


German city of Dortmund brings death to Indonesia – press release

1 Nov 28, 2013  Forum Rauchfrei

On December 1st, the alliance of Forum Rauchfrei and Deutscher Jugendschutz-Verband is going to protest against the tobacco trade fair that the 100% municipally owned Westfalenhallen Dortmund GmbH (similar to a limited liability corporation) organizes in Indonesia on 27/28 February 2014. The protest is going to take place in Katharinenstraße in Dortmund. The alliance criticizes the trade fair organizer Westfalenhallen Dortmund GmbH for wanting to open “the door into the growing Asian market” for tobacco industry.

Additionally, the Dortmund citizen Max Vollmer and the Indonesian Yosef Rabindanata Nugraha launch a petition on December 1st. The petition aims at convincing Westfalenhallen Dortmund GmbH to abstain from organizing the “Inter-tabac ASIA” trade fair. It is addressed to the Mayor of Dortmund, Ullrich Sierau and the Chairman of the board of Westfalenhallen Dortmund GmbH, Friedhelm Sohn. Friedhelm Sohn is also Chairman of the Commission for children, youth and family of Dortmund’s city council.

Max Vollmer is Chairman of Deutscher Jugendschutz-Verband (“German Association for Youth Protection”) and Yosef Rabindanata Nugraha is founder of Indonesia Bebas Rokok (“Smokefree Indonesia”).

Yosef Rabindanata Nugraha wants to stop the tobacco trade fair in Bali, Indonesia. He says “In Indonesia, tobacco companies sell cigarettes to children. I don’t want my country to be a destination for cigarette industry. I appeal to the German city of Dortmund: Stop the promotion of tobacco trade in Indonesia, stop the Inter-tabac ASIA! It is outrageous that a German city fuels the booming tobacco market in Asia even more.”

Johannes Spatz, speaker of Forum Rauchfrei (“Forum Smokefree”): “That the city of Dortmund with its trade fair corporation wants to host a tobacco trade fair in Indonesia breaks almost every ethical rule. Indonesia is one of the few countries in the world where tobacco industry can do almost everything they want. There are no enforceable rules to protect the population from tobacco industry’s influence. Children are allowed to buy tobacco and smoke. Increasing tobacco advertising has led to a situation where more than 40% of Indonesian boys smoke. We are going to do everything to stop this trade fair. We wholeheartedly support this petition.”

The alliance has asked all factions of Dortmund’s city council for a meeting to discuss opportunities to stop the tobacco trade fair in Indonesia. The majority of directors in the board of Westfalenhallen Dortmund GmbH are representatives of Dortmund’s city council. Up to now, only the Christian

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Democrats agreed to a meeting. The Social Democrats, governing party in Dortmund, responded that they don't see a necessity to talk about the issue, as the city councilmen of the Social Democrats would not influence Westfalenhallen Dortmund GmbH. The Green party responded that there is "no basis for a discussion" about the issue. The councilmen of the Liberal Party said, they could not "propose a reliable date".

As a citizen of Dortmund, Max Vollmer is outraged by the arrogance and irresponsibility of Social Democrats, Greens and Liberal Party. "The refusal to face up to a discussion on the issue is unacceptable and shows the guilty conscience of the politicians. Democracy or responsibility do not look anything like this."

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Dortmund Kills is a campaign of:

Forum Rauchfrei ("Forum Smokefree"), Deutscher Jugendschutz-Verband ("German Association for Youth Protection") und Indonesia Bebas Rokok ("Smokefree Indonesia")