

# ANTIRASSISTISCHE INITIATIVE E.V.

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*New release!* 28<sup>th</sup> updated edition of the documentation

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## Germany's Asylum Policy and its Lethal Ramifications (1993 - 2020)

### Refugees: Suicides, Suicide Attempts, Self-Harm

This 28th edition of ARI's documentation details more than 16,000 individual incidents in which the impact wrought by state and societal racism on refugees is clear; on those who sought protection and safety in Germany and who yet came to physical harm or psychological collapse as a result of Germany's specific racist laws and the prevailing racism in German society.

Multiple individual examples clearly show the violence with which authorities, courts, police, medical staff and others implemented those special laws for refugees, as well as the high degree of arbitrariness and contempt for human life with which refugees are tormented, humiliated and excluded. Not alone blackmail, harassment and fraud, but also detention, family separation or imprisonment of minors are some of the means deployed by the state and its compliant employees in order to force refugees to leave Germany. Despairing over destroyed prospects for their futures, the existential fear of deportation and absolute hopelessness, some people commit suicide as a last resort. Others, panicked by the imminent threat of police arrest for deportation, take life-threatening actions that ultimately result in their deaths. Many more refugees attempt suicide or self-inflicted injuries in order to escape their current predicament or often in protest against inhumane treatment and accommodation.

### Most Remain Nameless

Documenting suicides and self-inflicted injuries by refugees is never straightforward, for no official government statistics are compiled on this topic. Only enquiries by some parliamentary groups in the German Länder parliaments succeed in shedding some light on this vast obscurity. The answers from the respective ministries of the Interior are usually incomplete and imprecise; they often lack a clear allocation of place and time under the pretext of data protection (e.g. "less than four"). Nevertheless, available data confirms that such acts of sheer desperation have taken place on multiple occasions. The results of those parliamentary queries, on one hand, and reports of suicides, suicide attempts and self-inflicted injuries gathered by relatives, supporters or organisations, on the other, enables the Antiracist Initiative to make the following statements about those incidents which it has researched:

From 2016 on, including the year 2020, two to three refugees, on average, have died every month by suicide. That comes to 159 persons in total; 2466 persons have attempted suicide or self-harmed. That represents an annual average of 493 persons and at least 40 persons per month. It can be assumed that a high number of cases remain unreported.

As reluctant as state institutions are to name and document suicides by refugees—yet another consequence of a racist asylum system and the hopelessness that accompanies it—the thesis "suicide as cause of death" is immediately announced when it comes to deaths in police custody, where violence by third parties cannot be ruled out. (see e.g. Oury Jalloh, Amad Ahmad, Rooble Muse Warsame, Ferhat Mayouf).

*Examples on the topic* ⇔⇔ [https://www.ari-dok.org/uploads/mini\\_cms/press\\_statements/ARI-DOK\\_Beispiele-Suicide-Selbstverletzungen.pdf](https://www.ari-dok.org/uploads/mini_cms/press_statements/ARI-DOK_Beispiele-Suicide-Selbstverletzungen.pdf)  
*The entire text can be viewed:* [https://www.ari-dok.org/uploads/mini\\_cms/publications/GESAMT-DOKU\\_28\\_Auflage\\_print.pdf](https://www.ari-dok.org/uploads/mini_cms/publications/GESAMT-DOKU_28_Auflage_print.pdf)

### The Documentation spans the period from 1.1.1993 to 31.12.2020

- 359 refugees killed themselves in the face of their impending deportation, or died in their attempts to avoid deportation; 86 of whom while in custody pending deportation.
- 4287 refugees injured themselves out of fear of deportation, in protest against impending deportation, (risk hunger strikes) or tried to commit suicide, 928 of whom were in custody pending deportation.
- 5 refugees died during deportation.
- 601 refugees were injured through compulsory measures or from mistreatment during deportation.
- 40 refugees died in their country of origin after deportation.
- 627 refugees were mistreated in their country of origin by the police or the military, or were at risk of their lives due to severe illness
- 78 refugees disappeared without trace after deportation.
- 237 refugees died en route to the FRG or at its border, 132 of whom died on the FRG's eastern borders; 3 drifted off course on the Neißة and have been deemed as missing persons ever since
- 804 refugees suffered injuries crossing the border, 353 of which occurred on the FRG's eastern borders.
- 29 refugees died through physical force committed by the police or guards either in detention centers, during arrest or deportation, on the streets, in governmental institutions or in refugee accommodation – at least 1328 were injured.
- 32 refugees died through criminal neglect.
- 87 refugees lost their lives in fires, attacks on refugee accommodation centers or from dangers at these centers – 1771 refugees were injured, at times gravely.
- 28 refugees died through racist attacks on the streets and at least 3749 refugees were physically assaulted and investigated for assault

Since 1993 at least 702 refugees have died as a result of measures taken by the FRG – 115 persons died through racist attacks and as a result of being accommodated in camps (i.e. attacks, arson).

Documentation contains four books (DIN A4). The 4 volumes are available for 35 € plus 5,00 € shipping & packing.  
BOOK I (1993 – 2004) 356 pages. – BOOK II (2005 – 2013) 336 pages. BOOK III (2014 – 2016) 278 pages. – BOOK IV (2017 – 2019) 344 pages.  
Prices for individual books ⇔⇔ [www.ari-dok.org/bestellen/](http://www.ari-dok.org/bestellen/)

Databank + Search Engine ⇔ [www.ari-dok.org](http://www.ari-dok.org) (currently the 27th Edition, from August the 28th Edition – until that date only in Pdf format)