

Hello, nice to have you all here. As part of the campaign, there will be numerous events throughout Germany this weekend. Several thousand people are protesting against the deportation prisons, thus demonstrating how inhuman the system of deportation machinery is. But why is that so?

The reasons for this are numerous. As supreme the deportation detention is the strongest symbol for an obstruction of a fundamental right very important from my view, even if this was not anchored yet: Every human being has the right to live where his feet carry him. I personally unconditionally reject borders, border regimes and their consequences. On the other hand, it violates every right to freedom to imprison a person just to make the work of the immigration authorities easier. Why, for example, are millionaires not also imprisoned in order to make it easier for the tax office to collect taxes?

In my enumeration I could go on indefinitely like this. The preparation team for the demo decided, however, that I should only pay special attention to one point that makes it very clear to me why deportation detention belongs in the cemetery of history. I am to tell you how the people behind the walls of the prison are treated in front of us. And I already know that my speech will be depressing. The accusations I make make it clear how inhuman the prison regime is. In doing so, I refer to the statements I have heard from the prisoners. The prison management is not prepared to talk to me about it. I am describing the case of a fictitious prisoner, but this or that can happen to anyone who has been locked up behind these walls.

Georg actually only wanted to extend his toleration, as he has done every month for years. But the police waited in the office. They arrested him and he had to spend a night in police custody. Why didn't he know, he wasn't allowed to call his lawyer. The next day he was taken to the judge. He claimed that he had done nothing. The judge said there was a danger of escape because he was to be deported. Georg said that he would not go into hiding, since he had contacted the aliens department every month so far. Nothing helped, Georg had to spend three months in deportation prison.

When he arrives in Büren, he is immediately told who is in charge. The order is to move out and everything. Although the National Agency for the Prevention of Torture opposes this procedure, they do not want to do without it behind these walls. After moving out there is a search of the body cavity. It is seen in the mouth, nose, ears and anus. The prisoners are then given prison clothes, blue polo shirts, jeans and underwear.

The first week a so-called initial examination takes place. The prisoner arrives in a special department, where he is to be examined as to whether he is a "dear" or an "evil" prisoner. In order to find out, they may be deprived of their private clothes, excluded from leisure, sports and worship activities, banned from private visits, forbidden to receive and send letters, forbidden to use the telephone and Internet, forbidden to receive newspapers, radio and television. Georg was lucky, he passed the stress test well and came to the department for "dear" prisoners.

For breakfast there are four letters of untoasted toast, four letters of sliced cheese, sometimes a small packet of jam and once a week a packet of margarine. It has enough calories, but it doesn't fill you up and it doesn't taste good either. For lunch, there are five menus to choose from, Georg reports that they were all right so far. The dinner, yes the dinner, is renounced, because of lack of personnel. It is already handed out at noon. There are four slices of toast bread with four slices of sliced cheese and jam.

The time to spend outside his cell was therefore very important to Georg. He was able to buy some groceries from the few pocket money, it is approx. 35 € per week, beside the tobacco and the telephone card, and during the time outside his cell he could warm them up in a kitchen. It was also possible to surf the Internet on a few computers. This is very much in demand and partly had to be waited for a long time for a free place. In addition, a little weight training, table tennis and billiards were possible. For one to two hours they were also allowed to take some fresh air on the farm.

The time to spend outside was very important to Georg, because it was a little change from the constant stay in the cell. When he learned that the time unlocked outside his cell was supposed to last eight hours according to the law, he was angry. His time outside his cell never lasted eight hours, he was already happy when it was seven hours. He wanted to know why this was so and asked to speak to the director. That he had a right to do so, he had also taken from the law. But he was not allowed to exercise this right either. He was admonished not to be so cheeky.

Georg also had to learn that the public prosecutor's office had already investigated a senior civil servant because she ordered a subordinate to mix medication with a prisoner's food several times. The doctor also had to be suspended because there had been major shortages of opiates in the prison pharmacy. He now wanted to

know whether he too was getting medication mixed into the food. Thereupon he was sanctioned. Why does he not know that he had violated the house rules, he was told. What house rules? He never got one and if he did, he couldn't read it, because he doesn't speak enough German. The possibilities of sanctions are manifold. Shopping ban, reading ban, television ban, leisure ban, removal of objects, telephone ban and visit ban.

The worst thing, however, is the accommodation in department 1bneu. Prisoners are imprisoned there in order to sanction them because they are unable to integrate into everyday life in prison due to a psychiatric illness or because people who are regarded as "evil" are imprisoned for whatever reason. Some of the prisoners there still have a normal cell with TV, their personal belongings and clothes. Very early in the morning they are given the opportunity to spend an hour in the courtyard, but separated from all other prisoners. Otherwise they are locked up in the cell all day long, without any contact to others. I call that solitary confinement.

As the next step of perversity, everything can be taken away from them in this cell. Their private clothes are replaced by pyjamas. The TV disappears from the cell and so does any private belongings. No tobacco, no book, also no Bible or Koran, no telephone, no pencil, no papers, also not from the court, simply nothing. If the prisoner wants something to drink, he has to beg the staff for a plastic cup. He can hold it under the faucet, which is then activated from outside. The cup must then be delivered immediately. All he can do is look out of the window.

If this is not enough, there is the so-called live control. Every 15 minutes a small window looks into the cell. The prisoner then has to move or make a sound to prove that he is still alive. Sounds harmless, but it is not. Because it happens 24 hours a day. A check every 15 minutes, deep sleep is no longer an option.

The next step is the sitting watch. There an employee of the prison sits in front of the cell door and permanently watches the prisoner through a small window, also during the toilet passage.

If you think that this is the end, more contempt for people is not possible, I have to disappoint you.

In the next step, the person concerned enters the specially secured detention room. No more windows, just a foam mattress and a foam armchair and a toilet. Two video cameras watching everything, including the toilet. The worst thing, however, is that you are accommodated naked in the room. If you do not undress voluntarily, this is done by force, whereby it can happen that as a special humiliation of the men the underpants are torn by a woman from the body.

If the prisoner cannot stand it and runs with his head against the wall, the next step comes, one can hardly believe it. A wooden frame measuring two metres is brought into the cell. The prisoner is tied to it with hands and feet. A five-point fixation is made. Naked, lying on his back, he is completely at the mercy of the employees and, above all, the employees.

There are many reasons against deportation imprisonment. The folders of solitary confinement and bondage used from my point of view are only one. I abhor from the bottom of my heart how people are treated in prison. Never, never, should people be treated in this way, only to make the work, in our case deportation, easier for the authorities.

Let us stand up together, let us fight, let us fight for all deportation prisons to be closed, everywhere. Away with all deportation prisons, away with the inhuman deportation policy, away with all borders, immediately!

Thank you very much for listening.