

## Fedpol investigating Eritrean Embassy

**Eritrea is a safe country, the findings of a Danish report, to which Europe's politicians often rely. But now even the determined Fedpol against the Embassy in Switzerland.**



Fleeing the regime. Eritrean asylum-seekers in a Zivilschutzanlage in Ticino  
Image: GABRIELE PUTZU / Keystone

The Eritrean regime apparently tried living abroad compatriots collect a so-called "diaspora tax". Appropriate instructions of Eritreans in Switzerland has now led to the fact that the Federal Office of Police (fedpol) is investigating the Eritrean Embassy in Switzerland. A spokeswoman for the Federal Office confirmed yesterday in the SRF program "Rundschau". The tax amounts to two percent of their income, say concerned. Opposition activists suspect that the money goes into the pockets of officials. The "diaspora tax" has been simply taken from the Swiss authorities. 2013 had SP National Councillor Jacqueline Fehr submitted an interpellation which asked, among other things on how the Switzerland intend to "proceed the extortions by the Government of Eritrea".

The Federal Council then replied: "If it should turn out that Eritrea undertakes active measures to recover taxpayers' money without authorization in Switzerland (...)", Switzerland could bring criminal proceedings against. This case is now apparently arrived. The Fedpol now collects "hard facts".

### **Report is "complete blunder"**

The initiated investigation of Fedpol shake well to the statement, Eritrea is a safe country, its citizens would not be prosecuted and could go back easily, as it is stated as a conclusion of a report by the Danish Immigration Service. When it comes to the tightening of asylum policies against Eritreans, politicians operate throughout Europe, even in Switzerland, like the document as evidence of a smooth repatriation.

At the paper calculated the former chief-rapporteur of the Danish Immigration Service and conductor now carries the recent fact-finding Mission to Eritrea massive criticism. The report was "a complete blunder" says Jens Olesen in the "Rundschau". For example, quotes were taken out of context. Critical sources such as the UN rapporteur to have ignored.

### **"Our work has been abused for political purposes"**

"I can not stand behind this report, and the mission to Eritrea. Our work has been abused for political purposes, to tighten asylum policy towards Eritreans," says the 63-year-old, who has for 20 years conducted fact-finding missions and country reports to the Authority. In the SRF-broadcast he describes the emergence of the document as highly unusual. So his superior was mitgereist contrary to the habits and wished only to hear from the respondents sources that Eritrea for returnees was safe. "He was so obsessed with it that he even promised a salary increase if the courts would support the new asylum policy in Denmark," says Olesen. Ahead of schedule, the expert was then stripped.

When he and a colleague eventually refused to bring the report concludes, Eritrea is a safe country and this criticism voiced in public again, they were going on their job. Those responsible reject the allegations of her longtime employee.