

„You don't understand, that we can't go back!“

Collective Statement by some families from the Balkans (Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia) who are currently still living in Jena

Jena, 2th of June, 2015

We moved to Germany two or three years ago and have gone through everything. For months friends and relatives of us have been deported on a weekly basis. Our lives are made so difficult that we feel compelled to sign our 'voluntary departure'. We made great efforts to integrate ourselves, attended German classes and made everything we were expected to do but all in vain.

We just can't understand that!

- We don't understand why we are not allowed to work even though several times we were orally assured of being employed on probation and were offered employment or internships. We are used to work in order to feed our families. We don't want somebody else's money.
- We don't understand why we had to move that often and didn't get an own apartment.
- We don't understand why in the beginning we were welcomed through many visits and parties and in September-October 2015 we were told that our countries were safe. Ever since then nobody ever came again to visit or invite us.
- We don't understand why we aren't granted anymore a nurse or courses by the social welfare office.
- We don't understand why there are different legal rules for us than for the other refugees.

As long as we're here we have the same rights. We are human beings.

We've got the impression that in the meantime it became all the same to everybody what would happen to us; to the German authorities as well as to the Albanian government. We were left high and dry.

An you don't understand that

- we can't go back because our countries are not safe countries,
- at our place there is still blood vengeance and debts lead to death threats,
- our children have no chance of education, health and protection,
- the argumentation of politicians are far from reality and that we haven't got any choice when going back there

For months we've been provoked and our lives have been made difficult in order for us to give up and to sign. That destroys whole families and many of us will become ill due to stress. The German state doesn't pay attention to the consequences of its action.

Had you told us from the very outset that we've got no chance here we wouldn't have stayed. Now we're integrated here and want to stay in Germany.