

# 50 years of dictatorship in Togo is enough!

On the 13<sup>th</sup> January 1963 the first president Sylvanus Olympio was killed and darkness descended over Togo.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> January 1967 Eyadema Gnassingbe organized a military coup and came into power.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018 the Togolese community calls for support for the current revolution in Togo.



Bild: The guardian

## Demonstration in Freiburg

on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018 11am meeting point: Konzerthaus

Regarding the situation in Togo and the isolationist policy of the EU on the African continent.

## Public conference



2pm – 3.30pm information about Togo, followed by discussion and exchange by the Togolese community till 6pm – Uni-Freiburg, HS1098-

## **The Togolese resistance movement calls for a demonstration!**

On 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017 the Togolese opposition of Europe met in Rotterdam and consulted about the current situation in Togo. The exiled people of Togo decided to carry out their protest against the current dictator in Togo on the streets of Europe, to create awareness and start more political discussion and intervention. To do this they need your support!

About 60% of the people in Togo are between 14 and 64 years, with an unemployment rate of around 65%. Hospitals, schools and educational facilities are in poor state. Immediately after the death of Gnassingbe Eyadema in 2005, the conservative army helped his son Faure Gnassingbe into power.

The African union and other influential organizations - like the economic community of West African states (ECOWAS) - publicly protested against this power transfer. They declared the process unlawful and compared it to a coup. Faure Gnassingbe stepped down but was re-elected with the help of the army two months later in April 2015. The election was condemned as undemocratic by leaders of the opposition and by the United Nations. According to reports of the UN, the biased agenda and unlawful intervention of the army and the police during and after the elections caused 500 deaths!



## **Current Situation**

A revolt of this magnitude has not been seen in the history of Togo till date. Since the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August, 2017 people are on the streets of Togo, calling for Faure Gnassingbe to resign. The army is back on the streets and houses with weapons. And once again people are dying/being killed/being put to death for opposition to the leadership!

However, in its fight for democracy this movement is confronted by France and thereby the European Union. France is controlling the currency reserves of 14 African countries, including Togo. France still intervenes in the economy of Togo in a neo-colonialist manner and owns preemption on all newly discovered natural resources of the country. When awarding trade and commercial contracts, French companies have to be given priority. This leads to the fact that all economically relevant sectors are in the hands of French companies. Every year African countries are paying about 440 billion Euros to France for the constructed infrastructure. Not only France, but also Germany is interested in the exports of Togo and is involved in its economy.

This short insight demonstrates the political and economic powers the democratic movement in Togo is confronted with and which countries influence the internal politics of Togo.

To prevent more people from being driven into poverty or killed, the democratic movement in Togo needs your support, including on the streets of Europe!

The 13<sup>th</sup> of January represents a sad day, as on this day in 1963 the first president was killed and exactly on the same day 4 years later Eyadema Gnassingbe staged a coup to rise to power. The Gnassingbe family has therefore been repressing the Togolese people for 50 years now.

**On this tragic anniversary we call for a demonstration for a free and democratic Togo! Fight the causes of flight!**