



Media Monitoring

Situation Report January 15, 2010

1) The reception center in Eberau

- *Der Standard* publishes an article reproducing the opinion of Ms. Fekter, Minister of Home Affairs, who asserts to be open to the dialogue to the proposal of several non-governmental organizations concerning the creation of smaller reception centers in several provinces. Mr. Hofer, Vice-President of the Freedom's Party, insisted that no further reception centers are necessary if the Dublin "Convention" (SIC) is implemented and the corresponding applicants, deported. On the other hand, the Green Party has supported the change of opinion of the minister.
- The Federal Chamber of Architects has sent an open letter to Ms. Fekter criticizing the design and the proceeding for approving the center under the existing EU and national standards.
- The Green Party has performed an awareness-raising meeting in Eberau, counting with the presence of 60 persons.

2) Situation of asylum-seekers in Austria

Oesterreich publishes an article about a 40 years old Nigerian asylum-seeker who suffers AIDS/HIV in a serious stage of the sickness, and who has been denied asylum and subsidiary protection, even when treatment in his country of origin appears not to be guaranteed, according to Aidshilfe Salzburg. Deportation is possible at any moment.

Mr. Doerfler, governor of Carinthia has issued the following press release:

"After months of investigations, and after cooperation between the department of refugees, the police in Carinthia could finish yesterday with an asylum-drug net [SIC] 'I felicitate the officers of the executive for this strike against organized criminality. We need no drug dealer in

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our province' asserted today the security officer of Governor Gerhard Dörfler. The suspected asylum-seeker is in preventive detention in the detention center Klagenfurt. All the other denounced suspicious, who are free, will be in the meantime brought to the especial institution for criminal asylum-seekers [SIC].

'The long-standing recommendation of Carinthia, to deport immediately criminal asylum-seekers, should finally be executed. How long will Home Minister Maria Fekter still regard helpless that the Austrian youth through 'asylum dealers' [SIC] gets easy access to drugs' asserted the Governor. Since years it is an open secret, that the drug scene in Carinthia is dominated by Black=African asylum-seekers [SIC] 'We must protect the children and youth of Carinthia from imported criminality...Who misuses our hospitality, actually commits crimes, is violent or bothers the future of our children with drugs, has forfeited his rights as guest and has nothing to do in Carinthia...''

3) Discrimination against persons of Turkish origin in the criminal justice system – Discrimination against women.

Today Ms. Korun (Green Human Rights Speaker) und Ms. Schwentner (Green Women speaker) issued a press release criticizing a judicial decision grounded on ethnical grounds against a person from Turkey, particularly, as a mitigation ground as to justify domestic violence. Dozens of stabs with a knife and the final attack with a steel tube against a woman that wanted to divorce qualified as culturally-appropriate emotional reaction just because of the ethnical origin of the violent man is inadmissible. A court should decide independently from the [ethnical] origin.'" The prosecutor had already presented the following paragraph in the accusation: "Foreigners or persons with migratory background are often in particularly difficult live situations that also are justified from their origin can be discharged in their emotions. Though emotions from foreigners can be rooted in their notion of morals, that are foreign to Austrian citizens, can be in general understandable." Consequently, it was decided that there was intention of killing under emotional circumstances, and no attempted homicide.



4) *Rights of homosexual couples*

The Green Party has presented today its concerns on the new address registration form, according to city legislative member Marco Schreuder. As a new category has been included "living in registered partnership" what makes reference to the new legislation benefiting homosexual couples, Schreuder has proposed to place, in the same category, as to avoid discrimination "married/ living in registered partnership" [Note: the existing registration form also records sensible categories such as religion]

On this issue, Hofer from the Freedom's Party issued the following press release: "That today also heterosexuals can also be discriminated because of the personal status is no problem for the Greens... the combined description proposed by the Green ['married/living in registered partnership'] can lead to irritation, because the legal consequences could be different. Every heterosexual would be -because of a couple of hundred registered partnerships in the whole Austria- constantly been asked, whether he is married or in a partnership. Who registers through matrimony or partnership in a public registry has to live with that this will be known. It is not obligatory to get married or to register a partnership... ... First it is about possibly big and public parties, as to make the partnership public, and than the change of personal status that counts with a series of legal consequences has to be concealed. The Greens do again no service to the homosexuals which 99% want to be left alone and prefer to follow a quiet and unregistered life. Most homosexuals are tired that apparently since long in the public opinion most gay and lesbians are green."

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