

Introduction to

QUOTES COLLAGE VICTIMS OF EMETIC TORTURE, January 7, 2026

Today we remember Laye Alama Condé and the many people who were subjected to emetic torture by the Bremen police in over 1,000 cases between 1991 and 2004.

Official records on the exact number and identity of those affected allegedly do not exist. In recent years, we too have rarely been able to get in touch with those affected and hear their stories—stories and life stories of young Black people who came to Bremen from various countries on the African continent in the 1990s. Many of them fled political persecution, sought a way out of economic hopelessness, or sought a professional and private future in Europe. They came as young, hopeful people with the desire to learn, go to school, make friends, start an apprenticeship or a degree, further their education, or start a family.

Instead, they experienced institutional racism, consisting of camps, exclusion, threats of deportation, no hope in the legal process, everyday racism, and emetic torture—a state regime of violence and border control that completely destroyed their dreams.

The emetic torture system has committed countless crimes against humanity against these young Black people, and it is our duty to ensure that this is not forgotten. That is why it is of central political importance to us that their stories must be heard, because they are also the starting point for the struggle for justice, for comprehensive social recognition of the suffering caused by emetic torture – combined with the central demand for full financial compensation.

We are therefore deeply moved by the trust placed in us by two survivors who gave us a long interview in September 2025. In this two-hour conversation, they talked about their arrival in Bremen, their initial hopes, their gradual disillusionment, disenfranchisement, and precariousness due to the institutional racism of the immigration authorities, the violence they experienced as a result of racist residence laws – and at the center of their stories: the cruel experiences of racist police violence through emetic torture. They reported on the shocking experience of being confronted with this extreme form of state violence, on the physical damage, deep emotional injuries, and trauma they suffered as a result, and on the consequences of which some of them still suffer today.

These biographical accounts left us deeply shaken, saddened, and angry. Despite our many years of engagement with the subject, these stories brought home to us in a vivid and realistic way how terrible and cruel the system of emetic torture was for countless Black people.

We are all the more grateful to the two survivors for having the courage and strength to share their stories with us and for providing us with the important insight that many more survivors still live in Bremen today, are in contact with each other, and that we still have many stories to hear. This will require patience, trust, and time until the survivors find the courage to talk about their experiences and stand up for their rights.

The two interviews are therefore a crucial starting point for the fight for justice, against racist violence, and for compensation. We are moved to now be able to read you some of the slightly edited excerpts from the interviews in their original form, without going into explicit detail about the descriptions of the emetic torture – even though these make up a large part of what was recounted.