



Media Monitoring

Situation Report January 26, 2010

1) The reception centers for asylum-seekers

A meeting has been announced by *Oesterreich* concerning the asylum-center in Traiskirchen between the social-democrat mayor Mr. Fritz Knotzer (Traiskirchen), the Home Minister Maria Fekter, together with the Social-Democrat member of the highest administrative authority of the Land, Karin Scheele, as well as with the mayor of Thalham (People's Party), Wilhelm Auzinger.

2) Rights of migrants

The Freedom's Party has issued a press release asking "Translators for every migrant? The Greens are absolutely off the mark. ... Again the Green Upper migrant Alev Korum has left to play her fuzzy integration fantasies..." asserted the Member of Parliament and speaker of the medical doctors, Dr. Andreas Karlsböck.

"... Independently that the financing of translators is not tolerable for the tax-payer, it would be more significant that foreigners learn German in advance, before they all intend to make use of all the social services.... Also intercultural burdens such as shawls or burqas are not useful as to make easy a dental treatment..foreigners have to adapt to the Austrian conventions and not upside down." A reply was issued by Alev Korun, who asserted that even with German knowledge, there exist problems of communication that lead to failures in the diagnose.

3) Right-extremism

The Coalition Nowkr has issued today a press release alleging race theory expressions at the Ball of the Corporation Circle of Vienna (Wiener Korporationsring or WKR). Next Friday January 29th, 2010, they shall have their 57th ball at the Vienna Hofburg. The WKR

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would be the conglomeration of racial-German student alliances, were invited to the Homburg on November 21st, 2009. To introduce the celebration, there were, among others the so-called Freedom Fighters of Tirol and the Endowment of the extreme-rightist Olympia. Excluding the media, representatives of the right-extremist were present: Austrian Landsteam (Österreichischen Landsmannschaft (ÖLM)), the leader of the Freedom's Party Heinz-Christian Strache and Walter Sucher, Old Sir of the Student League Olympia and President of the Ring Association of the Faithful to the Nation (Rings Volkstreuer Verbände (RVV)) The activist for South-Tirol, Mr. Sepp Mitterhofer (Home Federation of South Tiroler) took the floor and warned of the race-theoretically doctrine of mix matrimonies with Italians. Mitterhofer asserted, that it was necessary to desist of such matrimonies: 'The Italian part [would be] stronger'....The president of the Freedom's Party Heinz-Christian Strache ended his speech with a racially-German recognition: 'We feel obliged to our German Volk.' Logically at the end the German song sounded in all the three strophes. A further advance in the neo-Nazi terrain was executed by the organ of the association of the German Student Association in January of this year. In the German Student Association are also organized the extreme rightist Vienna Student Associations Olympia and Teutonia, that also prevail in the WKR. In the Issue 04/2009 of the Burschenschaftlichen Blätter (BBL), an interview to Arne Shimmer ... NPD...was published..."

Similarly, the Green and Alternative Students (GRAS) published a press release on this issue: "Even Heinz Fischer, who is never tired to underline his anti-fascist engagement, should not tolerate that activities such as the Ball of the WKR have place in his seat.' Expressed upset Antonia Fa, Activist of GRAS (Green and Alternative Students). Though the last year scandal around the right-extremist Ball... it takes place in the Hofburg again... " [Note: The Presidential seat is the Hofburg too]

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4) *Discrimination against migrants of Turkish origin and women*

Kurier publishes an article asserting that "Bandion-Ortner (Justice Minister) 'corrects' decision of Wien on manslaughter"

"A Turk, who had stabbed his wife, was permitted a 'generally understandable' emotional status. The Justice Ministry had disagreed with this juridical opinion through an administrative order...

The Justice Ministry has asserted that 'neither the doctrine nor the jurisprudence recognize to the character of foreigner or the origin from a concrete country a degree of intensity of an emotional stand and to ground the general understanding of an intense emotional situation.' To the general understanding it is necessary, in addition to the existing requirements "also always to analyze the understanding from an Austrian perspective... it is not generally understandable a possible emotional status of the author through the announcement of the divorce or the separation independently from his origin..." In addition, violence in case of announcements of divorce is considered not justified for the emotional status. Die Presse also publishes an article on this topic.

5) *Islam*

Die Presse publishes an article entitled "Fiedler must read the cartoon of Strache and test the Freedom's Party seminars", where Klaus Nittmann, Head of the Freedom's Party Education Institute has asserted that "Naturally we represent a critical attitude to Islam." A similar article is published by *Der Standard*.

6) *Transsexuals*

Die Presse includes an article on "Dispute on Obligatory operation for Transsexuals"

"Can a transsexual without operation change sex officially? The Constitutional Court says yes, the Home Ministry, no. A person affected has now presented a denounce for abuse of power.

Since when can a transsexual officially change sex? According to the Home Ministry an operation of change of sex is necessary. The



Constitutional Court has other opinion: there is no obligation to operate, according to a decision of December 2009. A person affected has now presented a denounce for abuse of power against the Home Ministry at the Prosecutor on Corruption. On Tuesday, the denounce had been presented and will be analyzed. The transsexual (man to woman) has requested three times the change of his personal status documentation and name. The Home Ministry rejected it every time, with the argument that no operation changing the genitalia had been performed – even after the decision of the Constitutional Court that denies this. According to Mr. Helmut Graupner, attorney of the transsexual, the decisions of the Home Ministry were cancelled three times. 'When public organs contravene the legal opinion of the Constitutional Court, the decisions of these organs have no existence. The Home Ministry would be tied up' asserted Mr. Christian Neuwirth, Speaker of the Constitutional Court. At the Home Ministry they 'just wait, what the Prosecutor on Corruption asserts' asserted the speaker Rudolf Gollia. The competent division had obtained an expert opinion and decided the case according to this.

To the originally planned legal modification that the Home Ministry has abandoned, after protests of the representatives of the transsexuals. The NGO TransX had rejected vehemently the specification of the obligation to operate. After a talk the Home Ministry had withdrawn it, Grouper informed. The position of the Ministry had openly not changed, as little time afterwards the third presentation of his client was rejected. "

Der Standard also publishes an article on this issue that is qualified as an attack to the private life of the persons affected. The problem is linked to the name registration issue for registered partnerships [Sitrep of 23-25 January, 2010].

7) Children with disabilities

The Freedom's Party speaker on persons with disabilities has criticized, at the time of the 35th anniversary of the abortion legislation, that children with disabilities in Austria can be killed until their birth. This conduct is called 'eugenic indication'. According to Hofer: "In the praxis, children with disabilities can be



killed until almost their birth through stabbing in the heart. That an abortion furthers the normally legal deadline and until the birth is possible in Austria, it is a shame, it is inhuman and bestial. I know many persons that suffer disabilities from birth and that they do not only have a fulfilled life, but also constitute an essential backing for their family and circle of friends. These persons are, according to the Austrian legislator, eventually unwished, without value, you can kill them shortly before their birth." Hofer announced that he will present before the Parliament a petition against the eugenic indication.

"We talk in Austria whether persons with disabilities through construction or wrongly programmed internet webpages can be discriminated. At the same time, persons with disabilities are easily killed simply killed. This violates the right to equal changes that is included in the Federal Constitution and the Package of Equality. And it is clearer as a step in front of a shop or a small WC for persons with disabilities... There cannot be two types of unborn. Those who would be worthy to be given birth, and those who are not worthy."

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