

"Life is a killing joke"
February 2017

When I, in March 2016, published the "Final epilogue" of "Life is a bitch" I thought I was done but the situation of the refugees kept on interesting me and moreso haunting me. But I really thought I was done writing until, late December 2016, I saw a horrifying documentary about the situation of the detained refugees on the isle of Nauru. Now, Nauru officially the Republic of Nauru (Nauruan *Repubrikin Naoero*) and formerly known as Pleasant Island, is an island country in Micronesia in the Central Pacific. Its nearest neighbour is Banaba Island in Kiribati, 300 kilometres (186 mi) to the east. It further lies northwest of Tuvalu, north of the Solomon Islands, east-northeast of Papua New Guinea, southeast of the Federated States of Micronesia and south of the Marshall Islands. With 10,084 residents in a 21-square-kilometre (8.1 sq mi) area, Nauru is the smallest state in the South Pacific and third smallest state by area in the world, behind only Vatican City and Monaco.

But it certainly is not a pleasant island for the refugees who've tried to get to Australia, most of them by sea, but caught by the Australian border patrol and are immediately pushed back and shipped off to Nauru to be detained there. Now, if you add 1 + 1 you get 2 right? So undoubtedly Australia is paying Nauru huge amounts of Australian dollars to keep the refugees detained there Read the Unicef report linked below.

So far a bit of background information.

But the documentary especially showed the situation of the children of which the majority is Muslim and tried to flee from Thailand and especially Myanmar (formerly know as Burma). Now it is a known fact that the Buddhists are fiercely against the Muslim minority and in showing so burn down villages and kill people at random, including children, women and elderly. In this I must say I'm quite disappointed in Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the non-violent movement for human rights and democracy and in 1991 winner of the nobelprice for peace and since April 2016 *State Councillor of Myanmar*.

Now back to the Nauru detention camps: I was really shocked of what the children said, and trust me, for 3 years I worked at a refugee camp with and for children, so I have no reason not to believe them and they told stories of how they saw adults putting themselves on fire; about how they themselves sew their lips together; about raping; about self-mutilation with knives and razorblades and about suicides among adults and children. They also tell how they, deep inside, physically and mentally are sick. Now the children I'm writing about are between 13 and 15 years young, teens.

Now for the refugees who are allowed to leave the center, or better said jail, during day time to go to school, most of them don't because there's a lot of violence against them from the locals. The children can go to class inside the jail and although it gives them some distraction it's no more than that because they know they'll be deported to their country of origin.

Want to read more? Click here for a Unicef report

<http://www.unicef.org.au/blog/september-2016/the-true-cost-of-australias-refugee-policies>

Post factum 1: I don't know exactly when but one day Australian's prime minister Turnbull and former USA president Obama made a deal that the USA would give 1.250 refugees asylum.

On February 2nd. 2017 the prime minister called Trump to remind him of this deal and their talk became more and more heated, typical for the way Trump communicates, until Trump finally slammed down the phone.

Post factum 2: "Wir schaffen das." (Yes we can) were the famous words the German chancellor Angela Merkel spoke on August 31th. 2015 at a press conference concerning the tsunami of refugees flooding Germany.

But the flooding continued especially because the slogan of Merkel gave them hope and on September 17th. 2016 she distanced herself from that slogan and supported by the EU assembly started Faustian talks with president Erdogan from the fascist and totalitarian state of Turkey on a deal that Turkey would take back refugees that washed up ashore Greek islands. (By the way, up to 6000 refugees drowned in 2016 in the Egeic sea and the Medetirean sea (Libya-Italy)). The EU payed 6 billion Euro to Turkey especially for improving shelters for refugees and for schooling for the children. On their side Erdogan demanded full membership of the EU starting with a visa free passage for all Turks to the EU. The negotiations stranded (I know it's a sick word game but it was what it was) and the Australian based push back method failed, also because a number of refugees in Greece went to court and up to the supreme court to prevent they'd be send back to Turkey and they won which created a juridical precedent meaning no refugees could be send back to Turkey. Still, because the outside borders were now enclosed by neighboring fences and walls approx. 160.000 refugees are trapped in Greece. By the way, on July 15th. 2016 there was a so-called coup in Turkey, so-called because in my opinion it was staged by dictator Erdogan to silence his critics. Shortly after the 'coup' he claimed it was a coup attempt by the Gülen movement * and had thousands of academics; teachers; judges and military fired and/or jailed without any sight on a fair trial and gave the order to close down all the media that reported/published critically about him and his 'government'. Also Erdogan took total control of the parliament through disabling the (partly Kurdish)

opposition and in doing so disabling a real democracy.

Now an increasing number of Turks are seeking refuge in the EU. Eat your heart out Erdogan, you sick bastard.

Latest news: on February 17th. 2017 the Turkish consulate in the Netherlands takes in the passports of Turks living and working in the Netherlands and now these people are now fearing to lose their work permit.

Now the EU tries to make a same kind of deal with Libya from where monthly thousands of refugees try to cross the Medetirean to Italy. But one cannot image the most worst case scenario than this one because a) Libya has a so-called and 'official' national government but is b) not recognized by the 2 rival governments and c) there are tens of militias that all together at at war with each other and the EU cannot make a clear deal with neither. Result, a few hundred thousand refugees also here ae trapped in Italy.

Byebye and probably `till the next time.

Gino d'Artali