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Declaration by the Caravan for the Rights of Refugees and Migrants/Munich and the Network "Deutschland Lagerland" (also see: www.carava.net) :

**WE HAVE ACHIEVED AWARENESS,
BUT WHAT WE NEED IS CHANGE!**

The decision of the parliament of Bayern concerning the lager problem:
What does it mean for the refugees in the lagers in Bayern?
What have we achieved with our fight, which goals are still a long way to go?

For more than one year refugees, together with supporting groups, have fought for a change, for a better and more humane life. Essential goals were the freedom of movement, no more living in lagers and no more food packages. With the protests in the lagers (for example with the long-lasting boycott of the food packages), in the parliament and in the streets, the refugees have forced the parliament to deal with the situation of refugees in Bayern and their demands. On May 6, the social commission of the parliament presented a decision on how refugees in Bayern should reside and live in future. These are the results:

Who should generally be allowed to move out of the lagers?

- Persons who have been living in a lager for at least four years after the end of the first Asylum procedure at "Bundesamt"
- Families with children and single-parents with children after the end of the first Asylum procedure at "Bundesamt"
- Pregnant women after an individual check

For those people, moving out of the lagers is only possible if they cannot be deported.

Who can be excluded from the possibility to move out of the lagers?

- Persons who have been sentenced to pay a fine of more than 90 "Tagessätze (daily rates)"
- Refugees who have "faked their identity" or who have not sufficiently cooperated for clarifying their identity

Anyway, those people can try to get the permission to move out of the lager after an individual check by the government.

In the following situations it is still, like before, possible to move out of the lagers immediately without waiting time:

- after an individual check proving illness, disability or senility
- post-traumatic stress disorder
- sufficient personal income.
- families who have a member with a residence permit, which allows him/her to move out of the lager
- various severe reasons

Requests to move out of a lager are still filed to the governments of the administrative districts, which run the lagers.

Refugees, who are allowed to move out of a lager due to the new rules, should now go for advice and make requests to move out as soon as the new rules have become effective!

New minimum standards for the lagers:

- separate living areas for families
- minimum 7 sqm living space for every refugee
- renovation of old lagers
- improvement of toilets, bathrooms and kitchens

Enlargement of the freedom of movement

Each refugee can move within the whole administrative district (for example Oberbayern, Niederbayern, Schwaben, etc.), and moreover in areas of a neighbouring administrative district, if the lager is next to its borders.

For most of the refugees, this is just a little improvement! Example: People from lagers in Niederbayern or Schwaben are still not allowed to go to Munich without permission.

WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED?

The new arrangement might be disappointing for many refugees in the lagers. Accommodation in lagers and forced supply with food packages basically remain; it's just certain groups of people whose situation improves. It is not yet clear if the new minimum standards concerning the living standards in the lagers will really be implemented - this process has to be monitored.

The results of our campaign reflect the current power relations in Bayern. We did not succeed in extending the fight to larger parts of the society and in gaining more power. The supporting groups put a lot of effort in the campaign, but there weren't enough of them and in some parts of Bayern there wasn't any protest at all. Furthermore, in Bayern, we have to deal with a powerful enemy: The political party CSU has been in power for decades and their politics still shows their obvious hostility against refugees. Nevertheless we have achieved something: We shook the foundations of the lager-system, which has been persisting for about 25 years in the way we know it, at least a little. Politicians, who would like best to imprison refugees in lagers for their whole lives, had to deal with our protest. And that's the point where we should continue!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO, HOW SHOULD WE GET STARTED?

"We have achieved awareness, but what we need is change!" Thus, in future, we will have to fight even more resolutely and powerfully. We have to strengthen the existing networks and to get new contacts in all lagers, in order to spread our protest against the inhumane treatment of refugees even more convincingly and on a larger scale to all corners of Bayern. If there won't be just 10 lagers in protest next time, but many more refugees with their friends in the whole of Bayern, we will be much stronger than this time! We also should see: There are also people outside Bayern who are struggling against bad and discriminative living conditions and for the right to stay in Germany. Let's try together to achieve more! Then the politicians will be forced to react!

WE INVITE ALL OF YOU: JOIN AND FIGHT WITH THE NETWORK "DEUTSCHLAND LAGERLAND", THE COORDINATION OF REFUGEES AND THEIR SUPPORTERS IN BAYERN!

**THE DECISION OF THE PARLIAMENT DOES NOT PUT AN END TO OUR FIGHT FOR A BETTER LIFE!
OUR STRUGGLE CONTINUES!**

This declaration can also available on internet: www.carava.net