

Joint press release by Flüchtlingsrat Berlin and PRO ASYL on 14.02.2022

Continuation of criminal trial against police officer Stefan K. and others for violent assault on young Afghan man

Trial dates on 16 and 25.02.2022, 9.30 a.m. each day, Tiergarten District Court, entrance Wilsnacker Str. 4, 10559 Berlin

In April 2017, a violent assault on the asylum seeker Jamil Ahmadi (name changed), presumably motivated by racism, occurred at the Karlshorst S-Bahn station in Berlin. Stefan K., an off-duty police officer, was involved in the attack on his way home from a Union Berlin football match. Jamil Ahmadi suffered several injuries and has been severely traumatised ever since. Although the criminal proceedings against the alleged perpetrators had not yet been concluded, the then Senator of the Interior, Andreas Geisel, had the young man, who was in poor health, deported to Afghanistan in March 2020. Five years after the crime and a break in the trial due to Corona, the criminal trial against Stefan K. and his accomplices is now being continued at the Tiergarten District Court.

Refugee Council and PRO ASYL demand the return of Jamil Ahmadi to Berlin. The deportation was wrong in several respects and a political scandal:

1. As a victim of hate crime, Jamil Ahmadi should have been granted a right to stay. Because the corresponding Berlin regulation was only published two months after the crime, the Senator of the Interior did not want to apply it to this case. A fatal signal to perpetrators and victims of hate crime alike.
2. The main accused, police officer Stefan K., was responsible in the Rex investigation group for the right-wing terrorist attack series in Neukölln, which has still not been solved. In view of the numerous police investigation failures in the Neukölln complex and the presumably racially motivated attack on Jamil Ahmadi, questions arise about the role of Stefan K. As the initiative Neukölln Watch found out, in any case, the two co-defendants of Stefan K. have connections to the neo-Nazi scene www.nkwatch.info/2022/karlshorst-mitangeklagte
3. At the time of the deportation, the criminal proceedings against Stephan K. and the co-defendants had not yet been concluded. Mr Ahmadi was thus deprived of the opportunity to attend the trial in person and to be heard as a joint plaintiff on his claims for damages.
4. Mr Ahmadi suffers from multiple physical and mental illnesses as a result of the crime. A few days before the first Corona lockdown, Mr Ahmadi was deported to a country where he has no access to adequate health care and which has been repeatedly ranked as the most dangerous country in the world by the Global Peace Index.

"The deportation of Jamil Ahmadi was a big mistake that Geisel's successor in office, Iris Spranger, must now correct. In order to enable Mr Ahmadi to exercise his rights as a witness, victim and joint

plaintiff and to restore public trust in the protection of victims, he must be brought back to Berlin immediately," says Martina Mauer, spokesperson for the Refugee Council Berlin.

Günter Burkhardt, Executive Director of PRO ASYL: *"Refugees like Jamil Ahmadi, who have been subjected to racist violence, must be given the right to stay. These people have not only been physically injured, they have been attacked on their humanity. The state must show the perpetrators that it stands up to their shameful agenda of driving people out of the country."*

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Further information:

Zeit online ze.tt of 9.10.2021: www.zeit.de/zett/politik/2021-10/abschiebung-afghanistan-polizeigewalt-deutschland-gefluechteter-prozess-nebenklaeger

Open letter by MdB Ulla Jelpke from 08.09.2021: www.ulla-jelpke.de/2021/09/offener-brief-zur-abschiebung-des-afghanischen-gefluechteten-jamil-ahmadi/

Joint press release by Flüchtlingsrat Berlin, PRO ASYL, Reach Out, Republikanischer Lawyers' Association RAV and Yaar of 18 December 2020: www.fluechtlingsrat-berlin.de/pm-hasskriminalitaet-abschiebung-afghanistan