



Press Review on Asylum Policy, September 2017

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dates follow the German notification (dd.mm.yy)

News:

View to Europe and the World

- A 170 people were saved from drowning on Crete's coast. Greek coast guard assumes that they may have departed in Egypt. In the meanwhile the number of people arriving in Spain has doubled in comparison with the period of January to August last year. In sum, 14,000 people reached Spain this year.
<http://www.zeit.de/gesellschaft/zeitgeschehen/2017-09/mittelmeer-kreta-fluechtlinge-gerettet> (07.09.17)
<https://www.welt.de/politik/ausland/article168540829/In-Spanien-kommen-immer-mehr-Fluechtlinge-an.html> (12.09.17)
http://www.deutschlandfunk.de/tuerkei-vier-fluechtlinge-bei-bootsunglueck-ums-leben.1939.de.html?drn:news_id=795180 (23.09.17)
- It's estimated that a million refugees wait on being freed from the prisoners' camps in Northern Africa, and there especially in Libya. Many institutions called the conditions cruel, described them as hell or "similar to concentration camps". All of that is well known for months now, still the camps exist. *Tagesspiegel* reports on that on basis of a conversation with Micahel Obert who already wrote a report for *SZ Magazin* and produced the movie "A warlord as doorman to hell". Among other things, Obert reports on the prices who are paid for an escape. Approximately 2,000 dollars are needed to reach Libya from the country of origin. Another 2,500 dollar (right now the price is more around 1,500) need to be paid to cross the Mediterranean. Obert's experience: people know everywhere what is going on in Libya. Nevertheless, they escape. The "re-distribution of the world" needs to be thought of, not less. This in front of the background of an expected doubling of African population until 2050, Europe's "economic thumbscrews" and climate change.
<http://www.tagesspiegel.de/berlin/zukunft-afrikas-und-europas-in-der-hoelle-der-fluechtlingcamps-in-libyen/20110570.html> (25.09.17)
- Against the million who wait in Northern Africa stand the 50,000 EU wants to receive the next two years. EU wants to pay 10,000 Euro per person to member states. Especially people from Niger, Sudan Chad and Ethiopia are supposed to travel directly to EU.
http://www.deutschlandfunk.de/migration-bruessel-fuer-freiwillige-aufnahme-zehntausender.1939.de.html?drn:news_id=797120 (27.09.17)
<http://www.handelsblatt.com/politik/international/eu-kommission-50-000-fluechtlinge-sollen-legal-einreisen/20385158.html> (27.09.17)

- The route on the Black Sea becomes more frequented. More and more people arrive Romania coming from Turkey. In August, Romanian coast guard saved 480 people, 700 were picked up by Turkish one. From Romania, it is relatively easy to reach Western Europe since fences are rare. Nevertheless, Romania tries to catch people by using helicopters and thermal imaging cameras. The country wants to join Schengen area and to show EU-member states that it is able to close its borders.

Four people drowned in the Black Sea, 20 more were missed.

http://www.deutschlandfunk.de/fluechtlinge-in-rumaenien-kommt-eine-neue-schwarzmeerroute.1783.de.html?dram:article_id=396164 (18.09.17)
- The ship of Mission Lifeline became the target of attacks during a rescue operation. The attackers did not wear emblems, Lifeline's captain speaks of piracy. The attackers entered the ship and demanded that refugees from Bangladesh would be handed out to them. They expect to receive a high amount of ransom money from their relatives. After a few discussions, the attackers left the boat. No one got injured. Four sea miles in distance another boat with refugees called for help. Only with the support of a oil platform supplier, the rescue of the people there was possible.

<http://www.mdr.de/sachsen/dresden/seenotretter-aus-dresden-im-mittelmeer-beschossen100.html> (29.09.17)
- Anti-Torture-Committee of European Council criticized the conditions in Greek camps. It is "degrading and inhumane" how even kids, even unaccompanied minors, are accommodated. 20 camps, police stations, border stations and hotspots on islands – i.e. everywhere where people are interned in Greece – were visited. Sickesses like Tuberculosis broke out. The daily rate of 5,87 Euro for food, accommodation and medics does not suffice at all. Also, the representatives of European Council report on police violence.

<http://www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/fluechtlinge-in-griechenland-leben-unter-unmenschlichen-bedingungen-sagt-europarat-a-1169881.html> (26.09.17)
- Spain deported refugees who had reached Melilla exclave directly to Marocco again. This violates European Human Rights Convention, ruled European Court of Human Rights. It is expected that Spain files legal remedies, the verdict is not legally binding yet. European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights and Brot für die Welt accompanied the law suit. The organizations presume that a legal precedent might be established with consequences for other cases as well. Direct deportations at the Greek-Macedonian border might be affected for example.

<http://www.taz.de/!5451313/> (03.10.17)
- For the first time, Myanmar government wants to support the Muslim refugees of Rohingya minority. The support equals the establishment of three camps. UNO called the mass murders that have happened ethnic cleansing. 300,000 Rohingya already escaped to Bangladesh after clashes between Myanmar army and Rohingya fighters Also, Muslims of other ethnic minorities are becoming the focus of persecution now. The government of Bangladesh prohibited the freedom of movement to the 400,000 Rohingya who are in the country. They are not allowed to leave the camps anymore. The prohibition is applied until the refugees would return to Myanmar. Conditions in the camps are below average, food and water are not sufficient, hygienic care for many not accessible.

<http://www.mdr.de/nachrichten/politik/ausland/myanmar-will-erstmal-rohingya-helfen-100.html> (09.09.17)

<http://www.mdr.de/nachrichten/politik/ausland/uno-rohingya-myanmar-ethnische-saeuberung-100.html> (11.09.17)

<http://www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/rohingya-duerfen-fluechtlingslager-in-bangladesch-nicht-verlassen-a-1168243.html> (17.09.17)

- Human Rights Watch and UNHCR call upon Cameroon to stop deportations to Nigeria. Approximately 100,000 refugees were deported to the country that is threatened by Boko Haram terror group. Human Rights Watch reports on Cameroon soldiers sexually abusing refugees and using physical violence during deportations. Allegedly, this is so people are deterred to escape.
<https://brf.be/international/1117505/> (27.09.17)
- Jordan is accused as well by Human Rights Watch. The country is supposed to deport refugees to Syria. 400 were deported to the country in the first five months of the year according to the NGO. 300 returned "voluntarily". "Circumstances were not clear" concerning 500.
<http://www.zeit.de/news/2017-10/02/jordanien-human-rights-watch-wirft-jordanien-deportation-syrischer-fluechtlinge-vor-02125803> (02.10.17)
- In Congo, soldiers opened fire against protesting refugees of Burundi citizenship. According to Congolese government, the people demonstrated for four refugees who were caught with machetes and were incarcerated because of that. The independent journalists' network "SOS Medias Burundi" as well as the in Burundi prohibited opposition party "Movement for Solidarity and Democracy" claim that Congolese security forces cooperated with Burundi intelligence. The massacre with 36 dead people as well as 117 to 124 people injured happened not far away from a UN blue helmet mission.
<http://www.taz.de/!5445203/> (17.09.17)
- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Raad al Hussein, shares the, as he terms it, disgust that stems from EU's cooperation with Libyan coast guard. The federation is "blinded by the only objective [...] to keep people from Europe." He backs "Doctors without Borders'" president Joanne Liu and her open letter as well as the efforts of NGOs, saving lives in the Mediterranean. EU would ignore, so al Hussein, the dead people "on the beaches, in the forests, in the deserts", the morgues are overcrowded, would ignore the relatives waiting desperately for a sign of life of the escaped. Libyan coast guards would also commit murders among refugees. EU would downplay that abuse of power.
<http://www.tagesspiegel.de/politik/fluechtlinge-un-hochkommissar-prangert-europas-zusammenarbeit-mit-libyen-an/20304028.html> (08.09.17)
- US Supreme court banned the reception of 24,000 refugees in front of the background of Trump's travel ban. A lower appeal court had made it possible before. In October, another hearing of Supreme Court on Trump's executive order will take place.
<http://www.handelsblatt.com/my/politik/international/usa-hoehchstes-gericht-haelt-einreiseverbot-fuer-fluechtlinge-aufrecht/20319738.html?ticket=ST-130320-ITbNkwRewUbN04d2vOZ9-ap3> (13.09.17)
- Almost five million people voted on Kurdish independence in Northern Iraq. A majority voted in favor. A high number of states does not recognize the referendum. Turkey called upon its citizens in Northern Iraq to leave the territory. Iranian, Iraqi and Turkish troops moved to the border. UN fear destabilizing consequences.
<http://www.zeit.de/politik/ausland/2017-09/nordirak-tuerkei-reisewarnung-kurden-referendum> (25.07.17)
<http://www.zeit.de/politik/ausland/2017-09/irak-kurden-referendum-unabhaengigkeit-tuerkei-militaer-antonio-guterres> (25.09.17)
<https://www.welt.de/politik/ausland/article169034522/Kurden-haben-abgestimmt-Irak-und-Tuerkei-lassen-Truppen-aufmarschieren.html> (26.09.17)

Federal, State and Municipality Level

- Federal election took place, Facists join the Bundestag. The results for Saxony: 26,9% CDU, 16,1% Die Linke, 10,5% SPD, 27% AfD, 4,6% Grüne, 8,2% FDP.

<https://www.bundeswahlleiter.de/bundestagswahlen/2017/ergebnisse/bund-99/land-14.html>

- 5,040 of 8,547 of BAMF's decisions on the asylum requests of Turkish citizenships were negative. PRO ASYL's executive director Günter Burkhardt assumes that BAMF does not consider actual threats in Turkey. If CDU accuses Turkey of human rights violations, it needs to be reflected in BAMF's decisions. Burkhardt is surprised, that also the number of people seeking protection from Turkey is that low. Let alone 150,000 fired civil servants and thousands of people incarcerated prove that there is persecution. But EU-Turkey-deal closed the escape route. That year, Berlin deported four, NRW 20, Saxony two people of Turkish citizenship.
<http://www.tagesspiegel.de/politik/tuerkei-bamf-lehnt-mehrzahl-der-asylantraege-von-tuerken-ab/20317948.html> (12.09.17)
- Internal clashes between BAMF leadership and staff council have been going on for months now. President Jutta Cordt did not include the employees in her decision to allow translators via video for example. Staff council did not criticize that practice in general but turned to Cordt's boss, Minister of the Interior Thomas de Maizière, and filed a law suit at administration court. The minister did not send, as it was wished for by the employees, a mediator. The fight, says SZ, paralyzes the agencies work. Still, 114,000 asylum requests are pending. Cordt is under political pressure to finish them as soon as possible. BAMF is accused again and again to lack professional quality.
<http://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/bamf-am-gefrierpunkt-1.3687223> (29.09.17)
- The "Council on Migration", an association of 150 scientists identifies an "irrational discourse of threat" among German society. Right wing positions are accepted by the so-called parties of the center. Migration becomes dangerous in terms of inner security, stability of social welfare and "cultural identity", supporters are defamed as "sentimental good human beings", especially by CSU. Furthermore, integration cannot be expected whenever people receive terminated residence permits.
<http://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/fluechtlinge-migrationsforscher-beklagen-populismus-in-der-politischen-mitte-1.3658477> (08.09.17)
- The number of asylum procedures at administration courts has doubled in comparison with previous-year period. Mid-July, 283,000 procedures were pending. 69,000 procedures concerned legal remedies of people who have received subsidiary protection, aiming for refugee status.
<http://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/fluechtlinge-zahl-der-asylverfahren-vor-gericht-steigt-rasant-1.3669934> (18.09.17)
- Saxon government passed the law on enforcing detention for deportation, now it goes to parliament. Left and Green party as well as SFR criticized the plans. In custody, that will be part of the law but is possible already, 34 people may be detained, in detention 24.
<http://www.dnn.de/Mitteldeutschland/News/Kabinett-beschliesst-Gesetzentwurf-zur-Abschiebungshaft> (12.09.17)
<http://www.mdr.de/sachsen/dresden/abschiebehaft-asylrecht-asylbewerber-100.html> (13.09.17)
- In Saxony, another family separation was enforced. A father and his two sons were deported to Armenia. An urgent appeal was rejected by administration court. Mother and daughter stayed in Germany. After a failed deportation at the beginning of August, the mother attempted suicide. Doctors stated a depressive disturbance. Ausländerbehörde scheduled a medical check up by a public health officer for November 2nd, the family felt safe. But the deportation made facts. Within a couple of minutes, supporters assembled and tried to prevent the enforcement of the deportation. After police forces were increased, the transporter could pave its way. A solidarity demonstration happened right after. The subsequent Friday, 300 people demonstrated again in Hechtviertel. After the critique of SFR,

regional bishop of Protestant church, Carsten Rentzing, voiced concerns about the agencies' behavior. SFR filed the mother's and daughter's case to Hardship Commission.
<http://www.sz-online.de/nachrichten/protest-gegen-abschiebung-3776945.html> (18.09.17)
<http://www.mdr.de/sachsen/dresden/abschiebung-armenische-familie-102.html> (19.09.17)
<http://www.spiegel.de/panorama/gesellschaft/dresden-umstrittene-abschiebung-eine-familie-wird-getrennt-a-1168728.html> (19.09.17)

Comprehensive interview with Thomas Hoffmann from SFR by *MDR*:

<http://www.mdr.de/sachsen/dresden/interview-fluechtlingsrat-zu-armenischer-familie-100.html#sprung0> (19.09.17)

The most comprehensive report, uniting different voices, comes from *Radio Dresden*

<http://www.radiodresden.de/nachrichten/lokalmeldungen/abschiebung-im-hechtviertel-schlaegt-hohe-wellen-1333607/> (19.09.17)

Press release of SFR e.V.: <http://www.saechsischer-fluechtlingsrat.de/de/2017/09/19/pm-des-sfr-e-v-zur-stunde-abschiebung-ab-duesseldorf-familientrennung-stoppen/> (19.09.17)

<http://www.mdr.de/sachsen/dresden/demonstration-in-dresden-gegen-abschiebung-von-familie-aus-armenien-100.html> (21.09.17)

- The behavior of Ausländerbehörde Leipzig needs to be questioned as well. A man was deported who was in professional training and had received a coherent Duldung. The officials reason the person affected, Dhruv Patel, would have made "false statements" about his identity. He wrote Patidar instead of Patel, also his birthday was not "a hundred percent correct". Indeed, completely void reasons who would not justify a deportation in other places.

<http://www.lvz.de/Leipzig/Lokales/Leipziger-Fluechtling-aufgrund-falscher-Angaben-abgeschoben>
(12.09.17)

Interview with the boss of Dhruv Patel with *LIZ*: <https://www.liz.de/politik/sachsen/2017/09/Integration-Wenn-ein-Kollege-fehlt-191273> (11.09.17)

Background and Opinion

- In Shatila, one of Beirut's refugee camps, 23,000 people live. Dunja Ramadan researched for *SZ* newspaper there. Besides the people of Palestinian origin living there, many of Syrian citizenship arrived there as well recently. Libanese population consists of 4.5 million, Libanon received 1.5 million refugees from Syria. Both Palestinians and Syrians are excluded from certain profession. More and more, Syrian refugees are the focus whenever hatred is spilled among Libanese society. Hatred against Palestinians has decreased. Libanese government tries to prevent new refugee camps in the meantime. As a consequence, makeshift accommodations are demolished again and again. The Minister for Foreign Affairs even speaks out for negotiations with Syrian regime on deportations.
<http://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/fluechtlinge-im-libanon-wird-es-eng-1.3668802> (21.09.17)
- Published a while ago but not less relevant: kids of Syrian citizens are born in Libanon who do not receive citizenship now. 84% of the 115,000 new born kids of refugees are affected and were never registered. The bureaucratic procedure takes six steps and requires a visit to Syrian embassy. A whole generation of children grows up stateless, writes Dunja Ramadan in *SZ*.
<http://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/libanon-die-staatenlosen-kinder-des-krieges-1.3541544>
(13.06.17)
- In Hanau, people want to protect those who are threatened by deportation through citizens' asylum. In their perspective, „Welcoming culture“ still exists, only that many would work in silence in order to make access to health treatment possible for example. The present laws would be discriminating. Refugees are excluded by regular treatment and can only receive medical care in case of emergencies. Additionally, therapies for traumatized people are not sufficient.

<http://www.fr.de/rhein-main/alle-gemeinden/main-kinzig-kreis/hanau-fuer-solidaritaet-mit-fluechtlingen-a-1346555,0#artpager-1346555-0> (07.09.17)

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