

Application for release from GDR citizenship

I, Cliewe Juritza, hereby apply for release from my GDR citizenship.

The political system of the GDR and the one-sided social system which it maintains makes it impossible for me to remain in the GDR. I am currently being held in the remand centre UHA1 Rummelsburg on suspicion of attempting an illegal border crossing. It is my express wish and intention to be released into the Federal Republic of Germany after serving my prison sentence. Alone the thought that this state would have shot and killed like a wild animal in order to prevent me crossing the border fills me with contempt.

The decision to renounce my GDR citizenship represents the result of a gradual and cumulative process of thought and experience. I see no future for myself in a state which although guaranteeing its citizens a job and social security, restricts all nature of personal freedom; does not permit any degree of freedom of expression; and which suppresses plurality of opinion in the press, television, art and literature.

GDR citizens no longer realize the extent to which their freedom of travel and other rights have been curtailed, as we are taught from a young age, not to question the status quo. This shows the degree of paternalism with which our society is infused.

The continual barrage of propaganda and the arrogance with which the state claims to represent the "only real form of society" have taken root. The lies involved in the golden picture of Socialism presented in the state media and its slimy self-praise has served only to increase my hostility to this state. What is life like in the GDR? Returning from a hard day's work at 17.00, I am unable to find any bread or rolls in the bakery. I have only ever seen melons and coconuts in photographs. This situation is replicated in the fuel and material shortages experienced in industry.



The state does not trust its citizens. This is manifested not only in the degree to which it filters the information available in the media, but in the fact that apart from the Churches, there are no private associations or institutions. Everything is subject to the omnipotence of the state. Anyone seeking to escape this mental prison, even through advocacy of world peace and understanding immediately has their organization smashed, is thrown into gaol, stripped of their civil rights or is deported. I need point only [to the experience of the] peace group in Jena. The consequences associated with wearing the badge showing 'swords into ploughshares' demonstrates my case.

The admiration accorded to the SED and its senior representatives is redolent of a cult. I need think only of Walter Ulbricht, whose name was to be found adorning a factory and a stadium even during his lifetime. There are no caricatures of our politicians.

Should I not be released into the FRG after serving my sentence, I will find ways and means to bring my problem to the attention of a wider public.

Attached to this letter is my curriculum vitae. In it, I have written "... During my recent process of maturing, it has become clear that I am unable to live at peace with this society. No individual or group has exerted any influence to bring me to this conclusion. Moreover, I have not told anyone of this process."