

Nobody intends to build a departure centre...

This was the statement made by Berlin's SPD-PDS senate in their coalition agreement. But the fact is that the refugees' Central Admission Facility for Berlin, located in Motardstr. 101a, is quietly being extended to an *Ausreisezentrum* (departure centre). People are sent to it using §1 of the *Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz* ((Social) Welfare Law for Asylum Seekers)

Effectively, the refugee camp in Motardstraße acts as a refugees' initial admission facility. It is hidden in an industrial area of Spandau, on the outskirts of Berlin. It is one of the largest camps in Berlin, with a capacity of 750 beds. At the moment 424 people are living there, 246 seeking asylum, 178 with a *Duldung* (exceptional leave to remain); among them 86 children and teenagers (as of June 2006).

The aim of an *Ausreisezentrum* is to increase the pressure on migrants with exceptional leave to remain, as the government would like to get rid of them. The appalling worsening of living conditions for people who have been living in Berlin for up to ten years is part of the Administration's tactics for forcing these people to leave Germany "of their own free will". This is how the State pressurises people in order to save the Foreigners' Registration Office and the police from doing their dirty work of deportation.

The Federal State of Berlin, under the Social Secretary Dr. Heidi Knake-Werner (PDS), allows each district to decide for itself whether to move people with *Duldung* into the Motardstr. centre. For those affected, this effectively means open prison. Instead of financial support, there is a bed in the camp and daily food packets. Deprived of any possibility of earning for themselves due to being forbidden to work, they are forced to live a disenfranchised life under the conditions of the departure centre.



The camp is administrated by "AWO Mitte" and the company "Dussmann" is responsible for providing food. While the latter offers fancy cookbooks of sophisticated culinary delights in their "*Kulturkaufhaus*" ("Culture Emporium") in the Friedrichstr., what they provide for the people in the Motardstr. could be generously described as "fodder". Instead of far more efficiently giving those directly affected the money, so that they could decide for themselves what they want to eat, the inmates are presented with high-priced food which is not only monotonous but also too little and of bad quality.

This joins the long-term lack of perspective, the insecure residency status, the threat of deportation and the inevitable exclusion from life in society which living in a camp brings with it. People seeking refugee status usually already have a traumatic background, and are knowingly being placed under enormous stress – stress which can result in complete emotional breakdown, the so-called "camp frenzy".

This State-ordered discrimination, stripping of dignity and deprivation of rights is being practiced already by various Berlin districts, making the refugee camp in the Motardstr. into a departure camp in fact. In the front line are the profiteers, carrying out the racist State policies and taking with them the money which previously went to the refugees: "AWO Mitte" running the camp, and the company "Dussmann" as providers of the "food".

As part of the Transnational Migration Day of Action, when all over Europe and beyond people will be on the streets protesting against racist policies and for migrants' rights, we issue a call for action against those who are making this departure centre a reality, and demand its immediate closure!

End the racist camp system!

Stop profiteers of state racism like Dussmann and AWO-Mitte!

Shut all camps now!

Global Action Day against the *Ausreisezentrum* Motardstraße Saturday, 7.10.2006

★ 12.00h S/U Friedrichstr. 90 : Demonstration in front of Dussmann's "culture shop"

★ 15.00h Protest festival in front of Motardstr. 101a (U7 Paulsternstr.)

**keine abschiebung
knäste | lager**

// Bündnis gegen Lager / Berlin-Brandenburg: FeIS, Flüchtlingsini
Brandenburg, Initiative gegen Abschiebehaft, Initiative gegen das
Chipkartensystem u.a. // Unterstützerinnen: Jugend ohne Grenzen /
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