



Media Monitoring

Situation Report January 12, 2010

1) The reception center in Eberau

- The *Kathpress* reproduces the opinion of Caritas and Diakonie, organizations that appear to be for the decentralization of the reception centers. Mr. Landau, for Caritas, asserts: "They are not people to be afraid of, but persons that need a particular human rights protection" Mr. Lindenbauer, from UNHCR, has also lamented that asylum-seekers suffer the general suspicion of criminality.
- Chancellor Faymann has announced that until the end of January the Defense Minister, Mr. Norbert Darabos and the Home Minister, Mrs. Fekter, will conduct talks concerning shortening the duration of asylum proceedings as well as diminishing the number of persons present in the reception centers, even the question whether a third reception center is necessary. The provincial leaders will be linked to the discussions. In addition, Mrs. Fekter has announced that she has agreed with Mr. Darabos on the need of a new reception center, studying whether an alternative place to Eberau should be proposed. According to *Kurier*, the Federal Society of Real Estate has been requested to look for adequate buildings, and military compounds appear to be preferred. On the other hand, the Social-Democrats of Carinthia have issued a press release questioning the need of a third center.
- Mr. Westenthaler, from the Coalition for the Future of Austria (BZOe), has issued a press release considering that "Minister Fekter commits a logical mistake when she encourages having a new reception center, if she believes that there are legal asylum-seekers [SIC] in Austria. Our country is surrounded by recognized safe third-countries." Moreover he considered that if Austria would abide by international law there should be "a 0



- quota, because the asylum-seekers almost exclusively come through a third country.”
- *Oesterreich* publishes an article entitled “Nobody wants the reception center” citing different provincial leaders who give different reasons to reject the creation of the new reception center in their province. The article is accompanied by the picture of an African man.

2) *Neonazis in Austria*

The Group Nowkr has published today a press release criticizing the tolerant attitude of universities in Austria concerning Burschenschaften (student associations) of national German ideology and carrying weapons, particularly, as the Ball of the WKR is to come.

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