

Information for people who are threatened by deportation from Germany:

The following information are meant to assist people who cannot or do not want to return to their countries of origin or any other country, to prevent a deportation while still at the airport. Chances to prevent deportation inside the airplane at „the last minute“, have definitely increased during the last months. This goes for scheduled flights with regular passengers present as well as for charter flights.

We want to give the following advice:

Officers of the German policeforce and the border police are generally behaving in a ruthless and often brutal manner in order to enforce ordered deportations. If you intend to resist deportation you should not waste your strength in opposing these officers. The law permits the police to transport people to the airport in shackles and to break any resistance by the use of force. Many experiences show that policemen and officers of the border police threaten, torment, even beat up people in order to create fear and to intimidate even before reaching the airplane.

Due to international treaties policemen do not exercise any special jurisdiction within the airplane. They are not allowed to use force. Wait until you are inside the airplane to use your energy to prevent a deportation. Try to talk to the captain or to someone from the crew who is in charge - if necessary by shouting out loud. Explain to them that you are not voluntarily on this flight and that you will use resistance in order to prevent enforced transportation.

Unaccompanied deportations:

If the officers of the border police do not stay inside the plane, it is quite easy to get up at once, after they have left the aircraft, to go to the captain und to insist on speaking to him. Explain that you do not intend to fly and that he should not carry out this enforced transportation. If the captain still insists to enforce transportation, threaten to bring up a charge against him. You can also explain to him that the pilots' associations recommend their members to refuse such enforced transportation (see square). Explain to him that you will defend yourself, if necessary. If the pilot is still unwilling to give in, you can inform the passengers by calling out loud and ask them for their support. You should emphasize that this enforced transportation will not guarantee a safe flight, and that under no condition they should sit down and buckle up but remain standing and offer resistance. With some probability the captain will finally submit.

Most deportations from Germany are being exercised by way of air, half of them by the biggest German airline, the Lufthansa AG. Lufthansa AG offers direct flights to almost every country and has cooperated very well with German authorities up to now. The antiracist network „no one is illegal“ started the campaign „deportation class stop!“ with the aim to force the Lufthansa AG to withdraw from the deportation business. „No one is illegal“ activists initiated numerous actions at all German deportation airports and the Lufthansa AG in order to press for an acceptance of these demands. As a reaction to this campaign the Lufthansa AG publicly declared that they will no longer conduct deportations on their flights against the „obvious resistance“ of the deportees. According to our experiences this statement proves true in most cases, as deportations have been stopped frequently when pilots refused to carry people who offered resistance or announced to do so.



Accompanied deportations:

If the officers of the border police remain inside the airplane and intend to fly as some kind of „safety attendance“, you should also try to approach the captain. If the border police officers try to prevent you by using shackles and by restraining you, you can protest with loud cries, as soon as the passengers are entering the airplane. Try to reach the captain and to demonstrate to him that you intend to offer resistance.

The legal situation:

As soon as the doors of the airplane have been closed on a German airport, the border police officers are not allowed to exercise disciplinary measures, according to international law. They do not have any special jurisdiction while in the air or on an airport of a foreign country.

It is also forbidden to the German officers to conduct deportations by the use of force during intermediate landings or transit stays in a foreign country. If there are additional policemen, eg. from the Netherlands or Belgium, you should explain to them that you will not fly and you should blankly refuse to enter the connexion plane. If you are unaccompanied, you can even try to apply for asylum in this country or enter the country if you are allowed to do so without visa.

What happens if a deportation has been successfully prevented or had to be interrupted?

German authorities will usually continue trying to enforce the deportation. If you have been in detention prior to the attempt at deportation, you will be brought back to prison. If there is no warrant, you will be sent back to your residence in Germany. In any case, a little time has been won to fight against the deportation with judicial or political means. If you are not under detention, there are further options. After a deportation has been prevented, the danger of a warrant being issued remains, therefore it is not safe to simply wait around.

In order to keep this information up to date, we would appreciate it very much to receive reports on (hopefully prevented) deportations. For this purpose we have set up the following e-mail address:

monitor@deportation-class.com

Local contact:

The position of the pilots' associations: Law experts of the German pilots' association „Cockpit“ have declared that it is illegal to deport human beings who are brought into the airplane in shackles. According to their opinion, the captain should refuse to participate in such a deportation, due to the risk of criminal proceedings against himself. Accordingly, „Cockpit“ called all their members to make sure before take-off that anybody in the process of being deported is staying voluntarily inside the airplane. The international pilots' association also considers it to be a prerequisite that the person in question is „willing to travel“.



„Emergency exit“: German authorities are increasingly forced to conduct deportations with airliners who do not offer direct flights to the countries of origin. The deportees have to change planes at foreign airports. There might be a chance to leave the plane, to refuse any further flight and to apply for asylum. We know of several examples when attempts were being made to deport people from African countries with the Dutch airliner KLM. First, they were flown to Amsterdam, where they were to be deported further. In several cases they refused to go the next flight and were sent back to Germany. Some people applied for asylum in the Netherlands and were allowed to enter the country. During intermediate stops in countries where there is no visa prerequisite for entry, an „emergency exit“ is often possible during unaccompanied deportations.