

Sender:

To the Home Secretary of Thuringia
Mr. Manfred Scherer
Steigerstraße 24, 99096 Erfurt
Telephone: 0361 – 37900 + Fax: 0361 – 3793111

Copy to:
Ausländerbehörde Schleiz / Landratsamt Saale-Orla-Kreis:
Telefon: 03663 - 488520
Fax: 03663 - 488450

Immediate release of Felix Otto! Stop his deportation!

Dear Mr. Scherer,

through the media I learnt about the case of Felix Otto, a refugee from Cameroon, who lives in Thuringia over 8 years. Since March 30, 2009 Mr. Otto is in prison of Suhl-Goldlauter.

He is sentenced to eight month imprisonment, because he has violated the so called "Residenzpflicht". He only has taken his right, what according to the international declaration of human right is a basic human right, the right of free movement. Now he is punished double. The responsible Foreigner Office is additionally preparing his deportation to Cameroon. The Administrative Court of Suhl ordered accordingly his deportation detention. To do this all rules of a fair trial were excluded. Just two days before the hearing in the administrative court of Suhl Mr. Felix Otto, who is in a bad psychological and physical condition, was informed about the hearing. The hearing itself took place without his lawyer, because the Foreigner Office did not inform the court that Mr. Otto has a legal representative. The chance was not given to him to prepare himself for the defense with the help of a legal expert and consultant.

As an asylum seeker and as a member of the refugee self-organization "THE VOICE Refugee Forum" in Germany he is in danger to be persecuted in Cameroon due to his activities as an oppositional. Cameroon is a country in which human right violations and corruption rule. Real opposition and political opponents are silenced with brutality. People are arrested arbitrarily and without a legal basis. The freedom of expression and the freedom of assembly are massively limited. Human right activists and journalists are intimidated brutally or even killed. During the protests against the government in February 2008 at least 100 people were killed on the streets by the security forces. Amnesty international warns from an increase of brutality prior to the presidential elections in 2011.

A deportation to Cameroon not only means a threat to the life of the deported but as well a silent acceptance of the human right violations.

I protest strongly against the imprisonment of Felix Otto due to the violation of Residenzpflicht. It is unacceptable that he is deprived of legal and medical standards and that the detention is used to prepare his deportation.

I call upon you to take any measure to give Mr. Otto his freedom back, before everything is too late. Furthermore I call upon you, to do anything possible to stop the deportation of Mr. Otto and to guarantee him a secure residence permit to stay.

Best Regards

Signature

Date