



**For a Europe that  
builds bridges!**

**Call to action: Save the date!**

**Together to the streets against the abolition  
of the right of asylum in Europe  
on November 26th in Berlin**

At the beginning of December, the EU Parliament will discuss another aggravation of the Common European Asylum System (GEAS). The parliament will vote on a whole bundle of regulations that will fundamentally tighten the European asylum system. As a result, there will be systematic human rights violations. The fundamental right to asylum is at stake.

- ▶ We call upon the EU Parliament not to agree to these historic cuts but to stand up for the respect of human rights for all. The individual right to asylum must remain the foundation of our protection system!
- ▶ We call upon the German government to live up to its election promises and stand up for a human rights-based migration policy.
- ▶ We invite the civil society to take to the streets with us to protest together against these historic aggravations of the asylum law and to set a sign for an open and solidary Europe!



## **What are the threats posed by the planned aggravations of the asylum law?**

The proposals for the „reform“ of the GEAS drafted by the EU Commission and the Council of the EU provide for various regulations that would legalize practices that violate human rights, such as arbitrary detentions and deportations. If these planned regulations are confirmed by the EU Parliament, it would be a watershed for European migration policy and the de facto end of the fundamental right to asylum.

### **Systematic detention after arrival**

Through so-called „border procedures“, the identification of people on the run is to take place already at the EU's external border. For this purpose, people are to be accommodated in camps near the border. The camps are to be located on EU soil, but the refugees are to be officially considered as „not having entered“. And that is until a decision has been made on their respective prospects for asylum. Only those who are certified as having a prospect of asylum may enter the country. Until this examination is completed, the people are barracked – for up to 12 weeks. Even children are not to be exempt from this regulation – contrary to the promises of the Green Party. Human rights organizations repeatedly point out that an individual and legally sound examination of the reasons for asylum is not possible under such conditions. In addition, all people who have entered the country via a so-called „safe third countries“ are to be deported again immediately after their arrival without any examination.

### **Outsourcing of responsibility to third countries**

At the same time, the criteria for so-called “safe third countries” are to be significantly softened. Until now, third countries classified as „safe“ had to have ratified the Geneva Refugee Convention, i.e., signed and recognized it. This is now no longer the case – a historic step backwards! And even more: individual regions of a country can also be considered „safe“ even if the rest of the country is not. (Countries such as Tunisia, for example, are to be considered „safe“ in the future.) It is very likely that people fleeing towards Europe crossed one of these countries and thus forfeited their right to asylum in Europe.

This policy is part of a trend in European migration policy in recent years: The externalization of migration control. The EU concludes so-called „migration agreements“ with neighboring states, such as Turkey or Libya, but also with states without a common border, as in the Sahel zone. In these agreements, these states guarantee to take action against refugee movements or agree to deport people from Europe and, in return, receive financial support from the EU. In this way, the



EU buys itself free from its human rights obligation of the right to asylum. In this way, it not only directly supports authoritarian regimes in the systematic violation of human rights, it is actually inciting them to do so. The situation for refugees in Libya and Tunisia is already catastrophic.

## **Further desolidarization within the EU**

There is also to be further desolidarization within the EU. The Dublin system, which has been criticized for many years, is to be tightened. Due to the planned extension of the transfer periods, last resort possibilities, such as church asylum as protection against deportations, will hardly be possible in the future. Also, the solidary distribution of people seeking protection within the EU is not guaranteed by the planned regulations. Instead, member states will be able to exempt themselves from the obligation to take in people by paying small financial amounts or sending personnel.

## **And that's not it...**

As if these planned aggravations of the asylum law were not bad enough, the EU is currently planning a mechanism that can lower the still valid protection standards for refugees even further: The so-called „crisis regulation.“ This would take effect when particularly large numbers of people arrive at the borders. If a „crisis“ is declared by the European Council, the time in detention for identity verification can be extended up to 20 weeks. The group of people who can be detained can also be expanded under the crisis regulation.

## **GET INVOLVED!**

Already mark November 26th in your calendar to take to the street together with us! If you want to be part of the alliance, write us on Twitter, Insta or by email to [stopgeas@posteo.de](mailto:stopgeas@posteo.de).

You want to sign our appeal? Then write us an email to [stopgeas@posteo.de](mailto:stopgeas@posteo.de). We would be happy if you spread the call and make other people aware of the disenfranchisement of people on the run!