

African refugees and Asylum seekers in Austria

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Plan of presentation

- What kinds of African come to Europe?
- Why Africans do not have chance to stay legally in Europe?
- Why do Africans try to come to Europe?
- How do Africans manage to Stay in Europe?
- The everyday-life of African asylum seekers in Austria.
- The Black Community in Austria.

What kinds of African come to Europe?

- Young people
- Most of the time male
- They are not the poorest people of Africa

Why Africans do not have chance to stay in Europe?

- Currently no African has chance of Asylum excepted people from Sudan: Darfur conflict, Somalia and maybe Zimbabwe
- The most African refugees are located in Africa (Chad Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal, Tanzania)
- They stay sometimes in their own countries because the natural and cultural borders in Africa are not the same like the borders inherited during colonialism.

The Geneva Convention, 1951

Refugees are individuals who:

- are outside their country of nationality or habitual residence;
- have a well-founded fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion;
- And are unable or unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country, or to return there, for fear of persecution.

Why the Geneva Convention?

During and after the Second World War: 60 Million people were seeking Asylum because of persecution.

Why the Geneva convention is not enough to regulate migration?

Because

- The *homo migrans* is too a *homo oeconomicus*.
- The oldest and most common reason of migration is the search for resources, not the fear of war and persecution

Why the Geneva convention is not enough to regulate migration?

The history of Europe is partly a history of economic migration.

- The myth of empty lands: America, South Africa, Australia.
- Between 1820 and 1930 40 Million people ran away from Europe because of economical and social reasons => European boat people
- Colonialism and Slavery.

1999:

25 Million asylum seekers because of environmental damages. But only 21 Million asylum seekers because of war.

Source: Nuscheler Franz, Internationale Migration: Flucht und Asyl. 2. Auflage, Wiesbaden:2004

Economic migration has built the
modern world.

Why do Africans try to come to Europe?

The reason to run away is a mixture

- Some reasons are conform with the Geneva Convention: War, Dictatorship, etc. Example: Darfur, Somalia.
- But the most important reasons are environmental and economic catastrophes (not considered by the Geneva Convention): Starvation, unemployment, desertification, etc.

Why do Africans try to come to Europe?

- Illusions about Europe.
- Collectivism and importance to support the Group.

Example: “I would like to send to my family in Senegal a sum of Money. Please excuse me and goodbye. This is the end of my life in this big Moroccan sea”

This kind of collectivism lead sometimes to prostitution, criminality under qualified jobs.

“Fortress Europe”

- common policy on frontier control on the European Union.
- Although Europe hosts fewer refugees than other regions (Europe: 860,000. Africa: 3 million. Middle East: 5 Million)
(source UNCHR)
- Role of the right wing media

How do Africans come to Europe?

- Only migration of scientific community is quite easy and legal: Brain Drain
- The other alternative: small wooden boats from Senegal: Africans use illegal and dangerous ways to reach the Fortress Europe.

How do Africans manage to stay in Europe?

You are crazy if you tell the truth!

- Age reduction.
- Giving false statements about your country and your own story .

Trying by any ways to prolong the asylum procedure.

Having children and family

The everyday-life of African asylum seekers in Austria.

- Some Africans become gamblers
- Disillusion: Africans become aware of the fact that they can not easily achieve their goals.
- Africans often do not misuse alcohol and drugs
- Many Africans do not learn quickly Austrian culture in order to avoid conflicts.
- Sometimes lack of confidence between Africans and social workers.

The everyday-life of African asylum seekers in Austria.

- Black people face discrimination.
- Africans in Austria are seen as poor people. This has a negative effect.
- Africans have the reputation of Dealer.
- Some Africans become really criminal by selling drugs.
- New positive trend by young Austrian People.

The Black Community in Austria.

- The Black community does not have enough power and experience to ameliorate the life of African asylum seekers and refugees.
- Black community is difficult to manage because is composed to 52 countries.

Thank you