



To all who are concerned of the embassy interview with the Nigerian Embassy on 2nd of April 2009 in Halberstadt or any other Nigerian Embassy interview

Dear brothers and sisters,

on 2nd of April 2009, Nigerian Embassy officials will be coming to Halberstadt to identify Nigerian Asylum seekers for the purpose of issuing travel documents to deport them. Besides this, the Nigerian embassy does such deportation interviews again and again, each time in another city. Africans from all over Germany have been summoned to show up for such embassy deportation interviews.

Warning:

Attending an embassy interview with the Nigerian embassy is only for your own deportation! Don't support your own deportation! Don't attend an embassy interview unless a lawyer is with you! Police might pick people at their home addresses to bring them to a Nigerian embassy interview by force! Be careful, don't let them pick you!

First: You should **NOT** sign any document proving your identity or your country of origin unless a lawyer is with you! Such a paper can be used to issue travelling documents for deportation without any other evidences or documents.

What is the problem with an embassy interview? What is happening there?

It is clear that the only purpose of an embassy interview is issuing travelling documents for deportation! Usually, authorities send out letters through which people are asked to come to an embassy hearing for reasons that are not clearly specified. Sometimes, the authorities threaten to revoke the "Duldung" if the refugees don't attend the embassy interview. This is partly wrong because the authorities HAVE TO prolong the Duldung if they cannot deport somebody.

During the embassy interview, refugees will be questioned by Nigerian embassy officials in order to confirm their Nigerian origin based on their language, their accents or specific words they use. Besides this, embassy officials can also arbitrarily "identify" someone to be Nigerian based on general appearance, the shape of his/her face, traditional scars etc.! It has also been reported that not only Nigerians, but also asylum seekers from Togo, Liberia, Uganda or Sudan have been invited to embassy hearings with the Nigerian embassy to deport them to Nigeria as well. It has to be clear: Don't trust the Nigerian embassy officials, even if they offer to help you! You should also know that the embassy officials receive 500 Euro from the German authorities for every refugee that is invited and finally issued a travel document. That means, they make money by supporting the deportation of fellow Nigerians and other Africans!

Which consequences might happen to you if you go to an embassy interview?

Those attending an embassy interview are being issued papers of identification and, soon afterwards, they receive a note of deportation.

Not attending an embassy interview can stop deportation!

Many refugees who refused attending an embassy interview were able to stop their own deportation successfully and to win time to find alternative solutions for their own situation.

Possibility of penalties for refusing to take part in an embassy interview or for not talking with the embassy officials:

It's a matter of fact that if you refuse to attend an embassy interview and/or to talk with the embassy officials, you can get penalties such as cuts of your social welfare money. The authorities could also take away your working permission or you could get a restriction of your "Residenzpflicht". However, many people still don't receive any penalty and often, these penalties are given only for a limited period of time. The authorities don't have the right to punish you if you can present a medical certificate proving that you are so seriously ill that you cannot participate in an embassy interview! Concerning the question of penalties, we ask you to contact us and/or your lawyer!

Attention: Police can pick people at their places!!

Police might try to arrest you at your place and bring you directly to the Nigerian embassy interview by force, especially if you have already refused to take part in such an interview. This can happen to you even if you didn't receive any official invitation for the embassy interview! At previous occasions, the police picked quite some people to bring them to Nigerian embassy interviews from cities all over Germany. Be careful, don't let them pick you, call your lawyer and/or contact us!

Therefore, our advice is:

Do not take part in an embassy interview and don't talk any word with Nigerian embassy officials unless a lawyer is with you! Be careful not to be picked by force! Get in touch with people and groups that support you!

Get in touch with us to get to know more about embassy interviews, tell us about your experiences. Let's come together and protest against embassy deportation interviews!

Contact us: Caravan for the Rights of Refugees and Migrants, c/o Eine Welt Haus, Schwanthalerstraße 80, 80336 München

e-mail: caravane-munich@zeromail.org

website: www.carava.net

meeting: every Thursday, 8.30 pm, at Eine Welt Haus, Schwanthalerstraße 80, Munich (near metro station U4/U5 Schwanthaler Höhe)