

Benafsha Behishty Rahmani, Journalist, escaped from Afghanistan

English

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to greet everyone who came here today. I am grateful for the organizers and everyone who came here today in support of humanity and human rights!

My name is Benafsha Behishty Rahmani, I'm from Afghanistan and I'm a journalist. It's only been a short time that my husband and I came with our now 6 months old daughter as refugees to Germany. We have passed a very long, sometimes deadly ways from the Mediterranean Sea. And finally we got here to start our bright future.

As I said, I was a journalist in Afghanistan and every single day of my life was spend with terror and fear caused by suicide bombs and other acts of terror. I come from a region called Badakhshan, but we had to move when it got too dangerous.

Kabul is supposed to be the most secure area in Afghanistan, we settled their in an area near the Afghan parliament which is located only four kilometers from the presidential palace. But even with the short distance between my home and workplace I daily saw people getting murdered and all kind of acts of terror.

The kind of things you see in the media, I was a witness to it. I can say with certainty that there is no safe place in Afghanistan. That same Taliban and ISIS that are committing acts of terror in Syria and Iraq, have been doing the same thing for years to Afghanistan.

I am a woman who has been born in war and grew up in war. My whole childhood was spent in uncertainty. We grow up with the sound of machine guns, and played with the dead. My youth was spent with a variety of violent images.

Let me tell you about the every day life of an Afghan woman:

In my home country you will be hanged just for being a woman. Your nose and ears will be cut off. Women are being abused and tortured. Women are stoned to death. They are being kicked and burned and tramped to death under men's feet. Women are being gang raped. Innocent women and even children are being beheaded. Their only crime: being a woman.

Everyone saw that Syrian child at the edge of the Turkish cost. In Afghanistan almost every day someone dies a violent death and yet no one cares.

The one that has to fear for her life the most is an Afghan woman with a pen in her hand to write. - I am an Afghan woman who has a pen in her hand. And I had to run away to safe my life. I got myself to this country. A country where I see humanity and empathy. Here people have belief in one another. Here people smile at each other. They help each other.

It is very astounding to me that here men and women have equal rights and that they love each other. I was lucky that I met people who have smiled at me and made me believe in a better life and humanity. It was very inspiring to me.

I am thankful to everyone who welcomed me with open arms. People of Deutschland I do not know how to thank every one of you.

But more recently, a series of laws which discriminate against refugees - especially Afghan refugees

- have been passed. This has disturbed every Afghan refugee who came all the way to Germany to save their life, flee racism and decades of war and even here they can't feel safe.

Now they don't just have to deal with the difficult condition in camps. But also get told only Syrians, Eritreans, Iraqis and Iranians can be real refugees. Our hearts which have already been in pain have been made even more wretched and now families like mine live in constant fear of being deported. And there are thousand of afghan refugees that are still in camps.

These things are not only happening in Germany but throughout the European Union. Despite the fact that many raise their voice against this injustice and demand human rights for all, refugees still face racial discrimination from many EU-countries as well as the European Union.

Afghanistan experienced more than four decades of war and civil war, violence became part of our daily life. Sometimes cities are under the control of the government and a sometimes the enemy controls it. But there is no safe place!

Afghan refugees, just like every refugee, should have equal human rights. We ask for equality and respect for all humans. We are refugees but first we are human beings. Thanks once again for your support and cooperation.