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New release!

Updated edition of the documentation

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Germany's Asylum Policy and its Lethal Ramifications (1993 - 2024)

32 Years of Research and Documentation on State-driven and Societal Racism

Since the de facto abolition of the right to asylum in the German Basic Law in 1993, a legal, administrative, and societal apparatus has emerged that continues to produce inhumane conditions for those seeking protection. Consequently, refugees suffer daily physical harm, are traumatised, or even lose their lives.

For 32 years, we have documented the catastrophic consequences of this system of "refugee deterrence" shaped by politics and society for those directly impacted—refugees themselves.

In our now five-volume documentation, it becomes evident that the brutality of this system affects ever more people year on year—people in search of a safer life.

The documentation is a chronological collection of individual incidents, including suicides and suicide attempts due to fear of deportation, as well as deaths and injuries of refugees before, during, and after deportations, at German borders, and incidents resulting from racist attacks by members of the public and in public spaces.

For several years, these individual incidents have been published—alongside the printed edition—in our web documentation, a freely accessible online database and search engine, which offers extensive research possibilities through keyword searches and categories across self-selected time periods and individual German states.

In addition to the texts, the web documentation provides statistical data on the most important categories, a map view, citation links, and options for printing search results (nearly 20,000 incidents).

Between 2016 and 2024, 300 persons committed suicide, an average of three persons per month. In total, 4,676 cases of attempted suicide or self-harm were documented, which represents 43 cases per month. Over the same period, 18 persons died as a result of direct police violence; 18 through their failure to provide assistance. The actual number of unreported cases is deemed considerably higher.

The entire text can be viewed: <https://tinyurl.com/ARI-DOK-31>

The Documentation spans the period from 1.1.1993 to 31.12.2024

- 500 refugees killed themselves in the face of their impending deportation, or died in their attempts to avoid deportation;
91 of whom while in custody pending deportation.
- 6.505 refugees injured themselves out of fear of deportation, in protest against impending deportation, (risk hunger strikes) or tried to commit suicide, 1.049 of whom were in custody pending deportation.
 - 5 refugees died during deportation.
- 657 refugees were injured through compulsory measures or from mistreatment during deportation.
 - 41 refugees died in their country of origin after deportation.
- 643 refugees were mistreated in their country of origin by the police or the military, or were at risk of their lives due to severe illness
 - 82 refugees disappeared without trace after deportation.
- 263 refugees died en route to the FRG or at its border, 134 of whom died on the FRG's eastern borders; 3 drifted off course on the Neißer and have been deemed as missing persons ever since
- 1.093 refugees suffered injuries crossing the border, 353 of which occurred on the FRG's eastern borders.
 - 38 refugees died through physical force committed by the police or guards either in detention centers, during arrest or deportation, on the streets, in governmental institutions or in refugee accommodation – at least 1.412 were injured.
 - 38 refugees died through criminal neglect.
 - 91 refugees lost their lives in fires, attacks on refugee accommodation centers or from dangers at these centers –
 - 1.820 refugees were injured, at times gravely.

Between 1993 and 2022, 29 refugees died as a result of racist or politically motivated attacks in public spaces, and at least 4,308 refugees were physically assaulted. As we only include incidents involving refugees in our records, from 2023 onwards we have been unable to reliably document the mass attacks in public spaces due to stricter data protection laws.

Since 1993, at least 885 refugees have died as a result of state measures taken by the Federal Republic of Germany – 120 people died as a result of racist attacks and accommodation in camps (including attacks, fires).



Documentation contains five books (DIN A4):

BOOK I (1993 – 2004) 356 p. – BOOK II (2005 – 2013) 336 p.,
BOOK III (2014 – 2017) 366 p. – BOOK IV (2018 – 2020) 285 p – BOOK V (2021 – 2024) 199 p

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