



## **Media Monitoring**

### **Situation Report July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010**

#### *Treatment of asylum-seekers and migrants in Austria*

a) Der Standard publishes an article "Arigona is not Netrebko" by Alexandra Föderl-Schmid with the following paragraphs, with the subtitle: "In Austria the law is breached to the benefit of stars and politicians"

"It is not Arigona Zogaj, it is much more: It is on the rule of law in Austria and the maintenance of the illusion, that Austria is no immigration country. It is a life-long lie of this country such as the neutrality... similarly it is silenced that, Austria is since long a migration country. 1.4 million of persons have a migratory background, in Vienna, this represents a third of the inhabitants. That is the reality though it is ignored. In Austria there is neither a transparent immigration system with clear criteria such as in Australia or in Canada (since 1967) nor a systematic policy of integration as in Sweden or the Netherlands. Consequently, foreigners that come from a non-EU country, whatever the reason why they want to live in Austria, can practically only file an asylum petition. It is asserted that the right of asylum is misused. However, this does not justify the negative debate concerning foreigners in Austria. The example of the 18 years old Arigona is mentioned, her mother and siblings, as to prove that the 'law must remain the law' as Vice Chancellor Josef Proell has asserted. Or the MMinistry of Justice Ms. Claudia Bandion-Ortner: "Decisions of highest courts will be implemented" Consequently, the Zogajs must return to Kosovo. According to the text of the law, this is right, according to the decision of the Constitutional Court, that has confirmed the deportation of the Zogaj as legal, it is to be implemented. What is legally right in this case, is in this case absolutely wrong... Arigona Zogaj has fulfilled exactly every condition of an integration plan of the Home Ministry concerning



foreigners in Austria: she speaks German (even the dialect of Upper Austria), she is completely integrated and she performs a job that in this country is always more important- she will be a nurse. However, that does not apply, as her parents have committed mistakes, also the skirled public relations have caused, that the authorities did not want to use their possibilities of action. They do it in other cases for sure, when foreign sport stars... request the nationality. Or when artists such as Anna Netrebko, who even cannot speak well German, but is worldwide famous, wants to become Austrian citizen. ..."

#### b) Obligation of presence for asylum-seekers

The politician of the People's Party, and their General Secretary, Mr. Kaltenecker, has asserted today that the obligation of presence "helps for the security of the population... The Home Ministry has with the approach on an obligation of presence captured the sorrows and fears of the population... The fact is that with an obligation of presence in the first stage of an asylum procedure is the disparition in illegality avoided, and the procedure is accelerated... The measure is also a protection for those who are illegal in our country, so they do not come into a negative spirale."

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