

# DEMONSTRATION IN MEMORY OF MOHAMMED SILLAH

Friday, 14th January 2011, Remscheid Hauptbahnhof

4 pm manifestation, 5 pm Demonstration

**for free access to health care  
for the closing of all collective housing and isolation camps**

On the occasion of the death of Mohammad Sillah 4 years ago we remember all victims of the German refugee politics. Mohammad Sillah, a young refugee from Guinea, died 2007, January 14th at the age of 23 years. He was a singer and songwriter and gave concerts in Guinea as well as in Germany. A friend of him says: „His music is African culture. Everywhere where I heard it, I said, this music am I. That's, where I come from.“ At the beginning of January 2007 Mohammad Sillah suffered from heavy pains. He went to a physician who requested him to order a health insurance card at the responsible welfare agency at first. The worker of the welfare agency denied him a health insurance card because he had to leave the country anyway.

Some days later, on 11 January, the pain became intolerable. Mohammad Sillah went to the home office of the refugee home and asked to call an ambulance. The man said: „Since you already managed to get up the stairs, you can go to hospital on your own.“ An African refugee, who lived in the same home, accompanied Mohammad. On the way Mohammad broke down and was carried on the shoulders of his co-inhabitant to the close Hospital. Three days later Mohammad was moved to a hospital in Essen where he died.

The head of the Remscheid social department B. Mast-Weisz afterwards stated pity for the family and insured that Mohammed never was refused a medical insurance card. The state prosecutor's office from Wuppertal takes up the investigations; later the documents are put aside. Few months after Mohammad's death in October 2007 a police raid takes place in order to intimidate and criminalize the protesting refugees. The huge raid is later declared as illegal by the courts.

On the occasion of the fourth day of death of Mohammad Sillah we want to point to the situation of the refugees in Remscheid and particularly to the inadequate health care. We want to appreciate and strengthen the protest of the refugees in Remscheid. Since the death of Mohammad Sillah they managed to break through the isolation and obtain success by continuous and persistent protest. In the past years we experienced here in Remscheid that the solidarity and unity of the refugees forced the City administration to draw back some of its instruments of attrition. With the first open letter of the refugees in January 2009 the contempting practice of the welfare agency became visible to the public. The director of city Mast - Weisz then decided some relaxations: the attendance checks no longer take place daily but weekly; „in the rule “ there is cash instead of coupons and a medical insurance card for three months. Nevertheless the exclusion and the inadequate health care continue. Many cannot visit the physician they need; psychologically ill people are left alone and depend on their neighbours in the refugee home; still caretakers refuse calling an ambulance in case of emergency. Additionally, the camp life and the working ban make the people ill.

On our way we realized that we can develop solutions for tomorrow by exchange, mutual support and discussions. This is not only valid in the fight for our rights as refugees and migrants. Our resistance is also necessary against the brutal dismantling of social security benefits, health care and our rights as workers, pupils, apprentices, students, retired persons, women and men. We request all to engage actively against exclusion and degradation of humans and to support the fight of the refugees for their dignity and for the right on life.

**In memory of Mohammad Sillah, Oury Jalloh and all victims of the racist state power!**

**We oppose the splitting of society from above we oppose with solidarity and co-operation!**

**For a society without racism, exploitation and war!**

The following groups have called for the actions: anti-fascist youth Bochum, Autonomous Antifa Remscheid, Antifa Leichlingen, CARAVAN for the rights of refugees and migrants (Remscheid and Wuppertal), transnational action alliance Bochum/Dortmund, zusammen kämpfen Duisburg

If you want to participate in the preparation or support the call please contact:

CARAVAN for the rights of refugees and migrants - Wuppertal # E-Mail: [wuppkarawane@yahoo.de](mailto:wuppkarawane@yahoo.de) # Internet: <http://thecaravan.org>