

# Following the ‚Welcome‘

## On the Refugee Politics of the German Government

The often used term ‚refugee crisis‘, does indeed not characterize the current situation in Germany. On one hand, there are barely more refugees – about 1 million in total – in Germany than e.g. 1997. On the other hand, the situation in most countries is dramatically worse in comparison to the situation in Germany. Worldwide about 60 million human beings are on the run (source: UNHCR). From Syria alone, about 4 million fled from the country and another 8 million are estimated to be on the run within Syria. This, compared to an overall population of 21 million Syrians, is what we would call a refugee crisis!

We hold armor exports, military and economical interventions responsible, that are pushed upon countries by the NATO states (especially by USA and Germany) to ensure interests of multinational companies.

Following these interests politically, has also taken its toll on the situation within Germany. Within the last two decades, the social security system has been severely and systematically damaged. All the time chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) repetitively stated, that no alternative to austerity politics exist.

Now, after some hundred thousand refugees were received and chancellor Merkel had herself being celebrated as humanist in the international media, for letting in refugees via the temporarily - as vice chancellor Sigmar Gabriel (SPD) publicly reassured to critics - opened border from Budapest, the situation changed. Interior minister Thomas de Maiziere (CDU) announced the reintroduction of border controls, between Germany and Austria, to control refugees entering Germany on September, 13th 2015.

A law package regarding asylum laws was presented on September, 6th 2015 by the governing cabinet of CDU and SPD. Ulla Jelpke (Die Linke) criticized correctly, that the supposed ‚help‘ for refugees will in fact harm them, due to further restrictions that will be introduced to current laws, under disguise of promised help. The governing cabinet of CDU and SPD is clearly not turning away from the course of further restrictions – even though they try to make it look like it – but instead are trying to introduce an even harsher one against refugees.

The only possibly new change will be regarding employment permit regulations, which have obviously been pushed by entrepreneur associations, in order to profit from

cheaper but highly educated workers. This is planned for refugees looking for asylum and migrants from the Balkan States, as soon as they get a contract for either work, or apprenticeship.

On one hand the German government tries to reach out for the Syrian intellectual elites, that have been educated in an excellent educational system - against the competition of e.g. the USA and Great Britain which announced to accommodate 10 to 20 thousand Syrians. On the other hand they try to exploit people from the Balkan in the low-pay sector.

And as usual, they plan to make it as pleasant as possible for the companies and as hard as possible for the ones looking for jobs, or education, may that be apprenticeships, schooling or university access. Result will be, that several billion euros will not be used for help, but are spend on politics to put pressure on the arriving wage workers. In order to play them off against each other and either turn them into willing slave-like workers, or break them.

However, this is only relevant to the few, that will not be thrown out after some months, due to the newly planned and sped up asylum process. All these steps aim towards increasing pressure on the job market and dividing the working class further than it is already. Room is left for right-wing politicians and media, for propaganda against foreigners who are accused to ‚steal our jobs‘.

At the moment, fortunately most people in Germany do not believe this. Otherwise we would not see so many movements, welcoming refugees. In several cities and districts, structures are created to provide help. This has an important impact on the mindset and the behavior of the population in Germany. The situation points out, that all the issues of housing shortage, poverty, lacking infrastructure and dependency on the arbitrariness of authorities are not exclusively reserved for our newcomers, but for all of us. And they are all caused by the same cancer-like structures in our society.

Based on this mutual understanding, our help for refugees, will also help everybody trying to overthrow systematic austerity politics and neo-liberalistic capitalism, in order to replace it with a form of a true solidary society.

In Cologne we need to expect about 500 additional refugees each month. Approximately 1400 missing accommodations are already expected by the end of 2015. We resolutely position ourselves against accommodations for refugees in tents! The administration needs to stop all plans regarding tents at once. Instead we want them to start confiscating already existing, but unused housing space.

### **„Racism and the Situation of Refugees in Cologne and the GFR“**

Wednesday, 15.10.2015, 19 o‘ clock

Bürgerzentrum Alte Feuerwache, Großes Forum,  
Melchiorstraße 3, 50670 Cologne

The mayor of Salzgitter, Frank Klingenbiel (CDU), already spoke this out as well. In Cologne we need to start this now. Cologne has lots of unused office buildings that are suited just fine!

„The planned restrictions on educational access will destroy everything, that has already been achieved by youth welfare and school programs“ says Ulrike Schwarz from UMF e.V. (Federation for Unaccompanied Underage Refugees) and adds „Thousands of young refugees would need to leave secondary school and would thus end up without chances for apprenticeships or university access.“ Due to the missing compulsory school attendance for refugees, most minors from the shelter Herkulesstraße do not have an appropriate educational program available.

If everything will follow the plans of Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziére (CDU), most refugees will thus end up on the street. According to him hundred-thousands should not receive financial support anymore, if they entered the European Union via another country. Instead he wants to provide them with a food package and a ticket, back to the EU member that they visited first, e.g. Hungary. The Süddeutsche Zeitung (newspaper) called this plans „the harshest restrictions on refugee support in the German history ever“.

If the government implements these restrictions for hundred-thousands refugees, they do exactly what the racists want them to do: To use a policy of deterrence. This is not only inhuman, but will not help anyone as well. If the perspective is, to be brutally pushed into Bulgarian prisons, most will decide to prefer being a homeless in Germany.

De Maiziére is under great pressure. The federal office is unable to cope with amount of asylum applications. Hundred-thousands of applications are piling up in the office. But instead of trying to solve this, de Maiziére tries to get rid of the asylum applicants by all means – children, women and men that are searching for help, are made homeless. All of this, is not new in Germany: 400.000 humans arrived in Germany since the beginning of 2015 – more than it had been the years before. However alone in 1992 about 700.000 arrived and between 1988 and 1993 more than 3.1 Million refugees arrived in total.

Unfortunately we also experience a wave of racist terror as well. Nearly daily attacks on refugee accommodations take place. In 2014 about 60 million human beings were on the run (Source: UNHCR). While only a fraction of about 175 thousand has reached Germany. Responsible

are the strict politics of sealing off Europe, lead by Germany.

Racism is not an issue, restricted to the ‚new‘ eastern federal states, or to uneducated groups within our society. It is widely spread throughout the whole society. Supporters of sealing off the EU (Frontex, Dublin,...), armor exports into areas of conflicts, attempts to weaken the asylum law, hate campaigns lead by BILD against the ‚lazy southerners‘ or ‚authors‘ like Thilo Sarrazin and Heinz Buschkowsky, or PEGIDA-close regulars‘ tables racists with their more organized fascistic friends are all united in the chauvinistic idea, that they are somehow better than other human beings.

But wherever fascists and racists try to spoil the public with their hateful positions, as antifascists united we stand! No matter how different our positions on other political topics may be.

### ***Thus united, we demand:***

- decentralized accommodation in appropriate housing space or empty office buildings
- no more restrictions on school access for minors from refugee families
- compulsory school access for minors from refugee families
- unrestricted access to the health care system
- access to the job market
- restoration of the former asylum laws
- removing the limitations of residence in every respect
- no weakening of social standards (no or lower minimum wage for foreigners, etc.)

We call on you in your district, your company, your school, or wherever you are, to position actively against racism, stop looking away and step up for the arriving refugees!

### ***We also want to inform you about other upcoming events:***

- Conference – No District for Racism (Kein Veedel für Rassismus), October 17th 2015
- Demonstration - No Go! No Comeback of racists in Cologne, October 24th 2015
- Counter-Demonstration – No Comeback for HoGe-Sa, October 25th 2015

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