

# Close the refugee camps '09 - next round

16th & 17th of October, 2009: Anti-Lager-Action Day in Schongau

**16th of October, 7pm: Public discussion with inhabitants of the refugee camp in Schongau at Volkshochschule Schongau (VHS Schongau, Wilhelm-Köhler-Str. 42, Room #3).**

**17th of October, 11am: Demonstration in Schongau, start at the train station**

In Bavaria, about 7.600 people are forced by law to live in refugee camps. The law even states that the obligation to live in a refugee camp is supposed to increase the "willingness to return". This in fact means that refugees are pressured in to disappearing by unbearable living conditions. During the Anti-Lager-Action Days, we want to raise our voice together with the inhabitants of the refugee camp in Schongau, demanding the abolition of the Lager system loud and clearly in the streets.

## **Lagers sicken!**

The refugee camp in the small town of Schongau is a sad example for the Bavarian anti-refugee policies. 60 people live in two run-down wooden barracks, way outside the town, in an industrial area. Right next to it, you find an animal shelter. 24-7, dogs are barking, during the week, work starts early in the businesses, the constant noise steals the sleep of all inhabitants. Inside the barracks, it is humid and mouldy, in summer it is too hot while in winter it is too cold. Several persons, even families, are forced to share a way too little room, often full of stuff. The inhabitants of the refugee camp, especially the children, are constantly suffering from illnesses and are psychologically traumatised.

## **Isolation in the province destroys the chance for a decent future!**

There are no jobs for refugees in Schongau, no infrastructure and no local migrant communities, or any other form of social support. The isolation of the camp clearly proves that the authorities don't want contact between the refugees and the other inhabitants of Schongau. Especially young people complain about the lack of possibilities, like attending school or being trained professionally. The refugees receive food parcels instead of money, which makes it even more difficult to lead an individual life. Human beings, who often came to Germany with hopes for a better living, are being excluded from social life, forced to do nothing and remain in lethargy and are being worn down psychologically. Those who want to leave the isolation of the province behind are confronted with the racist "Residenzpflicht" law, thus risking a fine for claiming the freedom of movement and leaving the area of Weilheim/Schongau without permission from the local foreigners' authority.

## **Abolish refugee camps - increase the pressure now!**

In Schongau as well as in many other Bavarian refugee camps, the inhabitants are no longer willing to simply accept the living conditions. Neuburg, Nördlingen, Würzburg, Bayreuth, Nürnberg, Forchheim, München, Böbrach, Breitenberg, Schongau...in many places, there have been protests against the refugee camps by refugees themselves in the course of the last years. Because of the visibility of this protest and the pressure it created, the bavarian parliament is debating whether to abolish the obligation to live in refugee camps since the end of 2008.

We demand: No compromise. Abolish the refugee camps, allow refugees to chose their place of living themselves. We need to get out into the streets to voice this demand and to increase the pressure. Without pressure, nothing will ever move!

Close all refugee camps, in Schongau as well as everywhere else.

End isolation.

End the obligation to live in refugee camps.

Freedom of movement - abolish Residenzpflicht.