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**"German asylum policy and their deadly consequences"
- 1993 to 2003 -**

With 50.564, the number of refugees in the year of 2003, who have asked for asylum in the Federal Republic of Germany, has been the lowest since 1984. At the same time the proportion of people who received political asylum has been the lowest ever with 1.6 per cent. Only 1,7 per cent of refugees received the "small asylum" (no deportation because of political or humanitarian reasons). This "positive development" (according to the Minister of the Interior Schily, 16.1.04) is firstly the result of an increasingly restrictively applied asylum law and secondly the shutting down of German borders.

Die documentation on hand proofs the effects of this rigorous politic of refusing asylum. The numbers are actually not declining but are constant (Exception: 55 incidences of selfharm and attempted suicide in the first four months of 2003 alone in the deportation prison Berlin-Köpenick). The documentation describes in about 3400 single events the consequences of the politic of exclusion and shutting down the borders for refugees; people who had hoped that they would find protection and safety in this country, but instead died or have been damaged by this system.

On the 31st of July 2003, for example, Hüseyin Dikec poured petrol over himself and torched himself in front of the eyes of his wife and his five children at the Ausländerbehörde (refugee office) in the area of Gütersloh. The rejected asylumseekers David Kapadnadze und Lewon A., both of whom had been fathers and had been living in Germany for four to ten years, burnt themselves to death as well. David Mamedov hung himself on the 16th of January 2003, because his right for a asylum was reviewed and cancelled after a lawsuit by a Federal Commissioner and therefore he and his wife and children were threatened with deportation to Georgia.

The documentation covers the period from 1.1.1993 bis 31.12.2003.

- 145 refugees died on the way to the Federal Republic of Germany or at the borders, 113 of them died at the eastern borders*,
- 398 refugees were injured at the bordercrossing, 236 of them at the eastern border*,
- 121 refugees killed themselves in the light of their imminent deportation or died during the attempt to escape before deportation, 47 people in the deportation prisons.
- 493 refugees have injured themselves or tried to kill themselves because they were afraid of deportation or out of protest against the imminent deportation (risk-hungerstriks); 329 people of them in the deportation prisons,
- 5 refugees died during deportation,
- 234 refugees were injured through mistreatments by the police,
- 21 refugees were killed after their deportation in their country of birth and at least
- 361 refugees were mistreated and tortured by the police and the military in their country of birth,
- 57 refugees disappeared after their deportation,
- 10 refugees died during compulsory measures by the police independent from deportation;
- 309 were injured through police and security personal.
- 66 people died during fire or attacks on refugee homes,
- 636 refugees were heavily injured,
- 12 refugees died through racist attacks on streets.

A conclusion:

Through state measures of the Federal Republic of Germany 302 refugees died -
78 refugees died through racist attacks.

***This documentation (only in German) can be obtained on paper (DIN A4 – 268 pages) and soon on CD-Rom to the price of 10,00 € (mail-orders: plus 1,60 € for postage & packaging Porto);
On the net (at the moment the 10th publication only) at: www.berlinet.de/ari/titel.htm***

* the numbers for 2002 and 2003 will be higher because the official numbers of the Federal Ministry are not fully available yet