

Translation of Berliner Kurier article, 10 March 2016

by Servetus

In the "Hobbit" trilogy he played the king of the dwarves; in Berlin he became a helper of people. Hollywood Star Richard Armitage (44), who is currently shooting the television series "Berlin Station" in the capital city, experienced the refugee crisis up close. The Brit has been in front of the cameras for the US spy series since the fall. In it, he plays a CIA agent who's dispatched to Berlin.

As early as the first shooting in September [sic], Armitage came in contact with the refugee crisis. In an open letter, which he published on Twitter, the 44 year old describes how the production had to move house quickly, because the building planned for the shoot was supposed to serve as a residence for asylum seekers. And he was impressed by Berlin's readiness to help.

The Brit spent Christmas with his family, but he writes that his thoughts stayed in Berlin. He caught Angela Merkel's New Years message, which he found courageous and breathtaking – in light of the "wounds of the past," by which he meant the war and terror of the National Socialist period. The refugee crisis occupied him more and more: "We live in a period, in which fears are growing," he writes regarding right-wing parties, which are gaining members.

"I am only a dumb, quite average actor," the 44-year-old said about himself, but he wants to help. So he packed up clothes, chocolate and coloring books and visited a refugee residence in Spandau.

He was nervous at first and afraid that these "desperate people could feel like zoo animals." In the residence, the children who had experienced trauma that was likely to continue to influence them moved the Hollywood Star the most. He compares that with his own childhood, which was safe and secure. His initial nervousness was, by the way, quickly alleviated, because Richard Armitage learned during the visit that refugees are also only people with normal needs, who sometimes cry, sometimes laugh, but above all long for a secure home.