

Stop the WAR in Yemen

The forgotten war crimes in Yemen



Open letter of 02.07.2020

Germany: Human rights violations against Yemenites

United Nations

UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Human Rights Chairperson of the Geneva Academy for International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Prof. Nils Melzer

European Commission

The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Dunja Mijatović

Federal Republic of Germany

Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier
President of the Bundestag Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble
Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel
Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs Heiko Maas
Federal Chancellery Germany Helge Braun
Federal Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection Christine Lambrecht
Federal Office for Migration and Refugees Dr. Hans-Eckhard Sommer
Minister of State for Migration, Refugees and Integration Annette Widmann-Mauz
Factions of the German Bundestag
Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency
German Institute for Human Rights

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Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen

German Embassy Sanaa
Consulate General of the Republic of Yemen in Frankfurt am Main
Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen H.E. Dr Yahia Mohammed Abdullah Al-Shaibi

NGOs / Press

Amnesty International
Human Rights Watch
Arabian Rights Watch Association
ECCHR
Repieve
Editorial departments of German and international media bodies

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Dear UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Chairman of the Human Rights Council, Dear Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Dear President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dear President of the German Bundestag, Dear Chancellor, Dear Minister of State, Dear Members of the Federal Government and the German Bundestag, Dear Representatives of international human rights organisations, Dear Media representatives, Dear Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen

Passport Ordinance of 8 August 2019 - Yemeni passports

Residence extension/permit - Recognition of Yemeni passports in Germany - Request for new passports

Refusal by the Aliens Department to recognise passports of citizens of the Republic of Yemen issued by authorities in provinces administered by the Supreme Political Council (North Yemen) or in embassies/consulates in Syria or Iran. (Cf.: Passport Ordinance of 08.08.2019)

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In this context, the Stop the WAR peace initiative in Yemen is increasingly receiving complaints from Yemeni citizens from Berlin-Brandenburg.

With this passport regulation, the Federal Government of Germany is violating the ban on discrimination according to origin in accordance with its Basic Law, the European Convention on Human Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (Cf.: <https://www.krieg-im-jemen.de/jemeniten-in-deutschland/>)

With this decree, the German government is forcing thousands of Yemenis from the northern regions of Yemen - who are currently living in Germany - to apply for a new passport in order to travel to those areas of Yemen that are under occupation in Saudi Arabia or the UAE and thus run the risk of being sent to secret torture prisons as "opposition members".

In the margins of the 38th session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on June 18, 2018, Mohammed Safa, on behalf of Arab human rights activists, called on the United Nations to initiate the prosecution of war crimes committed by the Saudi-UAE war coalition and investigations into crimes committed in secret torture prisons in the UAE in southern Yemeni provinces.

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There is a long list of civilians, human rights activists, journalists, academics and their families who have been abducted by pro-Saudi forces and tortured in secret prisons or have not yet been found. (Cf.: UN Human Rights Council June 2018 - Secret Torture Prisons of the UAE)

Yemenis who live in Germany and do not get their residence permit extended are thus forced to return to Yemen. Yemen, a country where the Saudi/VAE war coalition has been committing war crimes and crimes against humanity on a daily basis since March 2015, suffering from a total blockade on land, air and sea, where millions of Yemenis suffer or die from hunger, thirst and pandemics such as cholera, measles, diphtheria, dengue fever and now Covid19 and where the war in Yemen is described by the United Nations as the greatest humanitarian disaster since the end of World War II. (Cf.: arwa, compulsory measures against Yemen)

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The peace initiative Stop the WAR in Yemen from Berlin-Brandenburg calls on the German government to immediately stop the human rights violations against Yemenis originating from North Yemen and to recognize their passports due to the war in Yemen.

The peace initiative Stop the WAR in Yemen calls on the German government to immediately stop all support, including arms exports, to countries involved in the Yemen war - without exceptions. (See: Coalition Agreement 07.02.2018 - Ban on arms exports to countries involved in the Yemen War)

With kind regards

Mathias Tretschog
Journalist and founder of Stop the WAR in Yemen

Detailed information
www.krieg-im-jemen.de/jemeniten-in-deutschland