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New release!

18. updated edition of the documentation

Berlin, 20.5.2011

"German Asylum Policy and its Deadly Consequences" (1993 bis 2010)

New statistics from the ministry of the interior prove that, in 2010, only 21,6% of the fugitives seeking refuge in Germany were granted a temporary stay. This means that the quota of people whose exigency and persecution was acknowledged by German authorities declined by 12.1% compared to 2009 - although the number of first- applications for asylum went up by 50% to 41.332.

The discrimination, exclusion, criminalisation, traumatising and the misery of refugees in Germany continued unchanged in 2010.

Paying the refugees social benefits far below the subsistence level, disallowing them to work, providing them with inadequate payment in kind, denying medical treatment to them, restricting their liberty of movement and forcing them to live under health-threatening conditions in camps for years, all this is one spectrum of the racism by statute in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The other aspect is the determination to deport refugees instead of permitting them to stay in Germany. They are facing great distress by criminalisation and temporary residence permits in connection with the permanent threat of being forced back to their countries.

Despite the ratification of the *Convention on the Rights of the child* by the German government 19 years ago, minor refugees are still put into custody pending deportation or imprisoned if they are trying to enter the FRG unaccompanied and sentenced because of "illegal inhabitation". "The social benefits for children from refugees are about 54% below the Hartz- IV average for children from German families. If you compare the amount of cash money for personal needs, which has been reduced to 68 cent per day, the shortage is somewhere near 83%" (Georg Classen- *Flüchtlingsrat Berlin*)¹

The documentation shows in more than 6000 single incidents the consequences of governmental and social racism - consequences for people who came to the Federal Republic of Germany searching for protection and security, but were harmed physically as a result of its racist special laws and the racism in German society.

The many cases documented clearly show the level of violence used by governmental agencies, courts, police, medical personal and others to implement laws concerning refugees, as well as the degree of arbitrariness and disrespect for human dignity with which refugees are tormented, harassed, humiliated and even pushed to suicide or to hurt themselves. Blackmail, harassment and fraud but also clan liability, family separations or the imprisonment of minors are some of the measures used by the state and its compliant employees to force refugees into departures.

The documentation covers the period from 1.1.1993 to 31.12.2010.

- 180** refugees died on their way to the Federal Republic of Germany or at its borders,
- 131** of them died at the German Eastern border,
- 511** refugees suffered injuries crossing the borders, **302** of them at the German Eastern border,
- 160** refugees killed themselves in the face of their impending deportation or died trying to escape from deportation, **62** of them while in custody pending deportation,
- 922** refugees injured themselves out of fear of deportation, in protest against the impending deportation (risk hunger strikes) or tried to commit suicide, **541** of them in custody pending deportation,
- 5** refugees died during deportation and
- 407** refugees were injured by compulsory measures or mistreatment during their deportation,
- 32** refugees died in their country of origin after their deportation, and
- 529** refugees were mistreated and tortured by the police or military in their country of origin or were at the risk of their lives due to severe illnesses,
- 71** refugees disappeared without a trace after their deportations,
- 13** refugees died during police assignments independent from deportation
- 8** refugees died through neglected assistance
- 444** were injured by the police or custody staff, **139** of them during arrest,
- 68** refugees were killed in fires or other attacks on refugee accommodation centres
- 815** refugees were injured, in part severely,
- 15** refugees died through racist attacks on the street and **785** people were injured.

Since 1993 at least 398 refugees have died as a result of measures taken by the German Federal Republic – 83 people died through racist attacks and arsons on refugee accommodations.

The 18th edition of the documentary can only be read in the internet: www.ari-berlin.org/doku/titel.htm.
The 17th edition can be purchased as a printed edition and as a CD-ROM.

¹ http://www.fluechtlingsinfo-berlin.de/fr/asyblg/Classen_AsyblG_Verfassung.pdf