



## **Media Monitoring**

### **Situation Report January 20, 2010**

#### *1) Treatment of asylum-seekers*

*Die Presse* publishes a short interview to Mr. Einem, Socialist Party, ex Home Minister, who criticizes the treatment of asylum-seekers in his country, even by his own party, asserting that refugees and asylum-seekers are used "a cheap means" to affect moods. In the meantime, the politicians would have achieved the creation of a picture of the asylum-seekers as criminals. He mentioned that they are not even called asylum-seekers but "asilants" (with despect), criticizing that all the political sectors are cooperating in this.

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

*Der Standard* publishes an article entitled "Violence against women as emotional act- Against macho macho man" written by Andrea Schurian.

"The thousand of persons with migratory background living in Austria would be thankful to see that they are collectively accused to be Machos governed by testosterone. They are so, these countries from the South. Led by "their background and moral conception" they can get upset easily and stab in "general justifiably emotional acts" their women, when they want the divorce. ."

Another article presents the problem of discrimination against women, asserting the lack of protection of them following such interpretations.

#### *2) Integration policies – Access to housing assistance.*

Mr. Wolker publishes an article in *Der Standard* commenting on the new integration plan:

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"In the shortest form, the 'National Action Plan for Integration' has the following line of impact for the Federal Government: new foreigners are not wished, and those that are already there need to become better people, that is, more Austrians. As to compel immigration, a couple of conditions are established, such as some compulsory German exams, there are no economic incentives. Further the 'participation with same rights in the life of the society', what it would be an incredible concession from our society, when he says good guy, the foreigner." ...But also this perspective is fundamentally theoretical. Politicians are actually who decisively, every one in the government, promote xenophobia, racism and discrimination. It is the Home Ministry who (perhaps by virtue of her function) sees foreigners primarily as criminals..."

Until now, the information system in Upper Austria concerning housing assistance was in German, English, French, Turkish and Serbo-Croatian. However, today the highest official in administrative matters in construction issues in Upper Austria, Mr. Haimbuchner, announced that they will no more be available in Turkish and Serbo-Croatian, what has originated the comments of Mr. Kapeller, Construction Speaker of the Socialist Party: "The Petition form for housing assistance is itself only in German, good German knowledge is also advisable. As to avoid misunderstandings, the Province Upper Austria affords the Service of Information in several languages. Now the preference of the English and French Language over Turkish and Serbo-Croatian is not more that a shameful xenophobic idea of the Freedom's Party highest administrative body of the Province... A clear discriminatory action – the Freedom's Party shows again that they distinguish according to their discretion among good and bad foreigners."

#### 4) *Hate crimes*

Der Standard publishes an article criticizing the legislation in force concerning hate speech, written by Anita Zielina: "Who issues a hate expression against homosexuals or persons with disabilities is not punished. The Justice Ministry intends to change it – but the Bar is against and fears for the freedom of expression...Paragraph 283 of the

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Criminal Code mentions Religions and Churches as protected, as well as persons who are attacked because of belonging to a religion, church, race or ethnic group...The proposed paragraph now refers to ...race, skin color, language, religion or ideology, nationality, origin or national or ethnical origin, gender, a disability, age or gender, sexual orientation, a defined group of persons or against a member of such a group." The justification is to follow the decisions of the Council of Europe or the Committee of the EU concerning anti-discrimination or anti-racism (SIC)...the President of the Bar Gerhard Benn-Ibler... fears ... That the planned reform places the freedom of expression in danger...'We consider that the addition of the mentioned conduct is not necessary... If you attack homosexuals this is morally reproachable, but you cannot be criminally persecuted'... Marco Schreuder, member of the administrative body of the city of Vienna and activist for the rights of homosexuals revealed to be appalled by the expressions of Benn-Iblers. 'There are worlds between freedom of expression and hate speech... It is not acceptable, that with these arguments discriminated groups are played with..."

## 5) Humanitarian stay permits

Kurier publishes the story of a Liberian man who fears deportation. He was under age when he arrived to Austria, he married an Austrian woman in 1999, and they had a daughter in 2000 and two years later, a son. Peter had got a good job. In 1999, the year of his wedding he presented a petition for a permit to stay in Austria. Then it was argued that his birth certificate had not been issued by the competent officer. He was accused of not wanting to reveal his real identity; moreover, he was told he should have submitted his petition from abroad. In 2009, with these grounds, the petition was rejected, eight years later; the Home Ministry asserted that there is no humanitarian right to stay. The case has been presented by his attorney before the Constitutional Court that has just issued a decision asserting that the deportation as well as the not-granting of the humanitarian title is unconstitutional. More evidence would have been needed to take such a decision; the case is back in the first instance. Moreover, the Liberian embassy has re-opened in Vienna, and he could apply for a new passport.



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