



We, **Lampedusa in Hamburg** are the witnesses of the NATO-war in Libya 2011. Since our arrival in Hamburg between October 2012 and March 2013, the situation for many of us has still not changed. Today, **six years later many of us are still struggling to have a right to stay and work in Hamburg and in the rest of the country.**

Already since the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2013, Lampedusa in Hamburg has called for a **collective residence permit through the paragraph 23 of the German Residence Act.**

Despite the support of thousands of people from numerous political groups, students, churches, mosques and many others, the then First Mayor **Olaf Scholz and his „Social Democratic Party“ SPD** refused to recognize our demands.

On the **2nd of November 2013** almost 20.000 people joined our protest. And after many demonstrations and acts of civil disobedience, Hamburg's authorities were cynical enough to only offer us '**Duldung**'.

Lampedusa in Hamburg refused this offer, because a 'Duldung' does not give us any factual protection or permanent social support and because we already had Italian papers.

From the winter of 2013 until the summer of 2015, we kept fighting and campaigning for the recognition of our members through the §23 which would have granted us **the right to stay, to work, to learn the language and access all the rights granted to other refugees and asylum seekers.**

The **26<sup>th</sup> of January 2015**, right before the election of the Hamburg Parliament „Bürgerschaft“, we wrote **an open letter to Green Party** (at the time in the opposition) reminding them to not betray their pledge to find a serious collective solution for our members. We considered it necessary as local leaders of the Green Party had promised us a serious solution towards **our permanent right to stay** once they would be part of the government. Nevertheless, after they joined the government coalition with the SPD, the Green Party did not keep its promise.

In spite of this betrayal, permanent threat of criminalization and deportation, institutional discrimination and racial profiling continued. Today we are still resisting these challenges, fighting, working, and even raising our children here in Hamburg.

**LAMPEDUSA IN HAMBURG** supports the topical Bundesrat initiative to amend §23 demanding from Hamburg's government to join this legislative initiative, and reminding them and the civil society what it means to live in Germany without a legal status.

Six years after our struggle began, **our members and many other African refugees** that sought our support and joined us at our Info-Tent at Hauptbahnhof, **do not want to face homelessness, isolation and racism anymore.**

The amendment of §23 could again give us the chance to access our undeniable rights and let us find peace and stability in Germany.

**LAMPEDUSA IN HAMBURG** is a member group of the alliance **SOLIDARISCHE STADT HAMBURG**, in which 73 other groups and organizations these days have joined forces to raise our and many other demands for real social justice for all our urban citizens and to enforce them with a loud voice:

the right to housing

the right to work or access to the labour market

the right to (further) education

the right to healthcare

the right to vote

the right to free movement and safe residence

**Hamburg's residents have already accepted Lampedusa in Hamburg as part of Hamburg's history.**

