

Statement of the fact finding committee for checking the bank account Refugee-Strike-Berlin of the Antiracist Initiative Berlin /ARI

We the undersigned, Harald Glöde (Borderline Europe), Bruno Watara (Bündnis gegen Lager Berlin/Brandenburg), Cristina Martin (Migrationsrat Berlin/Brandenburg) und Biplab Basu (Reach out), members of the fact finding committee, called on to go through the documents of the bank account maintained on behalf of the Refugee Movement of Oranienplatz, Berlin, by the Antirassistische Initiative (ARI), Berlin hereby declare the following.

At the invitation of the managing body of ARI, we went to check the balance sheets of the bank account managed and administered on behalf of the Refugee (-Strike) Movement (Oranienplatz). We were given full and complete access to all the bank documents – daily account statements, statements of bank to bank money transfer as well as all the movements of the aforementioned bank account regarding the donations deposited by private parties. Besides that, we could also check the payment-receipts and compare them with the statements of account, as for example; the electricity bills, gas station receipts for the trip to Italy and so on and so forth. We had free access to the mail correspondence between ARI and the “finance-group” regarding money transfer to various companies engaged by the camp movement; and we could also examine the validity of such transfers against the attached bill.

This we did under oath of not divulging any names or any other details of the donors.

After a long and thorough scrutiny of the papers we came to the following conclusion:
The (donation/solidarity) account managed and administered by ARI is flawless.
They kept all the records of the total debit and credit movements meticulously.

A debit card, issued by the bank for the aforementioned account for the daily expenses of the running of the Oranienplatz (food for the refugees as well as for some activists-supporters and from time to time for guests, transport costs for refugees, some temporary lightings & etc.) was used by the members of a “finance-group”. The “finance-group” was elected by the refugees themselves. Using the debit card, the responsible person from the “finance-group” withdrew money from ATMs from time to time. A detailed list of purchases and other expenses from the cash money has been kept by the responsible persons and we were told that the list was made available to the public for scrutiny. They also informed us that the list can be seen at request for the persons responsible. This, however, did not fall under the mandate of the ARI to check and control the refugee members of the finance-group nor did the ARI have the authority to check through the individual refugee members of the protest camp at Oranienplatz regarding their daily needs and consumption. Hence, it neither fell under our jurisdiction, while going through the ARI “account management”

Having gone through the ordeal of, first doubting ARI and then scrutinising all the balance sheets of the said bank account, we find it necessary to say a few words on the scandalising and destructive campaign launched against the refugee protest movement at the first instance and against any individual members of the movement, as well as against ARI by some ill advised people and manipulated by the media.

This sort of campaign brings discredit to an enormously successful and almost unparalleled refugee movement in Berlin. This movement of Refugees have given impetus to many recent social and political movements throughout Germany. It has become a symbol of protest and solidarity all over the country and abroad.

Under the pretext of „we-want-truth-to-come-out“ slogan some people are actually acting - knowingly or unknowingly, willingly or unwillingly - against the movement and its achievements. They are playing in the hands of those who opposed the Camp and the refugee-demands from the

very beginning and still continue to do so.

We, therefore, appeal to you all to refrain from spreading rumours and work towards increasing the momentum of the movement.

Harald Glöde (Borderline Europe)

Bruno Watara (Bündnis gegen Lager Berlin/Brandenburg)

Cristina Martin (Migrationsrat Berlin/Brandenburg)

Biplab Basu (Reach out)

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