

Die letzten Tage des Ausreisezentrums Motardstraße



“Social” Workers Wield Power

Along the lengthy corridors of the Motardstraße Camp, „social“ workers sit in their offices. However, not being known for their helpfulness in everyday matters, these social workers are usually avoided by camp occupants. Instead of offering help, the social workers seem to be much more efficient in strictly controlling occupants' lives.

In many cases, views about the treatment of camp occupants have been shared with supervisors at respective social agencies. We highly suspect that the social workers are responsible for a reduction of „spending money“ and other official harassment measures concerning the sorting of occupants. While some occupants have been relocated to less severe camps, this relocation came at a price: squealing on other occupants and informing social workers of breaches of the rules...

Thus, in a twisted way, racist measures of social workers could possibly improve living conditions for some occupants; however, this „improvement“ has little to do with self-determination or independent living.

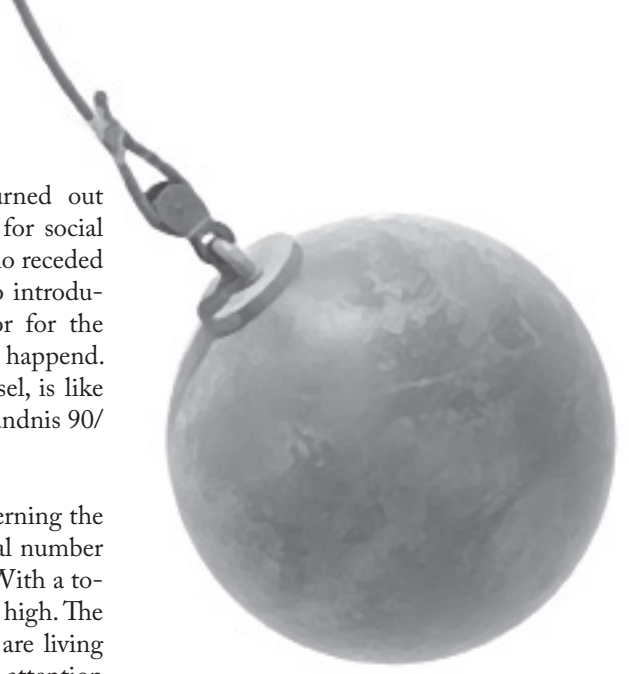
It took us pretty long to finish our third newsletter. We – that's the Bündnis gegen Lager/ Berlin-Brandenburg (Alliance against deportation camps/ Berlin-Brandenburg.) Since a long time we have been making effort to shut down the Ausreiselager Motardstr. and it appears that much more effort will be needed in future times. Here, we inform you about the ongoing resistance, smaller achievements and bigger continuing problems. Unfortunately, we also have to inform you about the construction of a second Sachleistungseinrichtung, which is located in Degnerstr. This is annoying but beside the problems this means for us we will turn this in a problem for the responsables. Beforehand: Officially, Motardstraße is a camp in which only asylum-seekers during their first three months will be housed. In reality, also persons that have a different status are housed there with the intention to force them to a „voluntary“ leave by means of a mistreatment. Or, to push them into an „illegality“. Therefore, it seemed and still seems that the main purpose was to get rid off the people. While the land berlin finished these procedures in 2007, some districts keep doing it and therefore are political accountable. We dismiss discrimination of refugees and migrants in general and claim the right to choose the place of living by ourselves. Due to the high rates of procedures like these we mainly dealt with the districts Pankow and Marzahn in the last year. Fortunately, our activities like rallies, public critics, visits and also the engagement of similar minded delegates of parties resulted in success.

Since then, the „champion“ turned out to be Mitte. The councilwomen for social concerns (Miriam Scheffler), who receded in december 2008, announced to introduce single case scrutiny in favor for the refugees. Until now, this hasn't happend. Her successor, Stephan von Dassel, is like Scheffler delegate of the party Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen.

In contrast to small success concerning the influence in the districts, the total number of inhabitants hasn't decreased. With a total of 425 people the rate is quite high. The fact that 134 vietnamese people are living in Motardstraße deserves special attention since they are partly considered as asylum seekers or as homeless. We will clarify this. Also, we have to find out which district is responsible for hospitalisation to Degnerstr.

The next regular date to cancel the treaty between the regional authorities for health and social concerns, which would end up in the closure of Motardstraße, is June, the 30th 2009. We are getting ready and are looking for a digger and an angledozzer.

District	Number of Persons 01.2008	Number of Persons 02.2009
Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf	16	17
Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg	3	2
Lichtenberg	10	7
Marzahn-Hellersdorf	37	8
Mitte	27	30
Neukölln	4	3 + 2* (Jobcenter)
Pankow	36	13
Reinickendorf	4	5
Steglitz-Zehlendorf	12 + 2* (Jobcenter)	7
Spandau	14 + 3* (Jobcenter)	10 + 9* (Jobcenter)
Tempelhof-Schöneberg	11	16
Σ	179 + 5* = 184	124 + 11* (+ 35 in der Degnerstraße) = 171



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* Die Jobcenter sind tlw. „übergangsweise“ zuständig und weisen nach Angaben des Senats niemand dort ein, d.h. die Leute wohnen in der Motardstraße „bis geeigneter Wohnraum angemietet wird“.

Degnerstraße Nr. 82 or „The new Ausreiselager“

Families and Children look out, refugee camps become „family friendly“ now!

„Motardstraße 101a“ will soon not be the only deportation camp. The state Berlin extends their capacity to exclude unwanted migrants. The since 2003 existing camp in the Degnerstraße 82 (Berlin-Hohenschönhausen) is since October 2008 partly be used as second Berlin deportation camp under the government of the parties SPD and „Linkspartei“. Our happiness is restrained whereas the „Sozialsenatorin“ (senator for social affairs) Heidi Knake-Werner is very proud of the camp which she grants the award „particularly suitable for families“. The question, if she proves with this decision her friendliness towards families which have no „legal“ residence permit or if she proves another time the racism of the state, is answered by itself. Also there families and children will get no money in cash, instead they will get ready meals packed in plastic. The 1,36 Euro per day cash and money for clothing are often canceled. The ready meals are delivered by the „R&Z Servicegesellschaft“, which is not better than the company „Dussmann“. Also here they don't have the possibility to choose their food, it's chosen by others for them, so their appreciation as free person is taken away from them.

This „open prison“ is conducted by the real estate company „invest-plan GmbH“, which has its head office in Grünheide and Fürstenwalde.

„Invest-Plan“ applied for an announcement of the „Landesamt für Gesundheit und Soziales“ (state office for health and social affairs) to provide 50 places for persons, which are made to criminals through the §1a AsylbLG. They are accused by the „Ausländerbehörde“ (office for foreigners) that they just came to Germany to receive social security benefits (this constantly can't be proved) or that they are unwilling to support the obtaining of a passport for them to deport them. The „Flüchtlingsrat“ drawing on their experience believes that 50% of the charges according to §1a AsylbLG are not lawful. This laws show us how racist laws and employees in the public service stigmatize people to criminals and to afterwards deprive them of their rights.

„Invest-Plan“ claims to have spent a lot of effort into the configuration of the camp. Fondly flowered window curtains for the dark basement rooms, bargain hunting at „Schlecker“ for pink or green shower shampoo as part of the non-cash benefit, also the grid crib for babies is not missing.

The only community room is now the canteen for the ready meals.

Former inhabitants which have to return to the camp because they were set back from cash to non-cash benefits are joyfully embraced.

The only thing that crosses the mind of the politician Heidi Knake-Werner in response to the manifold criticism is to open up a new camp with additional capacity and slightly better conditions. The basic criticism on deportation camps, the criminalization and stigmatization of migrants and the deliberate illegalization are not recognized by her and her party „Die Linke“ and are accepted.

The „Bündnis gegen Lager“ calls for the shutdown of all deportation camps and forced accommodations for refugees, migrants and homeless persons.

But we have to ask ourselves if we have with our denunciation of the situation in the Motardstraße abetted the practical policy. That means to prepare an additional deportation camp, which is presented as a nice accommodation.

We won't let ourselves get discouraged in our fight against institutionalized racism. Further on we demand cash money, flats and a good life for everyone. If Motardstraße, Degnerstraße or all other camps, they shall become flattened.





Racism has many faces

Insufficient Health Care for Migrants in Berlin

Not only is Berlin the capital of Germany – it is also the capital of people who have been made illegal. An estimated 20% of all migrants who have been made illegal live here. It is easier to lead an anonymous life in big cities. Anonymity is obligatory if one doesn't want to be deported. Somebody who has been made „illegal“ does not exist, so to speak, and somebody who does not exist, does not receive any health insurance or social benefits, or any other form of official help. At the same time the person has reason to be afraid of being reported to the aliens' registration office should he accept any help. In Berlin approximately 100,000 people are affected by this racist exclusion of migrants from social legislation and regular health care. Only 8,000 of them have had the chance to accept help from the office for medical assistance for refugees. This institution is not universally known and it happens frequently that hospital staff informs the police when people with a questionable status of residency have to be admitted to A&E. In other cases hospitals have refused medical treatment until the problem of payment was resolved.

Not only migrants who have been made illegal are often refused medical treatment, but also refugees who are currently seeking asylum, or whose stay in Germany is merely tolerated. This happens by means of a racist special law, the Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz (AsylbLG). According to §4 AsylbLG, medical treatment is provided only in urgent and painful cases. Chronic diseases and disabilities only receive me-

dical treatment if they are accompanied by acute pain. Whether these requirements are fulfilled or not, is solely within the questionable discretion of the responsible officials at the social security offices. It has happened over and over again that social assistance officers refuse health insurance certificates because they consider the pain of the refugee to be implausible.

The treatment in hospitals is often restricted in an unlawful way, too. Only medical care which is „life-saving or cannot be delayed“ is granted; other diseases and injuries are ignored. If the authorities expect medical treatment to be expensive, or in other controversial cases, the social assistance officers have to consult a medical officer. Treatment of patients which is deemed essential by doctors is rejected – in some cases without any detailed examination – because their disease „had already existed on arrival in Germany“ or „could be treated after deportation to their home country“. The latter case ended fatally for Mohammad Selah. After he had been denied a health insurance certificate, he received treatment too late, and died in Essen hospital on 14 January, 2007. All migrants must receive regular and free access to the health care system. Medical care is a human right.

The federal state of Berlin currently wants to upgrade the medical care for people with an unsecured status of residency. The introduction of an „anonymous health insurance certificate“ is being planned. Berlin also wants to modify the right of residence

laws. As a result, medical staff will no longer be obliged to report the data of the patients without status of residency to the authorities. According to the Senate Office, a legislative initiative to that effect is currently being prepared in the Bundesrat. According to Frau Lompscher, senator of health in Berlin, Herr Koerting, senator of the interior, generally informed the hospitals in Berlin in November 2008 that they do not have to report people with no status of residency.

*Nothing has been won yet!
Let's continue our fight for global medical rights!
Solidarity is international!
Legal documents and free health care for everybody!*

FelS / AG - Internationale Solidarität

Office hours of the office for medical help for refugees Berlin: Monday and Thursday 16.30 - 18.30 Uhr

// Mehringhof // Gneisenastr. 2a // Hinterhof, Aufgang 3, 2. Stock // Berlin-Kreuzberg // U-Bahnhof Mehringdamm U6/U7

postal address: Büro für medizinische Flüchtlingshilfe // Gneisenastr. 2a // 10961 Berlin //

Casualties that result in death

+++Casualty 1: Acquittal for the murderers of Oury Jalloh+++

On December 8th two policemen, Andreas S. and Hans-Ulrich M., responsible for Oury Jalloh's death in the fire have been absolved. Oury Jalloh burned when he was bound on hands and feet on a not-burnable matrace, except for him the room was empty. They said he had inflamed himself with a liter, that one of the policemen might have forgotten there?? The policemen in charge turned off the fire alarm and ignored the cries in the in-

ter phone. The body and everything what had been there burned completely. Although he had been bound, the prosecution tried to present it as a tragic accident, what had happened there. when the judgement was pronounced, people who wanted to observe, were thrown out by a lot of police. We are sure, that Oury Jalloh's death is a racist murder by the police and has to be remembered!

+++Casualty 2: Acquittal on "emeticdoc-

On December 4th the Landgericht Bremen absolved Igor Volz, a police doctor who, on December 26th 2004, had willingly inserted emetic through a stomach tube to Laya-Alama Condé, who had been suspicioned to be a drug dealer, more than 90 minutes until his death through suffocation. The purpose was to find stuff that would prove his guilt. The policemen had been paying attention Condé because of the color of his skin. This method, that is always very hurtful, is used in Germany on pure suspicion, which mostly means the "wrong" color of the skin. In this case it was made so

dilettante that the liquid didn't get to the stomach, but to the lungs instead. The doctor didn't stop the torture, although the suspicioned already had foam around his mouth and had lost consciousness. The guy died right there. Instead of questioning the use of emetic, the court decided, that the doctor didn't have enough experience on the subject to decide whether to stop or to continue. He was absolved and continues working as a court doctor, as if it had happened nothing. The public complains justly about the use of "Waterboarding" through US-american authorities, but nobody seems to

be interested in the risky and degrading use of emetic in the daily work of the police in Germany, that murdered Achidi John in 2002. Even the European Court decided 2006, that the use of emetics is a violation of the ban on torture..

+++Casualty no interest+++

In England a prosecutor refused a renewed accusation of the policeman who had shot Jean Charles de Menezes and had been absolved. They said that there was no proof for a wrongdoing and because of that there was no public interest. Jean Charles had been shot from the back without warning on July 22th 2005 in an underground railway station in London. Supposed-

ly he had given the impression to be a suicide attacker. After the evaluation of the security camera footage, and the testimonies of eye witnesses had disproved the declaration of the policeman, that Jean Charles had worn a big jacket and had been running to the metro, only his black color stayed as a suspicious fact.

The court finally argued with the "criminalistic experience" and the "investigative pressure" of the assassin to absolve him. Jean Charles' family was not allowed to be in the court during the proclamation of sentence of the first process due to "reasons of security".

Stop the use of emetics! Stop racist police violence!

Resistance against “Sammelvorführungen”

It's been some time, that they have found a new way to enforce the deportation of refugees out of Germany. As for example November 20th 2007, March 11th 2008, March 25th 2009 several antiracist and antifascist activists gathered in the central “Ausländerbehörde” in Colone to protest against another deportation hearing of refugees especially from Africa. Already in the early morning March 11th 2008 the first bus with black Africans from Eisenhüttenstadt arrives the Blaubachstr. in Colone. Some persons are brought in handcuffs. Surprised but unbroken, they get out of the bus accompanied by Brandenburg policemen.

The day before they all had to gather in the central “Aufnahmestelle” Eisenhüttenstadt, because the trip to Colone started at midnight. The destination of the bus was neither the embassy of guinea, nor the embassy of Nigeria or Cameroon, but the central “Ausländerbehörde” in Colone refugees are forced to see from the embassies of their supposed states of origin. What actually decides the case are the deals between the German authority and the delegation of the embassy. To stay quite during the hearing they understand as acceptance to the already planed result. Before they had collaborated a lot with the embassy of Togo, recently they are specialized on the identification of Cameroons, Nigerians, Guineans. Afterwards, deportation. Every once in a while refugees from all over Germany are brought to Colone for the hearings. Refugees, mostly from Africa, who. According

to German right do not have a registered identity, cannot be deported, if they try to get the documents they need to travel back and if they don't commit a crime. The most terrible is, that they cooperate with members of dictatorial states to question refugees. From what the Cameroon officers say about “their refugees” can hardly be proved, but the German “Ausländerbehörde” takes them as authentic and independent statements. Already November 21th 2007 about 50 people from Africa, who had been living all over Germany and who where not given a residence title, suffered this disgusting procedure, that had been used in Colone for at least 10 years.

The system of deportation is being extended. More than ten thousand people are deported yearly from Germany. More and more often they do charter flights, so the resistance against deportation becomes nearly impossible and the practice of deportations gets more and more brutal. With clubs, capsicum spray and bonds the “non-welcomed” are thrown out of the country. Working together with corrupt regimes and although there are good reasons for danger of persecution, documents for the deportation are found somewhere. At the end the only possibility often stays the illegalization. The illegal status and to get into hiding sometimes are the only defense against the deportation. That's why the quite a big number of people lives illegally in Germany. Their number is growing continuously, meanwhile the number of applications for asylum and their acceptance

dramatically declined. Instead of asylum, refugees get “Lager” and deportation, that's why more and more people do not even apply.

The numbers of refugees in Europe are growing. Not only on the European external borders but also inside the brutality in sending them of, harassing them and deporting them is increasing. All over Europe only 23 out of 100 refugees are given asylum. In Germany it's only 6 out of 100.

Lovely words from the Linkspartei (Leftist Party)

The Federal State Party convention of the Linkspartei Berlin, agreed upon the following in December 2008: „Alle anderen [nicht im Erstaufnahmeverfahren befindlichen, d. Red.] Personen, die derzeit dort wohnen, werden in Wohnungen bzw. - in gesetzlich unabweisbaren Fällen - in Unterkünften untergebracht, die von den zuständigen Bezirken bereitgestellt werden. Mittelfristig soll eine Erstaufnahmeeinrichtung an einem anderen Standort eingerichtet werden, die dem gegenüber den 90er Jahren geringeren Platzbedarf gerecht wird und eine bessere sozialräumliche Integration der Flüchtlinge ermöglicht.“

“All other persons [not being in the primary proceedings of admission; the editors], who are living there at the moment, will be lodged in apartments or alternatively - in legally preemptory cases - in accommodations to be provided by the responsible district. In the interim, an initial reception facility in another place shall be installed, which will meet the lower (compared to the 90s) space requirements and facilitate better socio-spacial integration of the refugees.“ Senator Knake-Werner, who is politically responsible for this matter, hereby announces the closure of the Motardstraße camp! However, as of now we know of no concrete timetable.

Heidi - come on!

The motion that was ultimately enacted originated from Elke Breitenbach, Klaus Lederer, Heidi Knake-Werner, Katina Schubert and Carsten Schatz

Read all about it:

U. Jelpke, K. Kopp; Kritik auch an deutscher Flüchtlingspolitik, Mitteilungen der Kommunistischen Plattform der Linkspartei

“Obligation to co-operate” in own deportation

German authorities repeatedly conduct questioning of refugees in the presence of ambassador. Alleged violations of human rights.

„It was clear what the civil servants thought: everyone whose case was discussed that day, was supposed to be deported out of Germany.“ Samuela Diallo (name changed) reports of a questioning in an embassy which he was forced to attend. Diallo is an African refugee – one of many who were not accepted as politically persecuted asylum seekers in Germany; whose stay is only tolerated in Germany. In October he received a summons from the aliens’ registration office in Cologne. He was told to appear there for a questioning in front of some members of the staff of the Cameroon Embassy. His „identity should be clarified“ and „the issuing of a passport should be rendered possible“. Diallo does not have any proof of origin.

For years the German authorities have been conducting questionings with refugees in foreign embassies. Migrants are supposed to be „identified“ as compatriots by their accents by ambassadors, receive a passport, and then be deported. The authorities refer to the asylum seekers’ „obligation to co-operate“. Diallo is afraid. The German government, which granted asylum to only 251 refugees in 2006, turns a deaf ear to the misery and even the political persecution of refugees. Pro Asyl reports that border officials deported people from Sri Lanka in 2006, just when new violent massacres were developing.

Diallo, too, fears for his life should he be deported. Diallo: „I reckoned: If I did engage in a conversation with the ambassadors, I would risk deportation. If I failed to turn up, I would be threatened with sanctions, e.g. the police forcing me to turn up. I decided to go.“ He was denied travel expenses to Köln. Although he asked, he was neither told the time nor the room number of the questioning. With other refugees, Diallo was told to turn up at a collection point in Eisenhuettenstadt on 19 Novem-

ber; from there they were taken to Cologne by bus overnight. Two of them handcuffed. Like criminals. Diallo assumes that their escorts were police officers in plain clothes. Such compulsory transport is illegal according to Hubert Heinhold, a lawyer for alien and asylum law, „if a refugee has only received the first summons to the questioning, and has not yet failed to turn up several times.“ Overtired they were made to wait in the office in Cologne in the morning. „In the course of the morning, refugees from various cities were brought in, about 30 altogether“, says Diallo.

Ten activists of *Kein Mensch ist illegal* (Nobody is illegal) were on site, and protested against the forced questioning with a banner. They requested the officials to allow the refugees a legal adviser. Diallo: „The officials rejected that. They claimed the hearing would take place on ‚extra-territorial space‘.“ On inquiry by *Neues Deutschland*, lawyer Heinhold denies that: „That’s nonsense. Even if foreign embassies conduct the questioning, refugees still have the right to a legal counselor.“

One by one the refugees were sent to the ambassadors. Diallo was nervous; he decided to remain silent. Not an easy plan. „Two Cameroonian ambassadors and two female German officials sat in a circle facing me. I knew that they were just aiming at deporting me and I had to resist their questions.“ First an ambassador addressed Diallo in French when he asked him to sit down. No reaction. Taking turns, the Cameroonian and the German official interrogated him: „Tell us your name. What is your father’s name, what is your mother’s name? Can you confirm the information you gave us in your application for asylum?“ No answer. This procedure lasted for 15 minutes. Diallo did not say a word and was finally released. All the other refugees



from the group which came with Diallo remained silent. „In the end the officials were notably furious. We were then released and sent back to our camps.“ Diallo now has to wait for the confirmation of his tolerated stay. Perhaps he will have to face benefit cuts or other sanctions. Diallo is a sensitive and attentive person. With unease he remembers the day in Cologne, the rude and wordless treatment of the refugees by the escort – „as if we were dogs“.

Migration to Germany:

drawing a disappointing balance in 2008

„Whoever comes to Germany as a foreigner remains foreign.“

Migrants are criticizing the implementation of the National Plan for Integration. Part of this criticism can be compared to the situation in the USA, the traditional country of immigration. But unlike the USA, Germany first needs to learn that immigration is not a bad thing per se, as long as immigrants are integrated into the society. But so far, the political sphere has seen great challenges in this field, as the situation of the biggest ethnic minority in the capital demonstrates: according to an investigation by the German Institute of Economic Research (DIW), three out of four Turkish people do not have a graduation certificate from school, every second employable person has no job and only 3% have studied at university.

At the same time refugees, i.e. those whose residence permit status is “exceptional leave to remain” (Duldung), continue to feel anxious about their situation. In 2008 there were 126,676 people living in Germany with this status. Some of them have been here for more than 15 years. They live in permanent fear of imminent deportation and can be deported at any time, back to the countries which they escaped from in the hope of finding protection in Germany.

In 2007 alone, 14,000 persons were deported from Germany. Children who were born here and have never seen the home countries of their parents; older persons whose whole families live here; teenagers, separated from their families just for becoming 18 years old. Some are able to resist these cruel policies, some manage to resist their deportation, others commit suicide in Germany because they can no longer bear living under such undignified conditions. The new law on the right of residence (Bleiberechtsregelung), passed in Berlin one year ago, has helped far fewer people to get a secure residence permit than expected.

Instead of the expected 60,000 refugees, to this date only 29,000 people (long-term “Geduldete”) have received some form of residence permit through this old-case-arrangement, which was brought in by the CDU/SPD coalition. These figures are known due to a parliamentary enquiry instigated by the German Linkspartei. At the end of September, according to the federal government, there are still 110,000 migrants living as Geduldete in Germany. 65,000 of them have been living here for more than six years and are still waiting for their residence permits.

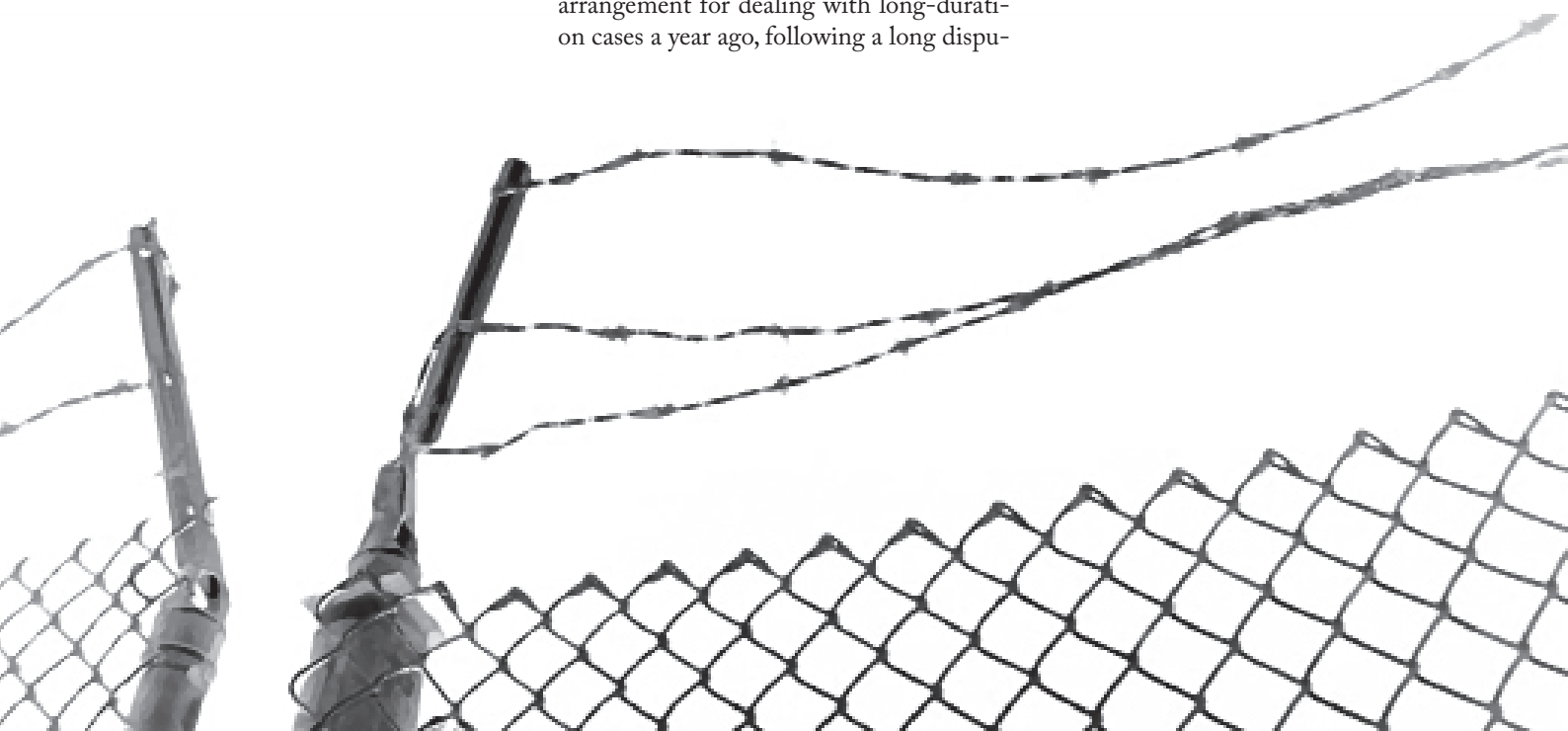
The CDU/SPD coalition had made this arrangement for dealing with long-duration cases a year ago, following a long dispu-

te. According to the SPD it was meant to help 60,000 persons to get secure residence permits. Now the data presented shows that not even half of those concerned have benefited from the new law.

One year before that, 25,000 Geduldete obtained a residence permit through a special arrangement made by the Conference of the Ministers of the Interior, meaning that in total 54,000 people have benefited from the new law over the last few years. 80% of those residence permits were conceded conditionally: they will expire at the end of 2009 if those concerned have not found work which enables them to support their own families.

In the light of the current labour market, only very few people will be able to present the required proof that they can earn a lasting living without needing public assistance benefits.

Ulla Jelpke, a left-wing member of the Bundestag, draws a critical balance: “what the federal government is presenting as a success is in reality a ‚Potemkin village‘.”



Fight the voucher system!

Cash-money for everyone!

u.r.i. (united against racism and isolation)*

Like elsewhere, refugees in Germany have to struggle with repression by the state. Examples are the compulsory housing in camp accommodation without privacy, the so-called „Residenzpflicht“ (refugees aren't allowed to leave the administrative district (Landkreis) which is assigned to them), as well as the long-term prohibition to work or to start an apprenticeship. This list of constraints on fundamental rights is being legitimated by the „Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz“ (the law which is responsible for the treatment of asylum seekers in Germany). To this list of repressions comes insufficient health care, which is restricted to the absolute minimum, as well as the basic financial provisions, which are 30 % lower than the minimum living wage which is granted by ALG II (the German unemployment compensation). Predominantly, these provisions are distributed as benefit in kind, like food vouchers, chipcards and clothing vouchers. The only cash money refugees are entitled to receive (the monthly „pocket-money“) is 20,45 € for children and 40,90 € for adults and is often being withdrawn by the Sozialamt (social services department) arbitrarily.

As a consequence of all these discriminations, the refugee's chance to take part in the social life in Germany is denied from the beginning. Refugees in Germany don't have the possibility to have a coffee with friends or to go to the cinema, not to mention to hire an attorney, to pay for phone calls or tickets for public transport. This everyday madness is also part of the lives of the refugees in Hennigsdorf (near Berlin). The office in charge, the Sozialamt in Oranienburg, refuses to hand out cash-money to the people who live there. The refugees get vouchers, so instead of the free decision where to spend their money, they can only buy food and toiletries in a few special shops.

This situation has to change, so we're exchanging the vouchers to cash-money and go shopping together regularly.

If you would like to take part in the anti-racist shopping, which is taking place once a month, or if you wish to receive more information, just write a short email to: uri-hennigsdorf@riseup.net

The next date for the anti-racist shopping: *Fridays, May 8th and June 5th (More de-

tailed information by mail).

* The initiative u.r.i. is a project of refugees from the camp Hennigsdorf, the Antifascist Initiative Hennigsdorf (H.A.I.), individuals and some staff of the KuB (Kontakt- und Beratungsstelle für Flüchtlinge und MigrantInnen / Contact and Consultation Center for Refugees and Migrants in Berlin-Kreuzberg). Together, we have regular meetings (to clarify which kind of support is needed and to map out projects and events), common leisure activities (coffee partys, attendance to concerts, parties etc.), political activities (information evenings, anti-racist shoppings, demonstrations) and practical support (bike workshop: „BikeAid - For Freedom of movement“: www.bikeaid-berlin.de; German classes, legal assistance and other kind of support).

** *As a result of long-time political and activist lobbying, Berlin abolished chipcards and vouchers in the year 2006. What stayed unimproved, is the camp accommodation like Motardstraße and Degnerstraße, where refugees only get convenience food.*

The “Arbeiterwohlfahrt” (AWO; Workers' Welfare Association) – more than just a charity

The New Year's concert of AWO Berlin/Brandenburg on January 17, 2009 with the Berlin Philharmonic could not take place without protest. On a big red carpet, the AWO was given the huge “Golden Cockroach”. A special prize, so far awarded only to the Senator for Social Welfare, Knake-Werner, for her responsibility concerning the existence and conditions of camp Motardstraße. Unfortunately it didn't come to a formal handing-over. Nevertheless, the leaflets entitled “Why does the AWO violate her own basic values” were in great demand. The audience, mostly over 60 years old, which arrived in droves, lined up to respond to our criticism. We think that we reached a great number of multipliers with this action. We hope that discussion inside the AWO will ensue, with the goal to abrogate the Motardstraße contract with the state health and welfare office.

As operator of the Motardstraße camp, the AWO profits from the appalling conditions there: the lower the expenses, the higher the profit. Simply put, this practice is racist chicanery of the people who are forced by the institutions to live there, and who are “kept” under degrading conditions by the AWO. Another nasty example of the business operations of the AWO Berlin/Brandenburg: The AWO must abandon its infamous facility in Potsdam in summer 2009.

It is located at a purification plant and inaccessible by public transportation. The immigrant commissioner of Potsdam, Magdolna Grasnack, stated that the improved housing conditions in the new accommodations are the “second best solution” for immigrants after having their own apartments.

Inside the AWO, the first self-criticism is emerging: in May 2008, the national youth conference (Bundesjugendkonferenz) of the AWO criticized the treatment of immigrants without a permanent residence (permit) status, explicitly the living conditions in the AWO-camp Motardstraße

Against the profiteers of racist politics!

AWO out of Motardstraße!

Close camp Motardstraße!

Undocumented, but organised

Working without the needed papers is reality for many migrants in Germany and elsewhere: They work as domestic workers, seasonal workers for the harvest, in childcare, on construction sites, and in many other areas. By doing so, they care for their own living and often also for the livelihood of their families.

What most people don't know: Undocumented workers have the same rights as every employee: adequate wage, holiday entitlement, maternity protection, pension insurance, accident insurance, paid vacation etc.

Employees without resident permits or work permit often get conned on their rights and often don't have the possibility to take legal action to get these rights. For this reason there is an information office in Berlin for undocumented employees at the labour union ver.di. This office allows paperless migrants without documents to inform themselves about their rights and to organize themselves with ver.di, to be able to exercise their rights.

The contact-point was founded by the „AK Undokumentierte Arbeit“ (Working group „Undocumented labour“) and is based on experiences of a counselling centre of the same name in Hamburg. Various antiracist, feminist and self-organised migrant initiatives from Berlin are working together with ver.di in this group.

The AK believes in collective solutions and the need for organization. In the last months alone, more than 60 undocumented employees entered ver.di via personal contacts. From the AK's Information Flyer: „Our aims can only be accomplished through fundamental social changes, which end discrimination. A first step is the recognition of migrants as workers, regardless of their residence permit status in Europe.“

There are many different forms of violation of labour laws, but underpayment or no payment at all is probably the one which paperless migrants experience most. Recently one case made it into the media, the case of Ana S.: This Columbian woman worked three years in the household of a wealthy family in Hamburg-Blankenese. As compensation she received one euro per hour as pocket-money. Despite her missing residence permit status she went to a labour court to sue for her wage. The trial ended with an extrajudicial mediation, Ana S. received additional payment, although not on an adequate scale. She doesn't have valid residence permit papers to this day.

Her story has been picturized in the movie „Mit einem Lächeln auf den Lippen“ („With a smile on the lips“), which felS is going to show during the Maydays on May 13th at 7pm at Zielona Gora. After the screening there will be a discussion with the filmmaker Anne Frisius and activists of Berlin antiracist groups.

The information office for undocumented employees offers personal counselling for paperless migrants whenever they encounter legal problems and issues of social law.

It can be found in the building of ver.di Landesbezirk, Köpenicker Str. 30, 10179 Berlin, room E10 (ground floor). You can reach it during the office hours for consultation services, via telephone: 030/8866-5622 or via E-Mail: ak-undokumentierte-arbeit.berlin@verdi.org. The counselling office is open every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 9 am - 11 am and every 4th Wednesday of the month from 6pm - 8pm.

FelS - Für eine Linke Strömung

Come and join us! If you're interested in the FelS working group - International Solidarity, please contact: felS@nadir.org or www.felS-berlin.de!

Adressenteil:

Dussmann-Fraß heißt jetzt CFM

Wie aus einer aktuellen kleinen Anfrage im Abgeordnetenhaus hervorgeht, ist der Essenslieferant nun für die Motardstraße die „Charité CFM Facility Management GmbH“, Robert-Koch-Platz 9, 10115 Berlin. Dussmann ist Teil der CFM.

Betreiberin Wohnheim Degnerstraße:

Invest Plan Immobiliengesellschaft mbH, Am Reiherhorst 20, 15537 Grünheide

Invest Plan Immobiliengesellschaft mbH, Luisenstraße 25, 15537 Grünheide

Invest Plan Immobiliengesellschaft mbH, Sembritzkistraße 3, 15517 Fürstenwalde

Betreiberin Wohnheim Motardstraße:

Arbeiterwohlfahrt Berlin (AWO), Kreisverband Mitte e.V., Hochstädter Straße 1, 13347 Berlin

Arbeiterwohlfahrt Berlin (AWO), AWO Landesverband Berlin e.V., Blücherstraße 62, 10961 Berlin

Essenslieferant Degnerstraße:

R+Z Servicegesellschaft mbH, Französische Straße 55, 10117 Berlin, Tochterfirma von www.procureand.eu

TIMELINE

January 2007:

Refugee Counsel (Flüchtlingsrat) contacts the State Executive (Landesamt) of the Left Party (Linke)/Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS). No Reaction.

Beginning of periodic information sessions and introductory meetings for occupants of the Motardstraße Camp.

Arson (incendiary attack) in Hamburg. Four Dussmann cars burn, lots of hype in the press.

February 2007:

Incendiary attack on Dussman kitchen. In Berlin-Pankow a small fire is lit in the kitchen, which is to prepare food for the Motardstraße Camp. No property damage.

Protest of the state-wide congress (Landesparteitag) by the Party of Democratic Socialism in Berlin-Neukölln. Some activists confront delegates with a travelling photo exhibit and demand closing of the Motardstraße Camp. An internal emergency motion is ignored, and two days later overruled. Instead, only the deportation camp living conditions should be improved...

March 2007:

Senator Knake-Werner does damage control. She influences the District Office of Marzahn-Hellersdorf to initiate a less severe conduct of accommodation.

Letter sent to Senator Knake-Werner and the Motardstraße Worker's Welfare Organization (AWO). Document written in Arabic.

April 2007:

Knake-Werner and other PDS functionaries visit Motardstraße. In the presence of Worker's Welfare Organization (AWO) representatives, the Refugee Counsel, and protestant church activists.

Occupants present her with a captured cockroach as a souvenir--more specifically, a German cockroach (*blatella germanica*). Issues of inadequate health, medical, and social conditions are discussed. Knake-Werner wants to speak with the AWO, occupants of Motardstraße, and Dussman concerning the abhorrent meal and food plans.

Short inquiry* in Berlin parliament concerning contamination of the site.

Chaos in front of Dussman. In connection with Anti-G8-Preparations, Parcours Global makes a stop in front of Dussman. Violent police deployments disrupt demonstrations in front of Dussman as well as the return of the abhorrent meal packages. Lengthy blockades on Friedrichstraße.

May 2007:

Golden cockroach for Knake-Werner. First presentation of the Anti-Racist Recognition Prize (antirassistischen Sonderpreis), which the Senator unfortunately could not accept.

Demonstrations in front of the camp demand the closing of the Motardstraße.

June 2007:

Knake-Werner answers the occupants' letter. Cleanliness, order, and hygiene should have improved within the last year...

Clown Army with Field Kitchen (Clownsarmee mit Feldküche) in front of Motardstraße.

August 2007:

Changes to regulations of conduct in implementation of § 1a.) German Social Welfare Law for Asylum Seekers of the State of Berlin. This makes it easier for hesitant districts to give up assigning people to Motardstraße and withholding cash payments.

October 2007:

Demonstration in front of (and against) the Pankow district government office.

November 2007:

Punitive measures against a policeman (now retired), who worked as a paramedic in the deportation camp in Berlin-Köpenick. Sentenced to a fine of 30 days' wages because of negligent bodily injury while on duty.

February 2008:

Short inquiry* in Berlin parliament: Motardstraße: No Improvement in Sight?

Ruling of Pankow District Authorities (BVG): No admissions to Motardstraße. **Later, ruling is changed and practically overruled by the mayor**

March 2008:

Short inquiry* in district of Marzahn-Hellersdorf. The district reduces the number of affected individuals to 35 and makes them cash payments.

Heart disease sufferer Herr B. (see November 2008) can move into a flat.



After individual audits, 10 of 28 refugees change to another home.

April 2008:

Anti-racist campaign organized by the AWO agency.

Demonstrations in front of the District Government Building in Marzahn-Hellersdorf.

Short inquiry* in Berlin parliament: Tuberculosis cases among asylum seekers in Berlin? Those with symptoms of tuberculosis are sent to the hospital.

Short inquiry* in Pankow district.

Marzahn-Hellersdorf district leans toward closing the Motardstraße Camp and carrying out individual audits.

May 2008:

National Juvenile Division (Bundeskonferenz des Jugendwerkes) of the Worker's Welfare Organization (AWO) openly criticizes the role of the AWO as operator of the Motardstraße camp.

June 2008:

Anti-racist readings at Dussman

July 2008:

Short inquiry* in Berlin parliament „Humans in Motardstraße“-The Future of Accommodation of Refugees? “ The district Mitte currently has the most people (36) assigned to Motardstraße.

August 2008:

Dussman bus burns in Hamburg

October 2008:

Anti-racist bike parade. Knake-Werner's house, the AWO, and Dussman are visited. Police end demonstrations though voluntary assaults. Temporary arrests, and thus, police inquiries.

November 2008:

Short inquiry* in Berlin parliament: Tuberculosis cases among asylum seekers in Berlin? Those with symptoms of tuberculosis are taken to the hospital.

December 2008:

New ruling: state-wide congress of the Left Party would like operations of Motardstraße accommodation limited to initial phase accommodation—and, in time--this initial phase accommodation should be moved to a location with a better social environment (see article: Nice Words von the Left Party „Schöne Worte von der Linkspartei“).

January 2009:

Golden cockroach visits New Year's Concert of the AWO-Brandenburg. (See article: Labour Welfare--more than just a welfare union „Die Arbeiterwohlfahrt – mehr als nur ein „Wohlfahrtsverband“)

February 2009:

The Refugee Counsel writes social service. Among other things, demanding a set deadline for the closing of Motardstraße Camp.

March 2009:

4 short inquiries* in the Berlin parliament concerning refugee accommodation in Berlin (see: Intro)

*short inquiries can be found in current parliamentary documentation under www.chipkartenini.squat.net

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Contact:

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10961 Berlin

This is an unregular newsletter. All the articles are written by people and groups from the Bündnis gegen Lager (alliance against camps).