

# Warning! – Deportation hearing of Gambian authorities in Munich!

Dear all,

On **Wednesday, 17th of October 2018 (and probably some more days before and after)** Gambian officials will hold a mass hearing in Munich to identify Asylum seekers for the purpose of issuing travel documents to deport them to Gambia. We know that not only people, who fled from Gambia, but also people from other African countries could be summoned to go to the hearing!

The whole procedure will take place at:

**Zentrale Ausländerbehörde Oberbayern, Hoffmannstraße 51, Haus D, 81379 München**

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## **Warning:**

**It is clear that the only purpose of an embassy hearing is issuing travelling documents for deportations!** You cannot be invited for an embassy hearing for any other purpose.

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## **What is the problem with an embassy hearing? What is happening there?**

Usually, authorities send out letters inviting people to come to an embassy hearing for reasons that are not clearly specified. Sometimes, the authorities threaten to revoke the "Duldung" if the refugees do not attend the embassy hearing. This is partly wrong because the authorities **HAVE TO** prolong the "Duldung" if they cannot deport somebody.

During the delegation or embassy hearing, Gambian officials will question refugees in order to confirm their Gambian origin based on their language, their accents or specific words they use. Besides this, officials can also arbitrarily "identify" someone to be Gambian based on general appearance, the shape of his/her face, traditional scars etc.!

## **Which consequences might happen to you if you go to an embassy hearing?**

Those attending an embassy hearing might be issued a laissez-passer (Travel certificate) and, if so, soon afterwards, they will probably be deported.

## **Not attending an embassy hearing can stop deportation!**

Many refugees who refused attending an embassy hearing were able to stop their deportation successfully and to win time to find alternative solutions for their own situation.

## **Possibility of penalties for refusing to take part in an embassy hearing or for not talking with the embassy officials:**

It is a matter of fact that if you refuse to attend an embassy hearing and/or to talk with the embassy officials, you can get penalties such as reduction of your social welfare money. The authorities could also take away your work permit or you could get a restriction of your "Residenzpflicht". You could also get a punishment by the criminal court for "Nichterfüllung der Passpflicht". However, many people still do not receive any penalty. But you have to consider the risk.

**The authorities do not have the right to punish you if you can present a medical certificate proving that you are so seriously ill that you cannot participate in an embassy hearing!**

## **Attention: Police can pick people at their places!!!**

Police might try to arrest you at your place and bring you directly to the Gambian delegation/embassy hearing by force, especially if you have previously refused to take part in such an interview. This can happen to you even if you did not receive any official invitation for the embassy interview! On previous occasions, the police picked people to bring them to such embassy hearings from cities all over Germany.

**Be careful, do not let them pick you, call your lawyer and/or contact us!**

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## **On previous occasions, the following strategies were useful:**

**Other people did not take part in an embassy hearing and did not say anything to the Gambian embassy officials without their lawyers!**

**They did not sign any document proving their identity or their country of origin without their lawyer!**

(See possible consequences above)

**Be careful not to be picked by force! Get in touch with people and groups that support you!**

**Get in touch with us to get to know more about embassy hearings. Report any news and tell us about your experiences!**

**Inform other people about the deportation hearing and the possible consequences!**

**Contact the Bavarian Refugee Council**

**Tel: 089/762234**

**Email: [kontakt@fluechtlingsrat-bayern.de](mailto:kontakt@fluechtlingsrat-bayern.de)**