

We are here today to protest against deportations

According to an article published in the *Tagespiegel* from the beginning of this year, 21,000 people in Berlin are under deportation threat. In 2004, an average of five people a day were deported from Berlin. Concretely, this means that people are being handed over to states which persecute us—a practice which often times leads to torture and death. These deportations, the majority of which affect families who have already lived for many years in this country, is nothing else but yet another destructive incision in their life histories.

In all of Germany, there are 217,000 people living with a *Duldung*, meaning that 217,000 people are forced to live under permanent deportation threat. This unbearable situation—the result of a policy of separation, exclusion, and indignity which has been implemented for decades now—only represents insecurity, despair, mental and bodily stress as well as a complete lack of future perspectives. It is based on a societal consensus whose partial culmination was the so-called asylum compromise of 1993. This compromise meant that the demands of the racist mobs were subsequently implemented by the politicians.

For its part, at the same time the European Union is—in reality—the European Union for the practice of deportations. In the future, many more people are to be deported out of the country through mass, accumulative charter flights. This comes from the initiatives of the so-called G5 countries (France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and England), who met on the 5th of July, 2005, in the city of Evian (*Haute-Savoie*) in order to better coordinate deportations in the future. Already in January, 2004, at their summit meeting in Dublin, the member states of the European Union decided to allocate thirty million euros for mass deportations to cover the years 2005 and 2006. So as to deny refugees the chance to even reach Europe, Fortress Europe is being massively equipped with so-called *Auffanglager* (interception camps in the North of Africa).

For those affected, deportation means to willingly bring people into life threatening situations. For some, the very execution of a deportation is in and of itself death. For all of us, this practice is an extreme form of racism which we radically reject. The European states and their societies should be very conscious: we are not the so-called “beneficiaries” of this theoretical prosperity, as is so slanderously said here about us. We are here because our countries are being exploited and destroyed by the western countries, as can clearly be seen in countries like the ex-Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Kurdistan, Colombia, Togo, Cameroon, Iran and many, many other countries. Nevertheless, whereas thousands of refugees are unjustly held for long periods of time in deportation camps, millions of European tourists can nevertheless move freely in our countries carrying with them the status of privileged tourists.

In Germany, to be a refugee means to live under special laws, including:

- The limitation of freedom of movement to one single district, also known as *Residenzpflicht*
- Humiliation through the practice of giving out special coupons for basic provisions and only 40 euros a month in cash
- Being held prisoner in assembly camps and deportation prisons
- Revocation of the already low number of asylum application recognitions which is somewhere around 1%.

Furthermore, the life of migrants in Germany is determined by racism, exclusion and being placed under general suspicion, and the right to a dignified life is systematically denied. Not only is the right to vote prohibited, but also every form of political activity is criminalized.

And this only because the so-called “western civilization” needs to fabricate their “axis of evil” in order to make migrants responsible for the social grievances, criminality, and terrorism, among others, so that it may be easy to test their wide variety of capitalistic repression first against us and then against the rest of society.

We are tired of always pointing out the insupportable conditions and the continuation of colonialism. Furthermore, we are not making an appeal to the consciousness of those in power. It must be very clear: we have an inalienable right to a dignified life for which we will permanently struggle independent of the place we are living.

We also make an appeal to other refugees and migrants: do not let us be separated into so-called “good” and “bad” migrants and refugees. Not one of us can overcome these conditions alone. Only by maintaining an international position, solidarity, and through organizing ourselves can we have a chance to do anything. We can only be satisfied when we all say this together.

We will demand again and again:

- **Put an end to the undignified living conditions in Germany**
- **Abolish the racist special laws and all deportations !**
- **The right to stay for every single person - now!**
- **Stop all deportations, without anymore ifs or buts!**

Our agenda remains the same: fight for equal rights!

To the parties

SPD and Bündnis 90/Grüne

Seven years of a SPD-Green Party coalition stands for racism, separation, and war, both internally and externally. Words like multi-cultural society, integration, and human rights, words which once again appear on the electoral agenda, are nothing more than lies. The new so-called Immigration Law is a racist law for limiting and controlling immigration. The unsupportable living conditions and deportations which refugees are forced to live under are a result of the inhumane policies of deterrence and criminalization of these parties which still pretend to be “left.” Otto Schilly, as manifestation of the repugnant police states, represents the true face of this government. As a result of his cooperation with Bavarian Interior Minister Beckstein, since the 11th of September all non-Germans are categorized as terrorists. This mentality is nothing more than the continuity of German racism.

The prohibition of the pro-Kurdish newspaper “Özgür Politika” is the newest example of the repression, criminalization, and hatred against a migrant group which is made the target of reactionary groups both in Turkey and in Germany. With the prohibition, Interior Minister Shilly is attempting to organize right-wing voters. The Kurdish people are among those most affected by deportations.

The deadly practice of deportation was confirmed at the last meeting of the interior ministers. Likewise, the national government plays a major role in promoting the European coordination of massive deportations and the creation of interception camps or so-called Auffanglagern in the North of Africa.

As political representatives of Germany, the intolerable acts of these parties are so many that it is impossible and even undesirable to name them all. On the 18th of September, these parties are not only going to suffer a devastating defeat, but also their conversion into being meaningless entities.

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CDU

We are here in front of the CDU Party offices in order to denounce their racist policies.

In order to win more votes during the electoral period, the CDU foments the deep-rooted prejudices against refugees and migrants. In this way, refugees and migrants are made the scapegoats for the economic misery and unemployment, thus promoting ill sentiments against them:

- In 1999, CDU politician Roland Koch won the parliamentary elections in Hessen with a anti-foreigner campaign against double citizenship.
- Jürgen Rüttgers – the leading CDU candidate in Nordrhein-Westfalen – tried to do the same thing in 2000. His electoral campaign was carried out under the slogan “Children instead of people from India.”
- Likewise, the discussion regarding the term „German dominant culture, a word now used against migrants, was first used by a CDU politician.
- And last but not least, the whole discussion regarding the new Immigration Law has proven that the political line of this party is one of discrimination and exclusion.

If things were to be done according to the CDU, then there is no place for refugees in this country. The CDU always presents the public with an image of refugees far from reality, while at the same time they demand a quicker asylum procedure process. Another CDU recipe against the so-called abuse of the asylum procedure is to simplify the process for deportations. For the CDU, this includes a restriction of possibilities to not be deported due to post-traumatic syndromes as well as the construction of so-called emigration centers.

This party represents an inhumane policy of deportation as can especially be seen in Hamburg. Hamburg is the first Federal State to have begun with the forced repatriation of refugees from Afghanistan. There are 5,000 Afghani people who live with Duldung and must deal with the fact that on a daily basis that they could at any time be deported to a land under occupation. In May of this year, politicians of the CDU, such as the interior expert of this party in Hamburg, criticized the fact that the number of Afghan refugees to be deported (300 each year) was too low and demanded, “more consequences with deportations.” Likewise, the CDU politician Karl-Heinz Warnholz demanded a change in the right to asylum so that following a long stay in this country it would not be possible to place an application for asylum on the day of the repatriation.

In reality, the list of denouncements are long, but today we are here to demand:

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Linkspartei.PDS

In their electoral programs, although the WASG and PDS have humane assertions, in reality they follow a policy of so-called *Realpolitik*. In those places where the PDS has made it into power, they have shown their true face. As part of the Berlin Senate, they have been involved in implementing discriminatory measures such as deportation prisons, coupons for purchasing provisions and chipcard systems, *Kettenduldungen* or chain *Duldungs*, as well as even deportations themselves. Even where they have discriminatory power regarding issues such as social benefits and housing they still carry out a practice similar to that of other federal states. Anti-foreigner statements of leading candidate Oscar Lafontaine are no simple slips of the tongue. Likewise, the candidacy of Turkey lobbyists such as Hakki Keskin—for whom the necessities of the refugees play no role—is not a good sign.