



Also refugees have a right to family!

We are about 1200 recognized refugees from Eritrea and have a legal right to family reunification. Nevertheless, our children and spouses have to wait years in politically unstable third countries such as Sudan and Ethiopia for family reunion and our families have been painfully separated for many years.

This is because the German bureaucracy puts insurmountable hurdles in our way: For a visa for family reunion, we are supposed to submit documents to the German embassies that we do not have and can only obtain under unacceptable conditions.

The German authorities require us to have all documents in Eritrea checked by the state. For this we must authorize someone in Eritrea, this authorization must be done at the Eritrean embassy. There we have to sign a declaration of regret in which we declare that we are sorry that we betrayed our country by fleeing. At the same time we accept by this declaration any punishment that the Eritrean state considers appropriate. Furthermore, the embassy forces us to pay the so-called rebuilding tax (monthly 2% of our own net income) to the Eritrean state.

All this is well known to the German Federal Foreign Office, the authority superior to the embassies. Nevertheless, the Federal Foreign Office claims that the unacceptability of this procedure can only be verified in an "individual case examination". This is what we call authority arbitrariness: until 2017, the embassies also accepted religious marriage certificates or other evidence of family ties. In the meantime, individual proofs of family ties are only examined in lawsuit or remonstrance proceedings.

We fight against this!

- We call on the responsible German authorities to recognize the unreasonableness of obtaining documents from Eritrea and to accept instead individual proof of family membership (for example, existing church/Islamic documents or family photos).
- We call on the embassies and the foreigners authorities to give priority to applications for family reunification. The long waiting and processing times must be shortened.

We are taking these demands to the streets and will hand them over to the Federal Foreign Office at our final rally.

Demonstration in Berlin on Monday, 13 July 2020

Kick-off: 11:00 am at the Tränenpalast, S-Bahn station Friedrichstraße

Interim rallies: approx. 12:15 p.m. in front of the German Bundestag, approx. 1:15 p.m. in front of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Glinkastraße 24, 10117 Berlin
Closing rally: approx. 14:00-15:00 in front of the Foreign Office, Werderscher Markt 1, 10117 Berlin

To participate in the demonstration, the observance of distance rules and the wearing of masks are mandatory requirements.

Organizers:

Self-organized refugees from Eritrea "Initiative Familiennachzug Eritrea"

Supporters:

Eritreische Gemeinschaft Berlin und Umgebung EGBU, [Uniting Eritrean Voices in Germany e.V. \(UEVG e.V.\)](#), [Initiative „Familienleben für Alle!“](#), [PRO ASYL Bundesweite Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Flüchtlinge e.V.](#), [Flüchtlingsrat Berlin e.V.](#), [Hessischer Flüchtlingsrat e.V.](#), [Flüchtlingsrat Niedersachsen e.V.](#), [Flüchtlingsrat Brandenburg e.V.](#), [Flüchtlingsrat Hamburg e.V.](#), [Flüchtlingsrat Baden-Württemberg e.V.](#), [Flüchtlingsrat Thüringen e.V.](#), [Flüchtlingshilfe Schönkirchen e.V.](#), [Nachbarschaftshaus Urbanstraße e.V.](#)

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