

**Bamberg refugees**  
**15.1.2018 Press release**  
**For immediate release**

Demonstration, **Wednesday 17 January 2018**, 12 o'clock at the AEO camp Bamberg  
(Erlenweg 4, 96050 Bamberg, Germany)

The AEO camp in Bamberg is worse than a prison. Currently 1400 refugees are housed here, the total capacity is 3400. We, refugees living in the camp, will not take anymore the constant harassment and inhuman treatment. Our demand is for a life in dignity. On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018 we are going out and taking our demands on the streets. We are calling for all inhabitants of the AEO Bamberg, as well as groups and individuals to join us in solidarity for this peaceful demonstration through the town of Bamberg.

Attached: Our statement

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Facebook event: Bamberg Refugee Demonstration

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**Statement:**

**Against inhumanity! Stop the camp system! We're refugees, not prisoners! Gegen die Unmenschlichkeit! Stoppt das Lager System! Wir sind Geflüchtete, keine Gefangene!**

We are refugees from different countries, who are all facing the same problems. We are living in the „AEO“ camp in Bamberg. We were searching for protection and a life in peace. But what we are facing is no life at all. This is why we stand up – against the inhumanity and harassment in the Bamberg *Lager* system. On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018 we are going out and taking our demands on the streets. Our demand is for a life in dignity. We are calling for all inhabitants of the AEO Bamberg, as well as groups and individuals to join us in solidarity for this peaceful demonstration through the town of Bamberg.

Our situation is this: We arrive in Bamberg traumatised and exhausted of long and dangerous travels. We are given no time to arrive, we are immediately sent to a commission to be interviewed. One week later most of us receive a negative decision. From that moment on we are in fact imprisoned. Our documents are taken, all we get is a camp card, printed on a white sheet of paper. Even our German asylum seeker documents or our *Duldung*, if somebody had those before, are taken away.

After a negative asylum decision, we receive no money any more. Not even young mothers are getting one cent: They get no baby food nor can afford to buy some. We are not allowed to work or to leave Bamberg. Our children do not get access to school or education, because they get a negative decision as soon as their parents do. We are not allowed to study German. Nevertheless we have to stay here for months, even for years. Some are here for 24 months already. The camp security is harassing and using violence against us – and we get charged by the police and courts. The police can come at any moment – to search our rooms or to take one of us for deportation. Nobody can live like this!

When we escape and leave to another country we are brought back to the Bamberg camp, because our finger prints are here and Germany asks to bring us here. But if Germany does not want us, then please let us go to another country which respects our rights. Germany is not the only country in Europe!

We are tired of this camp. We cannot live like this – not even one more day. We are treated like prisoners, not like refugees. We will not accept this any longer! We were searching for protection, but we still have to fight for our right to live in peace and freedom. There is no justice to us – our struggle just continues. We will take our protest to the streets – and we will not stop it, until our situation is changed!

**We demand:**

1. Many of us are here without any German *Ausweis*, only the white camp card: We need a German *Ausweis* and the right to work
2. Schooling is a universal right of every child in the world: Our children need to go to school – and we adults also need to study
3. Many of us are denied the basic financial support that is guaranteed by the German constitution – even young mothers do not get one cent for baby food. We need a basic financial livelihood
4. We stay here for months, some even 24 months: We need transfers! Shut down the Bamberg AEO-Lager! No Lager nowhere!
5. We need proper medical care
6. The constant harassment and inhuman treatment of us refugees needs to stop (by securities, administration and others)
7. The women need their own spaces of privacy and safety
8. No deportations, Dublin or other
9. Stop racism

We will not watch anymore how we are chased, harassed and finally deported. We escaped from that: persecution, torture, poverty and war. We will not go back. We will fight for that right to live – and to be treated like human beings!

We are here – and we will stay!