

# Extremism and Radicalization in Prisons

## A Danish Perspective

By Thorkild Fogde

Director General for the Danish Prison and Probation Service

# Thorkild Fogde



- **2017:** Director for the Danish Prison and Probation Service
- **2013 - 2017:** Commissioner Copenhagen Police
- **2009 - 2013:** Commissioner NZ and National Police
- **2004 - 2009:** Deputy Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Justice
- **1991:** Master of Laws (LL.M.), Aarhus University

# The Prison Population in Denmark



- 5,8 million inhabitants in Denmark
- Prison capacity: 4.200
- Prison population: 3.700
  - Open prisons: 1100
  - Closed prisons: 900
  - Local prisons: 1700
- Prisoners convicted/on remand for terrorism: 22



# Terrorist Attacks Before February 2015



Foto: Linda Henriksen

- Terrorist attacks abroad: London, Madrid, Oslo/Utøya, Paris etc.
- Planned, but prevented, attacks in Denmark: Glasvej, Vollsmose, Jyllandsposten
- Increased level of threat following the cartoon crisis in 2005 and international military engagement

# Attack in Copenhagen - February 2015

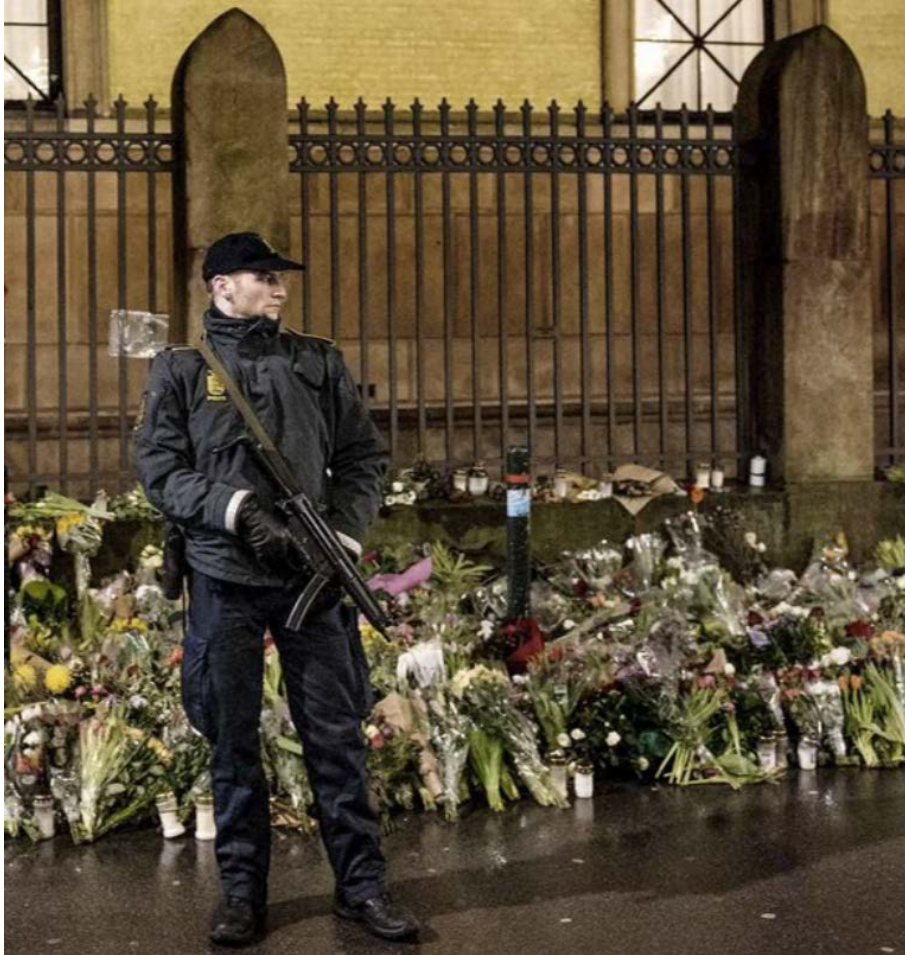


Foto: Scanpix

- Two attacks
- Against freedom of expression, and against the Jewish population
- Two civilians killed
- Six police officers and security agents wounded

# Omar El-Hussein – Prison Background



- Extensive criminal background
- In the periphery of criminal gangs
- Signs of concern reported twice
- In remand for more than a year when released – 13 days before the shootings.

# Foreign Fighters



- Departed since 2012: 150
- Returned: 50
- Currently 8 persons in prison
- Different backgrounds
- Some with a criminal history, some without
- Some with ties to gangs



# The Migrant Crisis in 2015



Foto: Claus Fisker

- Asylum seekers in Denmark:

2013:	7.600
2014:	14.800
2015:	21.800
2016:	6.300
2017:	3.500

- Increased awareness abroad and in Denmark.



# "The Girl from Kundby" 2017



Foto: Mads Claus Rasmussen

- 15 year old girl
- From the small village of Kundby in Denmark
- From a socially disadvantaged family
- Holiday in Turkey
- Looking for radical and extremist environments online
- In November 2017 convicted for planning terrorist attacks against two schools.

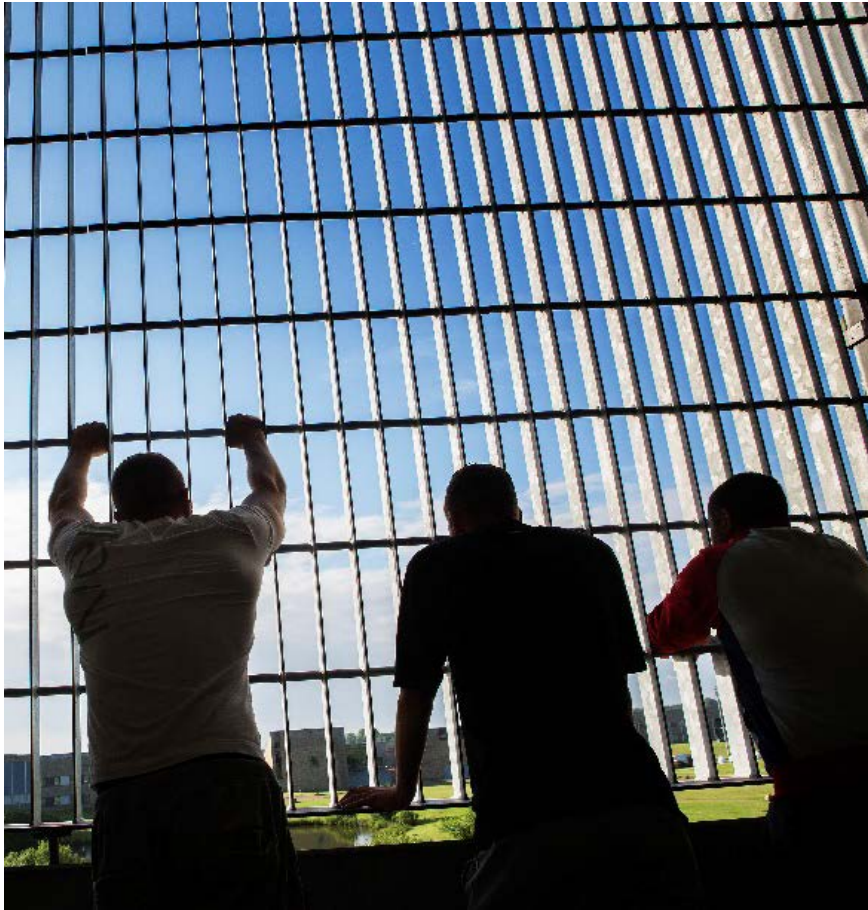
# Game Consoles in Prisons 2018



Foto: Asger Ladefoged - Scanpix

- April 2018: Extremist material found on four game consoles in Nyborg Prison
- All game consoles were removed from all Danish prisons.

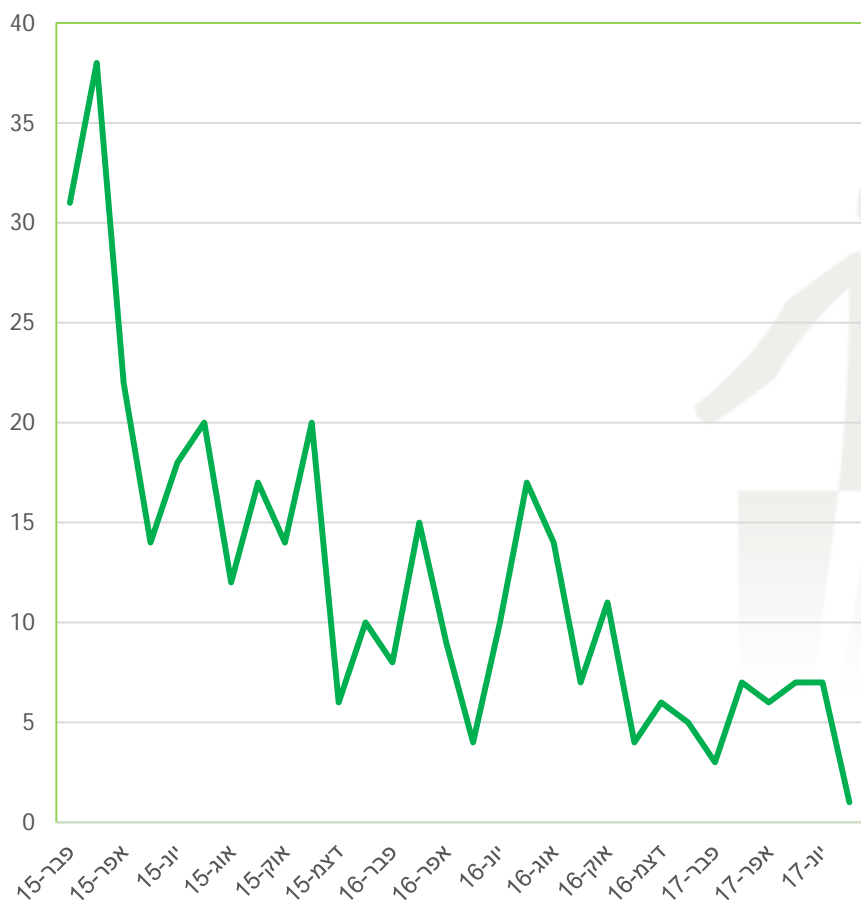
# Reporting Concerns



- From 2015 onwards all concerns are sent to the Danish Security and Intelligence Service (PET)
- Concerns are validated, assessed and rated internally
- Proper responses and security measures applied according to the assessment.



# Number of Reports



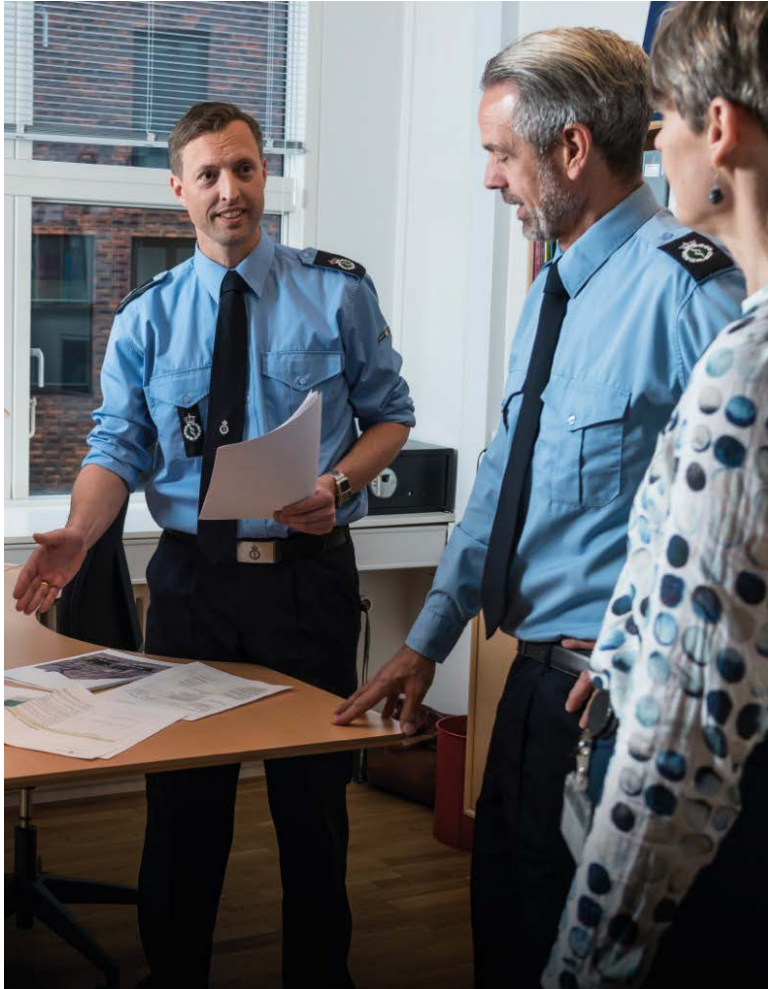
- 2015: 212
- 2016: 115
- 2017: 60
- 2018: 37

# Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization



- Immediate action when concerned
- Validation and security assessment
- Interviews
- Preventive action/security measures
- Mentoring schemes
- Sharing of assessment with concerns upon release.

# New Initiatives - 2018



- New intelligence unit within the Prison Service
- New legislation with better access to collect and share information with other authorities.
- Enhanced mentoring schemes
- Enhanced exit programmes