

German police force admits to Nazi past

by UPI

BERLIN -- The Federal Criminal Police Office in Germany acknowledged its founding leadership contained members of ex-Nazi police forces. Jorg Zierke, chief of the Federal Criminal Police Office, known by its German abbreviation BKA, said at a conference examining the organization's Nazi history, "It is only through debate about our past that we can map out our future in a responsible way," Deutsche Welle reported Thursday. The BKA previously obscured its Nazi past, stating at the organization's 50th anniversary celebration in 2001 that the BKA doesn't have a National Socialist past. However, Dieter Schenk, previously with the BKA, alleged in his book "The Brown Roots of the BKA" that nearly 50 of its founding members were former members of the Nazi security forces and that influence is still felt "in the half-heartedness with which it has fought against radical right, anti-Semitism and anti-immigrant" issues, the Deutsche Welle report said. Though long since recognizing its Nazi history, many sectors of Germany's private sectors have divulged their past association with the Nazi party. Speaking at the symposium Wednesday, Zierke said, "No line can be drawn under the Nazis' genocide, for which the police forces of the time were partly responsible. And no line should be drawn under it."

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