

Berlin, December 2nd. – December 12th. 2015.

“Wir schaffen das – We will manage” Angela Merkel (chancellor of Germany).

Day 1: With the above announcing she not only surprised the E.U. politicians and citizens but word went fast among the refugees who, surprise surprise, almost all decided that Germany was the Walhalla to be.

The result in December 2015: 1 million refugees of which a few hundred thousand headed for the capital Berlin. And there all refugees automatically go to the Lageso in the Moabit district (Landesamt für Gesundheit und Soziales) where they have to register.

But I did some homework before: on October 28th. two guards hired by the Lageso beat up refugees. The guards were immediately suspended and will have to go to court on charges of inflicting personal injuries. The company the guards worked for most likely will lose its contract with Lageso especially also the boss of the firm will stand trial for equal charges and in this case for causing a skull trauma and brain injury to a refugee.

Anyways, it was my first stop but not without my ‘guard’: a heavy leather black jacket, I only wear black, and as a squatter back then I often got into fights with the police.

Anyways I went there and couldn’t believe my eyes when I saw the waiting line of at least 1,5 km.! It was around 06.00 am and I asked some people standing in the middle of the line how long it might take to get to the entrance. And they said: “If we are lucky enough to get that far we’ll get a number and get in line again tomorrow as early as possible. We don’t have a number yet nor all the people behind us.” I asked where they slept in the meantime and they answered: “Well, there is a tent camp but it’s overcrowded really so also here it’s a matter of first comes first wins and the rest sleeps in parks and on the streets.”

Now there are some things you need to know: in the winter the wind comes from Russia, Scandinavia and East Europe meaning bloody cold north-east winds and when sleeping outside one freezes his ass off! Also, refugees only then get from the city provided shelter in buildings once they’re registered. The tents are for the pre-registered refugees.

Now normally I sleep outside but hey, I’m an Italian so I stayed at a shabby hostel. Anyways, I asked some people of whom I noticed they had little belongings where they could get help like food, blankets, warm cloths etc.. and they told me about a local foundation called Moabit hilft/helps e.v. so I decided to go and try get more information and where possible a phone number. So off I went and to come back to the Lageso in the middle of the night to see what was the situation.

Day 2 and 3: 5 am: I’m back at the lageso with a same depressing line waiting. In this case I decided to go to the end of the line to talk with some people there and some told me that one could buy a number from another refugee be it for a few hundred Euro and even bribe the guards at the entrance for equal amounts.

However, without it being an appointment or something like that.

I talked to some other people and then I met Ahmed from Iraq who told me his

story: "I fled because life was and is impossible there. I first crossed the border to Turkey which is, when one has the right contacts, not so difficult. The difficult and very dangerous part is to get there, especially when one is in by the IS controlled territory. Then I arrived at Bodrum where I had to pay almost all of my savings to human traffickers to be able to get a place on a boat but it was a wreck really and hardly sea worthy. And yes, it sank and I saw people, women, children, elderly, struggling and trying to survive. And yes, you can call me an egoist but that was also the only thing I wanted: to survive and only because I'm a good swimmer I could reach the shores of Lesbos, Greece. But I did not want to stay there, let alone register there as an asylum seeker because I wanted to go to Germany because I heard a lot about this lady Merkel saying "Wir schaffen das." and words travel fast among refugees. And so here I am now in Berlin after crossing many borders, fences and police violence. I have no idea what will happen next. Will they deport me, give me asylum? I don't know. Man, I'm only an artist meaning no harm. I don't care about religion or politics. I just want to create and bring colour and beauty in people's life."

I went to the beginning of the line and talked with one of the guards who said: "Merkel promised too much because also here we cannot register all refugees. Mostly they have to wait up to six weeks before they can register. There's simply not enough qualified personnel nor space, and in the last case also not for the refugees who were able to register." Damn, I don't think I'll tell this to the refugees waiting in line.

Anyways, I went to this tent compound and indeed it was more than overcrowded but I did see a medical aid tent but that's the least one should also expect the city to do!

Day 4 and 5: Former airport Tempelhof: a little bit of history before:

From June 1948 to May 1949, during the blockade of West Berlin by the Soviet Union, has played a vital role as endpoint Tempelhof of the Berlin Air bridge that was under control of the Americans. The air routes provided the only access to this part of Berlin and its 2 million inhabitants. During 320 days military aircrafts flew in food, medicine and all other important matters, such as coal. The aircrafts, nicknamed Rosinenbombers, landed at Tempelhof during peak times every 26 seconds. They took advantage of the new concrete runways, laid out by the Americans.

Ok now to 2015, the city re-laid out Tempelhof as a temporary refugee camp with 3 hangars in use. To my surprise and after showing my press card I got a grand tour during which the spokeswoman was yapping my ears off and indeed everything looked immaculate but without any privacy at all for the refugees packed up like sardines on their bunks in the hangars and men and women mixed, couples or singles or not. Given the fact that refugee women are a minority this is unacceptable. Ok, maybe I'm asking too much but man, there were not even like hangars where single women could stay and sleep separately from the men nor separate bathroom and sanitary facilities and no meeting rooms where husband and wives (with children) could sit together and with other couples. A very depressing visit indeed. As I was about to leave I asked the spokeswoman how long they would have to stay here and she said: "Well, for as long as the procedure

takes to study their asylum request and the goal is 6 months but most likely it will take up a year or longer.”

In the meantime the city is planning to re-layout a former deportation prison as a refugee camp as well as it is planning to open another 31 refugee camps but studying the map with dots where they were to be installed I could not but notice that the rich districts were spared!

Day 6: day off. After three days in Greece and now five in Berlin I really needed a day off so I decided to sleep a bit longer and get a good shower and then to go to the Käthe Kollwitz museum because that seemed very appropriate to me. And for those who never heard of her here some short bio info:

Käthe Kollwitz (8 July 1867 – 22 April 1945) was a German painter, printmaker, and sculptor whose work offered an eloquent and often searing account of the human condition, and the tragedy of war, in the first half of the 20th century. Her empathy for the less fortunate, expressed most famously through the graphic means of drawing, etching, lithography, and woodcut, and embraced the victims of poverty, hunger, and war. Initially her work was grounded in Naturalism, and later took on Expressionistic qualities.



Day 7 and 8: lucky me I speak 5 languages so I read in the local newspaper about plans to also erect a temporary refugee camp with 3 hangars at the Aviation trade fair ILA in the Schönefeld district. Talks between the city and the ILA just started. The ILA is willing to co-operate but does indicate that the city needs to provide the necessary bunks and also that the bathroom facilities were not sufficient. There are toilets, but no showers.

In the meantime I was able to meet with somebody from Moabit hilft e.v. but the information she gave me was so vague that I was thinking: 'What the hell are these people really doing, boosting their egos?' So really, you talk the word but can you walk the walk? I don't think so. Screw you!

But as coincidence does not exist I met some other people and refugees in this case who started their own initiative called Das hilft/This helps and when they told me why they felt Moabit hilft failed in reaching their goals by providing help they decided it was time to take matters in their own hands. Touché! And as so often

word spreads around fast.

Day 9 and 10: During my stay word was spreading that refugees refused to register in the eastern part of Berlin (which was before WW2 USSR territory). I don't blame them for that because nowadays many neo-nazi's live and operate there.

Also, and for the first time, different political parties want to raise taxes because ... well, it must be clear why.

Also, the Lageso is opening a second registering facility in Wilmersdorf but are at present giving 6 week crash courses for possible new employees.

And on November 2nd. Klaus Böger, the President of the Union of sports Berlin, was already questioning not only when the refugees would leave the sport halls but also who would pay for the costs of bringing them back to their original and usable state.

And last but not least the Germans in general and different political parties are questioning Merkel's "We will manage." dividing the country.

I'll return to my basecamp now. I am absolutely exhausted, both physically as well as mentally so I really look forward to sleep in my own bed again and to just sleep but unfortunately Germany did not end here.

Sexual assaults, rapes and forced prostitution.

This part is dedicated to my mother who would have had her birthday today but to my deepest grief died in 1997. She had been the victim of rape by several men for 15 long and bloody years of raping and extreme beatings. And every time when I ran to the police for help, I was a kid, they only said: "Oh, there's that kid again of THAT WOMEN." and send me away. When I was a bit older I always shouted back: "THAT WOMAN is My Mother you cowards!!!!"

When I was back in my basecamp and on January 6th. 2016 it was all over the international news: in the night of December 31th. and January 1st. gangs of men, some grouped as 5, some as much as 20, had sexually assaulted and robbed women and some rapped, in front of the central station of Köln. It had also happened in Stuttgart and Hamburg. In Köln more than 100 (in the meantime 652 of which 50 % sexual assault cases. 13 men were arrested of which among them South and North Africa and known for its mass rapings and other nationalities) women filled a complaint against the assailants with the police who kept it quiet because the assailants were of North African or Arabic countries and Germany, the police and the media having to deal with an tsunami of refugees wanted to avoid polarization and choose to be political correct. But they couldn't keep this quiet and a storm of protests and demonstrations was the result. Also Merkel could not but take a stand saying the assailants would be brought to justice.

But I was wondering if the Köln, Stuttgart and Hamburg situations had been the only ones so I did some investigation and what I found was a true and shocking horror story. To give you an overview from January until September 2015 and forgive me if some cases are overlapping each other but I was flooded with info and, emotionally, it really drained me:

Although the rape took place in June, the police covered up the incident for nearly three months, until the local media published an article about the crime. According to an editorial in the Westfalen-Blatt the police refuses to release information on crimes where refugees and migrants are involved because they do not want to give a reason for criticism on mass migration.

Chief of police, Bernd Flake, refutes this by saying that the safety of the victim is the reason of the silence on the subject. "We will continue this measure when crimes take place in a resettling refugees context"

A Muslim girl of 13 years is raped by a fellow asylum-seeker in a refugee camp in Detmold, a city located in the Middle-West of Germany. The girl and her mother are said that this is exactly the reason why they fled from their homeland with a culture of sexual abuse.

About 80% of the refugees/migrants who stay in München consists of men who pay 10 Euro for sex with female asylum seekers.

On September 11th. in the Bavarian village of Menring a 16-year-old girl was raped and the police have called for parents to warn them that they should not let their children go out without guidance. In the Bavarian village of Pocking, the Executive Board of the Wilhelm Diess Gymnasium also warned that the parents "that they have to dress their daughters so not to expose themselves too much to avoid misunderstandings".

In the meanwhile also the raping of German women by asylum seekers has become commonplace.

An increasing number of refugee women and young girls are raped, assaulted and even forced into prostitution by male asylum seekers. This is confirmed by German social workers who have first-hand information about the situation.

Many rapes take place in sports halls with no separation of men and women due to a shortage of space. German authorities forcing thousands of male and female migrants to the same halls and toilet space to share.

The conditions for girls and women in some units are so dangerous that they are described as "preys in the wild" who have to fight against Islamic male predators. social workers many women, however, remain silent for fear of honour killings.

At the same time, a growing number of German women in towns and villages throughout the country are raped by asylum seekers from Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Information about many of these crimes are kept secret/covered up by the German authorities and most likely avoid to the increase of anti-migration feelings.

A coalition of four civil society organizations and women's rights groups wrote on August 18th. a letter of no less than two pages long to the leaders of the political parties in the regional Parliament of Hesse, a State in the Middle-West of Germany. In this they warned them about the deteriorating situation of women and children in refugee camps. The letter read:

"The increasing influx of refugees and the situation of girls and women in the shelter in Giessen (HEAE) and its subsidiaries have become extremely hazardous. Performing the maintenance of housing in large tents, the lack of separate male and female facilities, buildings that can not be locked, the lack of a safe shelter for girls and women — to name but a few factors of many facilities — ensures that the vulnerability of women increases within the HEAE. This phenomenon is in favor of

men who consider women as inferior and treat them as 'prey in the wild'. The consequences are a large number of rapes and sexual attacks. We also received an increasing number of reports of forced prostitution. It must be stressed: these are not unique cases. Women have reported that they, like children, have been raped or subject to sexual assault. As a result, many women sleep in their everyday clothes. There are daily reports of women that they are not going to the toilet at night because of the danger to be raped or robbed en route. Even during the day, walking through the camp is for many women dangerous. Many women are — in addition to their flights for wars and/or civil wars — also on the flight for gender-related reasons, for example the threat that they are forced into marriages or circumcised. These are women who have an additional risk on danger, especially if they are fleeing alone or only with their children. Even if accompanied by a male relative or knowledge gives them not always security for protection against abuse as this can lead to certain dependency and sexual exploitation. Most refugee women had to endure various traumatic events in their country of origin or during their flight. They are victims of, sometimes even for periods of years, assault, kidnapping, torture, rape and exploitation. The feeling they arrived here safely and to be able to walk around without fear, is a dream coming true for many women ... That is why we are asking you to fulfill our demand for immediate deployment of protected reception (closed apartments or houses) for women and children traveling alone. These facilities must be equipped in such a way that men are not allowed access to the place of residence of the women, with the exception of aid workers and security. In addition, bedrooms, living rooms, kitchens and toilets are linked together so that they form a stand-alone unit and only accessible via a closed and guarded entrance to the house or apartment."

The rape and sexual assault problems in German and of refugees is a nationwide problem.

According to groups for women's rights in Bavaria there are women who stay in a refugee shelter in Bayernkaserne, a former military base in Munich, and are daily victims of rape and forced prostitution. Although it features separate bedrooms for women, the doors don't lock and access to the sanitary facilities are managed by men. A social worker described the care as follows: "We are München's largest brothel". The police continue to insist that they have no evidence that rape would take place, despite the fact that by a police raid came out that the security guards who were hired for safety participated in the trade of drugs and weapons, and looked away in cases of prostitution.

On August 28th. a 22-year-old asylum seeker from Eritrea was sentenced to one year and eight months in jail because he attempted to rape a 30-year-old Iraqi-Kurdish woman in a refugee shelter in the Bavarian village of Höchstädt. The reduced verdict came through the efforts of the lawyer who convinced the judge by explaining how hopeless the situation of the accused is: "For more than a year he is waiting for asylum." (Does this bastard realizes how many years it will take for the victim to get over this bestiality!!!!?? Note of the editor)

On August 26th. a 34-year-old asylum seeker attempted raping a 34-year-old woman in the laundry room of a refugee shelter in Stralsund, a town near the Baltic Sea.

On August 6th, the police reported about the rape of a 13-year-old Muslim girl by another asylum seeker in a refugee shelter in Detmold, a city in the Middle-West of Germany. The girl and her mother are said to have fled from their homeland to escape a culture of sexual abuse. It turned out that the man who raped the girl is from the same country.

In the weekend of June 12-14th, a 15-year-old girl in a refugee shelter located in an area in the North of Habenhausen, Brehmen, was repeatedly raped by two other asylum seekers. The reception described it as "a horror house" because of repeated violence committed by rival gangs consisting of African-Kosovorians and other young people. While only a capacity of 180 (with a cafeteria with 53 seats), there are currently 247 asylum seekers staying in the camp.

Meanwhile the rape of German women by asylum seekers is increasing. Here are a few selected events if only from 2015:

On September 11th, a 16-year-old girl was raped by an unidentified "flawed German-speaking man with dark skin" near a refugee camp in the Bavarian village of Mering. The girl was attacked on the way home from the train station.

On August 13th, the police arrested two Iraqi asylum seekers (19 and 23) for raping an 18-year-old German woman behind a schoolyard in Hamm, a city in Noordijn-Westphalia.

On July 26th, a 14-year-old boy was sexually assaulted in the toilet of a regional train in Heilbronn, a city in the South-West of Germany. The police is looking for a 'coloured man' about between 30-40 years old with a "Arabic appearance".

Also on July 26th, a 20-year-old woman was raped by a 21-year-old Tunisian asylum-seeker in the Domwaldsiedlungwijk in Karlsruhe. The police only then covered up the crime in August when a local newspaper published the story.

On June 9th, two Somali asylum seekers (18 and 20) were sentenced to 7.5 years in prison for raping a 21-year-old German woman in Bad Kreuznach, a village in Rhineland-Palatinate on December 13th 2014.

On June 5th, a 30-year-old Somali asylum seeker called "Ali S" was sentenced to four years and nine months in jail for attempted rape of a 20-year-old woman in Munich. Ali had already served seven years for rape and was only five months out of jail until he struck again. In an attempt to protect the identity of Ali S a Munich newspaper decided to name him under a politically more correct name, namely: "Joseph T".

On May 22th a 30-year-old Moroccan man was sentenced to four years and nine months in jail for an attempt at raping a 55-year-old woman in Dresden.

On May 20th a 25-year-old asylum seeker from Senegal was arrested after he tried to rape a 21-year-old German woman on the Stachus, a large square in the Centre of Munich.

On April 16th a 21-year-old a refugee from Iraq was sentenced to three years and 10 months in jail for raping a 17-year-old girl at a festival in the Bavarian village of Straubing in August 2014.

On April 7th a 29-year-old refugee was arrested for attempting to rape a 14-year-old girl in the village Alzenau.

On March 17th two Afghani (19 and 20) were sentenced to five years in prison for the "horrific" rape of a 21-year-old German woman in Kirchheim, a village near Stuttgart, on 17 August 2014.

On February 11th a 28-year-old refugee from Eritrea was sentenced to four years in prison for raping a 25-year-old German woman in Stralsund, on the Baltic Sea, in October 2014.

On February 1th a 27-year-old asylum seeker was arrested after he attempted to rape a woman in the Bavarian village of Reisbach.

On Januaryth a 24-year-old Moroccan immigrant raped a 29-year-old woman in Dresden.

There are dozens of other cases in which the police is specifically searching for foreign offenders (the German police appoints them often as 'südlander' or 'southerners') concerning unresolved cases. Below an incomplete list, if only from August:

On August 23th 'dark' man made an attempt to rape a 35-year-old woman in Dortmund.

On August 17th three 'southerners' tried to rape a 42-year-old woman in Ansbach.

On 16th August a 'Southerner' raped a woman in Hanau.

On August 12th a 'Southerner' tried to rape a 17-year-old girl in Hannover. On the same day, a 'Southerner' exposed his private parts to a 31-year-old woman in Kassel. According to the police a similar incident occurred in the same neighborhood on August 11th.

On August 23th a 'dark' man made an attempt to rape a 35-year-old woman in Dortmund.

On August 10th five men with a 'Turkish origin' tried to rape a girl in Mönchengladbach. On the same day a 15-year-old girl was raped by a male 'Southerner' in Rinteln.

On August 8th. a 'Southerner' in Siegen tried to rape a 20-year-old woman.

On August 3th a 'North African' and in broad daylight raped a 7-year-old girl in a park in Chemnitz, a city located in Eastern Germany.

On August 1th a 'Southerner' attempted to rape a 27-year-old woman in Stuttgart.

Meanwhile parents are warned to be on their watch for their daughters. The police in the Bavarian village of Mering, where a 16-year-old girl has been raped on September 11th has called for parents to warn them that they that they should not let their children go out without guidance. They also advise women not to walk alone from-and-to the train stations because of the nearby refugee camps.

The increase in sexual crimes in Germany is fed by the mix of refugees/migrants of whose origins and majority are Muslim men.

In the meantime in the lowlands as well as in Germany obligatory courses are being organized to teach men how the west respects its women. But here I should, no matter how hard it is, should put some things in perspective:

At present there are over 1 million refugees in Germany and the rest in neighbouring western countries although, just like the Viségrad group in the east, they are very reluctant to give shelter to refugees. My point is, one cannot say that the 3 to 400 migrants and refugees guilty of these horrific crimes in Germany, and as far as I'm concerned they we should hang 'm high, represent all refugees. And

also, let's face facts here: Caucasians are in the majority concerning sex related crimes.

Merkel

The chief of police in Köln has been sent/forced to an early retirement to restore the credibility of the police and the justice department.

Merkel wants a new law that takes away the rights of refugees and asyants who have been sentenced to either a conditional or effective jailtime and can be deported immediately.

On January 13th. Merkel apologized on national tv for failing in dealing with the tsunami of refugees with which she basically said that her "Wir schaffen Das" has put it in a new perspective including the 'Willkommenskultur' (welcome culture – a new saying in Germany) as well as the 'Grundlichkeit' (thoroughness) for which the Germans are so known for.

Sweden

January 11th. 2016

The prime minister of Sweden has condemned a "double betrayal" of women after allegations that police covered up sexual harassment by recent immigrants at a music festival in Stockholm. Meanwhile, reports have emerged of attacks on women in Malmö on New Year's Eve.

Groups of refugees molested concertgoers at We Are Stockholm, Europe's largest youth festival, in the summer of 2014, according to internal police memos obtained by Dagens Nyheter, a daily newspaper. "These are so-called refugee youths, specifically from Afghanistan. Several of the gang were arrested for sexual molestation," one police memo said. Yet the official police report on the five-day festival attended by 170,000 young people aged mainly 13-19 made no mention of sexual harassment or assaults. The prime minister, Stefan Löfven, said this amounted to a double betrayal since no one was prosecuted for the crimes and the police did not make them public. The reports come as police in Cologne, Germany, investigate hundreds of claims of assaults on women on New Year's Eve. Officials say nearly all of the suspects in the attacks were "people with an immigrant background". Police and the media have been accused of deliberately under-reporting the events in order not to encourage anti-immigrant sentiment.

During the 2014 festival, organisers picked up on rumours of a new phenomenon, said Roger Ticoalu, head of events at the Stockholm city administration. "It was a modus operandi that we had never seen before: large groups of young men who surround girls and molest them," Ticoalu said. "In the cases where we were able to apprehend suspects, they were with a foreign background, newly arrived refugees aged 17-20, who had come to Sweden without their families." He said festival organisers did not have enough facts at the time to say anything definitive, and it would have been "totally irresponsible on our side to make anything public". After the festival the organisers launched a programme with police and NGOs to encourage girls and young women to report harassment and to identify culprits, he said. There were 20 reports of assault or harassment at the festival in 2015, Ticoalu

said, but no evidence of any ethnic dimension to the attackers. A spokesperson for the festival organisers, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "We have seen different waves of this sort of violence over time. Sexual harassment is something that happens in society, so everything that is happening in society will definitely happen there." The national police commissioner, Dan Eliasson, promised a full investigation into the 2014 festival. The Sweden Democrats said the police had been "paralysed by political correctness". Björn Söder, one of the party's MPs, told Expressen: "It is a scandal without equal. Could this have happened at several locations in the country, but they don't tell you certain things because it could 'play into the hands' [of the Sweden Democrats]?" Ticoalu said he had not heard reports of similar assaults happening at Sweden's other big music festivals, but he "would not be shocked" if they had. Stockholm police did not respond to requests for comment.

Separately, police in Malmö, Sweden's third city, said that on New Year's Eve gangs of young men surrounded women and molested them. A couple of hundred men, described as "unaccompanied from Afghanistan", were involved in what was "a new phenomenon", a police spokesperson told the Sydsvenskan newspaper. No women made a formal complaint, police said. The failure to make the incidents public was not an organised cover-up, he said, but rather "self censorship" on the part of individual officers. "There are police employees that are afraid of talking about these things in the context of the immigration debate today," he said.

You might want to view a few (international) projects I, as a socially engaged artist organized:

<http://www.ginodartali.org/cause.htm>

Mamma, fatto del mio meglio per scrivere sopra e io la ringrazio per la vostra ispirazione. Resto in pace, non dimenticherò mai te.