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New release! **24rd** updated edition of the documentation

Berlin, May 2016

Asylum Policy in Germany and its Deadly Consequences (1993 - 2016)

24 Years of Research and Documentation of State and Societal Racism

This documentation in three volumes is a collection of individual cases of refugees who experienced physical harm. We document deaths and injuries before, during and after deportations, as well as attacks by the German population against refugees. In its 24th year, this regularly updated documentation demonstrates the living conditions that people seeking refuge in Germany have to suffer, by documenting 9000 cases in which people were harmed.

In refugee camps, in mass accommodation centers, and on the streets, refugees experience particular forms of violence. Sections of the German population make life a constant struggle for refugees, adding trauma to their lives by hurling racist insults, demonstrating their sheer hate and physically attacking victims.

Sixfold Increase in Assaults in Public

Racist attacks against young refugees in public spaces have particularly grave consequences, both psychologically and physically. 134 minors were physically assaulted in 2016 – that's roughly a 600% increase compared to 2015, where 23 minors were harmed. This is true for all age groups: there has been a rise in physical violence against refugees in general. From 2014 to 2015, the number more than tripled from 72 to 242. From 2015 to 2016, the number doubled to 505 cases.

Acts of Desperation

Many refugees don't find safety in Germany for a myriad of reasons: lack of privacy in mass accommodation, aggression, assault perpetrated by staff of the facilities, by other refugees, or attacks from 'outside' – arson, things being thrown, gun-shots, or invasions of refugee housing. Many people experience further destabilization on top of the often intense psychological harm that results from the escape journey and the reasons for escaping (hunger, violence, persecution).

As a result, we documented an increased number of cases in which refugees attempted suicide or harmed themselves physically in 2016—the highest since we started documenting in 1993. We documented 239 such cases in 2016, that's 70% more than in the previous year. But this is only a fragment of the real numbers. A response by the NRW's Ministry of the Interior to an information request by the Pirate party fraction mentions 111 attempted suicides and 6 suicides in mass accommodation centres in North Rhine-Westphalia in the first 11 months of 2016. Lower Saxony's Ministry of the Interior also recently announced that the number of self-inflicted injuries has increased considerably in their jurisdiction. Many German Federal States don't even compile statistics, or publish them. So, we can safely assume that the real figures are multiples of the published statistics.

The Documentation spans the period from 1.1.1993 to 31.12.2016.

- 217 refugees killed themselves in the face of their impending deportation or died trying to escape from deportation, 73 of them while in custody pending deportation,
- 1875 refugees injured themselves out of fear of deportation, in protest against the impending deportation (risk hunger strikes) or tried to commit suicide, 701 of them in custody pending deportation,
- 5 refugees died during deportation and
- 526 refugees were injured by compulsory measures or mistreatment during their deportation,
- 35 refugees died in their country of origin after their deportation, and
- 605 refugees were mistreated and tortured by the police or military in their country of origin or were at the risk of their lives due to severe illnesses,
- 74 refugees disappeared without a trace after their deportations,
- 205 refugees died on their way to the Federal Republic of Germany or at its borders, 131 of them died at the German Eastern border, 3 people were driven off course on the river Neiße and have been missing ever since,
- 681 refugees suffered injuries crossing the borders, 345 of them at the German Eastern border,
- 22 refugees died because of physical force used by police or guards either in detention, in custody, while being arrested or deported, on the streets, in governmental agencies or in refugee accommodation – at least 1074 were injured.
- 23 refugees died through neglected assistance
- 83 refugees were killed in fires, attacks on refugee accommodation centres or dangers in these centres, 1421 refugees were injured, in part severely,
- 24 refugees died through racist attacks on the street and 1683 people were injured.

Since 1993 at least 507 refugees have died as a result of measures taken by the German Federal Republic – 107 people died through racist attacks and through being accommodated in camps (i.e. attacks, fires).

The documentation contains three books. All books are available for 30 € plus 5,00 € for shipping & packing.
Book I (1993 – 2004) 10 € for 356 pages – Book II (2005 – 2011) 11 € for 262 pages - Book III (2012 – 2016) 12 € for 336 pages
plus 1,80 € each for shipping & packing.

The 23rd edition currently available online: www.ari-berlin.org/doku/titel.htm