

Call for a demonstration in Hamburg

On the Transnational Migration Action day

At 14:00 at the Hamburg train station

("Glockengiesserwall" exit)

In a lot of European and African countries, refugees, migrants and human rights organizations are calling for an Action Day on the 7th of October to protest restrictive and inhumane European migration politics. It was decided at the **European Social Forum** (*Europaeischen Sozialforum-ESF*), where 15,000 people gathered in Athens in May. This call is in answer to a statement made by the **World Social Forums** (*Weltsozialforums-WSF*) in Bako/Mali, that in January 2006, without a doubt, took the prevailing position on migration politics: *"In the name of controlling 'illegal' immigrants, governments are setting up repressive legal proceedings and are broadening the political borders of wealthy countries by using internment camps, expulsions,*

deportations, and laborer selection". The WSF called for a yearly international mobilization *"in defense of the rights of all people, so that they can move about in the world freely and control their own destinies."*

The **call from the ESF**, for which more than 100 organizations and individuals from all over Europe and Africa have signed up, is following the mobilizations in January 2004 and April 2005, when actions concerning migration took place. The third Action Day will, as it says in the call, *"be directed against the denial of rights, against the criminalization of migrants and against migrant control and will make clear demands about the freedom of movement and the right of residence:*

- *For an unconditional European legalization and the same rights for all*
- *For the closing of all internment camps in Europe and everywhere*
- *For an end to all deportations and the expansion of their monitoring power (beyond- border controls and selection processes)*
- *For a coupling of the residence permit with the working contract and against 'instability' (permanent job and housing insecurity)."*

Given the parallel actions in Africa, among other things the global dimensions of this fight should be emphasized this year. We are choosing this date for the action in memory of the attack on the border fences of the Spanish enclaves **Ceuta and Melilla** in October 2005. At that time two hundred refugees and migrants managed to literally dive into Europe; however at the same time the inhumane and repressive measures of the European migration regime were clearly unearthed: fatal shootings, internments,

deportations, and even abandoning several thousand people in the desert.

In Germany refugees have to live in camps, far away from any infrastructure. They are required to reside there and most have no working permits and only reduced social benefits. In addition they are constantly threatened with deportation. More and more refugees and migrants have no papers and therefore also have no rights.

However there is also **opposition** to these practices that isn't very well known:

- On the 16th and 17th of November 2006 there will be another **Interior Minister's Conference** in Nurnberg. On this occasion there will be actions for a request for unconditional right of residence for all illegalized refugees and for those with a "Duldung", or an "exceptional leave to remain".

- In **Mecklenburg-Vorpommern** refugees and human rights organizations have succeeded in closing the “Dschungelheimen”, “Jungle Asylums” and they are calling for an extension of a hard-fought for deportation halt to Togo.
- For years there has been opposition against the Bramsche deportation camp in **Niedersachsen**, and this opposition is spreading to the Blankenburg camp, where there will be action days from the 29th of September to the 1st of November, 2006.
- In **Hamburg** refugees from **Afghanistan** are fighting against their deportation, before this was only a problem for single men and childless couples but now hundreds of families with children are having the same issues. There will be a demonstration about this on the 29th of September 2006.
- African refugees have been summoned numerous times to a **dubious delegation from Guinea**, which is paid for by Hamburg authorities, where deportation papers were issued; it didn't matter whether the person concerned was really from Guinea or from another African country. There have been and will be protests against this and many other coordinated large-scale European **group deportations** to Africa and other places.

Meanwhile, Hamburg is known nationwide as being a **forerunner of rigid exclusion and deportation politics**. Going even further, the Hamburg Senate has decided to close the first reception center for refugees on the “Bibby Altona” ship. Starting on the first of October of 2006 all newly arriving refugees will spend a few days in a shelter in the Hamburg sports hall in the Nostorf/Horst camp by Boizenburg. The camp is far from any large city and therefore also far from all necessary infrastructure like advice centers, lawyers, hospitals, etc.. Nostorf/Horst is up until now the central reception point of the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern region and serves as the “regional community lodging” “Landesgemeinschaftsunterkunft” for people who, in the authorities’ opinion, have “no prospects to remain” in Germany. It is to be

feared that most refugees, for whom Hamburg is still responsible, will have to stay in the Nostorf/Horst camp until their deportation.

In this nationwide precedent setting placement of the **“first reception center” “Erstaufnahmeeinrichtung”**, outside of the city, Hamburg authorities are especially clear: refugees are unwanted in this city and should get far away as quickly as possible – out of the cities and into the woods, and preferably completely out of Europe.

With the October 7th demonstration we would like to show that there is also refugee and migrant opposition to such migration politics and that they can count on our solidarity, that they can come here in the future, and stay here and live in humane conditions.

We – refugees and human rights organizations as well as anti-racist groups from Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Schleswig-Holstein, Niedersachsen and Bremen – call out to everyone in Northern Germany, and ask them to take part in the demonstration in Hamburg!

This call to action is supported by:

Flüchtlingsrat Hamburg, AntiLager-Gruppe Hamburg, kein mensch ist illegal Hamburg, Karawane Hamburg, Flüchtlingsrat Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, nolager-Gruppen Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Flüchtlingsrat Schleswig-Holstein, Flüchtlingsrat Niedersachsen, AntiRa-Plenum Göttingen, nolager Bremen, Hamburger Regionalgruppe der Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker, Koordinationsrat der Iranerinnen und Iraner in Hamburg e.V., Eine Welt Netzwerk Hamburg, Antira Plenum Oldenburg, "Dritte Welt" Informationszentrum und Laden Oldenburg, Medienbus Oldenburg, Avanti – Projekt Undogmatische Linke...und weitere Gruppen und Einzelpersonen