

ASYLUM RIGHT AND HUMAN RIGHT FOR REFUGEES

The Flüchtlingsinitiative Brandenburg just finished visiting the different asylum homes in the state of Brandenburg. The report is catastrophic, the living conditions of the asylum seekers are drastically deteriorating, the rate of deportation is rising at a galloping speed, and the daily racist attacks are alarming. Asylum seekers are people who fled from their different countries because of Conventional and unconventional reasons like wars, dictatorship, race, mutilation, belonging to a particular political ideology etc to seek for protection.

ASYLUMS HOME

According to the law governing the asylum procedure in Germany, asylum seekers do not have the right to choose where to live except in very exceptional cases like acute illness that need immediate medical attention. The displacement of asylum seekers to the different districts is usually done by the Federal Office for the Recognition of Refugees. This lack of right to choose a residence is a constitutional and human right that is permanently being infringed by the German states. In the different districts, the asylum seekers are mostly kept in isolated forests or industrial zones that make it difficult for them to come in contact with the general public.

Most of the homes were former military camps which are now in a dilapidated state, with rusted toilets, water dripping from pipes, smashed doors and windows, video cameras to check exits and entrances like in a high security prisons, cramped behind a wire fence. In the living rooms, asylum seekers are concentrated in spaces less than 4square metres, there is no privacy since the home administrator, master and social workers pop into the rooms at will and without knocking at the doors, the letters are usually opened and when ever an asylum seeker files a complain, he or she is either taken to court or the police is called as different forms of intimidation.

RECEPTION CAMP

The nature in which interviews are conducted at the arrival of asylum seekers is very unprofessional, discriminative and racist, coupled with very bad translations that turn to affect the asylum claims negatively. Most asylum seekers realise after a while that the stories they narrate in the Federal office are not being written as narrated. Even the method in which the interviews are conducted and the traumatic state of the asylum seekers are not considered, no counselling is got before interviews and the interviewers do not understand the cultural background of the asylum seekers, cultural specifics and cultural body language.

NEW HEALTH LAW

Asylum seekers are refused treatment except in cases of acute and emergent illnesses, illnesses with permanent pains or chronic illnesses. There is the common practice that the Social Welfare office refuses to give sick vouchers for the asylum seekers to visit medical doctors when he or she is sick. Asylum seekers are people affected by "the - three trauma," that is thinking about country of origin, the risky methods and means used to reach here and the poor living conditions existing in Brandenburg, Germany. All these factors have developed other illnesses that are still not realised or accepted by the authorities because they do not consider urgent. According to the new reform " Agenda 2010", to visit a medical doctor, an asylum seeker pays 10€ and also in the pharmacy. This amount to 20€ Medical doctors give expired drugs, receive the refugees only after haven received all the Germans and at times tell the asylum seekers to go back home and come in a later time when the German patients are all finished.

RESIDENCIAL RESTRICTION LAW

To the issue of the residential restriction law, the asylum seekers are not supposed to go out of their jurisdictions imposed by the Federal Office for the Recognition of Refugees. The minimum condition which is to obtain permission to leave the jurisdictions, the alien offices mostly do not give the permission. If an asylum seeker is caught out of the district, he or she will pay a very high penalty in terms of money and if not, have to serve a

prison sentence. This particular law has made it possible for the German police officers to always control foreign "looking people" in sub- ways, train stations, on the streets, and in trains. Many asylum seekers are criminalized as drug dealers etc when found out of the jurisdiction imposed by the FORR without this permission.

GUTSCHEIN

To the point of social assistance: Since 99% of the asylum seekers in Brandenburg do not work because they do not have work permits, assistance is got from the Social Welfare office. This assistance is mostly in vouchers or smart cards. With these media of exchange, there are many discriminative practices being realised. The asylum seekers can do shopping only at defined districts and this is usually in the districts imposed by the Foreign Office for the Recognition of Refugees, at defined shops, it does not matter if what is wanted is in the shop or not. Certain goods are not sold to vouchers and smart cards bearers, goods like dresses, pots, alcoholic drinks, cigarettes etc. The social office determines where, when, how, and what an asylum seeker is supposed to buy.

To the point of work, Though there is a law stating that an asylum seeker could work after one year in an asylum home, the contrary is the truth. About 99% of the asylum seekers are just eating and sleeping. What usually happens is that an asylum seeker can do a social work in which she or he is paid 1€ per hour and cannot do more than two hours a day. In some homes, asylum seekers are obliged to do social work in the city. That is cleaning the city and other parts

To the point of education. Education to an asylum seeker is out of the question. only the children go to school to the tenth class. After the tenth class, the children have to leave the school and stay at the asylum home with the parents if he they are with their parents. If not, then the children will be living with other adults without doing any thing rather than burning their youth without a profession or education. The reason is that nobody is allowed to do a vocational or general education.

Spendenkonto:

Flüchtlingsrat Brandenburg
Stichwort : FIB

Mittel Brandenburgische Sparkasse Potsdam
Kto.-Nr.: 3501010000,
BLZ 160 500 00

Es können Spendenquittungen ausgestellt werden.

Kontaktadresse:

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RACISM

The point of racism: Add to all the above mentioned forms of discrimination, the asylum seekers are attacked every day verbally and physically. The politicians have made asylum seekers vulnerable to the racist public who believe that the asylum seekers are taking the jobs, apartments and taxes of the Germans. More to that because of the " Foreign Looks", not having the " White German Blood", so are not qualified to live in Germany. These make the asylum seekers to be attacked on the streets, in the offices and the society.

DEPORTATION

To crown the sufferings,. Deportation pressure is constantly exercised on the asylum seekers daily. The alien offices are forcing people to go to the different embassies to collect a travelling certificate (TC) which will facilitate deportation, Asylum seekers already insignificant monthly vouchers are reduced, identity cards are withdrawn and are left with white piece of papers. The asylum seekers are here because their lives are threatened in the different home of origin.

We are inviting the whole public to join us fight against these different forms of racism and the deportation threats facing almost all the asylum seekers in Brandenburg. We have decided to organise a two day conference, for the 11 and 12 of June 2004. And on the 12 of June, there will be a mass demonstration against racism, deportation and the poor living conditions of the asylum seekers.

FLÜCHTLINGSINITIATIVE BRANDENBURG

SUPPORT GROUPS:

Flüchtlingsrat Brandenburg, Antirassistische Initiative (ARI) Berlin, Initiative gegen Abschiebehaft, Initiative gegen das Chipkartensystem, Alliance Of Struggle, Elexir- A, Begnung Kreis, Initiative für Begegnung; kanak attack; The Voice; No Border Bremen; Anticolonial Conference; Opfer Perspektive

FLÜCHTLINGSINITIATIVE BRANDENBURG
CONFERENCE

The Power of Argument and not the Argument of Power

from 11 to 12 june 2004

Friedrich-Ebert-Str.4, Potsdam: tram 92 (Kirschallee)
Stop: Altermarkt

PROGRAM

FRIDAY

- 10.00** Press Conference
12.00 **Lunch**
13.15 Deportation/Legalisation/The right to stay (FIB, The Voice, FR Brandenburg, Kanak Attak)
15.15 Refugees Conditions in Brandenburg
Podium discussion with: Annette Flade, (Ausländerseelsorgerin Potsdam), FIB, Chipkarte Initiative, Initiative für Begegnung.
17.15 The German new immigration law/The Asylum Procedure in the State of Brandenburg (Steffen Sauer :Asylum lawyer)

Evening Meal

SATURDAY

- 08.00** **Breakfast**
09.00 Regional Protection Area/"Lager Tour Campaign" (FIB, No Border Bremen, Alliance of Struggle)
11.00 Racism Work and Discrimination
Podium discussion (FIB, Elexir-A, ARI, Opfer Perspektive)
12.30 **Lunch**
14.00 Demonstration in Potsdam

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