

DEMONSTRATION

SOLIDARITY- NOT RACISM 10 Years of Coercion is Enough

Saturday ★ 5 Feb. 05 ★ 1:30pm ★ Hechtplatz ★ Zurich
(Limmatquai near Bellevue. From Main Train Station take Tram 4 to „Helmhaus“)

1 February 2005 is the 10th anniversary of the so-called „Coercive Laws Against Foreigners“ (restrictive measures under foreigners' law) that have been in force for the past 10 years. We look back at a decade of emergency laws and persecution of immigrants; a decade in which basic human rights, including the right to asylum, have been systematically dismantled and gutted. When they were enacted, these restrictive measures made it possible (among other innovations) to hold someone for up to nine months in deportation custody, without ever having committed an offence; or to forbid them, on grounds of suspicion, to enter a certain area (the so-called Rayon-Verbot). Since then the restrictions have been tightened and intensified in countless other ways: the impact on the lives of the people involved has been catastrophic.

European immigration policies take their bloody toll. Thousands of people die each year on the road to “Fortress Europe.” Exact numbers are not known. Some flee their homes to escape war, discrimination, sexual oppression and persecution; others are trying to escape poverty and hunger, seeking a decent life. Their poverty is our wealth. Since globalisation and capitalist exploitation have stolen the basis of their livelihoods, they often have no other option but to leave their homelands. But also within Switzerland, repressive asylum policies result in more and more loss of human life. Deportation and deterrence at all costs is the motto. Death during deportation, suicide; death by being refused emergency medical help; death under unexplained circumstances: these deaths are the tragic reality. This apparently is of no real concern to the broader public and to the policy makers.

The people who actually manage to get here, and who then ask for protection, are bullied, criminalized and excluded, using everything at the politicians' disposal, from society and from community life. The goal is to make Switzerland as unattractive as possible to refugees. Deportation, termination of subsistence payments, refusing basic medical care, providing air raid bunkers as living space, and forbidding employment are only some of the tools of this machinery of expulsion and exclusion. Robbed of the necessities of life and a secure status, illegality is often the only way to survive. Having been pronounced “undesirable,” they become the target of a more and more incendiary politics: they are blamed for everything “bad” that happens in Switzerland. Federal Councillor Blocher declares a state of emergency, and two weeks ago called for extending the length of deportation custody indefinitely -- although this violates international human rights law – and earned thunderous applause.

In spite of all this, thousands of “Sans-Papiers” and rejected asylum seekers in Switzerland fight every day for their survival and the right to remain. They have earned our solidarity and our respect. It is more urgent than ever to support these people in their daily struggle. That is why we – anti-racist, migrant and political organisations – will together take to the streets on 5 February 2005. We will demonstrate, giving a loud and clear message against these inhuman policies and against the racist consensus in Switzerland. We will not, and cannot, tolerate the political lies and the silent majority in this country!

- **No Human Being is Illegal! Equal Rights for All!**
- **End Racist Persecution of Refugees!**
- **For Solidarity and Decency in Asylum Policies!**

The demonstration is organized and/or supported by:

augen auf Schweiz ★ Colectivo sin papeles Zürich ★ International Union of Refugees (IUR) ★ Demokratische Vereinigung der Flüchtlinge (DVF) ★ Iranian Union of Refugees (IUR) ★ Sankofa ★ CRAN ★ ZH SOS Racisme - ★ Sudan Youth Union (SYU) ★ RAJO-Neue Hoffnung für Somalia ★ Sudan Democratic Federation (SDF) ★ Socialist Party of Iran (SPI) ★ Progressive Women Organisation (PWO) ★ Solidarité sans frontières ★ Ohne uns geht nichts ★ Infoladen Kasama ★ Freiplatzaktion ★ AL/PdA ★ Juso Zürich ★ Grüne Partei Stadt Zürich ★ AG Wegweisung ★ die Karawane ★ Sans-Papiers Kollektiv Bern ★ Freie ArbeiterInnen Union (FAU) ★ Rote Falken Zürich ★ KuZeB Bremgarten und Einzelpersonen