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New releases

Updated edition of the documentation

Berlin, September 2023

Germany's Asylum Policy and its Lethal Ramifications (1993 - 2022)

30 Years of Research and Documentation on State-driven and Societal Racism

30 years have passed since the German Parliament effectively abolished in May 1993 the fundamental right to asylum for asylum seekers with the introduction of the regulation concerning so-called safe third countries. Concurrently, the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act was enacted, a special law which established a second standard below the minimum standard for refugees: collective accommodation, state control and dependency, poverty, work ban, limited medical care, to name but a few of its ramifications. In short, a legal, official and social system was devised which has continued to create inhumane conditions for people seeking protection, whereby people suffer physically on a daily basis, are traumatised and ultimately perish.

For 30 years now, we have been documenting the catastrophic consequences of this asylum and residence policy, which has been adopted since the so-called asylum compromise between the various coalition partners, i.e., CDU/CSU, FDP and SPD as a system of "defence for refugee." In this four-volume documentation it can be seen how this system's brutality progressively impacts more and more people in their quest for a safer life.

Inter alia, suicides and attempted suicide out of fear of deportation, deaths and injuries incurred by refugees before, during and after deportations are documented, not just on Germany's borders - but also as a result of racist attacks by the civil population and in public space (over 18,500 incidents).

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Examples of refugee deaths in 2022 have been compiled in an extra file in the attachment. See also: https://tinyurl.com/Beispiele-Todesfaelle-2022

Between 2016 and 2022, 245 persons committed suicide, an average of three persons per month. In total, 3.706 cases of attempted suicide or self-harm were documented, which represents 44 cases per month. Over the same period, 15 persons died as a result of direct police violence; 15 through their failure to provide assistance. The actual number of unreported cases is deemed considerably higher.

The entire text can be viewed: https://tinyurl.com/ARI-DOK-30

The Documentation spans the period from 1.1.1993 to 31.12.2022

- 445 refugees killed themselves in the face of their impending deportation, or died in their attempts to avoid deportation; 88 of whom while in custody pending deportation.
- 5.535 refugees injured themselves out of fear of deportation, in protest against impending deportation, (risk hunger strikes) or tried to commit suicide, 993 of whom were in custody pending deportation.
 - 5 refugees died during deportation.
 - 634 refugees were injured through compulsory measures or from mistreatment during deportation.
 - 41 refugees died in their country of origin after deportation.
 - 642 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
 - 81 refugees disappeared without trace after deportation.
- 246 refugees died en route to the FRG or at its border, 134 of whom died on the FRG 's eastern borders; 3 drifted off course on the Neiße and have been deemed as missing persons ever since
- 935 refugees suffered injuries crossing the border, 353 of which occurred on the FRG's eastern borders.
- 35 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 1.390 were injured.
- 35 refugees died through criminal neglect.
- 88 refugees lost their lives in fires, attacks on refugee accommodation centers or from dangers at these centers 1.820 refugees were injured, at times gravely.
- 29 refugees died through racist attacks on the streets and at least 4.307 refugees were physically assaulted and investigated for assault

Since 1993 at least 807 refugees have died as a result of measures taken by the FRG – 117 persons died through racist attacks and as a result of being accommodated in camps (i.e. attacks, arson).

Correction of some figures in April 2024

