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New release! **20. updated edition of the documentation** Berlin, 12.4.2013

"German Asylum Policy and its Deadly Consequences" (1993 - 2012)

The documentation describes in two volumes twenty years of devastating consequences of the legal aggravation of the federal German system of "keeping out refugees" in 1993 (Art. 16a Basic Constitutional Law, Asylum Procedure Law, German Social Welfare Law for Asylum Seekers etc.). "Keeping out refugees" in the form of a legal, bureaucratic and social machinery that keeps on creating degrading conditions for refuge seekers and leads to the demise, traumatization and/or physical harm of many.

It documents, among other events, deaths and injuries of refugees before, during and after deportation as well as on the German borders – but also as results of racist attacks from the German population (more than 6500 incidents).

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While the absolute numbers of suicides have decreased in the past 12 years, the numbers of instances of self-inflicted violence and suicide attempts have stayed on the same level. There are many reasons for this: the existential fear of deportation, the traumatizing process of waiting and hoping for a residence permit for years, the destructive living conditions in refugee centres and camps. Suicide attempts and self-harming as an expression of despair and hopelessness, but often also as an expression of protest. A path people choose because they have no other option to fight back.

This especially becomes obvious in deportation centres where prisoners go on life-threatening hunger or thirst strikes, strangle themselves "in a controlled manner", swallow dangerous objects or cut themselves to alert people to their situation and stop deportation. Over the past 20 years the documentation has documented more that 2000 instances of self-harm and suicide attempts. The dark figures are estimated to be much higher as there are no official statistics – often not even in state facilities like deportation centres..

"We will rise!"

A great chance came about to challenge and change these hardened conditions in January 2012 when Iranian refugees from Würzburg began the struggle of protesting publicly against the inhumane living conditions and asylum laws after Mohamed Rahsepar had committed suicide. The spark got carried to other centres, cities and towns and a completely new and powerful, self-determined refugee movement rose across the country. The protests still keep going and according to their word, the refugees will keep on going "until our demands are fulfilled" (*refugeetentaction.net*)

The documentation covers the period from 1.1.1993 to 31.12.2012.

170 refugees killed themselves in the face of their impending deportation or died trying to escape from deportation, 64 of them while in custody pending deportation,
1071 refugees injured themselves out of fear of deportation, in protest against the impending deportation (risk hunger strikes) or tried to commit suicide, 610 of them in custody pending deportation,
5 refugees died during deportation and
417 refugees were injured by compulsory measures or mistreatment during their deportation,
32 refugees died in their country of origin after their deportation, and
562 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,
182 refugees died on their way to the Federal Republic of Germany or at its borders, 131 of them died at the German Eastern border, 2 people were driven off course on the river Neiße and have been missing ever since,
533 refugees suffered injuries crossing the borders, 303 of them at the German Eastern border,
12 refugees died through police action independent from deportation
15 refugees died through neglected assistance
455 were injured by the police or custody staff, 138 of them during arrest,
70 refugees were killed in fires, attacks on refugee accomodation centres or dangers in these centres
873 refugees were injured, in part severely,
18 refugees died through racist attacks on the street and 825 people were injured.

Since 1993 at least 414 refugees have died as a result of measures taken by the German Federal Republic –
88 people died through racist attacks and through being accomodated in camps (i.e. attacks, fires).

The documentation contains two books. Both books are available for 21 € plus 3.60 € for shipping & packing.
Book I (1993 – 2003) 11 € for 310 pages – Book II (2004 – 2012) 12 € for 310 pages - plus 1,80 € each for shipping & packing.
The DVD is available for 21 € plus 1.80 € for shipping & handling.
Both books and the DVD are available for 36 € plus 3.60 € for shipping & handling.