

Gambians in danger – strengthen refugee rights, stop deportations

In connection with a week of demonstrations pertaining to the upcoming presidential elections in the Gambia on the 1st of December 2016, Gambians from all over Baden-Württemberg are organizing various events from the 3rd to the 10th of December to draw attention to their problematic situation. Cultural and informational events will take place in different locations in Landkreis Ravensburg throughout the week. On Saturday, December 10th 2016, the demonstration week will be concluded in the Landkreis with a central demonstration in Ravensburg under the title: “Gambians in danger – Flüchtlingsrechte stärken, Abschiebungen stoppen”. The demonstration will begin at 2.30 pm at the train station.

The Gambia is one of the smallest African countries and receives very little attention in the German media. Nevertheless, the rule of the despot Yahya Jammeh has led the small country into one of the continent's most oppressive dictatorships in recent years. Torture, executions without trial, death in custody, and the disappearance of real or supposed members of opposition groups are being done at the hands of military personnel, secret services, and the police. Dissenting opinions are violently oppressed. Parts of the population are being attacked only because they belong to certain ethnic groups.

Although established human rights organizations such as Amnesty International have revealed and strongly criticized what goes on in Gambia (<https://www.amnesty.de/laenderbericht/gambia>, or more detailed <https://www.amnesty.de/jahresbericht/2016/gambia>), the German government has still not adequately acknowledged the problems of the Gambian people. Even refugees who have returned to the Gambia from Germany face massive persecution simply for having applied for asylum in a foreign country. And yet, the deportation of Gambians from Germany continues.

We demand that the German Ministry of the Interior and the federal migration authority (BAMF) immediately stop all deportations to the Gambia **and grant all asylum seekers from the Gambia a right to stay in Germany because of the human rights violations in their home country according to § 60 Abs. 5 Aufenthaltsgesetz.**

In these times when racist demagoguery and propaganda has gotten louder and bolder, and violent and incendiary attacks on refugees are taking place on a regular basis, it has become even more important to strengthen the rights of refugees and other foreigners. Instead of the planned aggravation of the Dublin Regulations, we demand that the German authorities stop passing their responsibilities in Europe on to the poorer countries in southern Europe. Asylum requests which are made in Germany should be checked and worked on completely within Germany.

Nobody flees without a reason.

Every person has the right to be respected and to be able to live a good life.

Please support the various actions near you, sign and spread the petition for a stop of all deportations for Gambians (<https://weact.campact.de/petitions/schutzt-fluechtlinge-aus-gambia-vor-diktatur-und-willkur-schiebt-nicht-ab>) and join the demonstration in Ravensburg on the 10th of December 2016.

Written by some Gambian refugees, November 2016.