the National Socialists. The synagogue, which had been rebuilt only two decades ago, serves Graz's tiny surviving Jewish community.

Austria's interior ministry confirmed the arrest on Monday of a 31 year old man. Unemployed, he is a Syrian citizen who arrived in Austria as a refugee in 2013. He is also suspected of having vandalised the headquarters of a Graz LGBTQ association and a Catholic church last week.

When the police caught him, he expressed no remorse. The Syrian Muslim refugee justified his actions by citing his religion: Islam, and Islamic law. Austria's interior minister,

Karl Nehammer, ascribed an "Islamist motive" to the attacks, calling the suspect a "radical Islamist antisemite" and "homophobe".

There were a total of seven attacks committed by this single refugee. This has become the new normal in Graz, an Austrian city the size of Pittsburgh, which has seen a surge in violence.

The mosques of Graz have been used to recruit Islamic State terrorists. Some of ISIS's killers died in its wars against its enemies, but others came back and are living in Graz. After multiple police raids and arrests that involved as many as 800 officers, part of the network of ISIS and al-Qaeda recruiters was broken up, only to be reunited in prison.

A Muslim Brotherhood prison imam from Graz who was brought in to help deradicalize some of the prisoners instead