

## Our hearts against your hardship policy

The current Baden-Württemberg Minister of the Interior, Thomas Strobl (CDU), will be giving a speech in Tübingen Museum on 2017-03-15. The topic of his speech will be "With Heart and Hardship - the basics of our humane and resolute refugee politics"

*In case you'd wonder, Mr. Strobl himself probably sees no irony in his statement.*



### Let's give him a hearty reception!

Protest demonstration and action

Wednesday, March 15th 2017, 18:30h (6:30 pm)

Holzmarkt Tübingen (in the city center, next to the big church)

"With heart and hardship" is how Minister of the Interior Strobl characterizes his "humane but resolute" policy towards refugees and migrants, which he wants to talk about on March 15th at the Museum Society in Tübingen – at a non-public event starting 20:00h / 8:00 pm on this day.

Looking at the refugee policies Mr. Strobl has been trying to establish since the beginning of his ministry office, we are questioning ourselves: "Where (the f\*ck) is the heart in this?!". We only ever do notice the "hardship" he is talking about, because like no other state politician, Thomas Strobl has been demanding and pushing more drastic rules and regulation with regards to refugees and migrants in the past:

\* almost every week, Mr. Strobl orders group push-backs to the Balkans, deportations by plane starting from Baden-Airport - forcefully pushing people back into a racist societies and social misery. Among the people being pushed back there are often also very ill people or people who should lawfully have been granted a right of residence in Germany due to their good integration efforts.

\* He never misses an opportunity to demand more resolute and forceful deportations. In December 2016, he initiated and defended the first big group deportation back to war-torn country Afghanistan: "The first planes back to Hindukush with people who have to return need to take off quickly", he said in German newspaper "Die Welt", 2016-11-27

\* In November 2016, he demanded that the German federal government should declare The Gambia, a country which had been ruled for decades by a repressive dictator, a "safe country of origin" - to which refugees could then be pushed back of course.

\* Shortly afterwards, in December 2016 he published a strategy paper for the convention of the Christian-Democratic Union party (CDU), in which he demanded "more resolute deportations", the deportation of ill and sick people, more cuts on social benefits for refugees, an extension of the custody in jail before deportation, the establishment of "central reception camps for deported refugees" in Egypt, Libya etc.

\* The success of his migrant policy is measured by Mr. Strobl only in terms of reduction of the number of asylum seekers and refugees, and measured by the number of humans he manages to deport from this country: "In 2017, there will be approximately half a million foreigners without the right to stay in Germany. We cannot tolerate 500000 foreigners without the right to stay in our country", he told the newspaper "Bild am Sonntag", 2016-11-16. "We have significantly reduced the number of people who manage to flee to Germany. Now we have to do everything we can to keep these numbers on this low level, and we need to further restrict migration to Germany", he said to "Stuttgarter Zeitung", 2017-01-13.

**Au contraire, our opinion is: deportation is no solution - for absolutely nothing!**

\* Before the last conference of the state organisation of the CDU party, he published another paper, demanding that the possibilities for acknowledged refugees to also have their families move to Germany should be restricted even further.

**One cannot imagine a more un-christian and inimical stance towards families!**

\* Regarding the "Federal-State Agreement on faster deportations" which got signed on 2017-02-09, Thomas Strobl was of the opinion that this agreement "should have been tougher" on several of the issues the agreement had addressed (see: SWP, 2017-02-09).

**AND SO ON...**

With Mr. Strobl, the rhetorical and practical focus of migration policy is getting increasingly limited to walling-off and deportation only. And the Green party (in power in Baden-Württemberg) and, above all, its prime minister Winfried Kretschmann, is actively supporting his demeanour.

We are opposing the fact that in this political discussion, terrorists and refugees are deliberately seen as being of the same kind of people. Worrying about security issues in Germany must not be abused to increasingly limit the lawful rights of all refugees - many of whom have left their home countries exactly because of being victims of violence and terrorism in the first place.

It is therefore both cynical and lacking any credibility, if Thomas Strobl on the one hand characterizes the extremist right-wing AfD party as "a disgrace calling itself a party", and at the same time continues to preach his political agenda which exactly reflects the disgraceful hate and prejudice the AfD party propagandizes.

**Against all the anti-refugee politics and the hypocrite propaganda of Minister of The Interior Strobl, we will be putting up our most heartfelt protest!**

**Everyone is invited to join the protest meeting and action "With our hearts against your hardship" - spread the word!**

We demand from this minister and this state government, that they should follow a refugee policy:

- which respects the rights of refugees according to international refugee laws, instead of hollowing out these rights further and further

- which offers safety and security for refugees, who more often than not have been fleeing terror and war, instead of suggesting that all migrants are in the same pigeonhole like the occasional single, individual terrorist

- which fights racism and right-wing extremist groups on a political, verbal and practical level, instead of putting even more fuel into the fires of hatred ignited by these groups
- which also respects the rights of humans who had their asylum application turned down. These people need a humane perspective for themselves, too. Especially, these people need a humanitarian right to stay in Germany, instead of being pushed back into war and crisis, poverty or social misery.
- which announces very clearly to the federal government of Germany that deportations to Afghanistan or other countries at war or in crisis are not an option at all and will not be supported by the state of Baden-Württemberg.

Mr. Strobl: You should resolutely be fighting for the human rights, instead of fighting the refugees! (or what's that letter "C" in the name of your party standing for?!)

Please also support the Tübingen petition online:  
"No deportations to Afghanistan - against war and terror everywhere!"

<https://www.openpetition.de/petition/online/tuebinger-aufruf-keine-abschiebungen-nach-afghanistan-gegen-krieg-und-terror-ueberall>