

Presentation about the Initiative *Stop Deportation Center BER (Abschiebezentrum BER Verhindern)* and the *Stop Deportation! Protest Camp* in June 1-6

Slide 3

- During the COVID-pandemic, deportations were reduced, but since 2021, steady increase again
- 2022: 12.945 people were deported, 2.196 of the people were minors, most common destination countries: Georgia, Albania, North-Macedonia

Slide 4

- Part of the deportation regime that the ruling parties are enforcing are deportation prisons
- One deportation prison in Schönefeld at BER airport terminal 5 with currently 20 places

Slide 5

- At the same place, terminal 5, many charter deportation flights are taking place (in the last time it was up to 5 charter flights a month, as you can see at the deportation alarm website/ telegram group)
- As if this is not enough: Brandenburg and national government now wants to massively expand the already existing deportation prison and start even more charter deportations

Slide 6

- Size of 4 hectare, this is 5 ½ soccer fields (!)
- Places in detention should be increased from 20 to 120 places
-> 3 forms of imprisonment under one roof:
 - 1) Departure detention (Ausreisegewahrsam): people without valid residence permits or Duldung are detained here before being deported
 - 2) Transit detention (Transithaft): people who want to enter via the airport but are "rejected" at the border, i.e. denied entry and who do not (/cannot) seek asylum, are detained here until they are deported
 - 3) Fast-track Airport asylum procedures (Flughafenasyilverfahren): People who want to enter through the airport and seek asylum are detained here during their entire asylum procedure, the time limits for appeals are extremely shortened and they have no possibility to seek independent help, even children can be imprisoned here (!)
- Costs?
 - On 16.12.22 Brandenburg parliament passed the budget law for 2023/24 and with this also the money for the deportation center
 - 19 million euro of costs from 2023-2026, during the construction
 - 315 million euro of renting and leasing costs for the investor in the first 3 years of operation from 2026-2029
- There are other deportations centers already in Germany, but it's by far the largest and it is a showcase project for Germany and all across Europe
- Government calls it entry- and exit centre (Ein- und Ausreisezentrum) or authority center (Behördenzentrum) to make it sound harmless, this is a completely inappropriate euphemism and deliberate cover-up of this violent and racist project
-> what is being build here is a deportation center, a prison (!)

Slide 7 – Political Background

- Politically, the project is an inheritance from former minister of the interior Horst Seehofer's "Masterplan Migration" which included the construction of detention centers at central airports to facilitate charter deportations
- In this context he also launched the project of the BER deportation center at his last day of office
- For politicians like Seehofer, those centers have the advantage of keeping all authorities for deportation under one roof

- aim of the center: to make deportations more “efficient”, making the process faster and easier, how?
 - all relevant authorities and courts will have their office there
 - there will be a special return building (Rückführungsgebäude) where the federal police can process people before their charter deportation, far away from “normal” passengers and under exclusion of the public -> thus: blocking deportations will be made impossible as this is usually only possible in passenger flights where people can stand up and convince other passengers or the pilot of the injustice that is happening
- but the injustice is hidden on purpose: the deportation center will make no-border-activism nearly impossible and will make it impossible for those detained to get in contact with no-border-activists and legal support groups

Deportation Profiteers

Slide 8 and 9

- First, airlines profit especially from charter deportations. Which these examples of ad-busting illustrate
- Lufthansa is the one that profits the most, followed by Eurowing, Smartwings and Bulgaria Air
- The current government is not giving out any information on airlines engaged in deportations anymore, as they are worried about the airline’s reputation and thus, that their deportation business deal could be damaged by campaigning against deportations

Slide 11:

- 2nd profiteer is the Investor Jürgen B. Harder who in 2019 bought the land where the center will be build
- When the plan of the deportation center was made, there was a government of the Left and Social-Democrats (Linke & SPD)
- The minister of finance was a politician of the Linke and of course the SPD feared that he could block the project
- Which they bypassed by doing it with a private investor
- The investor builds the center and then, the authorities just need to rent it
- Through the deal with the investor, the plans about the deportation center could be kept secret for a long time and were only announced in 2021

-> In fear of any opposition to the projects, the Brandenburg and German ministry of interior tried to push it through in a very undemocratic and actually illegal way, as they did not make a public tender but just secretly negotiated the deal with a shady business man

Slide 13

- But there is even more you should no about the Investor Jürgen B. Harder
- Previously convicted because of a corruption scandal at the Airport Frankfurt
- Another medical scandal at the University Heidelberg, where they basically prioritized their profit over human life & well-being
- He is also well-connected with the far-right scene in Austria: wanted to make the corrupt ex-financial minister of Austria, Karl Heinz Grasser (FPÖ), a manager in one of his companies

-> as much as this whole investor-wheeling-and-dealing, let’s keep in mind: the real scandal is that deportations exist at all and that people get thrown into prison for crossing borders ...

The rest of the presentation is about what the Initiative against the Deportation Center (and its Protest Camp Working Group) did since its establishment in fall 2021. Slides are self-explanatory so you can just talk freely.