



Media Monitoring

Situation Report January 16-19, 2010

1) The reception center in Eberau

.Kurier has published on January 16th, 2010 an article concerning the demonstration called by the Freedom's Party in Eberau against the construction of the asylum center: "Strache made his performance and talked against the asylum-seekers. About 85% would be criminals, asserted the chef of the Freedom's Party ... For this criminals Austria would be the land of milk and honey. When the government finally decides to deport the asylum misusers (SIC), nobody would need a reception center. And absolutely not in Eberau."

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

The judicial decision last week justifying and reducing the penalty to a man that tried to kill his wife (the man was condemned to six years in prison, for attempted manslaughter, and not for attempted murder), as his Turkish origin/culture would justify the behavior, has continued to originate discussions. *Krone Zeitung* publishes an article on January 19th, 2010 on the topic: "The decision has caused at the People's Party Women 'much indignation,' asserted the speaker Monika Posch on Tuesday: 'An Austrian citizen, independently of his origin, has to respect European values [SIC], and can not justify domestic violence thanks to pretended emotions.' It is also not 'understood, that the Ministry of Justice had not issued any critique to that decision,' as prosecutors, judges and lay judges had to react sensibly."

Die Presse published on January 16th, 2010 an article on this topic: "It is intolerable how the Austrian justice again and again plays down the most frightening acts of violence of men against women who want to

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separate from them, and they make the victims ridiculous with their decisions' pointed out Ms. Gisela Wurm, Speaker for the Women for the Socialist Party. The justice would suggest "understanding, that concerning the will of the woman to separate, an act of violence follows."

Der Standard has published on January 19th, 2010 the position of Mr. Gerhard Jarosch, Speaker of the Office of the Prosecutor Vienna, who asserted that "absolutely not the act, but only the emotion" was "in general understandable." And this would not be a matter concerning only the ethnical origin: "It would have been a Super macho from Hollabrunn, who regularly gets drunk in a cantina, we should have asked the same question. And the mental situation of a university professor from Ankara [SIC] would have also been evaluated differently."

The Prosecutor's Office has appealed the decision, considering that the penalty is too low.

Kickl from the Freedom's Party of Vienna, has issued a press release of January 16th, 2010, asserting that "What this decision shows, are the consequences of a wrongly understood tolerance..." He would have understood that the "The basic principles and moral concepts of our society, as the equality of the women, are though the anarchic immigration and the linked wrongly understood tolerance successively undermined...it is not that we have to adapt our moral or accept foreign values, but that those that come to us must kindly adapt to our moral concepts."

On January 16th, 2010, the Women Speaker of the Freedom's Party Ms. Gartelgruber issued a press statement entitled: "No special justice for immigrants... Introduction of parts of the sharia through a backdoor has to be with decision impeded..."

- As scandalous attack to the Austrian legal system, but also against the civilization accomplishments of our society...To admit, that women are oppressed and tormented by megalomaniac Pashas [SIC] is the first step in the doom."

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3) *New Integration policies*

On January 18th, 2010, the National Plan of Integration was announced by the government (NAP I). According to *Der Standard* of January 19th, 2010 "Contrary to the project of Fekter, who included that all migrants before arrival to Austria should speak German, now the exceptions are citizens of the EU, family-members of Austrian citizens, asylum-seekers and high qualified migrants...Clearly it is obligatory the sufficient knowledge of German for the family unification of the so called third-country nationals. German tests have to be performed abroad in a Goethe Institute."

Oesterreich publishes also an article, including the following aspect: "Acceptance of our values... One of the basic principles of the integration plan that was also accentuated by Faymann is 'Integration before new arrival.' There will be also sanctions. For those 18 to 21 years old, the elimination of the family help is threatened, when there is no readiness to rend services. It also includes the acceptance of norms and values of the Austrian constitutional state at the same time that the fight against hat of the other and racism." The Socialist Youth has criticized this as integration through sanctions.

In addition, for those who have already signed the Integration Agreement already in force, after five years they have to prove a higher knowledge of German that the one demanded today [Kurier of January 19th, 2010].

The announced new integration package has originated new discussions in the Austrian press. On Tuesday January 19th, 2010, *Die Presse* publishes an article with the title "A big success looks differently" written by Martin Fritzl: "The actual integration topics are, however, different: how do you force to open parallel societies, where for example, Turkish women are secluded from the exterior world [SIC] (a language course before arrival will clearly not be sufficient)? How can we improve the education chances of migrant children? How do we prevent the existence of housing ghettos? The action plan presented by Home Minister Maria Fekter sees the problems and probable solution approaches right (and also decorously, as the clear rejection of the proposal of Strache of a health cash box for

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foreigners). However, when it is about concrete measures, the paper of Fekter remains abstract. You do not find more than non-binding common-sense issues. The action plan is not a big success. But it could be the right instrument in the hand of politicians, who want to push with strength for an integration policy. We shall see whether Home Minister Fekter is ready for that.”

Die Presse also publishes an article with the rejection to the plan by the Green Party as well as by the NGO SOS Mitmensch. The Green Party representative Ms. Korun has qualified the package as measures to prevent migration. The Federal Representative of the Youth has criticized the integration through penalties, as well as the Youth Branch of the Socialist Party.

4) Discrimination concerning Turkish culture and values

On January 16th, 2010, *Die Presse* publishes an article on Kebab stands in Vienna, written by Mr. Kocina: “Always more often you hear complaints of the people that these shops, that sell Turkish fast food, start to prevail. The arguments as to start the fight against Döner, Dürüm & Co. are various. And it appears, as it would be the turning meat spear a symbol of the foreign, similar to the minaret, behind which the fear from migrants will be hidden.

Similar to the Islamic towers for prayer this is not said openly, but through indirect comments – for instance the optic. Recently the Freedom’s Party criticized in a request of information to the Ministry of Economics, that the ‘massive increase of Kebab selling spots’ disfigures the townscape, and also the touristic position of Austria would be damaged... [a public officer] Richard Kronberger, asserts that it is not about the Kebab per se: ‘We do not judge on the product, but on the shop... It bothers invasively the propaganda with intense colours... that headstrong and fairly comprehensively are used.’ [Some comments are made that similar worries do not exist concerning hot dogs stands] ‘There is the prejudice, that persons with migratory background give less value to hygiene.’”



5) *Discrimination against Africans*

On January 16th, 2010, *Der Standard* publishes an article asserting that a man national from Nigeria has presented serious accusations against the Vienna Police, piece of news published also yesterday January 18th, by Profil, case now investigated by the Office of Special Investigations. A man would have threatened the Nigerian man and a friend on a tramway with a knife on January 8th, 2010. The friend could stop him before hurting him. At the next stop, the police was waiting. The attacker was taking in preventive detention, allegedly, on the grounds of attempted aggravated assault. As the victim wanted to prove his identity as witness, and according to Profil, he would have been told that the Austrian driving license is not an acceptable "identification for Black" [SIC]. They would have packed his arm and been hurt. He was brought to the station, where he would have been undressed and inspected for drugs. The Police assert that the person did not present identification and during the action he would have become impetuous.

6) *Link of foreigners to criminality*

Die Presse publishes an article asserting "Burglaries: For the Police the Situation is Critical" on January 18th, 2010, with the sub-title "2009 was characterized for a flow of burglaries in houses and apartments. Now the Police look for solutions. The amounts of crimes with the use of force increases, more criminals come from abroad."

The text asserts:

"Authors from abroad represent in the Criminal Statistics 2009 short of 28 % [Note: this means that 72% are actually Austrians]. This percentage is one per cent [SIC] higher than the precedent year. Broken down into countries of origin, Germans and Serbs with 8323 and 8117 persons denounced [SIC] are almost equal, followed by Turks and Romanians. Concerning burglaries in houses and apartments, 71% of those suspicious come from abroad. Most foreign authors in this area come from Romania, Serbia, Georgia and Moldavia. It would not be possible to talk any more about 'criminal tourists': most of the authors would be better organized and would count with apartments and retreat possibilities in Austria."



This statistics were commented on January 17th, 2010 by Mr. Koenigsberg from the Freedom's Party of Lower Austria as the "East Mafia." In addition, on January 19th, 2010, Mr. Westenthaler of the Coalition for the Future of Austria has recommended also as a consequence the reinsertion of border controls and the abolition [SIC] of the Schengen Convention.

7) *Humanitarian stay permits*

On January 17th, 2010, Ms. Haubner from the Coalition for the Future of Austria criticized the high rate of approved petitions for humanitarian stays issued in Upper Austria, requesting the People's Party Governor Mr. Pühringer to test accurately these cases, as to avoid misuse of asylum [SIC] adding that "Criminal asylum-seekers are consequently to be deported."

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