

Pressrelease of the residents of Gerhart-Hauptmann-Schule

When we talk no one listens

We heard the news in rbb, that the court decided that Gerhart-Hauptmann-Schule can be evicted. Mad and surprised we are, about how this news reached us.

Sad we are because we have a promise. There is an agreement for the ›people from the roof‹ signed by Herr Panhof and Frau Borkamp. There it says, that we will get medical insurance, that our asylum cases will be transferred to Berlin, that the school will be renovated, that we can have our registered address here. All this never happened. Point number 5 in this agreement is: we cannot be evicted from this house.

Now courts and the district make decisions, but without us.

We have plans for this place. There were many discussions how to make it a place not only for us to sleep. We want to share this place. People need lawyers, medicine, food, advice, information, but also culture. With 7 different associations we are in contact, f.ex. KUB and Clear Blue Water. We had a meeting every wednesday in school. We have support to establish an association for the Int. Refugee Center.

A befriended association then reacted to the open call by the district who was looking for a *Träger*. We trust them. They talked to us. We made plans together. The district never got back to us. (Ulrich? Richtig?)

Now the district is using our idea, they work with our idea, the idea for the Int. Refugee Center. But we are told to leave. What is the difference between us and the refugees that will come?

We left our Lagers and went to Oranienplatz. For 5 years we fight for our right to stay, now they send us back to lagers? This is political. This is a manipulated decision. We believe that they want the long fight we fought to become invisible. They want to make the voice of political activists invisible.

Where should we go, to the streets or to the lagers?

Now many people lose their homes and businesses. Political and selforganized places are evicted and destroyed – Friedel 54, Rigaer 94, die Bäckerei Filou, If this place here will be evicted we lose a political place.

It is not about the building it is about the meaning. When you evict this place we all loose. We loose what this place could have become: an open space, with cafe and food, where refugees with no money can eat for free and the people from the neighbourhood would come and eat. With what they pay they support that others to have a meal for free. This is one of the many things we planned and the district knows about it. It is one year ago that someone from the district spoke with us.

It is the same game they played at Oranienplatz. ›We will give you a another place ...‹ We have a place. We don't need place.

If we are kicked out, other people come. But we know this place, we know the people, we know Kreuzberg, we know our neighbours. Here we can do something.

You make it easy on yourself, when you pick us apart and spread us over the city: then you won't see us anymore. Why don't you want to see us?

Because we are political activists? You make us into political activists. We have no choice: either we fight or we loose. And this is not our private problem, this is the problem of the neighbourhood, of this city, of the people that live in this city. We all have no choice but to fight.

But you, you have choices: you have the choice to let us built something for ourselves, a refugee center for all refugees egal woher sie kommen, a place where our brothers and sisters can come to.

There are people who need us, let us do something.
Take us seriously.

Our power is our voice,
the residents of Gehart-Hauptmann-Schule