

# International

## Norway terrorist attacks scar Scandinavia, Denmark increases security for politicians

Peter Gallagher  
International Correspondent

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK—The tragic events that occurred in Oslo, Norway, and on the island of Utøya July 22 may be distant memory to many in the United States, but they remain at the forefront of the minds and hearts of Norwegians and the people of Scandinavia in general.

The attacks left 77 dead and many more injured after a car bomb exploded outside a government building and Anders Behring Breivik, a Norway native went on a shooting rampage aimed at teenagers attending the Norwegian Labor Party's annual youth summer camp.

Like the post-Sept. 11 United States, Norway, Denmark and the other Scandinavian countries have been forced to deal with 21st century terrorism and the ramifications terrorist attacks can have on a culture and a society as a whole.

Jesper Lohmann, an instructor at the Danish Institute for Study Abroad who teaches a class called Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in International Politics, said there is a great chance of an attack happening in Denmark very soon.

"Before the attacks in Norway, Danes and all Scandinavians were expecting an attack to take place in Copenhagen, Denmark," Lohmann said.

Fears of attack emerged following the controversial publication of 12 editorial cartoons in the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten, where the Prophet Muhammad was negatively portrayed in 2005.

But not all Danes are worried of an impending terrorist attack. Simon Ellingsen, who works at a publishing company in Copenhagen, says that worrying is needless.

"Life is too short to be living in fear of when or where the next terrorist attack will be," he said. "I'm not going to worry about or change the way I live out of fear or terrorism."

But even if not all Danes are concerned, the Danish government is not taking any chances and has been increasing its security the past few months.

Prior to the attacks, few Norwegian or Danish political figures had permanent bodyguards and security. The two countries pride themselves on this aspect of their culture and believe that openness between the citizens and politicians results in a more equal and peaceful society. But because of the attacks and 10th anniversary of Sept. 11, security has been stepped up for government officials and politicians.

"In the long-term, politicians will no longer be able to walk the streets so freely," Lohmann said.

Bettina Vang, a Danish mother of twin boys, said she believes that the Danish lack of security for politicians and citizens is a naive way to live in today's day and age, and that security must be increased.

"I would never place my children in a situation like on the island of Utøya, where there were close to 600 young people and so few police and safety measures," she said. "I hope Denmark can learn from the



Anders Behring Breivik's terrorist attacks in Oslo were previously unprecedented in Norway. He later revealed long-term planning and a manifesto years in the making. Since the attacks, Norway has pledged to maintain its open society.

Norway attack to increase our security measures."

Scandinavian responses to the Norway attacks have been markedly different. While Norwegians have re-stated their firm beliefs that openness and more democracy are the answer to public hatred and atrocities, many Danes have used these attacks to push for stricter immigration laws. The Danish People's Party, which is the right-wing populist party, has stated that Denmark is not naturally a country of immigration, and

it rejects the idea of multiculturalism in Denmark.

Christopher Keller, a student in Denmark, holds a contrasting view on immigration. Keller's parents are of Danish and Japanese decent, which he said has helped him understand the importance of accepting immigration and living in an open and accepting society.

"I feel Denmark should be a country that welcomes immigration and offers others a culture to be a part of and join," he said.

## In Europe, American Mastercard doesn't work for 'everything else'

Kristen Olsen  
International Correspondent

DUBLIN—Whenever someone hands over a credit card to a cashier, they normally hear "debit or credit?" But what Americans have lately been hearing in Dublin is, "I'm sorry, we cannot accept that."

Recently in Ireland, as well as in many other countries in the European Union, credit card companies have put a Chip and PIN on their cards to help protect against fraud. But for Americans, this has become a hassle because many European stores won't accept cards that

do not have a chip.

International student Amanda Taylor, a senior from Winthrop University in South Carolina who is studying in Dublin, had no access to money for her first few days in-country.

"My account got frozen, so I had no Euros for five days," Taylor said. "I had to go from store to store until I found someone who would swipe my card."

The Chip and PIN is a type of credit card that has a metal chip on the card with account information, which is used to read a customer's personal PIN to pay for purchases.

The cards were first introduced in

the UK in 2004 and made their way to Ireland in 2007. Most European Union countries have this style of credit cards, and all will be converted to using it by the end of this year.

Seamus Graham, an employee for the Dublin convenience store Centra, is one of the many European workers who will not swipe cards without the chip.

"If a card doesn't have a chip, then its information can easily be stolen," he said. "We want to protect our customers."

Study abroad student Sara Kobus, from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania, said she feels that she

could have been better prepared for this inconvenience.

"I would tell other long-term students to open up a bank in the country they are living in, and bring enough Euros," Kobus said. "I plan on going to the ATM every week."

Most American students have had to take out and use more cash than they were originally planning on using, or consider opening a foreign bank account in their host country.

"This experience has been very eye-opening, not being able to have access to my funds," Taylor said. "I have become much more aware of my budget."

## Correspondents' Corner

Last week's issue of The Pendulum did not have an International section because of spatial constraints from our Sept. 11 coverage. Check online throughout this week for additional international coverage. This week, read our correspondents' experiences as they reflected on the Sept. 11 attacks from foreign countries.



VOLLRATH

Chelsea Vollrath

BEIJING—On the evening of Sept. 11, I made a point of going to the Catholic mass held in the basement of my dorm building to commemorate the lives lost 10 years ago and

pray for the families affected. There was a common feeling of solemnity when I walked in the room, which was only exacerbated by the priest's homily later on in the service. He spoke of the violence and terrorism that plagues the world and then began

to address the events of Sept. 11 specifically. In an open forum, he asked us to share where we were and how we felt when we heard of the attacks. There were a lot of international students present at the mass, and it was very interesting to hear their perspective on the event.

Although I wouldn't assume that they wouldn't have been affected in any way, I was surprised to hear how many people had still lost someone they knew and how their families had been impacted.

This world is more connected than I had ever realized: the global community often discussed at Elon really does exist.



LOGAN

Carlton Logan

BARCELONA, SPAIN—While most of you spent last Sunday commemorating the 10th anniversary of the World Trade Center

attacks in New York City, here in Barcelona another event was being commemorated in a slightly different fashion. The region of Catalonia celebrated its National Day, which recognizes the 1714 Siege of Barcelona defeat during the Spanish Succession.

In a city that seems to come alive at night and can party like no other, this past Sunday in Barcelona was nothing short of electric. As I sat down for dinner with my new Catalan family, we conversed in their tongue about some of the events of their National Day. Amongst the loud music and streets flooded with Catalonians of all different backgrounds there were speeches, ceremonies, performances, and

parties of every kind. Markets of all kinds were in full force and various local events took place. In virtually every square, plaza or park you could see the national Catalan flag and an abundance of Barcelona natives, tourists and visitors. The noise of celebration began at sunrise and ended well after sunset.

We all remember where we were on the day of the Sept. 11 attacks. I, for example, remember my dad telling me when the World Trade Center had been attacked. He was picking me up from school but I was too young to know what it meant, and I was living in Jamaica at the time. But it is interesting to note how differently another group can view a day such as Sept. 11. The two sentiments were at almost opposite ends of the spectrum and I was puzzled to be present in a country where this day brought about the highest of pride, while knowing all along the mourning back home. I leave with a sense of remembrance for the victims of Sept. 11 and an appreciation of the Catalan culture.