

Fleeing is not a crime! Abolish detention prisons! Against all deportations! #NoStateOfDeportation

Demonstration for the abolition of detention prison Pforzheim

Sunday, October 2 / 2 pm / detention prison Pforzheim (Anshelmstraße 58)

Innocent people are in prison in Pforzheim. They got wrong papers, they had claimed their right to freedom of movement. Only for this reason they are imprisoned, sometimes for months.

In prison without having committed a crime

You don't have to commit a crime to be placed in a deportation prison. It's enough for the Ausländerbehörde to suspect that a person could „complicate“ their deportation. 502 people were held in Pforzheim for an average of almost 30 days in 2019. According to the statistics of a specialised lawyer, he wins 50% of his mandates. This means that half of the detainees are in prison illegally. So the arrestment is not just about securing deportation. Those who make it to Germany are sent to a mass camp and then to deportation prison. This is the ideal dream of the racists in the Regional Council of Karlsruhe, who were significantly involved in the installation of the prison in 2016.

Racist motivated deprivation of liberty

„Inhumane“, „Exhausting“, „They treat us like criminals“ - This is how detainees describe the mistreatment. These are rare voices that leak out. Those arrested have to hand over their smart-phones. The social services first have to get a cell phone without a camera so that the detainees can have contact with their friends again. They report insults, the withdrawal of urgently needed medication and violent attacks. Moreover you can be isolated in „a specially secured room.“ Detainees call the segregated cells „bunkers.“ The isolated have no contact with other prisoners. They must wear institutional clothing and are not allowed to shower or change clothes. During isolation, they are given nothing to pass the time. No book, no magazines, no prayer necklace, no radio - nothing. And they don't know how long they will have to stay in isolation.

Blackbox deportation prison

In 2019, at least 12 people were held in a „specially secured room“ where people can also be fixated. They cannot defend themselves against this. There are no possibilities to complain, no independent counseling, hardly any access to lawyers. Even pastors are prevented from doing their work. What happens behind the walls cannot be controlled from the outside. The detainees are at the mercy of the guards.

Politically intended

One day in the deportation prison Pforzheim costs 315,12€. Upon deportation, any remaining money is taken from the refugees, and the remaining amount is billed. Thus, the detention is not only inhumane, it's also costly and ineffective. Although new prisons have been built in recent years, capacities have been expanded, and new reasons for detention have been introduced in rapid legislative processes, the number of deportations isn't increasing. In view of the lack of housing for Ukrainians and shortly before a new law offering more possibilities to stay is set in place, the government of Baden-Württemberg is currently pushing ahead with deportations. However, it is not bothered by the untenable conditions in the prison. In 2019, there were documented assaults in prison. People were shackled, locked in their cells, and some had to sleep on stone beds.

A petition filed in May 2019 demanded clarification. After three years and 4 months, the petition has still not been dealt with. Most of those affected were deported, the incidents were not followed up. In their coalition agreement the current gouvernement praises self-evident issues such as open and independent counseling or facilities for pastoral care as improvements. This shows how little interest those responsible have in ending this scornful practice.

Abolish deportation prison

Deportation prisons symbolize the racist status quo like almost nothing else. Here, the brutality of the German deportation apparatus manifests itself. It perpetuates itself because it is specifically directed against non-Germans. Many who escaped with their lives on their flight are easily deprived of their freedom in Germany. When politicians repeatedly affirm the detention as last resort, they demonstrate that any method is justified. Those who do not fit in the bureaucratic system, who refuse to be exploited as cheap labor, or who have simply left their fingerprints in the wrong place, will feel the effects of the migration regime firsthand. The Deportation prison serves as a deterrent, it means harassment of people who are seeking protection here. It should be abolished!

Notes

We try to organize a joint trip from Freiburg. If you want to travel from Freiburg to the demonstration, please write an email to us. This also applies to people who don't have money for tickets. Mail to: info@aktionbleiberecht.de

The demo is registered by the Grüne Jugend Baden-Württemberg. We think that a discussion about deportation detention is important and therefore we have written our own call for the demonstration.