

SPEECH ABR 28.10.2023

Repatriation Improvement Act, Crisis Ordinance, Instrumentalization Ordinance - in recent weeks, German authorities have repeatedly presented new words, each more incomprehensible than the last. What do these tongue twisters have in common: they all violate or endanger fundamental rights for refugees and asylum seekers. And they clumsily package a right-wing populist opinion that fuels racism and exclusion.

But what is it actually about: On 11 October, Nancy Faeser presents the so-called repatriation package on behalf of the traffic light government. The aim of this is to facilitate deportations and thus massively expand them, whatever the cost. Detention pending deportation, preventive detention, co-participation detention and preventive detention - the jungle of laws already provides for various forms of deprivation of liberty in order to make deportations possible. And with the new tightening of the law, the discrimination of refugees is reaching a new level. Preventive detention is to be extended from the current three months to six months if this is not feasible for the person. Even if the destination state refuses to take charge of the detained person, during the six months of detention, this does not change the length of detention. So, that means: People are locked away for half a year just like that!

Another harassment in the new draft law: the tightening of deportation detention. This is intended to put a refugee in prison if authorities are of the opinion that the person allegedly does not contribute to the clarification of his or her identity. For many refugees, it is simply impossible to obtain a passport from their embassy. In addition, people are at risk of being detained not only in detention pending deportation, but also in the so-called detention. According to the current legal situation, a refugee may so-called "ensuring the feasibility of deportation" can be detained for up to ten days. Despite strong constitutional and European law concerns, the government is sticking to de facto detention without grounds for detention. The new tightening presents: the duration of detention is extended from 10 to 28 days. The extension to four weeks is justified by the fact that the previous ten days were supposedly too short in practice to carry out the deportation. However, it is legal and humanitarian reasons that prevent most deportations, not the lack of time. We are talking about people who are de facto imprisoned without committing a crime! We demand an immediate end to all these forms of detention and we say no to the tightening!

Let's turn back time by a few more months: In May 2023, the government agrees on a "Joint Declaration" with Iraq. On 9 October, ProAsyl reports worrying news: the German government is pushing deportations to Iraq. Toleration of Iraqis will no longer be extended. This potentially affects 28,000 Iraker_innen who live here in tolerated status.

Yazidis who are also affected by the deportations have already started a hunger strike in Berlin. The situation in Iraq is still fragile and dangerous. The German Foreign Office reported last month that the Iraqi state is still "responsible for numerous human rights violations." Torture and arbitrary arrests are part of everyday life there, as is violence against women and queer people. Deportations to countries with a poor human rights and humanitarian situation must not take place!

Now, in their deportation hysteria, German authorities are deporting as much as possible. It was only on October 17 that a family who had been living in Titisee for 9 years was deported to The Gambia with their 7 children, all of whom were born here. Promised state aid was not provided. The rights of those affected are nowhere regulated in the event of deportation. The social return situation is catastrophic for many refugees. More and more deportees have recently been detained in their country of origin after their deportation. Only nine percent of the approximately 300,000 tolerated people are accused of preventing their own deportation. The remaining 91 percent may

not be deported at all, for example for humanitarian reasons. And already more than 50% of the deportation detention orders of local courts are illegal.

Why is the German government now passing one deportation package after another? Politiker_innen of all camps are outdoing each other in rhetorical agitation against asylum seekers. But this is not just about intercepting Wähler_innen votes: anyone who believes that Nancy Faeser and Olaf Scholz are simply talking to the AfD fails to recognise the brutality of the state's logic and the racist ideology that reaches deep into the so-called middle of society. The new laws are now intended to symbolize the power to act, although in fact they do not or hardly cause more deportations. The multiple crises are coming to a head. And instead of radical systemic change, Europe is trying to solve the problem through ever higher fences, ever more perfidious agreements and ever more unscrupulous Grenzbeamt_innen. And it shows the insanity of the logic of the state, namely the idea of having one's own borders under control and thus preserving one's own, so-called German, identity.

"The human being" for whom human rights apply in Europe is not the Gambian in a rubber boat or the Iraqi woman in the deportation prison. That is why all calls for "more human rights" are well-intentioned, but they miss the problem that human rights have never been intended for everyone. That is why we are on the streets today – because what is needed is an emancipatory society that truly respects the dignity and rights of every human being! That is why we demand: a world without deportation prisons, without borders and walls! We demand: Right of residence for all!