CHASOS CAMPAIGN

Political situation

When the "Arab Spring" began, politicians and journalists were debating the consequences of the crisis for Switzerland. The main concern was how Switzerland, as a small country, can be protected from being "overrun" by the "huge waves of refugees" and "apocalyptic streams of immigrants". The fact that these people were on the run from despotic regimes was ignored or even negated: "The migrants are economic refugees who must be sent back immediately." (Karin Keller Sutter, FDP).

- Feb. 2011: Daily media reports on the uprisings in Libya: Hundreds of demonstrators are massacred by the Gaddafi regime.
- Feb. 23: The Swiss People's Party (SVP) declares refugees from North Africa to be "economic migrants" and refuses them
- 25 Feb: SVP calls for the army to be deployed at the border to repel the "refugee waves".
- 7 March: The Christian Democratic People's Party (CVP) wants to create jobs in North Africa so that no refugees come into Switzerland from the crisis areas.
- 8 March: Fhe Free Democratic Party (FDP) wants to build central "internment camps" for refugees in old army bunkers.
- 9 March: Federal Councillor Simonetta Sommaruga (Social Democratic Party) supports the idea of central camps for
- 2 April: Environmental organisation Ecopop wants to limit immigration and launches an initiative against overpopulation.
- 3 April: As a contribution to the nuclear debate, the SVP calls for an immigration stop to curb the rising demand for

Humanitarian Hypocrisy

Switzerland is still one of the richest countries in the world. Switzerland still boasts of its "humanitarian tradition" and our national churches proudly proclaim the "Christian values of our society". Nevertheless, the very same people want to refuse temporary admission and help to refugees who arrive in Switzerland: "Switzerland is bursting at all seams. We cannot accept and nanny thousands of North Africans. That would be state support for asylum abuse." (Lukas Reimann, SVP).

7 May 2011 **Introducing: CHASOS and Pastor Wilfried Stocher**

www.chasos.ch www.facebook.com/wilfried.stocher

"Do you remember Alois Stocher? The self-confessed SVP fan and managing director of the "Organisation for the Solution of the Foreigner Question? [...] Well, Alois has a younger brother -Wilfried. He has just as much the devil under his skin, He is a pastor in Schleinikon in Zurich and the initiator of Chasos, the Christian-humanitarian asylum self-help organisation Switzerland. It is a private charity organisation, founded as a reaction to the upheavals in North Africa. Wilfried has in common with his brother his love for Switzerland, and, how could it be otherwise, his anger at the immense problems of mass immigration: "incredibly dense settlement, barely affordable housing, more kebab food stalls than churches." (Tages-Anzeiger, 30 May 2011)



Uber uns Werte Themen Kunstverlagerung Flüchtlingslager Jeder Schuppen zählt Spenden Kontakt

Like Sent 1 69 people like this.







Über uns Werte Humanitäre Tredito Hilfe zur Selbsthäfe Pastorale Arbeit

Themen Kunstverlagerung Flüchtlingslager Jeder Schuppen zählt Spenden

Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe

Das oberste Gebot bei allen Erste-Hilfe-Massnahmen



WWW.CHAOSOS.CH

Website of the Christian Humanitarian Asylum Self-Aid Organization Switzerland (CHASOS)







CHASOS PROPAGANDA CENTER

at Planet13, Basel

7 May 2011 Petition ,Kunstverlagerung'

www.kunstverlagerung.ch

"Reverend Wilfried Stocher demands via petition the immediate suspension of all subsidies and grants for art projects and artists. All public cultural institutions - museums, art halls, concert halls, theatres - are supposted to be cleared out. What, you may ask, does art have to do with foreigners? For Wilfried Stocher, the connection is clear: because now that every cent counts, the situation is serious, even threatening in view of the "refugee tsunami", one can use the money to do something usefull, rather than spend it on such "complete nonsense" as art. Pipilotti Rist, Thomas Hirschhorn, Roman Signer - for the priest they all belong to the "chamber of horrors" of the current Swiss art scene. He wants to invest the resources freed up by the funding freeze in the construction of refugee camps. Stocher calls this "Kunst-Verlagerung" *

[...] There is some art, after all, that pastor Stocher likes. Works of immense beauty and intimate liveliness have been painting for decades - Rolf Knie". (Tages-Anzeiger, 30 May 2011)

* ,Kunstverlagerung' is a German composite of ,Kunst' (= Art) and ,Verlagerung'. ,Verlagerung' has ambivalent meanings: ,Shift', ,Relocation, Transformation into a camp' or ,Conversion into a warehouse.'

The petition "Kunstverlagerung" was not only made public through the media, but was also sent to around 1000 Swiss artists. The reactions of the artists ranged from pure horror to indignation. Only a few realized that it was satire. Many artists tried to explain the meaning and the social function of art to pastor Wilfried Stocher in long remarks - and why it was completely wrong to cut back on art or play it off against refugee aid. Pastor Stocher printed a selection of these emails and pasted them on a ,wall of shame' next to the refugee camp at Art Basel as bad counterarguments to his petition. He wrote about this: "That's how nuts the so-called artists react to our petition!

6 June - 6 July 2011 Propaganda Center

Installation at Planet13, Klybeckstr. 60, Basel

Planet13 offers free workplaces and Internet access for poor people and migrants and provides advice if needed. Both shop windows were at my disposal to transform the busy meeting point for migrants and refugees from North Africa and other crisis regions into a CHASOS propaganda centre. The shop windows were equipped with posters and brochures and the propaganda video "Prevention campaign for refugees" ran non-stop on one screen. On the one hand, the installation gave rise to heated and controversial discussions. On the other hand, I hoped to find real refugees as participants for the Halle32 refugee camp. Information leaflets (with an entry form for participation) were also available in various languages explaining the background to the project.

Why should I participate in this project? (Excerpt from the participation leaflets) In order to demand respect for human rights you could go out in the streets and protest with other migrants. Another possibility is to participate in this artistic project – in a time and space that attracts all the attention of the media. The ART BASEL fair attracts thousands of visitors and prominent guests, who invest a lot of money in art – making Switzerland's claim that there is no money to help refugees all the more absurd.



Unterschriften (322)

Riccardo Lisi, Kunstkurator Isabel Kuhn, Praktikantin banchini leo, Sara Hedberg, Artist Peter Kutcher, Werbekaufmann graf senta, bern Kipfer Andrea, EHEFRAU Brechtbühl, Politiker adam, zar Peter Enis, Basel Vania Kurkowa, Barkangestellte Jana Bleichenbacher, Logopädin Peter Wirz, Polier Schleinikon Beat Huggel, Automechaniker Kim Suy Lin, Modeberaterin Willy Richter, Tierarzt Josef Kägi, Gärtner Elvira Glättli, Kaufm. Angestellte Mara Graf, Technikerin Herberbau Ursina Beer, Coiffeuse Adrian Singer, Psychologe Veronika Jucker, Sekretärin Veronika Jucker, Sekretärin Hans Jaeggi, Arzt Öberweningen Irina Jaeggi, Pflegeassistentin Herbert Zahner, Elvira Cherker, Elektomonteur Schleinikon Schleinikon Schleinikon Schofflisdorf Adrian Singer, Psychologe Veronika Jucker, Sekretärin Hans Jaeggi, Arzt Öberweningen Irina Jaeggi, Pflegeassistentin Herbert Zahner, Parkettleger Linus Meier, Elektomonteur Schleinikon Schleinikon Schleinikon Schleinikon Schleinikon Schleinikon Schleinikon Schleinikon		
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AUFRUF ZUR KUNSTVERLAGERUNG

Für einen grossen Teil der Schweizer Bevölkerung besteht die "Krise" in Nordafrika nicht darin, dass in Libyen ein blutiger Bürgerkrieg in Gang ist und in vielen arabischen Staaten von Marokko bis Saudi Arabien weiterhin despotische Regime an der Macht sind. Vielmehr geht zu Recht die Angst um, dass ein Flüchtlings-Tsunami aus Nordafrika unser Land überrollt: Unser Wohnraum, unsere Arbeitsstellen, unsere Sozialberke – all das droht von den gewaltigen Migrationsströmen fortgerissen zu werden! Denn als kleines Land verfügt die Schweiz weder über den Platz noch über die Ressourcen, um all diese Menschen aufnehmen zu können.

Obwohl diese Einschätzung grundsätzlich richtig ist, bleibt in der Flüchtlings-Debatte ein wesentlicher Aspekt bislang unberücksichtigt:

Jährlich sprechen Bund, Kantone und Gemeinde eine Unzahl an Subventionen, Preis- und Fördergelder für sog. Kunstprojekte, Kulturschaffende und Kulturinstitutionen.

Und was machen die Begünstigten mit all diesem Geld? Sie machen, was sie wollen! Dank der staatlichen Förderitis können die sog. Kunstschaffenden mittlerweile jeden fertigen Blödsinn zu Kunst erklären und so das Publikum für dumm verkaufen. Auf die Bedürfnisse und Interessen der Bevölkerung nehmen die sog. Kulturschaffenden längst keine Rücksicht mehr – im Gegenteil: wenn der normale Bürger sich nicht für ihre "Kunst" interessiert, wird er als Banause verschimpft oder verlacht. So einfach machen es sich die sog. "Künstler"!

Wollen wir dafür weiterhin unsere Steuern und Gelder verschwenden? Auch jetzt, wo jeder Rappen zählt und sinnvoll verwendet werden könnte?

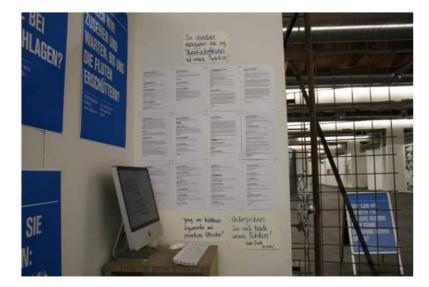
Können wir es verantworten, dass wir aus Platz- und Ressourcengründen keine Flüchtlinge mehr aufnehmen, solange wir gleichzeitig Millionen von Franken und Quadratmeter für die sog. "Kunst" zur Verfügung stellen?

Wir finden: Schluss mit diesem Unsinn! Jetzt, wo es ernst gilt, können wir uns einen solchen Luxus nicht mehr leisten!

Darum fordern wir:

- Sofortige Suspendierung aller Subventionen und Fördergelder für alle sog. Kunstprojekte, Kulturschaffenden und Kulturinstitutionen.
- 2. Entrümpelung sämtlicher öffentlicher Kulturinstitutionen (Museen, Kunsthallen, Konzertsäle, Theater).
- 3. Umverteilung und Umnutzung der frei werdenden Ressourcen (Gelder, Räumlichkeiten, Infrastruktur) zur Einrichtung von Flüchtlingslagern.

Wir rufen alle, die unsere Meinung teilen, dazu auf, diese zynische Verschwendung unserer Steuergelder abzulehnen und unseren öffentlichen Aufruf zur Kunstverlagerung mit zu unterzeichnen.



PETITION KUNSTVERLAGERUNG

left: Petition Website, bottom right: Wall of shame (Exposing the artists's complaint letters)

TRANSLATION OF THE PETITION TEXT, KUNSTVERLAGERUNG

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CALL FOR ART CONVERSION

For a large part of the Swiss population the "crisis" in North Africa is not that there is a bloody civil war in Libya and the persistence of despotic regimes in power in many Arab states from Morocco to Saudi Arabia. On the contrary, the real crisis and justified fear that a tsunami of refugees from North Africa will overrun our country: our living space, our jobs, our social services - all of this is threatening to be swept away by the enormous waves of refugees! As a small country, Switzerland has neither the space nor the resources to accommodate all these people.

Although this assessment is fundamentally correct, one essential aspect has not yet been taken into account in the refugee debate:

Every year, the Confederation, the cantons and the commune grant countless subsidies, prizes and awards for so-called art projects, artists and cultural institutions.

And what do the beneficiaries do with all this money? They do what they want! Thanks to state subsidies, so-called artists can now declare any nonsense to be art and thus take the public for fools. The so-called artists no longer take the needs and interests of the population into consideration – on the contrary: if the normal citizen is not interested in their "art", he is scorned or laughed at as a philistine. The so-called "artists" make it that easy for themselves.

Do we want to continue to waste our taxes and money on this? Even now, when every cent counts and could be used in a usefull way?

Can we really accept the responsibility for not receiving any more refugees due to a lack of space and resources, as long as we simultaneously waste millions of francs and square metres for so-called "art"?

We say: Stop this nonsense! Now that the situation is tense, we can no longer afford such a luxury!

That is why we demand:

- 1. Immediate suspension of all subsidies and grants for all so-called art projects, artists and cultural institutions.
- 2. Clearing out all public cultural institutions (museums, art halls, concert halls, theatres)
- 3. Redistributing and reusing the resources released (funds, premises, infrastructure) to set up refugee camps.

We call on all those who share our opinion to reject this cynical waste of our taxpayers' money and to co-sign our public appeal for art conversion.































Prevention Campaign for RefugeesStills from the propaganda video

7 Juni 2011 Prevention Campaign for Refugees

Propaganda Video

Back in 2007, the Swiss government launched a negative campaign to discourage migrants from Africa from applying for asylum in Switzerland:



According to the newspaper ,Blick', there were 53 fewer asylum applications in 2007 than in the previous year, which for Justice Minister Christoph Blocher showed that the federal government was right with its campaign ...

Inspired by this, Wilfried Stocher launches his own prevention campaign for refugees in order to "stop the waves of migration as they begin".

In the deterrence video Stocher urges all Africans and Muslims to stay in their own countries, where they would have it better. Switzerland has become a godless country, he says, a Sodom and a Ghomorrah! It's terrible to live here!

The spot is subtitled in Arabic so that the message of the video can also be understood in the target countries of North Africa and the Middle East.

Original Video: youtu.be/W9Z3uQyvE7w

Video with English Subtitles: youtu.be/Q6aJUYz0Wf4

















13 June 2011 Pentecost sermon

Performance at Art Basel

To celebrate the "Birthday of the Church" and the sending of the Holy Spirit, Wilfried Stocher invites the Swiss population to the festive opening of the refugee camp Hall 32 on Whit Monday 13 June 2011 in Basel. The exhibition hall would have been made available to him by the Federal Office of Culture after CHASOS had succeeded in exerting pressure on the Confederation with the petition "Art Relocation". On the occasion of the opening, Wilfried Stocher delivered a speech at Whitsun in which he made clear which parties and politicians had done important pioneering work with regard to the CHASOS refugee camp. On the other hand, the speech increasingly turns into a flaming plea against the so-called "art" and its state sponsors.

Documentation video of the performance with English subtitles: youtu.be/XIpbMkwSIIU

TV-Documentation with Eng. subs:

- ARD Tagesthemen: youtu.be/6iyZwvx_-DU
- SWR: youtu.be/JdZncq-hCNQ

13 June - 19 June 2011 Refugee Camp Hall 32

Participatory Installation / environment

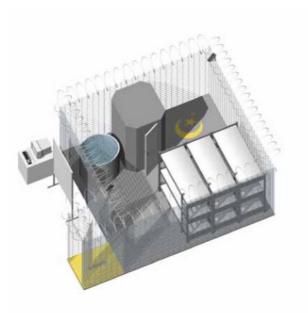
In his opening speech, Pastor Wilfried Stocher praised the refugee camp as follows: "There are 12 beds, which of course can also be double occupied. There is a multi-function water point which is just as suitable for body care as for daily drinking water needs. And the toilet, which is open to both sexes in the spirit of the democratic principle of equality, meets the same strict hygiene standards that even large festivals have to meet. Our refugee camp even offers a prayer corner with plenty of legroom. As you can see, you really don't need to worry about the humanitarian welfare of the detainees. But you, dear Swiss women and men, need no longer be afraid of strangers in the future. Because our camp is built according to the strictest security regulations, which offer you optimum protection from the detained refugees. The 3.65 metre high fence made of high-quality steel is secured with a DC voltage of 120 volts and is monitored 24 hours a day. With its dimensions of only 4 by 4 metres, the refugee camp is so compact and space-saving that only minimal use of Swiss land is required. This makes our camps ideal for multi-functional use as collecting tanks and protective walls against refugee waves of all kinds and sizes, not only here in Basel, but along the entire Swiss border".

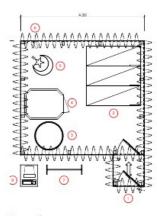
The refugee camp was originally conceived as a performative installation with real refugees as inmates. I therefore contacted various refugee organizations (including Solidarité sans Frontière, Planet13, Bleiberechtkollektiv, Autonomome Schule) and asked them for their help:

"The current debate on the "waves of refugees" is becoming increasingly grotesque: The SVP wants to stop global warming by putting the brakes on immigration, the FDP demands central detention camps for refugees, the environmental organisation ECOPOP launches an "overpopulation stop" initiative, and even SP Federal Councillor Somuga is blowing the same crooked horn! At the same time, Switzerland always adorns itself with its humanitarian tradition when it costs nothing and therefore does not have to be practiced.

I want to demonstrate this double standard with this project - by implementing what the politicians have in mind as a "solution" to the "problem" of the "waves of refugees": a central camp that is pretending to serve as an emergency measure for refugees, but in reality its sole purpose is to protect the Swiss population from the refugees. Therefore, the camp will be more like a prison or a concentration camp than a caritative institution. Visitors to the exhibition are made aware that refugees are not (primarily) "streams" or "problems", but people; and what is presented here, no one with its clear mind would want this to actually happen. For this reason it is important that the visitors are confronted with "real" people - and not with actors. Since the project will take place on the exhibition grounds during Art Basel, there is likely to be a large influx of visitors and media attention: I am convinced that with and on this platform one could set a very effective sign for the (human) rights of those affected. But for this I am dependent on your support! Namely, that it will be possible to win as many directly affected people (refugees, migrants, Africans...) as possible as participants for the project and thus demonstrate that human rights are not a privilege for Swiss people, but should apply equally to refugees/foreigners"

Despite repeated personal contacts with migrants, it was very difficult to find participants for the project - too great was the fear of exposing oneself and at best attracting negative attention. When the German TV announced to report about the project in the ARD Tagesthemen, even the braver ones jumped off again. Thus the refugee camp remained empty during the exhibition. However, this did not embarrass pastor Wilfried Stocher. He considered the sudden absence of refugee flows as a clear sign that his "prevention campaign for refugees" (deterrence video) had already had the desired effect.





Legende

- 1 Eingang (Schleuse
- 2 Ess- und Schlafbereich
- 3 Trinkwasser- und Waschbecken
- 4 Unisex-Toilette
- 5 Markierung der Gebetsrichtung
- 6 Überwachungskameras
- 7 Informationswand für Broschüren
- 8 TV/Internetstation



REFUGEE CAMP HALL 32

Installation at Art Basel: Plan and excecution







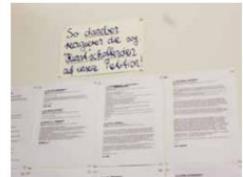










































CHASOS on Wikipedia:

CHASOS was a satirical art activism project, launched 2011 by Andreas Heusser. It consisted in creation of the fictitious charity organization "Christian Humanitarian Asylum Self-Aid Organization Switzerland" (CHASOS) and several actions performed by its president, pastor Wilfried Stocher.[1]

Art vs. Politics

The project was performed 2011 in the context of the political debates on the feared "waves of refugees" to Switzerland due to the Arab Spring. Although Switzerland has a long humanitarian tradition and is still one of the richest countries in the world, many Swiss politicians and Christian church representatives were not concerned about how to help, but how to avoid the refugees. "Switzerland is bursting at all seams. We cannot accept and nanny thousands of North Africans. That would be state support for asylum abuse." (Lukas Reimann, SVP)[2]. The satirical project was aimed to question the moral status of these arguments by means of subversive affirmation and parody.

Prevention campaign for foreigners

The project started with the publication of a propaganda video where a pastor addresses potential "waves of refugees" and tries to deter them from "rolling" into Switzerland.[3] The video was a satire on a previous deterrence[disambiguation needed] TV spot produced by the Swiss Government which was aimed at potential immigrants from Africa.[4]

Petition for art relocation

The pastor launched also an online petition which demanded that all funds for artists and cultural institutions should be suspended, and that their funds and spaces should be used for refugee aid.[5] The petition triggered many outraged reactions, especially among artists.[6]

Refugee camp hall 32

During the Art Basel, a bleak refugee camp only equipped with the bare essentials was installed in hall Nr. 32. It was electronically secured with a high barbed wire and video monitored. It's main function was obviously not to give shelter to refugees, but to protect the Swiss population from them.[7] According to the artist, it was the original intention to have it populated with "real" refugees during the duration of the Art Basel, but the prospect participants{[dn|date=January 2019]} left before the start of the project so that the camp remained empty.[8]

Reception

The project was controversially discussed in the media and gave rise to the question of how far political art can or must go to gain attention[9]

References

- (1) cf. Seid fruchtbar und mehrt euch, Radio RaBe, 23 June 2011
- (2) Asyl für Flüchtlinge aus Nordafrika? Blick, 28 February 2011
- (3) Original-Spot: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9Z3uQyvE7w, with English subtitles: https://www. youtube.com/watch?v=Q6aJUYz0Wf4
- (4) cf. So schrecken wir Afrikaner ab. Blick, 24 November 2007
- (5) Jeder Schuppen zählt, Tages-Anzeiger, 30 May 2011
- (6) Künstler greift in die Asyldebatte ein, Blick am Abend, 10 May 2011
- (7) cf. Nun treibt Alois Stochers Bruder sein Unwesen, Blick, 10 May 2011
- (8) Zuwanderung, SWR, 19 June 2011
- (9) Provokation oder Offenheit der Kunst, ARD Tagesthemen, 16 June 2011

DÜRFEN WIR FLÜCHTLINGEN DIE AUFNAHME VERWEIGERN, SOLANGE WIF

nische Verschwendung unserer Steuergelder abzulehne d unseren öffentlichen Aufruf zur Kunstverlagerung mit

WARUM NICHT RESPEKTIEREN DASS WELLEN KEINE MENSCHEN SIND?





CHASOS HILFT DEN FLUTOPFERI

for the CHASOS-campaign

Leaflet (A5) in German and English

Please note:

The original KEH-Websites: www.chasos.ch and www.kunstverlagerung.ch are not online anymore, but an archive-version can be accessed by the following link:

http://chasos.000webhostapp.com

http://kunstverlagerung.000webhostapp.com