

**Francois Crepeau**  
**UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants**

Refugee Protest Camp Vienna  
Servitenkloster  
Müllnergasse 6  
A-1090 Wien

Vienna, 27 June 2013

**Dear Mister Fracois Crepeau,**

We, asylum seekers currently registered in Serviten-Kloster in Vienna and part of the Refugee Protest Movement in Austria are seeking asylum from persecution and threats to our lives in our home countries.

We currently live under threat of forced separation or loss of our Grundversorgung (basic services) and, thus, our ability to pursue legal status in Austria. Therefore, we seek collective housing so that we can continue our struggle for human rights and legal status for asylum seekers in Austria. We demand sufficient time and assistance to arrange for adequate housing for our group of around 65 persons currently registered at Serviten-Kloster that enables us to remain together UNTIL WE CAN ATTAIN LEGAL STATUS. Our displacement, separation and eviction would make us vulnerable to further violence, both in Austria, our home country, or any other country.

Our struggle has lasted for over 7 months. Until now there has been no political solutions offered from the Austrian authorities regarding our demands. Please find attached a background information about the Refugee Protest Movement Vienna, written by FIAN Austria.

Our demands include:

- No deportation of any asylum-seeking person involved within the Refugee Protest Movement Vienna! There is urgent need for protection of refugees and asylum seekers in Austria and, especially of persons who are politically active and talk openly and in the media about human right violations in their country of origin.
- Review of the countryprofiles and the practise of implementing the countryprofiles – especially concerning countries with known and documented human rights violations.
- Restart of political round tables between the asylum-seeking activists and Austrian authorities like promised in past negotiations.
- To give asylum seekers as well as refugees and migrants in future more rights of co-determination and ownership concerning our issues and politics.
- Right of legal residence for the asylum-seeking activists and a political solution.
- Implementation of protesters' demands, especially the right to work and education.
- The right of political democratic activism without the fear of criminalization.

We call you and further keypersons of the United Nations to control and to remind the Austrian Government to follow the EU law concerning the regulations of Basic Support for asylum seekers. We ask you to remind the Austrian authorities to apply the international law of Non-Refoulement and the right of Subsidiary Protection properly.

We the asylum-seeking activists have used our right of freedom of speech, a democratic right, which has to be supported instead of being denied and punished.

We have decided to start this protest, make press conferences, go through hunger strikes under inhuman conditions, by risking our own lives, because of the situations in our countries of origin and the situation of refugees and asylum seekers in Austria.

We can't go back where we and our families are facing direct or structural violence. From our group already 35 asylum seekers have closed asylum cases – consequently any chance of legal status in Austria is lost and those persons are in acute danger of deportations.

We have arrived here in Europe/ Austria in hope for Human Rights.

We look forward to hearing from you approaching the Austrian authorities.

We thank you for your support and solidarity in advance. For further communications, please don't hesitate to contact us under [press.refugee.protest@riseup.net](mailto:press.refugee.protest@riseup.net)

Kindly,

Asylum Seekers of Refugee Protest Movement Vienna