

BORDER PROFITEERS

**CORPORATIONS PROFITING FROM
BORDERS, DETENTIONS AND DEPORTATIONS**

BERLIN EDITION



THEY HAVE NAMES — THEY HAVE ADDRESSES — TAKE ACTION!

WHAT IS THIS?

The external borders of Europe are not in Berlin, but the border regime is all around us. This regime consists of more than just the state. In capitalism, many forms of border oppression are subcontracted to corporations. Borders are very profitable. Therefore this market is dominated by huge multinational corporations. And since keywords of the European borders are militarisation and surveillance, the list of corporate border profiteers is full of the usual suspects that also profit from war, prisons and privacy infringement.

This booklet has gathered a list of corporations that profit from deportations, from managing detention centers, from building fences, selling ships, drones or planes patrolling the Mediterranean, subcontracted security guards, providing data collection, border surveillance software, id control mechanisms, racist policy consultation, prison construction and any other form of oppression that limits peoples freedom of movement and right to stay.

The goal of this booklet is to promote action in Berlin and Brandenburg. Hence the focus is very much on companies that have an office in Berlin or action possibilities based on local struggles.



TRIGGER ALERT

These texts include descriptions of structural racism, repression of border crossing, police violence and prisons.

BORDER PROFITEERS

1. DEPORTATION COLLABORATORS

- X LUFTHANSA – EUROWINGS
- X CORENDON AIRLINES
- X ENTER AIR
- X PRIVILEGE STYLE
- X TURKISH AIRLINES / JALAM TUR

2. BORDER MILITARISATION

- X AIRBUS – HENSOLDT
- X OTOKAR – KOÇ HOLDING
- X THALES

3. DETENTION INDUSTRY

- X EUROPEAN HOMECARE
- X PULSM -MORTEN GROUP
- X MARKGRAF
- X BAUKONTOR LANGE

4. SURVEILLANCE SOFTWARE

- X SOPRA STERIA
- X CEVISIO

5. PRIVATE GUARDS

- X CITY SCHUTZ
- X SECURITAS
- X L&S SICHERHEIT
- X SECURA PROTECT

6. BORDER CONSULTANCY

- X MCKINSEY



NO BORDER ASSEMBLY

Research done by No Border Assembly, a Berlin/Brandenburg based group of activists who fight against borders and deportations.

Written: May 2020 – April 2021

DEPORTATION COLLABORATORS

In 2019, 22.097 people were deported from Germany. Deportation is the violent removal of someone from the country. This practice starts with the state deciding who is allowed to live here and who not, based on capitalist and colonial understandings of the distribution of wealth. It is enacted by police raids, where people are taken from their homes during the night. Sometimes there is pre-deportation detention. Most deportations happen over the air. Corporations eagerly step in to deport people for profit.

MAJORITY OF DEPORTATION ATTEMPTS RESISTED IN 2019

The fight against deportations happens everyday. People are constantly resisting their own deportation. In 2019:

28.944 booked deportation seats were canceled because people were hiding and police could not find them.

1.692 times, people successfully resisted their deportation while already inside the airplane and escaped their deportation.

596 times, airline pilots have refused to cooperate with a deportation.

Despite successful resistance, there were 22.097 deportations too many in Germany last year. Most of these are done through booked seats on commercial flights. Around 25% are done through charter flights, where an entire airplane has been rented for a mass deportation. In Berlin, 1003 people were deported in 2019, of which 568 people through charter flights. In both these situations, corporations provide the planes for this and accumulate profit from deportations.

In 2019, most deportations leaving from Germany on commercial flights happened on Lufthansa airplanes. A distant second is Eurowings, which is a Lufthansa subsidiary. Lufthansa has topped this list for the last 3 years already and has a long history of collaborating with deportations. Since 2020, the German government is hiding the names of companies used in deportations. The reason they explicitly mention is that naming them would lower the public opinion of these companies. Therefore, we do not know which companies in 2020 are used for deportations on passenger flights, but we assume Lufthansa tops the list until proven otherwise.

For charter flights, airplanes from many different companies are booked. Even though the names are kept secret; flightradar reveals that most commonly companies like Corendon Airlines, Enter Air and Privilege Style are used.

LUFTHANSA – EUROWINGS

Since years, Lufthansa tops the list of airline companies profiting from German deportations. Their subsidiary Eurowings has become second since 2019!

HOW MANY PEOPLE DEPORTED BY WHICH AIRLINE?

AIRLINE	2017	2018	2019
LUFTHANSA	3.612	5.045	4.573
EUROWINGS	493	980	1.312
SMARTWINGS	2.886	2.041	677
BULGARIA AIR	1.827	1.101	1.054

Lufthansa has been the target of activists for decades. 20 years ago the activists organised airport actions, communication with pilots, demonstrations and media articles; leading to an infiltration of Lufthansa's 2001 and 2002 shareholders assemblies, which were heavily disturbed. Recently, Lufthansa's press speaker mentioned in an interview that they used to be the target of protest, but not anymore. Time to change that!

KOLA BANKOLE 1994 – AAMIR AGEEB 1999: NEVER FORGET!

In 1999, police murdered Aamir Ageeb from Sudan during a deportation on a Lufthansa airplane. While seated in the plane and cuffed at his hands and feet, police put a helmet on his head and pushed him with his head down. Aamir Ageeb suffocated to death. In 1993, Kola Bankole from Nigeria suffocated in a similar way during a Lufthansa deportation.

Racist police violence still continues on deportation flights. And while cops were the perpetrators in both these murders, Lufthansa has blood on its hands for collaborating. Years have passed, but we will not forgive!

Lufthansa will not change their collaboration based on morality, but public shaming can result in the general public choosing other airlines. Their fear of losing profits makes Lufthansa vulnerable to be targeted. Also, individual pilots can decide not to take someone who is being deported.

LUFTHANSA CUSTOMER SERVICE

Ullsteinstr. 118 (Haus 1A) 12109 Berlin

LUFTHANSA INNOVATION HUB

Rosenthaler Str. 32, 10178 Berlin

LUFTHANSA CITY CENTER

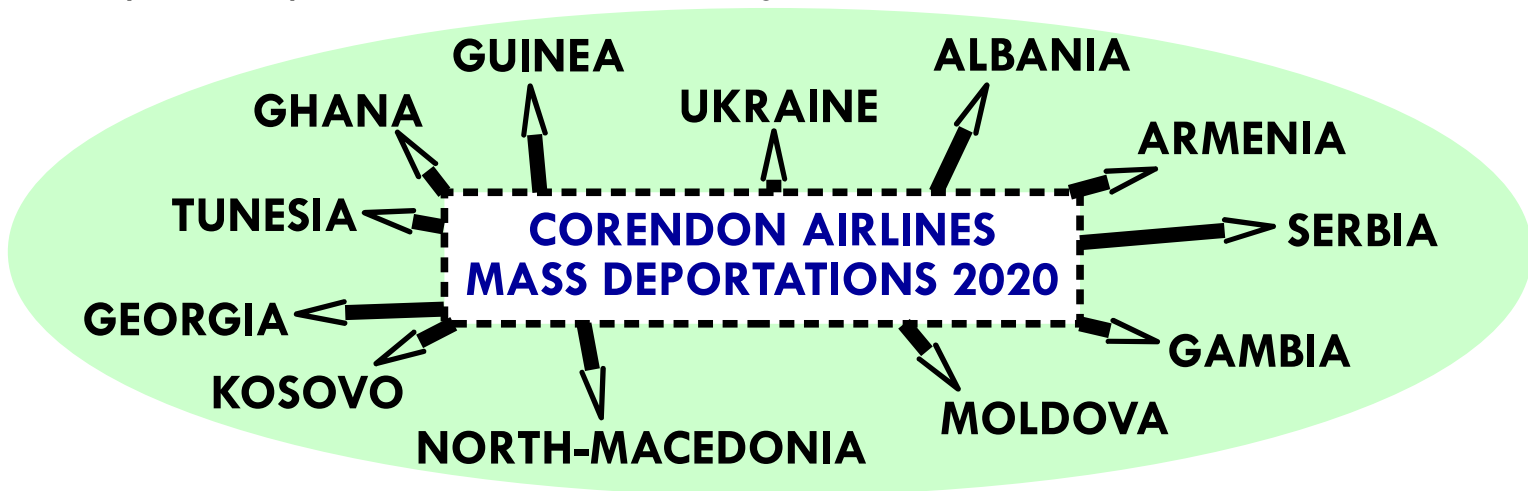
In Berlin, there are 6 Lufthansa City Center booking agencies.

Say hi?

<https://lufthansa-city-center.com>

CORENDON AIRLINES

This airline has been a new entry into the charter-deportation market since 2020, in the middle of the Corona pandemic and immediately has become it's top profiteer. Corendon Airlines has offices in Turkey and Malta, but it is the Dutch division who are responsible for deportations. Their 3 charter-planes have been responsible for most of 2020's mass-deportation charterflights from Germany. If one of their planes PH-CDE, PH-CDF or PH-CDH lands in your city, every anti-deportation alarm should ring.



Every deportation, any time is reason for outrage. Let us never forget that Corendon Airlines did this during the Corona pandemic. While Germany was in lockdown, avoiding travel or big groups – Corendon Airlines charter-planes performed mass-deportations on a weekly basis in the winter of 2020/2021.

The people responsible for this work in the Netherlands. We can reach them over email, telephone and their social media. They are present in Germany as being one of the sponsors of the football club 1. FC Nürnberg. Deportation profiteers have no place in sport and 1. FC Nürnberg can be pressured to stop collaborating with Corendon Airlines.

PRESSURING SPONSORS

Kick out Racism! Let **FC Nürnberg** know that they are enabling a deportation profiteer.

DEPORTATION CHARTERFLIGHTS

Sometimes deportations happen in passenger flights, among people going on holiday. Often however, a charter-plane is booked. This means: the EU border agency FRONTEX pays. During these mass operations, police raid as many places as they can the nights before to fill the plane. Usually, around 100 cops join these charterflights. Companies that rent their planes and pilots for these deportations. The average rate for a charter-deportation to Afghanistan is around €400.000.

RATE THEIR HOTELS

Share some online reviews of their many Dutch hotels and restaurants?

ENTER AIR

Enter Air is Berlin & Brandenburg's favourite charter-plane provider for deportations. This Polish company stands close to Corendon Airlines as biggest deportation profiteer in Germany and is one of the biggest charter airlines in Europe.

This is the company who deported people to the war in Iraq in December 2020, during the first deportation charterflight there from Germany since a long time. This is the company most commonly used in Berlin for their frequent deportation flights to Moldova.

CHARTERS TO MOLDOVA

Berlin is deporting to Moldova. A lot! In 2020, during the pandemic there were 13 mass deportation flights from Berlin to Moldova with a total of 519 people on board, mostly Roma people who have to fight racist oppression in Moldova.

On 11 December 2020, an airplane of Enter Air took a 73-year old woman by force to Moldova, who had a severe lung condition and was undergoing TBC treatment in Berlin. The woman was kidnapped by police during a midnight deportation raid. Enter Air is complicit in this murderous practice: deporting someone with a lung condition in the middle of a pandemic.

Enter Air's offices are in Poland and the company's main shareholder is a shady Malta-registered investment fund. The second biggest shareholder is the huge international finance company ING.

ING

Their dirty investment money goes everywhere, including to Enter Air. ING's subsidiary Nationale Nederlanden owns 11.4% of Enter Air.

Unternehmensrepräsentanz

Unter den Linden 74
10117 Berlin

PRIVILEGE STYLE

Deportations to Afghanistan happen! In April 2021, the 38th charter-deportation to Kabul left Germany from Berlin. Since 2020, all deportation charter-flights to Afghanistan from Germany happened on a plane from the Spanish charter-airline Privilege Style.

#AFGHANISTANNOTSAFE

Afghanistan is a war zone. According to the Global Peace Index 2020, Afghanistan is the unsafest country in the world. Germany mass-deports there monthly and Privilege Style profits.

Privilege Style prides itself for being the charter-airline of last resort: if no other company takes the job, they will. That includes deporting people to war zones during a pandemic. Privilege Style's fee for a charter-deportation to Afghanistan? Around 340.000 EUR.

The company has 4 old planes and besides deportation flights also operates military transport (including German troops to Afghanistan bases) and provides transport for football players (especially the Spanish football teams Sevilla and Atletico Madrid).

CHEMA ÁLVAREZ

Privilege Style's owner is a frequent social media user. You can let him know what you think of his deportation profiteering on Twitter and Facebook:

Twitter: [@privilege757](https://twitter.com/@privilege757)

Facebook: [chema.alvarez.96](https://www.facebook.com/chema.alvarez.96)

These football clubs supposedly take a stand against racism, but see no problem in using the services of a notorious deportation profiteer.



KICK OUT RACISM



Football clubs claim their commitment to anti-racism, but Sevilla FC and Atletico Madrid use the services of deportation profiteer Privilege Style. Let them know that their stand against racism needs to be put in practice:

Twitter: [SevillaFC](https://twitter.com/SevillaFC) / [Atletienglish](https://twitter.com/Atletienglish)

Facebook: [Sevillafc.eng](https://www.facebook.com/Sevillafc.eng) / [AtleticocodeMadrid](https://www.facebook.com/AtleticocodeMadrid)

TURYOL / JALEM TUR

The EU-Turkey Deal has transformed the Greek Islands into open air prisons. When people arrive on the Greek Islands Lesvos, Chios, Samos or Kos, it is a common procedure that people immediately get jailed in pre-deportation prisons. After a fast-tracked asylum procedure (and sometimes without) while imprisoned, deportation follows. At time of writing, 20.000 people were stuck in the Moria camp on the island Lesvos.

EU-TURKEY DEAL

The 2016 deal between the EU and Turkey aims to halt migration into the EU. In the deal, Turkey promised to make it harder for people to cross into Greece and also accept deportations and pushbacks from Greece. Turkey received EU cash and the EU promised to open asylum pathways to a certain number of Syrian refugees residing in Turkey.

After the EU-Turkey deal, Frontex signed several contracts with commercial tourist companies to facilitate deportations from Greece to Turkey. Sometimes by plane, but mostly by ferry. These deportations most often leave from Lesvos and happen usually at a frequency of 2 or 3 deportation boats per week. The majority of people deported are detained in Turkish removal prisons upon arrival for up to 12 months.

Certain companies are used to deport people to Turkey. The two companies currently (March 2020) often used are the Turkey-based Turyol and Jalem Tur (sometimes referred to as Eşref Jale). Please notice that FRONTEX often changes companies they use, so check sources before taking action.

ONLINE SHAMING OF DEPORTATION FERRIES

These companies also operate in the tourist sector and hence are vulnerable to shaming in their online contact forms or review platforms. Or update their wiki page. It takes little time to share your opinion with them.

TURYOL

Turyol is the largest ferry operator in Turkey, operating ferry services in western Turkey, mostly Istanbul, as well as connections to the Greek islands. It maintains a fleet of 70 vessels.

<https://www.turyol.com/>
<http://blog.turyol.com/>
<https://www.turyolonline.com/>
<https://twitter.com/TuryolOfficial>
<https://www.facebook.com/turyolcom>
<https://www.facebook.com/turyolmidilliadasi>
<https://www.instagram.com/turyolmidilli>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turyol>
<https://www.tripadvisor.com>

JALEM TUR

Jalem Tur is a smaller company, operating 6 vessels on the commercial route between Lesvos and Turkey.

<http://www.jalemtur.com/iletisim.aspx>
<http://www.jalemtur.com/acenteler.aspx>
<https://www.facebook.com/jalemtur>
<https://www.instagram.com/jalemtur>

BORDER MILITARISATION

Within and around Europe, borders are getting increasingly militarised. At the Mediterranean Sea; the Aegean Sea between Turkey and Greek islands like Chios, Lesbos, Samos and Kos; the land border between Turkey and Greece or Bulgaria; and the Spain-occupied colonial enclave of Ceuta and Mellila in Morocco. Also internal borders are getting militarised, in Calais, Ventimiglia or in Serbia. All these places are full of walls, drones, military surveillance aircrafts and ships and border surveillance systems.

More and more, border control is a corporate market. Companies are paid by EU contracts. Not coincidentally, these are the same companies that also profit from war. The same companies that sell arms in wars, are also paid to block people fleeing from those same wars. Three of the biggest war profiteers are also the biggest border profiteers: Thales, Airbus and Leonardo.

Not only do these companies profit from EU border policy, they are partly also shaping policy. EU border policy is heavily formed through lobby interactions with the European Organisation for Security (EOS), which is run by Thales, Leonardo, Airbus and a bunch of other arms multinationals. The EOS lobbies for stronger and more militarised border control. These same companies also get contracted for research in security issues, and therefore are setting the agenda and then often benefiting from the subsequent contracts that result.

Meanwhile, countries outside the EU are being pushed to take up a role as outpost border guards to try to stop people from reaching the EU borders. This externalisation of EU borders to Libya, Turkey, Egypt and many other countries means that funds are given for border control, which then goes into the pockets of these same companies.

AIRBUS – HENSOLDT

German arms-giant Airbus and its subsidiaries are key supplier of helicopters and border surveillance systems used in patrolling EU maritime and land borders, deployed by Belgium, France, Germany, Finland, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Lithuania and Spain, including in FRONTEX maritime Operations Sophia, Poseidon and Triton (see box below).

Airbus is the major recipients of EU funding for research and also profits from border security purchases new EU members have to do to comply with Schengen requirements.

Airbus designed the French coastal border surveillance system. The project collects data through radar for an integrated coastal surveillance system. The same system was sold to Bulgaria and Romania as part of Schengen obligations connected to becoming an EU member. The Spanish Guardia Civil is another customer of their border surveillance systems.

FRONTEX OPERATIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Without legal pathways to enter the Schengen area for anyone lacking finances for an expensive visa, many people are forced to risk their lives crossing the Mediterranean sea. FRONTEX has organised maritime operations that publicly pretend to be rescue-based, but in practice are border control and limiting migration numbers. Previous operations were named Poseidon, Triton, Sophia and currently Themis. FRONTEX purchases technology for this from companies like Airbus in the form of military helicopters, drones, warships as well as training Libyan militia for border control. Airbus profited from all these operations at the cost of many lives.

Airbus helicopters are used by several European border security authorities. The German border police operates 79 Airbus helicopters, used for border security including Frontex missions.

Outside of the EU, Airbus developed a complete border security system for Saudi Arabia worth 2 billion euros. German police worked together with Airbus employees in training Saudi border police, paid from Germany's international development aid budget.

As part of externalising the EU borders, Germany donated a large amount of mainly Airbus-produced border security equipment to Tunisia, including speedboats, a document-testing laboratory, night vision equipment, surveillance systems, radar and reconnaissance systems and other military equipment for border security. Airbus' helicopters are used by amongst others Mali, Egypt and Ghana for border control. Algeria also purchased their border surveillance system from Airbus.

In March 2017, Airbus Border Security division became the German company Hensoldt. Airbus had decided to focus more on its core activities and sold this division to American private equity firm KKR & Co for about €1.1 billion, while maintaining a 25% minority stake.

Airbus-Hensoldt makes the top 3 of corporate multinationals profiting from the EU border. It is not possible to shame a company that bases their whole business on profiting from wars around the world and currently is investigated for war crimes in Yemen. But it is worth visiting them in person:

Airbus Group Repräsentanz Berlin

Rahel-Hirsch-Str. 10
10557 Berlin

Hensoldt Repräsentanz Berlin

Voßstraße 33
10117 Berlin

OTOKAR - KOÇ HOLDING

The Turkish company Otokar, producer of military and civil vehicles, is the main supplier of armored vehicles for the Turkish army. Besides supplying the Turkish army for the invasion of Rojava, Otokar supplies reconnaissance and surveillance vehicles for border security on the Turkish-Syrian border. They produced and sold to the Turkish army, 82 Cobra II vehicles, equipped with radar, a target detection and thermal camera system to patrol the border. It is common practice that these vehicles shoot towards people fleeing from Syria.

SMART TOWERS: THE TURKEY-SYRIA BORDER

Fleeing from Syria into Turkey is life threatening for many. Besides a border fence, there are so-called "smart towers": a tower network on the border with systems comprising of machine guns, thermal cameras and alert systems that will warn anyone who approaches that they are about to be shot and automatically opens fire, if they don't leave. Otokar provided the Cobra II to patrol alongside these towers.

The purchase of the Cobta II vehicles was funded with EU money. This 47 million euros came from the Pre-Accession (IPA) budget for Turkey, which is designed to bring potential future EU candidate countries in line with EU rules.

#RISEUP4ROJAVA

The Turkish army is Otokar's main client. Their military vehicles are used to suppress protest in Turkey and in the invasion of Kurdish zones in North-Syria, where Otokar vehicles can be seen daily patrolling the streets.

African nations are particularly targeted by Otokar: Ghana, Burkina Faso, Algeria, Chad, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Rwanda and Tunisia all bought numbers of their vehicles for their armies. Otokar is owned by Koç Holding, the largest Turkish corporate conglomerate that also owns German subsidiaries Beko and Grundig. Otokar products are used in 60 countries, which also includes non-military vehicles.

In Berlin, it is interesting to know that some of the public transport we drive around in is also provided by Otokar. BVG uses their buses. Some pressure might convince them to cease cooperation with a war and border profiteer!

PRESSURE BVG IN BERLIN

The BVG subcontracts many of their bus lines to a private company called Dr. Hermann Gruppe, which uses Otokar buses. The BVG - Dr. Hermann contract runs until 2021. It's possible to pressure BVG to not to renew it?

Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe (BVG)

Holzmarktstraße 15-17

10179 Berlin

Telefon: (030) 19449

<http://www.BVG.de> info@bvg.de

Dr. Hermann Touristik GmbH

Alt-Friedrichsfelde 63 B

12683 Berlin

Telefon: (030) 311 611 110

<http://www.dr-herrmann-gruppe.com>

THALES

Thales is a giant French security company. They claim to have delivered more than 50 systems in service worldwide related to homeland security and border surveillance. They produce radar and sensor systems, used by many ships for border security, including ones deployed by Frontex operations in the Mediterranean. Thales also produces maritime surveillance systems for drones and is developing border surveillance infrastructure to track and control refugees before they reach Europe by using smartphone apps, as well as exploring the use of High Altitude Pseudo Satellites (HAPS) for border security by FRONTEX.

NO BORDER CALAIS pic

Thales currently provides the security system for the highly militarised port in Calais (France), where thousands of refugees are fighting to cross to the UK. The system includes surveillance camera's along the border fence and sensor systems monitoring border entry points. Thales also produced the border security drones in Calais as well as the ones in the Eurotunnel.

Thales also produces electronic ID-management systems. Its acquisition in 2019 of Gemalto, a large (biometric) identity security company, makes it a significant player in the development and maintenance of EU's virtual walls. Thales provides a border control system, consisting of biometric data acquisition points worldwide that monitors passport applications. France purchased a "biometric enrolment and data transmission system", while Morocco and Kenya are clients for Thales-produced identity cards. The UK bought from Thales a system for the encryption of biometric and biographic data for Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) cards for non-EU foreigners.

Thales has sold complete systems for border security to various countries. It supplied Spain with both fixed and mobile thermal optronic systems for border surveillance. Thales was contracted by the Tunisian government to build a wall on the border with Libya.

There are Thales offices worldwide and also in Berlin we have the possibility to visit them:

THALES DEUTSCHLAND GmbH
Schützenstraße 25
10117 Berlin

SATELLITE SURVEILLANCE

FRONTEX buys satellite images from GAF, a Germany-based Thales subsidiary and joint-venture with another arms-giant Leonardo. Their satellite mapping provides short-notice images of border areas, like the Mediterranean. GAF's satellite data receiving facility is in Neustrelitz, just north of Berlin.

GAF

Kalkhorstweg 53
17235 Neustrelitz
Telefon: +49 3981 48830
email: info@gaf.de

DETENTION INDUSTRY

Deportation and prisons often go together. In Germany, anyone with a final rejection of their asylum case, can be forced in a deportation prison. Some of these prisons have a maximum detention length of 10 days (Ausreisegewahrsam) and others of up to 18 months (Abschiebungshaft). Throughout Germany there are deportation prisons.

Berlin and Brandenburg, currently (2020) have one deportation prison operational: Schönefeld airport, reopened in 2019, allegedly with a maximum of 2 days detention. It is run by the Brandenburg Ausländerbehörde with some management externalised to the German Red Cross. The deportation prison in Eisenhüttenstadt is under reconstruction with no confirmed reopening date.

Many of these prisons are run by the state and guarded by cops, but more and more they are run by contracted companies. In Dresden, the deportation prison is entirely privatised to European Homecare GmbH, which also runs the neighbouring Anker center. European Homecare GmbH is the German “market leader” in managing refugee accommodations (in German: Lagers) as well, including Anker centers. Until a few years ago, they also were contracted to partially run Abschiebehaft Büren.

Many of these places hire private guards to replace police. There are many reports of security guards enacting racist violence in Lagers. The companies providing private security in Lagers and prisons are explored in another chapter. The companies that run or construct these prisons, will be focused on in this chapter.

Three new deportation prisons are being worked on in Germany. Two are currently in construction with opening dates in 2021: in Glückstadt and in Hof. A third new deportation prison in Passau is currently in the planning phase and is envisioned to open around 2024. It's possible to encourage the companies constructing these prisons to stop collaborating with deportations and detention.

ANKER CENTERS

Since 2018, Anker centers are designed as a place where people are forced to stay for the whole asylum process, from arrival to deportation. All services and institutions are located in the center and people are expected to stay there, until either a successful asylum request or deportation. These places are fenced off and have usually the atmosphere of a prison, but people are in theory allowed to leave. Most of these centers currently are in Bayern. The one closest to Berlin is the privately run Anker center in Dresden.

EUROPEAN HOMECARE

European Homecare is one of Germany's biggest private care providers, including management of around 80 refugee Lagers around Germany. Since 2013, their profits have quadrupled. The state hires the provider who can offer management of Lagers for the lowest price. European Homecare has been the largest profiteer of this privatisation.

Lagers are the state's attempt to limit's people's autonomy and enforce a system of isolation. People have been fighting this system of Lagers everywhere in Europe. Privatisation of Lagers means that these places generate corporate profit and make these places even more unlivable due to considerations of keeping costs as low as possible.

TORTURE IN BURBACH

In 2014, videos showed European Homecare security personal abusing refugees in the Burbach Lager, including selfies of security guards with their feet on the head of Lager inhabitants and a video of someone being forced to lie down in vomit. Investigations revealed that the same Lager had something called a "problem room", where inhabitants deemed "problematic" were locked up and abused. Internal emails showed that this practice was well known in the higher ranks of European Homecare. Some lower rank employees received minor convictions, but not their boss.

The list of complaints in Lagers run by European Homecare is long: overdue building maintenance, non-functioning kitchens or washing machines, ignored fire safety measures. Also there are reports of known fascists being employed by them to work in Lagers. Reports include Hoyerswerda, Sachsen, where the Lager boss structurally referred to inhabitants with racist slurs. Media picked up on it: the boss publicly apologised and kept his job. The social worker who spoke out against this was fired. European Homecare also operated in Austria, until someone died in their Traiskirchen Lager.

Not only do their Lagers feel like prisons, European Homecare also runs deportation prisons. In Dresden, the deportation prison and the AnKER center are right next to each other, both run by European Homecare. European Homecare's office is in Essen, but there are ways to connect with them in Berlin, like their security sub-company Stölting-Gruppe, founded and owned by Sascha Korte; or the record label he owns: Bounty Records.

STÖLTING GROUP GmbH
Gehringstraße 58
13088 Berlin

SASCHA KORTE

In 2019 activists visited European Homecare CEO Sascha Korte in his private home in Essen and left his house and car redecorated.

BOUNTY RECORDS

The Hip Hop artists Der Wolf, DJ Rich Boogie, Einfach nur Jay and Metaphysics are employed. It's possible to contact the artists and boycott this label: <https://bountyrecords.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/bountyrecords/>

PULSM – MORTEN GROUP

Most AnKER centers are in Bayern. Some of these have been privatised and the biggest player in this market has been the Munich based PulsM GmbH, which runs the AnKER center in Bamberg and the Manching/Ingolstadt AnKER center including it's 7 sub-locations around Upper Bayern. PulsM is part of the company Morten Group, which owns hotel chains all around Germany.

All Lagers are based on the principle of isolating refugees from German society. AnKER centers takes this to extremes. These centers are heavily fenced off and often located in the middle of nowhere. BAMF, Ausländerbehörde, some minimal health service and minor education possibilities are located inside the fences. There are loads of security guards around. No one, except employees and people forced to live here, are allowed inside. Inhabitants are allowed to leave, but often face very difficult public transport connections to the nearest city while monthly allowances make expensive bus tickets unaffordable. People are not allowed to work, or go to any other school or health clinic than the ones in the center. It is also not allowed to leave the district at all.

FASCIST GUARDS IN BAMBERG

At least from 2017, there has been operating a special unit of fascist security guards in the PulsM managed AnKER center in Bamberg. These guards from the company Fair Guards GmbH structurally targeted African migrants living in the center. They organised themselves in a WhatsApp group called "Sons of Odin", where they planned their attacks and bragged to each about enacted racist violence. People living in the center have reported a climate of terror inside, with common beatings and pepper spraying.

In 2019, this became public. The guards part of this team were suspended. Fair Guards GmbH is still hired for security there and the same head of security in Bamberg remains in charge.

Sadly, Fair Guards has no presence in Berlin. Since PulsM is responsible for running the Bamberg AnKER center, we can hold them to account.

With no choice to leave these places, police knows where to find everyone. Nightly deportation raids are common, leading to a climate a fear. AnKER are designed to make deportations easier. PulsM therefore is complicit in managing these centers.

MORTEN GROUP, the parent company of PulsM: although they have no presence in Berlin, they own multiple hotel chains around Germany:

- Hostel Letzter Heller (Hamburg)
- A1 Hostels (Nürnberg, München & Hamburg)
- BOLD Hotels (München & Frankfurt)

Loads of bad online reviews will hurt their profits

Dr. Wolfgang Kaefer

CEO of PulsM and Morten Group, is also a dentist and runs a dentist practice in München. Someone could leave some bad reviews on Jameda.

MARKGRAFF

Around autumn 2019, construction of a new deportation prison in Hof (Bayern) started and is estimated to go into operation mid-2021. It will have a capacity to imprison 150 people, making it the second biggest deportation prison in Germany – after the one in Büren.

The contract to build this prison was taken by W. Markgraf GmbH & Co KG, a German construction company, which is active around Europe: a construction contract worth 51million euro's. It is not the first prison they have built: they include JVA Kempten in their former projects. The architecture company that designed this prison in Hof is called Dömges + Fischer Generalplanung GmbH, which has their office in Regensburg. The new prison will have 96 one-person and 18 three-person cells, in a building surrounded by a 4,5 meter high wall.

Markgraf are building the Hof prison until mid-2021, making them collaborators for every individual deportation that happens from this prison.

W. MARKGRAF GmbH

No more office in Berlin, but there's a large construction site they contracted near Berlin Hauptbahnhof: Invalidenstraße 73

BAUKONTOR LANGE

Also in Glückstadt, just north of Hamburg, a new deportation prison is under construction and will go into operation on January 2021. The prison will be used by Schleswig-Holstein, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Hamburg to imprison people before their deportation. Each of the regions will have 20 cells reserved in the prison, making a total capacity of 60 places.

Old naval barracks in Glückstadt will be rebuild into the new deportation prison. The land these barracks stand on is owned by Baukontor Lange. Originally planning to make the barracks into a shopping mall, now Baukontor Lange leased the land to Schleswig-Holstein with a contract until 2026, with a 5 years extension possibility.

The old barracks have been redesigned into a prison by a company called Dänekam und Partner GbR. Construction of a new wall around the barracks has been done by a company called EUDUR-Bau GmbH. These companies are not based anywhere around Berlin.

Baukontor Lange is a construction company, active in Germany and Poland. Their choice to lease land in Glückstadt for a deportation prison makes them complicit. Some persuasion could make this lease contract canceled or not extended after 2026. The main office of Baukontor Lange is just north of Berlin.

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SURVEILLANCE SOFTWARE

The European Union uses a wide network of surveillance as backbone for their tools of repression and control. The main surveillance systems operating at EU borders are EURODAC, VIS, SIS II and EUROSUR.

EURODAC: an EU fingerprint database. Anyone who applies for asylum or gets caught crossing a border without permission, has their fingerprint taken in this database. This enables authorities to determine whether someone already has their fingerprints in another EU state and hence can be deported there, according to Dublin regulation.

SIS II: shared EU database for police and border guards to find information about individuals for the purposes of border control. Contains information about past deportations, entry bans, wanted alerts, available biometrics (facial imaging, DNA, finger- and palm prints) as well as unspecified counter-terrorism related information.

VIS: database containing information on visa applications by people without EU passports to enter the Schengen area. During visa application, a facial image and 10 fingerprints are entered into the VIS database and when entering Schengen, the Biometric Matching System (BMS) verifies that the biometric record scanned at the border correspond to the visa.

EUROSUR: surveillance system of the EU that uses drones, reconnaissance aircraft, offshore sensors and satellite remote sensing, to track migration. This database allows exchange of information between national immigration agencies to gain information about recent migration movements.

These systems are fundamental parts of EU's repressive border regime, facilitating identifying, tracking and deporting refugees. They increasingly use cameras, refined biometrics registration, motion trackers and emotion recognition software, all part of a system of "border apartheid", where some can easily pass while others are picked out for controls, detained and deported. Most of the contracts for these systems have gone to two companies, sometimes as leader of a consortium. The Spanish company GMV has secured most contracts for Eurosur, but this chapter will focus on Sopra Steria as the main contractor for the development and maintenance of VIS, SIS II and EURODAC.

Also in Germany, national systems are used to control refugees. For example the Cevio QMM software, which registers people's behaviour and movement in and out Lagers through a chip in their registration card.

SOPRA STERIA

The French IT consultancy firm Sopra Steria is the prime contractor for several large EURODAC, VIS and SIS II (framework) contracts. Although the European Commission imposed penalties of €3.5 million for under-performance, delays and non-compliance in the development of both SIS II and VIS, Sopra Steria was contracted by Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Romania, Slovenia and the UK to connect their national system with the central system. The German border police had also been working with an automated fingerprint system from Steria. In 2019, the UK privatised their whole domestic visa processing to Sopra Steria with all expected results such as increased costs, longer waiting times and accusations of exploitative behaviour towards people seeking UK status.

The EU is currently paying Sopra Steria to develop a new Shared Biometric Matching System (sBMS), in cooperation with another tech surveillance company: IDEMIA. This will be one of the largest biometric databases in the world, based on fingerprints and facial images. Finished in 2022, all people without EU passport will then have to give 4 fingerprints and their facial image when crossing the border into the EU, which will then be cross referenced to track migration and used by police. The addition of facial imaging makes it possible to use data gathered by security camera's.

FACIAL TRACKING IN SÜDKREUZ

Since 2018, there are facial recognition camera's in the Berlin Südkreuz station as part of a pilot project to test software developed by IDEMIA, which is working on the sBMS project together with Sopra Steria. The sBMS will use the same IDEMIA created facial recognition software as is used in the Südkreuz pilot project.

SOPRA STERIA SE
Friedrichstraße 148
10117 Berlin

Sopra Steria has offices all around the world, including Berlin.

CEVISIO

The German company Cevio Software und Systeme GmbH develops a variety of software for corporate systems and surveillance use. Their software "Cevio QMM" (neighbourhood management) was developed (in cooperation with the German Red Cross) especially for refugee Lagers. With this software, movement to and in the Lager, food expenses, medical checks such as X-ray, blood and stool examinations, pregnancy status, kinship, religious and national affiliations and much more are recorded and stored.

An identification card with a chip or barcode forms the basis for the recording. With this card, the residents move around in the Lager and hold the card in front of a reader in various places: at the Lager entrance and exit, at the food counter, at the laundry when receiving pocket money, when renting books or video films, during medical examinations or during voluntary work. The Cevio software records all of this and interfaces it with data of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) and the Ausländerbehörde.

SURVEILLANCE AND DEPORTATION RAIDS

According to the law, during a deportation raid police can enter only the room of the person they seek for deportation. Cevio's software however records whether someone is currently in the building or not. Therefore this software often is the bases for Lager-wide police searches for a specific person. Many people use various anti-deportation resistance tactics, such as warning each other with whistles when cops arrive or sleeping in different rooms around the Lager.

This system of surveillance is also used during deportation raids. Everyone living in a Lager will have to check-in with the card to access the building, hence the software allows police to know whether someone is home or not. Many Lager also have a rule that people need to sleep only at the Lager and not somewhere else. The card check-in system therefore is used as control: if the software shows that people did not check-in for a certain number of days, their registration at the Lager is canceled.

In 2018, Cevio won the Big Brother award to highlight their invasion of people's privacy. Their office is just outside Brandenburg on the border with Sachsen.

CEVISIO Software und Systeme GmbH
Gewerbering 7
04860 Torgau

PRIVATE GUARDS

Both deportation prisons and Lagers hire private security companies. Even at Lagers managed by non-profit organisations, security is sub-contracted. Profits in this business have gone up enormously, especially for multinationals like G4S and Securitas; profits based on imprisonment and control of refugees.

Besides large corporate security empires, also local security companies profit. The link between security companies and the neo-Nazi scene has been well documented. We read often of security guards perpetrating racist violence in refugee accommodations. Reportedly, one in ten known neo-Nazis in the state of Brandenburg are employed in the private security industry.

It's hard to choose which companies to list here, since there are so much stories of security guards perpetrating racist violence in Lagers. This chapter includes Securitas as biggest German security company; the Potsdam based L&S sicherheitsdienst for their well documented links with fascists; City Schutz since they guard the deportation prison at Schönefeld airport; and Secura Protect, because they support police doing deportations at Berlin Ausländerbehörde.

G4S BUY-OUT IN GERMANY

In 2007, Securitas bought all G4S operations in Germany. The notorious border profiteer G4S provides prison guards in migrant detention centers in the UK, Austria, Estonia, Greece, Canada, the Netherlands, Australia, South Africa and Norway. They even were hired to execute deportations in the UK, until 3 of their guards murdered Jimmy Mubenga on a flight. G4S employees are known around the world for beating people in prisons. In the UK they profit from cheap labor of detained migrants; in Palestine they used to guard Israeli checkpoints and the border wall; they patrol in Afghani and Iraqi war zones; and they protect oil wells in Nigeria.

Currently G4S partly runs security of the Moria camp in Lesvos. G4S should always be on our radar. Even though they have no presence in Germany, there are other ways to get to them.

CITY SCHUTZ

The German security company City Schutz is contracted around Germany, including as security guards in many Lager. In 2019, they made the news when someone living in the Halberstadt Lager in Sachsen-Anhalt, uploaded a video online showing 4 security guards from City Schutz beating up people in the Lager. Although these 4 guards were suspended, the company continues as usual. And although this event brought to light the structural system of racist abuse in this Lager, nothing changed. Only a video brought attention to this event and many more of these happenings go unreported.

City Schutz guards the deportation prison in Schönefeld airport. Officially called "Ausreise Gewahrsam", this prison locks people up for (allegedly) a maximum of 2 days before deportation. Although a combination of police and the Red Cross run the inside of this prison, the outer terrain is guarded by City Schutz. The fact that they profiteer from deportation and detention in Berlin / Brandenburg, makes City Schutz top the list in this chapter.

AUSREISEGEWAHRSAM SCHÖNEFELD

The prison is in an industrial area next to the airport, away from public eyes. It is likely people will be here in the days before a scheduled charter-deportation flight from Schönefeld. Solidarity demo's or blockade actions could be possible.

DOBERLUG-KIRCHHAIN

The Lager in Doberlug-Kirchhain, just south of Berlin, is guarded by City Schutz. People living in this Lager have organised resistance against Lagers, deportations and police violence, and formed the Refugee Assembly Brandenburg. After regular mass police raids in the night to take people for deportations, people stood up in protest against nightly police terror. City Schutz, like all Lager guards, are supporting deportation raids in Lagers.

City Schutz has an office in Berlin, where opinions can be shared:

CITY SCHUTZ GmbH
Walderseestraße 25
13407 Berlin

SECURITAS

Sweden-based security multinational Securitas AB is the biggest security services company in Germany and the second biggest in the world (after G4S) with a presence in 53 countries. They provide security for many Lagers around Germany.

In Sweden, Securitas has even been hired during some periods to do border ID controls. Berlin police more and more often uses private security firms, including Securitas to patrol certain emergency security zones, so called "Gefahrengebiet": Securitas cars are often used to patrol Leopoldplatz in Wedding for example and reports of racist violence perpetrated by them are numerous.

SECURITAS IN OHLAUER

In Berlin, the school building on Ohlauerstr. has been squatted by refugee activists between 2012 and 2017, protesting for freedom of movement and an end to all deportations. After a week-long stand off with police in an eviction attempt in 2014, a security booth was installed with Securitas security guards and for the next 3 years, these guards controlled entry of the squatted school. Activists in the school report of racist violence enacted by these Securitas guards.

Their Berlin office is available for feedback.

SECURITAS HOLDING GmbH

Potsdamer Straße 88
10785 Berlin

L&S SICHERHEITSDIENST

There are lots of reports of known fascists working for security companies. The same companies who are contracted to guard Lagers. A recent and local example of this is L&S Sicherheitsdienst, active in Berlin and Brandenburg. The L&S boss is called Dennis Lots, who's private facebook page is filled with pro-AFD content among other fascist groups and often phrases advertising for his company in racist, anti-migrant terms.

In 2020, one person living in a Potsdam Lager tested positive for the Coronavirus, which prompted a mass quarantine in the Lager. Due to the prison-like conditions in Lagers, it is impossible to take health precautions or practice physical distancing, but people were forced to remain in the Lager and forbidden to step out. L&S Sicherheitsdienst are the security guards in this Lager, who took on to keep the 105 people quarantined in the building. The 10 guards enforcing this imprisonment included one known neonazi, who had already been called out as a fascist while working in a previous security job.

Confrontation with them could mean confrontation with local fascist scenes. Their office is in Werder, just outside Potsdam.

L&S Sicherheits Dienst GmbH

Mielestraße 2
14542 Werder (Havel)

SECURA PROTECT

Deportations not only happen through Lagers and prisons: also in Ausländerbehörde deportations happen. People who are renewing their documents, also might have to deal with deportation attempts during these appointments. In Berlin Ausländerbehörde, police has an office at the back of the complex. Secura Protect is the security company hired to guard the building.

RESISTANCE IN AUSLÄNDERBEHÖRDE

Many people use tactics to decrease the risk of deportation in Ausländerbehörde. Any form of resistance in the Berlin Ausländerbehörde needs to take into account the watchful eyes of Secura Protect guards.

When someone with a rejected asylum case renews their papers, it is possible that police is awaiting. The common practice in Berlin is as follows: after waiting for their number in one of the waiting rooms, people are called in one of the small office rooms. After giving the expired papers, people are asked to wait again in the waiting room.

When called back in to presumably pick up the extended papers, instead of extended papers, there's police waiting in the room, who then take people to either a deportation prison or directly to the airport. There's one detention cell inside Ausländerbehörde.

This danger is known and many people attempt forms of resistance against this deportation practice. Secura Protect guards are therefore patrolling the hallways and guarding the only entrance/exit to the complex. These guards help out police when people are resisting and block the only exit of the complex in case people attempt to escape. This makes Secura Protect directly complicit in deportations.

**SECURA PROTECT
Holding GmbH**

OFFICES IN BERLIN:

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14612 Falkensee
Bertha-Benz-Straße 5
10557 Berlin

BORDER CONSULTANCY

Government policies are often shaped behind closed doors with heavy involvement of corporate interests. Like described in previous chapters, it is often the case that the corporations who end up being contracted by the state also have a role in shaping the policies that result in themselves being contracted. Companies like Airbus, Thales or Leonardo play many roles in shaping EU border policies.

Besides corporate-funded think-tanks and lobby groups, there are also consultancy companies who are specifically contracted to support the development of new policies. More and more governments are using these kind of companies to base their new policies on, resulting in an increasing entrenchment of state and corporate interests. There is a revolving door between corporations and government. Ex-government officials are often head-hunted by various corporations, or enter the lobbying industry.

Consultancy companies are sometimes so deep into forming government policy that they are in charge of hiring other external companies or even extending their own contract. Since one corporation, McKinsey & Company has played such a central role in shaping current EU border policies, this chapter focuses on them.

McKINSEY

McKinsey & Company is the biggest consultancy business in the world and has a long shady history. Lurking in the corporate shadows behind politicians, McKinsey has quietly shaped migration policies around the world. Their known consultancy in the last years include transforming the German asylum system since 2016, developing the EU-Turkey deal, reshaping asylum processing on the Greek islands and increasing border detention and deportation in the US under Trump.

In 2016, McKinsey was hired in Germany to increase the speed of asylum application processing. Their policy advice mostly became government practice in the last years. McKinsey has been behind the increased amounts of deportation prisons in Germany. They also proposed ANKER centers, including the separation into different groups in these center according to their chances to get asylum. McKinsey advised to turbo-speed assessing asylum applications, therefore these judgements lack proper control and further decreased understanding of current

political situations around the world. They also devised ways to decrease costs, resulting in bad translation / interpretation during asylum interviews and further limiting access to independent advice.

The 2016 EU-Turkey deal was based on consultancy of McKinsey, who provided much of the basis of the EU Joint Action Plan. Besides the EU-Turkey deal, this plan also reshaped asylum, detention and deportation practices on the Greek islands. McKinsey did more than only provide the advice for this: they also oversaw much of this operation in Lesbos, Chios and Kos.

EU-TURKEY DEAL (#2)

In 2016, the EU struck a deal with Turkey to keep Syrian refugees in Turkey in exchange for €6 billion. Erdogan uses this deal to get what he wants from the EU. In 2020, he temporarily stopped this deal and re-opened borders to Greece in order to get more EU funds and threaten the EU into supporting his war in Kurdistan. The deal is back in operation now until at least 2021.

New government policy on the Greek islands and McKinsey's consultancy reports are almost identical: increased detention capacity, increased amounts of FRONTEX officers, limiting the number of appeal possibilities in the asylum process, segmenting people into categories based on their pre-judged chance of asylum, immediate detention after asylum rejection and increasing deportations to Turkey to a reported target of 340 people per week. This pre-set weekly deportation target was never reached, despite McKinsey's best attempts. The EU have hidden McKinsey role in developing migration policy, until investigators revealed their consultancy. The EU claimed afterwards that full disclosure would risk undermining the commercial interests of McKinsey.

Also in the United States, McKinsey has advised the Trump government on anti-migrant policies, like reshaping a system of detention centers on the US-Mexican border and the border wall.

McKinsey & Company, Inc.
Budapester Straße 46
10787 Berlin

Not only does McKinsey have a firm hand in many forms of border repression, they also profit fortunes from spewing out their racist consultancy reports. Therefore their office in Berlin is a good place to step by.

SOURCES

Information in these texts come from internet research: everyone is encouraged to double check. This research was done in March to June 2020. Governments often hire companies in time-specific contracts and it can change after a public tender: therefore information in this booklet might fast be outdated.

Below are some often used sources.

PUBLIC TENDERS

Many contracts have to be published online according to law. Therefore anyone can look into which companies received which contract from which government agency.

German governmental contracts: <https://ausschreibungen-deutschland.de/>

EU governmental contracts: <https://ted.europa.eu/>

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

In Germany, opposition politicians often request information from national or regional governments, called "Kleine Anfrage". The answers to these requests are publically available. Also, any German citizen can request information (as long as they are willing to identify themselves). Similarly, the EU has a freedom of information portal anyone can use, including the possibility to ask FRONTEX questions. Not surprisingly, governments often refuse to answer or cite that certain information "cannot be disclosed due to the risk to public security".

German freedom of information platform: <https://fragdenstaat.de/>

Germany's Kleine Anfragen: <https://dipbt.bundestag.de/dip21.web/bt>
<https://kleineanfragen.de/>

EU freedom of information platform: <https://www.asktheeu.org/>

RESEARCH

These text have relied heavily on awesome research done, such as TNI's research reports Border Wars (2017), Expanding the Fortress (2018), The Business of Building Walls (2019) and More Than a Wall (2019), as well as the great work being done by Pro Asyl, Corporate Watch, Global Detention Project, Bordermonitoring.eu and Migreurop.



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