

Speech at Demo End 100 Years of Deportation Prison by Hubertus Zdebel (MdB)

Dear friends,

We are here today to send a clear signal against the increasingly scandalous treatment of refugees and against inhumane deportation practices.

The largest deportation prison in Germany is located in Büren, only 30 km from here. The fact that such facilities even exist is in itself a scandal and cannot be accepted by us. We must not allow people to be imprisoned preventively and treated like criminals. People who have done nothing wrong.

100 years of deportation prison means 100 years of deprivation of rights, 100 years of contempt for human beings, 100 years of racism.

But instead of putting an end to this mess and coming to terms with the unspeakable history of deportation detention in Germany, the Grand Coalition has only recently once again significantly tightened up the legal situation.

The so-called "migration package", which was pushed forward under the direction of Interior Minister Seehofer and passed in June, is a catalogue of atrocities that is full of contempt for humanity and ingratiating for racists and unscrupulous order fanatics.

Thus, the new legal regulation created the basis for deporting those seeking protection in regular prisons. According to the unanimous opinion of experts, this abolition of the so-called separation requirement is contrary to European law and represents a serious deprivation of rights for fugitives. These additional capacities are apparently to be utilised to the full by a draconian expansion of the grounds for detention and the definition of "danger of flight". It is therefore unlikely that there will be any protection seekers who are obliged to leave the country and who do not meet the criteria for deportation detention.

In addition, the legislative package introduced a new tolerance category which further restricts the rights of persons seeking protection if they do not participate actively enough in their own deportation - for example by obtaining missing identity documents. They are now generally forbidden to work or start training. In addition, they will be imposed a residence requirement and fines, which will certainly not be payable by most fugitives. A dignified life is no longer possible. Any form of integration is thus prevented, which is apparently the aim of conservative agitators. The opposite would be necessary: more and better offers for integration from the beginning.

Even recognized protection-looking for lost their requirement on social security benefits by the new law completely, should they have come from another European Union state to Germany. The calculation is clear: people should be starved to death and driven out of the country.

The coalition justifies these drastic measures with "enforcement deficits" in the case of deportations. But there is no statistical proof of this, and chaos prevails in the central register of foreigners. Many persons registered there as having to leave the country are tolerated because of family ties, because they are educated or because there is war in their country. Others have long since left the country voluntarily.

Here with wrong numbers a state of emergency is purposefully suggested and tendency is made against fugitives. In this way racism is stirred up and the division of society is promoted. Thus the large coalition became the compliant aid of the AfD, which plays off the weakest in our society against the weakest with such agitation and racist symbol politics.

We on the LEFT side reject the tightening of asylum laws. The practice of deportation detention must be abolished and all deportation prisons must be closed. We demand a right of abode for all people in Germany who seek protection from war, terror, climate change, hunger, poverty and persecution.

Causes of flight must be combated, not fugitives. That means fighting militarism and war. Fight against poverty and exploitation. A fight for solidarity and justice everywhere.