

Salvini Decree: No more protection for refugees in Italy?

Info event on Saturday, 2.3.2019 at 8pm, W3, Nernstweg 32, Hamburg-Altona
Workshop for refugees on Sunday, 3.3.2019, 1 to 5 pm, Buttclub, St.Pauli-Hafenstr.126

with lawyer Germana Graceffo from Catania/Sicily

The events will take place in Italian/German/English, if necessary, also French.

Organizers: Group "Lampedusa in Hamburg" and Refugee Council Hamburg

The overload of the Italian asylum system has been known for a long time. The regular centers and the emergency centers are overcrowded, people in asylum procedures, but also people with protection status often live under precarious conditions. Refugees transferred from other Dublin Member States under the Dublin III Regulation often receive no or insufficient support in Italy.

The number of new arrivals of asylum seekers in Italy fell sharply in 2018 compared to the previous year, partly due to questionable cooperation between Italian and Libyan authorities. Following the electoral victory of the right-wing political parties in March 2018, Interior Minister Matteo Salvini (Lega Nord) is making every effort to keep his campaign promises and significantly cut spending on the Italian asylum system. As a result, various shelters were closed immediately after the elections and administrative posts necessary for the functioning of the asylum system were no longer filled.

On 24 September 2018, the Italian government adopted the "Salvini Decree" on security and immigration. After the President signed the decree and forwarded it to Parliament, the text of the decree entered into force on 5 October 2018.

In October and November there were large demonstrations against the decree and some local councils officially requested the government and the Minister of the Interior to suspend the application of the decree. Some mayors refuse to put it into practice. In several EU countries there have already been court rulings that fugitives must not be returned to Italy because of the tightened conditions imposed by the Salvini decree.

The most relevant points in the law:

The so-called SPRAR centres have only been open to minors and persons with protection status since 5 October 2018 - the majority of fugitives end up in large camps or on the streets.

A list of safe countries of origin has been introduced.

The duration of detention pending deportation has been doubled from 90 to 180 days.

The humanitarian protection status - the status that most persons with protection status in Italy and also the majority of the members of the group "Lampedusa in Hamburg" have - has been abolished and will not be renewed after expiration. Instead, if strict criteria are met, the persons receive a one-year residence permit for "special cases", or are expelled or made "illegal".

At our events we want to discuss together with affected people also here in Hamburg:

- What consequences does the Salvini Decree have - in Italy, but also in other countries?
- What significance does it have for the refugees of the Lampedusa Group and for Dublin cases?
- Where is there resistance to this law and how can we support it?
- What can we do together with those affected in Hamburg?