

## Press Release

Berlin, December 5th 2012

### Young refugees living in Germany claim childrens- and humans rights in European parliament

Under the name Cult(o)ural Protest, activists from the campaign "SOS for Human Rights" are in Brussels since 2nd of December. With the means of different actions, they state their claim of childrens- and human rights. The delegation consists of young refugees who are accompanied by actors and educators from GRIPS Theater Berlin.

The programme of the tour started with a successful and moving press conference on December, 3rd. In the conference, the young people talked about their experiences and their situation in Germany as refugees who are only tolerated ("Duldung"). In the afternoon, the young people resisted the rain and hold a manifestation on Place de l'Albertine. They implemented some powerful theater actions to show the horrific situation for refugees on the external EU-borders and the inhumane actions of Frontex, the border control agency.

Within the campaign "SOS for Human Rights", the young people collected more than 5.000 signatures. Yesterday morning, 4th December, they handed them over to the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz. The handing over was accompanied by the song of the campaign. With the appeal, the campaign underlines their claims that childrens- and human rights should also be applied to young refugees in Europe. Martin Schulz took the time to talk to the youths about their situation. He said that he would try to support them with their cases. Some of them live with the status "Duldung" (toleration) in Germany since over ten years and have to renew their visa every month. The President didn't agree with the claim to disestablish Frontex, he rather strives for a better cooperation between the European states and the agency for cooperation at the external borders.

Afterwards, the participants of the "Cult(o)ural Protest" spend their afternoon in the European parliament with Frank Schwalba-Hoth, one of the founders of Die Grünen (the German Green Party). Ska Keller, European deputy for same party, invited the group and the theater play "SOS for Human Rights". It was shown within a workshop about "European asylum- and refugee rights" in Goethe-Institute.

The alliance of eight German organizations (Jugendliche ohne Grenzen (Youth without borders), GRIPS Theater Berlin, the council of refugees Flüchtlingsrat Berlin and Flüchtlingsrat Brandenburg), as well as the following organizations for the protection of refugees (Borderline Europe, PRO ASYL, WeGe ins Leben) and the union of teachers GEW stand up in the name of "SOS for Human Rights" for the concrete application of human and children's rights, more precisely those of young refugees, in the European Union since 2010. With the trip to Brussels, the campaign carried their claims in high places like the European parliament and provided the demands to an international forum. This wasn't easy for all participants: Some have residency obligation and had to ask for the exception to leave the country. Only some days before the trip, it became clear who can come along and who has to stick to the residency obligation.

The campaign is notably asking for the immediate implementation of important measures such as:

- \* **Keep the escape routes free!**
- \* **Stop the undeclared war against refugees!**
- \* **Implement human and childrens rights!**

SOS for Human Rights is a campaign by: