

KARAWANE

Für die Rechte der
Flüchtlinge und
Migrantinnen



Caravan Network Contacts

North:

Karawane Bremen &
Koordinationskreis Hamburg
c/o Brigittenstr. 5 20359 Hamburg
Tel/Fax: 040-431 890 37/8
Sozialistische Partei Iran (Socialist Party of Iran)
Tel: 040-209 726 78 Mobile: 0171-832 55 63

South:

Karawane München
c/o Kulturladen Westend,
Ligsalzstrasse 20, 80339 München
Tel.: 089/87129945 Karawane
Stuttgart
c/o BAZ 110, Ludwigstr. 110a, 70197 Stuttgart

West:

AGIF
Föderation der ArbeitsimmigrantInnen aus der Türkei
(Federation of work migrants from Turkey)
Grembergerstr. 249 a 51105 Köln
The VOICE Africa Forum Iserlohn/Bochum

East:

The VOICE Refugee Forum
Schillergäßchen 5, 07745 Jena
Tel: 03641-66 52 14 / Fax: 03641-42 02 70
Karawane Halle
c/o Infoladen, Ludwigstr. 37, 06110 Halle

To:

The Ministries of the Interior of the Federal Government and the Federal States
The Commissioners for Asylum Matters of the Federal Government and the Federal States

Copies to:

see attachment

Announcement

Dear Sir or Madam,

we would like to inform you herewith of the Caravan Tour 2002. The Tour, organised by the Caravan-for the rights of refugees and migrants starts in Bremen on Saturday, the 17th of August and proceeds through 30 Cities in Germany with a final demonstration in Berlin on Saturday the 21st of September, 2002.

During a period of 5 weeks, the nationwide and international Caravan network will stopover in the undermentioned Cities to highlight the deplorable and inhuman living conditions of refugees in Germany. At the same time we will integrate all refugees who are isolated and restricted by the state to remote areas, often in woods with no connection to any infrastructure and the German populace into the tour and thus break their isolation.

In a grand coalition of refugee and migrant groups of more than 20 organisations and from about 40 nationalities and with the participation and support of numerous German and European groups, organisations and institutions, the Caravan Tour 2002 will be held under the central slogan "Asylum right is human right". The Tour will feature a great number of demonstrations, press conferences, inter and multi-cultural events.

We protest against the complete erosion of the asylum right which we also regard as a violation of international agreements like the Geneva Convention. We unyieldingly remind Germany of its moral responsibility to offer protection to people who are in danger and not depriving us of our basic rights, socially and physically isolating us from society by its continuous expansion of isolation and deportation prisons. This policy has, to a large extent led to a massive increase in racist thinking and behaviour by large sections of the German population.

The so-called "Immigration Act" will further aggravate our already unbearable situation extremely, though this is hardly imaginable for people who are not refugees. On the one hand our isolation is further enforced by continuously issuing new restrictions, by building new detention camps (so-called "Ausreiseeinrichtungen", i. e. facilities which is meant to pressurise and "help" us leave the country) and by abolishing the status of "Duldung"

which is another important step in the deportation drive. In addition, it will almost be impossible in the future to be recognised as a persecuted refugee. This will be particularly so when the exile political activities are no longer accepted as valid reasons for asylum in Germany. The authorities want to politically silence us and quietly hand us over by deportation to our persecutors and torturers. This obvious collaboration by the authorities with governments that persecuted us into exile shall be exposed during the Tour.

We cannot allow that our lives as well as the lives of the people whom we had to leave behind in our countries be considered worthless. We would also like to point out that the political and economic interests of Germany are often contributing to the problems in our countries of origin. It is for this reason that the Tour will also have as a motto "We are here because you are destroying our countries".

The Caravan Tour 2002 is a natural progression and continuation of the first Caravan Tour which was also held in the run-up to the Federal Elections in 1998. Then we had the slogan "We don't have a vote, but we have a voice". And with that voice, we brought to the public attention, our deplorable and inhuman conditions. Although we experienced a great public solidarity at the time, nevertheless, the overall condition of refugees and migrants have worsened since then. This is mainly as a consequence of the repressive and unfair policies by the government.

This year too the Caravan Tour directly precedes the Federal Elections. This is to ensure that attention is duly given to our inhuman situations as politicians from both sides strives for a large part of the anti foreigner votes by intensifying their anti foreigner rhetorics in their campaigns.

Our determined, peaceful, political fight for our rights and for social values like tolerance and solidarity is a valuable contribution to the society as a whole. The denial of a due and legitimate right to any one part of a society is a loss for the whole society. Our human rights like for all other set of people are inalienable and indivisible.

Amongst these rights is the right to freedom of movement, which MUST be natural in a society that claims to be free and democratic. We find it therefore intolerable if this right is denied a minority and this minority is further confined to local districts and subjected discriminative controls.

In Caravan Tour 2002, we express our freedom of association by organising ourselves and our right to freedom of movement. We demand a full acknowledgement and respect of our rights even as we seek attention to our state-created problems and upliftment of our living conditions.

We expect a constructive form of cooperation from all responsible persons, organisations, groups and state institutions in order to achieve a peaceful, trouble-free and successful Caravan Tour for the Rights of Refugees and Migrants.

Hamburg, August 13 2002

Best regards,

The Organising Committee

further copies to:

- local, national and international press & media
- german and european NGOs, as Amnesty International, Pro Asyl, Refugee Councils, Terre des Hommes, Medico International, etc.
- UNHCR
- Churches, as EKD, Deutsche Bischofskonferenz, Diakonie, Caritas, Misereor, etc.
- political Parties, parliamentary Groups/Members of the Federal Government and Federal States, local authorities, etc.