

Grievances and Demands

presented by: refugees living in Sedanstraße Refugee Camp, Osnabrück

For the attention of
The Mayor of Osnabrück
The Director of Diakonie Office in Sedanstraße
The Generous People of Osnabrück

We are refugees living in the camp of Sedanstraße and, in a self-organized initiative, have formulated our urgent demands. They are the result of outstanding problems affecting the quality of our lives and they derive from concrete pressures relating to our fate and future.

The consequences of the EU agreement to refuse to open an asylum file for us in Germany, and instead deport us to the first country of entry into the EU, has put a heavy load on so many of us refugees, living in a state of distress and fear of being arrested by the police. This situation of panic and insecurity causes psychological crisis and results in cases of chronic psychological depression among a large number of refugees. Many refugees have taken to alcohol and drug addiction as a final exit to escape their even darker and obstructed life perspective.

The situation is further worsened by the manner in which deportations are carried out. The police have violated the basic right to privacy in many cases after the doors to our individual rooms had been closed. They usually come at night so none of us can ever sleep quietly. They knock and if there is no answer they forcibly break into the respective room by bursting the door. At other times, in the morning refugees are asked to come to the office and police are waiting for them in the back room. Police are searching the bathrooms and they come during breakfast. Or we are told to fetch the mail and police are waiting. We have to spend our lives in a state of permanent fear and stress and insecurity.

Municipal and civic officials, as well as administrative staff entertaining the camps, have the duty and responsibility to communicate to the public the true state of affairs. This includes all the negative dimensions of the Dublin Convention. There are huge financial costs and wastes of administrative resources with the outcome of intimidation and harm for most of the refugees at Sedanstraße Camp, amounting to

more than 90% of our suffering and fears.

We demand:

- **to articulate our voice and report the negative impact of the Dublin Convention on refugees;**
- **to claim our basic human rights, including the right to privacy and right to sleep during night time;**
- **to address the highest levels of policy makers and decision takers, who shall review the violent method of deportation and preserve the dignity and natural rights of the refugees.**

Respect Our Right to Privacy

Not only the police are disturbing the night's sleep. When the regular mail is delivered, some social workers immediately after knocking at the door enter the rooms, regardless of the presence of a person in the room, which violates the privacy of individuals in an unacceptable way. **Do not allow social workers to enter our rooms unless they are invited to do so. Make it obligatory to distribute mail from under the door.**

We Need Interpreters and Legal Advice

Refugees suffer greatly because they are not clearly informed about their status and situation, and they are unable to communicate appropriately. There is need to provide an interpreter to enable them to file their foreign-language proceedings with governmental agencies like BAMF, bar interviews, medical interviews, and in situations of misunderstanding. Especially in consideration of the high percentage of wrong decisions of BAMF, the federal or state government shall offer and guarantee the cost of legal advice and support the provision of counsel in asylum cases to all refugees regardless of nationality.

Provide interpreters and free legal advice for all Dublin cases

We Need Better Health Care

The large total population of the camp with more than 200 inhabitants necessitates primary health care for internal emergencies. There is dire psychological pressure resulting from the shock that most refugees have suffered when crossing the sea in the boats of death, which is even worsened because of the distance from their families and life in a new society. Furthermore, the long time of waiting and the implications of

the Dublin Convention system as a threat to the future, as well as the isolation of the camp and the vacuum resulting from the lack of activities and programs – all of this needs to be balanced by a continuous and reliable psychological support.

Provide for a clinic with medical staff residing in the camp, including psycho-social and psychological staff. Provide for a wider network of psychiatrists for cases in need.

Food and Transport Is Inappropriate

Food time and quality is not appropriate for us, especially our children. The kitchen is closed from 5pm to 7am, which is too long time for kids. The refugees are not allowed to cook by themselves or even use oven, stove, and refrigerator.

Allow for high-quality food at appropriate times.

The distance from Sedanstraße Camp to the city is too far to walk, especially for women and families with children. **So we ask for coordination among authorities in charge to subsidize public transport costs by granting special reduction to refugees.**

We Demand Freedom of Movement!

The camp administration imposes a daily attendance system that is binding for the entire population and there are penalties in case of infringement. This is due to financial allocations. Many residents have reported that during their visit to other camps, such a system does not apply, which creates the impression that it is imposed exclusively on them. In Sedanstraße Camp there is security control at the entrance and continuous observation of the refugees by security on each floor. There is also a computer-based locking system by means of which they control the movement of people. If we are out, they lock our room so that we have no free access. They enforce us to sign papers that we have to sleep in that place without freedom of movement.

A camp is not a prison! Stop the system of control and free the population from this obligation! We demand freedom of movement within Niedersachsen!