

9th till 11th of June in Berlin: Action days and refugee conference to ABOLISH discriminatory laws against refugees

ABOLISH „Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz“ and „Residenzpflicht“ - Let's break the isolation from the lagers – self liberation of the oppressed!

Refugees all over Germany are fighting every day against the institutional racism, isolation and violation of their dignity through instruments of exclusion imposed on them. There has been ongoing struggles through refugees call for self liberation from the german racist persecution in many lagers. By self organisation networking and in solidarity between refugee and non refugee activists, refugees have been engaged in protest actions, hunger strikes, boycotts and civil disobedience to bring out the message: *„We were on strike last winter, because in our lager in Niederbayern, we are living so isolated that we are soon going crazy. Here is nothing but forest. We cannot work, we cannot get away from here. I can't even buy my own food. Every day is just the same, without any change and without any hope. But we want to live as human beings – this is our right, equally as for the German people. This is why the laws which treat us in an inhumane way have to be abolished now,“* says Suldan Abdallah from Somalia, who is staying in a lager in Böbrach in the Bavarian Forest. For this aim, we have to rise up together!

For this reason, refugees and those interested to show their solidarity with the refugee struggle are invited to come together in Berlin from 9th till 11th of June for three days of action and conference to set up a powerful sign against racist and discriminating laws!

Break isolation and oppression through „Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz“ and „Residenzpflicht“!

Our aim is to fight discriminatory laws and rules against refugees. One main goal of the campaign is the abolition of the asylum-seeker benefits law (“Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz”, AsylbLG). This law, which was passed in 1993, in a political context shaped by murderous racist nazi terror, is the legal basis for the bulk of the discriminatory living conditions against which refugees have been fighting through civil disobedience, strikes and protests. In this repressive law, it is stipulated that refugees in Germany must live under inhumane, morbid conditions and are entitled to social benefits even below the inhumane „HARTZ IV“ standard for unemployed Germans. They are subjected to benefits in-kind („Sachleistungen“), do not have sufficient access to health care, are forced to live in lagers and have to deal with food packages and voucher or chip card systems. *„We want to tell the world that our situation's getting worse day by day (...). We're living in an old lager with overage doors, broken windows, mould inside the rooms, the showers, the toilets and the corridors (...). We don't get any permission to go and see a doctor (...). We're isolated from the world (...). We are getting punished, only for searching for asylum here in Germany“*, the refugees from Zella-Mehlis/Thüringen point out their unbearable situation, caused by „Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz“. The dependence of refugees on the meagre social benefits is further cemented through work prohibitions and systematic exclusion from the job market. Furthermore, access to German classes and education in general is intentionally refused. At the same time, the fact that refugees are denied their right to freedom of movement through “Residenzpflicht”, makes it even more difficult to get away from the lagers, as those who travel outside their „Landkreis“ without permission are threatened to be punished if they are caught in one of the numerous racist police controls. With bureaucrating procedures, like the centralized distribution of food packages and “pocket money”, refugees' freedom of movement is even more confined to the lagers and they are forced to stay within the lager permanently. All these and other special laws collectively constitute a legal complex of isolation and social exclusion. The goal of this state-enacted oppression is to enable easier deportations of refugees and to discourage people from even coming to Germany.

Come together – make pressure!

Refugee issues should not be left in the hands of political oppressors, of established parties and self-proclaimed experts, so we are bent on exerting grassroots political pressure on those responsible. The political development of the last few months has shown: Parliamentarians concern on „discussing“ and „reforming“ „Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz“, but the issue keeps being delayed. The parliamentary debate on „Residenzpflicht“ has only reformed the repression thus continuing the isolating of the victims. Meanwhile, politicians are interested in creating more efficient border controls against refugees and migrants around Germany and Europe. We are not going to take these cynical ways of playing with the rights and the dignity of refugees – enough is enough! For us it's clear:

The asylum-seeker-benefits-law (AsylbLG), the „Residenzpflicht“ and all other racist special laws are not reformable, rather they must be abolished now – human dignity is not negotiable!

Human dignity, human rights and freedom of movement are inherent and indivisible rights!

We demand:

ABOLISH the asylum-seeker benefits law („Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz“)!

ABOLISH „Residenzpflicht“!

ABOLISH any forms of institutional racism!

ABOLISH all kinds of racist special laws!

ABOLISH forced deportations!

Let's make the refugee lager to be history of the past!

Timetable for ABOLISH-action days and refugee conference in Berlin from 9th till 11th of June 2011:

Thursday, 9th of June:

- **day of arrival**
- **decentralised actions against persecution, isolation and discrimination of refugees**

Friday, 10th of June:

- **Refugee Conference: We will Break the Isolation from the Lagers!**
Place: Statthaus Böcklerpark (Kreuzberg/ near metro station Prinzenstraße)
- **later in the afternoon: networking discussion for continuation of ABOLISH-campaign**

Saturday:

- **1 pm: demonstration starting from Pariser Platz / Brandenburg Gate, passing by the Federal Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs (responsible for „Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz“)**

Further information:

<http://kampagne-abolish.info>

Coordination of the Refugee Conference:

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