

No. 94
Newsletter
05/2021

KOMPASS



Info-Plattform der antirassistischen Bewegung

1 May: Transnational Social Strike +++ 6 May in Aschaffenburg: Trial for calling for CitizenAsylum/Bürger:innenAsyl +++ 8 May in Kassel: Demonstration - Remember, Resist, Consequences - In solidarity against right-wing violence +++ Preventing deportations +++ From the request in the federal parliament +++ <https://noborderassembly.blackblogs.org/de/abschiebe-alarm/> +++ Protests against Afghanistan deportations +++ Protests against detention in Darmstadt +++ <https://eu-relocation-watch.info> +++ Criminalisation of Church Asylum: Acquittal for Monk, Indictment against Abbess +++ Indictment against Iuventa +++ Alarm Phone 1: Push Back report Aegean +++ Alarm Phone 2: Coordinating a maritime disaster: Up to 130 people drown off Libya +++ Report from Sea to Cities +++ Balkan Bridge - First Newsletter +++ Review: Solidarity with El Hiblu 3 +++ Outlook: June 18th + June 19th Border Abolition 2021; 19.6.2021 Bicycle Ride for Hanau; 25/26 June online: from Sea to Cities Conference; Zapatistas on tour in Europe this summer; September in Palermo: Camp & Convergence

DEAR FRIENDS!



Credit Transnational Social Strike

"The Transnational Coordination of Migrants calls on all migrants - men, women, LGBTQIA*, refugees, asylum seekers and undocumented people - for a day of transnational struggle. We invite all workers, collectives, feminist and anti-racist groups and trade unions to make this May Day a day for the free-

dom, power and dignity of migrants. A day of strike against institutional racism that supports exploitation and reproduces patriarchal violence."

This is how the call on the website of the "Transnational Social Strike" begins, which many groups from many countries have signed, but so far none from Germany.

We are also promoting <https://www.transnational-strike.info> so prominently here again, because we want to inspire anti-racist networks in Germany becoming more aware of this ap-

proach, which is mainly carried by initiatives in Italy and France, and to consider how they can establish a connection to these struggles. It seems self-evident that exclusion and exploitation are intertwined, that anti-racist struggles are in the context of transnational social liberation. But these connections - and this also applies to our Kompass - often remain underexposed when our focal points of anti-racist mobilisations and documentations move in the triangle between anti-deportation/right-to-stay campaigns, MigrAntifa and the struggle at the external borders.



Credit: Umbruch Bildarchiv

"Charter deportations to Afghanistan and now even to Sri Lanka, individual deportations to Somalia or Ethiopia. Those responsible no longer know any taboos. The policy of exclusion continues to escalate at all levels: in the countries, in the federal government and at the European level, especially through the border agency Frontex. Deportations at any price: to war, to persecution, to poverty and lack of prospects. To Pakistan or Nigeria, to Tunisia and above all to the Bal-

kan countries.

In 2020 alone, there were 122 charter deportation flights with the participation of the Federal Police and with financial support from Frontex. In total, more than 10,000 people were forcibly flown out during this period of massive Corona travel restrictions. Added to this is the extension of detention. An apparatus of humiliation and violence. Institutional racism!"

With these sentences from the announcement on the appeal process for calling for Citizen-Asylum we want to focus on the struggle against deportations in this issue:

According to information from a request in the federal parliament of Germany on deportations in 2020, the last-minute resistance of those affected on scheduled flights has not decreased. Pilots also repeatedly refuse deportations. In the answers to the above-mentioned small question, information on the names of the airlines involved was refused for the first time, explicitly stating that "these companies are exposed to public criticism and as a result are no longer available for transporting people who are obliged to leave the country to their home countries". The website <https://noborderassembly.blackblogs.org/de/abschiebe-alarm/> collects all information and continuously alerts against the Charters of Shame. Again and again there are protests at airports, especially against the deportations to Afghanistan. Sea rescue activists observe and support people who have been rescued in the Mediterranean or survived the crossing, after they were relocated to north-western Europe and ultimately threatened with deportation. Last but not least: In Bavaria, a monk and an abbess successfully and publicly defy the criminalisation of church asylum....



Finally, a fitting quote from the above announcement: "For a future with equal rights for all, in which the deadly border regime and the brutal deportation practice will appear as a criminal chapter of history. Make deportations history."

In this spirit,
The Kompas Crew

DATES AND INFORMATION FOR MAY 2021

01.05.2021 TRANSNATIONAL SOCIAL STRIKE



Credit: Transnational Socials Strike

From the call:

"...With the transnational mobilization on May 1st, we call all those who experience racism, exploitation and sexism to stand with those who, from the Mediterranean Sea as well as from the Balkan route, continuously try to cross the European borders, facing rape, violence

and ruthless police interventions. With its new Pact on Migration and Asylum, the European Union calls 'solidarity' what is nothing more than organized violence: it tightens up the criteria for obtaining asylum, establishes access quotas based on the economic calculations of the member states, and concludes agreements with third countries for the management of the movements of migrants. On May 1st we will take part in a political strike against EU's racist laws, which multiply expulsions and take us away from where we have built our lives, which force unaccompanied minors to go through inhumane assessment procedures, and which lock us up in detention centers where living conditions are degraded or in camps where our presence is often not even declared. Far from the borders, the same institutional racism divides "economic migrants" and asylum seekers according to different legal statuses that condemn us to a common precarious future and to exploitation. In warehouses, fields and cleaning services, in supermarkets as well as in construction, housing and delivery platforms – they force us to live with starvation wages. Against this racist and systemic exploitation we claim higher wages for every migrant worker. Even access to decent housing or medical care is marked by the violence of racism. Despite the pandemic, the vaccination of migrants is not even considered, while we are overcrowded in reception centers, detention centers and refugee camps, where the risk of contagion is higher. To reject the role of a disposable workforce, imposed by racism and the violence that supports it, we organize, mobilize and strike. ..."

[HTTPS://WWW.TRANSNATIONAL-STRIKE.INFO/2021/03/24/MAY-1ST-CALL-FOR-A-TRANSNATIONAL-MIGRANTS-STRUGGLE/](https://www.transnational-strike.info/2021/03/24/may-1st-call-for-a-transnational-migrants-struggle/)

06.05.2021 ASCHAFFENBURG: TRIAL FOR CALLING FOR CITIZENS' ASYLUM CREATE SHELTERS - PREVENT DEPORTATIONS - STOP CRIMINALISATION OF SOLIDARITY

9.00 a.m. Start of trial in the district court

11.00 a.m. Rally on Schlossplatz square

(...) We will continue to fight against this injustice (of deportations). With rallies, demonstrations and blockades. In solidarity with those affected by last-minute protests on planes. With



campaigns against the collaboration of the airlines involved. And with the installation and extension of protection structures. With church asylums and citizens' asylums. With shelters, with guest rooms in housing projects, with couch surfing. With calls to support people in need and danger and, if necessary, to hide them.

"Public call to commit a crime" is the charge in the appeal proceedings against Hagen Kopp of kein mensch ist illegal in Hanau on 6 May in Aschaffenburg. Because his name is in the imprint of the website <https://aktionbuergerinnenasyl.de>.



After a clear acquittal at the local court in Alzenau in July 2020, the public prosecutor's office in Aschaffenburg appealed on the following grounds: "The call to grant asylum to people threatened with deportation and, if necessary, to hide them in their homes is an appeal for an illegal act. This was also objectively understood as such by the public. The court's argumentation is not convincing,

especially since people who are staying in the Federal Republic of Germany with a toleration („Duldung“) are not currently threatened with deportation and therefore do not have to be hidden, since they cannot be deported because of their toleration.“ ...

... the vast majority of people who have been deported or detained in advance for this purpose in recent months and years have had to live with a toleration that does not protect them from being taken from their beds at night by the police. Many "tolerated" people live in insecurity and with the constant fear that they could be forced onto a plane to Kabul or Lagos, to Tunis or Tirana at any time. This is the daily, brutal reality of the policy of deterrence and exclusion.

We will use the appeal proceedings in Aschaffenburg as an opportunity to criticise and scandalise the racist violence of deportations and its escalation in recent months. At the rally following the trial, we will make it clear that we will not be intimidated, but will continue to fight: for the open society of the many. For a future with equal rights for all, in which the deadly border regime and the brutal deportation practice will appear as a criminal chapter of history.

Make deportations history.

CONTACT: KEIN MENSCH IST ILLEGAL HANAU, METZGERSTRASSE 8, 63450 HANAU

EMAIL: KMII-HANAU@ANTIRA.INFO

THE ENTIRE ANNOUNCEMENT AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE TRIAL HERE:

[HTTPS://AKTIONBUERGERINNENASYL.DE](https://aktionbuergerinnenasyl.de)

08.05.2021 KASSEL: DEMONSTRATION

Remember, Resist, Consequences - In Solidarity against Right-Wing Violence

Call for a demonstration on 8 May 2021, 14h, Kemal-Altun-Platz (in front of the slaughterhouse).



We, the Initiative antifascist May, want to take the demands for the denazification of all areas of society and a society based on solidarity instead of exclusion to the streets on 8 May! The demonstration is the prelude to a series of events that will continue until 2 June. On the anniversary of liberation from fascism, we want to name continuities of right-wing violence and discrimination in Kassel - and beyond - make resistance against it visible, build anti-fascist alliances and demand a better life for all!



Kassel has become a symbol of right-wing terror and racism: the murder of Halit Yozgat and Walter Lübcke, the attempted murder of Ahmed, the attack on Efe and the recent NSU 2.0 bomb threats against the Walter Lübcke School.

The attacks and acts of terror in Kassel follow the attack in Halle and the murders in Hanau in the recent history of right-wing violence perpetrated out of

racist, anti-Semitic and anti-feminist convictions. Racism, nationalism, anti-Semitism, anti-feminism, queerphobia and fascism are deeply inscribed in social structures. The breeding ground for right-wing violence is a social climate where inhuman positions are not firmly rejected, but right-wing movements even gain support. The breeding ground for right-wing violence is also formed by state institutions that are deeply involved in the NSU complex, that do not publish the files, do not consistently prosecute existing right-wing structures and criminalise those affected instead of protecting them.

The demands of victims and anti-fascists to draw far-reaching consequences from the crimes remain unheard. In order to remove the ground from right-wing violence, it is also necessary to confront it where it expresses itself in discriminatory attributions and everyday events. Black, (post)migrant, Jewish, queer, anti-fascist and feminist life are social realities that need to be protected from this violence. This includes the development of offensive practices of solidarity and the strengthening of resistance against right-wing violence - through consistent remembrance and the visualisation of an alternative in solidarity in regional and supra-regional alliances!

Solidarity against right-wing violence in Kassel and everywhere!

[HTTPS://ANTIFASCHISTISCHERMAIKASSEL.NOBLOGS.ORG/](https://antifaschistischermaikassel.noblogs.org/)

PREVENTING DEPORTATIONS

From the request in the federal parliament

Ulla Jelpke (Die Linke) regularly asks questions about deportation practices. The following link shows the current figures for 2020:

https://www.ulla-jelpke.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/KA-19_26156-Abschiebungen-und-Ausreisen-2020.pdf

Regarding the secrecy of the deportation airlines, Ulla Jelpke formulates:

"Lufthansa is in first place in the business of deportations. At least, this is how it was from 2017 to 2019, as can be seen from enquiries by the LEFT party - since then, the federal



government considers this information to be secret and classifies it as confidential classified information. The reasoning: a 'public naming of the airlines' carries the 'danger that these companies will be exposed to public criticism and as a consequence will no longer be available for the transport of persons who are obliged to leave the country to their home countries'," explains the domestic policy spokesperson of the parliamentary group DIE LINKE, Ulla Jelpke, on the federal government's answer to a request on deportations in 2020. The MP continues:

"Reports that deportations are being carried out more and more ruthlessly do not cease. Even old people, sick people and people in need of treatment are being deported, even people who were born and raised in Germany and do not speak the language of their supposed 'home countries'. Airline companies that make a profit with such deportations are rightly criticised. In addition to Lufthansa, these included the airlines Enter Air and Bulgaria Air in 2019. Apparently, the Lufthansa #abschiebefrei campaign of mid-2020 was so successful that since then the federal government no longer wants to disclose who is doing its business with people's misery. Instead of being secretive, however, the federal government should rather change its refugee policy. In particular, an effective right to stay regulation for tolerated persons would be urgently needed."

[HTTPS://WWW.ULLA-JELPK.E/2021/03/DAS-SCHMUTZIGE-GESCHAEFT-MIT-ABSCHIEBUNGEN-BEENDEN/](https://www.ulla-jelpke.de/2021/03/das-schmutzige-geschaeft-mit-abschiebungen-beenden/)

[HTTPS://NOBORDERASSEMBLY.BLACKBLOGS.ORG/DE/ABSCHIEBE-ALARM/](https://noborderassembly.blackblogs.org/de/abschiebe-alarm/)



Deportation Alarm channel informs about upcoming charter-deportations from Germany, as far as known. Follow us: Telegram Twitter Facebook We track which charter-deportations hap-

pened -> Happened Charter-Deportations

last updated on 29.4.2021

UPCOMING ALARMS

!! Charter deportation to Afghanistan on 4.5.2021 !!

!! Charter deportation to Kosovo on 7.5.2021 !!

!! Charter deportation to Guinea on 11.5.2021 from Köln-Bonn !!

!! Charter deportation to Pakistan on 18.5.2021 from Hannover !!

!! Charter deportation to Tunisia on 16.6.2021 from Leipzig-Halle !!

PROTESTS AGAINST AFGHANISTAN DEPORTATIONS



Credit: Umbruch Bildarchiv

From Umbruch Bild-Archiv: "Several hundred people took part in protests in Berlin on 7 April against a charter deportation of 20 people to Afghanistan. It is the first deportation from the BER airport in Schönefeld. Some of the



demonstrators blocked an access road at Terminal 5, while speakers from various organisations demanded that the deportations to the war zone be stopped immediately. Afghanistan has been at war for more than 40 years and in 2020 was again ranked as the most dangerous country in the world by the Global Peace Index. "Deportations to Afghanistan mean deportations to war, misery and danger to life," said a speaker from the Berlin Refugee Council. After hours of protests, the deportation flight to Kabul took off at around 9.30pm."

PHOTOS: [HTTPS://UMBRUCH-BILDARCHIV.ORG/STOP-DEPORTATION-AFGHANISTAN-IST-NICHT-SICHER/](https://umbruch-bildarchiv.org/stop-deportation-afghanistan-ist-nicht-sicher/)



PROTESTS AGAINST DETENTION IN DARMSTADT

<https://communityforall.noblogs.org>

There are regular demonstrations against the deportation prison in Darmstadt.

Community for all also published a first newsletter in March:

<https://onedrive.live.com/?>

cid=ff4022374715b396&id=FF4022374715B396%211699&authkey=%21AL4vWcK0HRQlMAI
Current information also here: <https://de-de.facebook.com/commforall/>

[HTTPS://EU-RELOCATION-WATCH.INFO](https://eu-relocation-watch.info)

From the website:

EU AD HOC RELOCATION

A LOTTERY FROM THE SEA

TO THE HOTSPOTS AND BACK

TO UNSAFETY

What happens when...

...people are not allowed to take a plane or a ferry to leave the countries in which their lives are threatened? They are forced to cross deserts, mountains and seas on very unsafe routes.

What happens when...

...on these journeys they get lost in the desert, the snow in the mountains becomes too high or the boat they are travelling on is in distress? Most likely they will lose their lives.

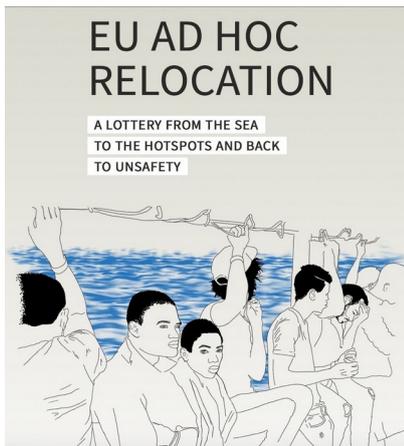
What happens when...

...states decide that their lives are not worth saving? Technically, this constitutes a breach of international law, as people have a right to be rescued. States however are looking for legal ways to stop the crossings, stop the rescues. They build physical and digital borders, establish cooperation with the states the people are trying to escape from and finance agencies that bring people back to the places that mistreat them.

What happens when...



...all these state efforts to prevent movement fail and people are still rescued and arrive in EUrope, are they then safe?



Forming part of a transnational civil society network that stands in solidarity with people on the move, we want to know what happens when people are rescued from distress at sea. We want to know whether they arrive in a safe place in EUrope and we want to be sure that the odyssey of their journey from the sea to the city has a happy ending.

We are sea rescue activists resisting the EU states' criminalisation of our continued efforts to prevent people from drowning in the sea. We are activists monitoring the EU reception centres and hotspots at the EU external

borders and we are activists advocating for people when they struggle to receive a permit to stay and build a life after years of exhausting journeys on unsafe routes.

In a joint research project funded by the Stiftungsfonds Zivile Seenotrettung (Civil Sea Rescue Foundation), borderlineurope – human rights without borders, borderline Sicilia, Equal Rights Beyond Borders, the Refugee Council Berlin and Sea-Watch conducted an in-depth investigation on the whereabouts of people rescued from distress at sea between 2019 and 2020.

It lies in our common interest to provide a critical analysis of supposedly humanitarian bordering practices from a grass-roots perspective, focusing on the demands of those affected by them: people on the move, rescued from distress at sea..."

CRIMINALISATION OF CHURCH ASYLUM: ACQUITTAL FOR MONK, CHARGES AGAINST ABBESS

Verdict in church asylum trial: Court acquits monk

For the first time in Bavaria, a religious was on trial for church asylum: he had saved a refugee from deportation and granted him church asylum. The Kitzingen District Court has now acquitted the monk.

[HTTPS://WWW.BR.DE/NACHRICHTEN/BAYERN/URTEIL-IM-PROZESS-UM-KIRCHENASYL-GERICHT-SPRICHT-MOENCH-FREI,SVGCK0T](https://www.br.de/nachrichten/bayern/urteil-im-prozess-um-kirchenasyl-gericht-spricht-moench-frei,svgck0t)

Benedictine nun faces prison sentence for taking in refugees

Abbess Mechthild Thürmer would go to prison for church asylum

<https://www.kirche-und-leben.de/artikel/aebtissin-mechthild-thuermer-wuerde-fuer-kirchenasyl-ins-gefaengnis-gehen>

The Franconian nun Mechthild Thürmer would go to prison if necessary for the church asylum she has granted. "I could not be proud of it, I would then simply have to accept it," the abbess of the Benedictine abbey Maria Frieden in Kirchsletten told the newspapers of the Verlagsgruppe Bistumspress. "But I would have a clear conscience because I have stood up for what I believe is right."



The 62-year-old had been fined for granting church asylum to an Eritrean woman. After she refused to pay, the Bamberg district court threatened her with a "severe prison sentence" and told her to reconsider her behaviour. The nun denied the accusation of unlawful action and invoked her conscience.

"I don't want to buy my way out"

In the interview, Thürmer reiterated her intention not to "buy her way out" and also to adhere to a currently granted church asylum for a Kurdish woman. "I'm not deliberately doing anything that could harm the proceedings, but surely I can't just send the one who is still with us now away and leave her unprotected."

Abess lamented what she saw as a lack of respect for church asylum. "Church asylum is a tradition that has existed since ancient times," she stressed. "After all, in each case it is about a person who no longer had any prospects in his country and has suffered many injuries. I think it is simply madness that this person should not be helped any more." She expressed the hope that her trial would contribute to a renewed appreciation of church asylum.

"German asylum system in part inhumane"

The nun called the German asylum system "inhumane" in parts. "People are taken out of their beds at three in the morning to be deported, I really can't understand that," she said. "The fates of the people concern me very much - otherwise I wouldn't do all this."

MORE ARTICLES ON MECHTHILD THÜRMER:

[HTTPS://TAZ.DE/MECHTHILD-THUERMER/!171413/](https://taz.de/mechthild-thuermer/!171413/)

[HTTP://WWW.GOETTINGER-FRIEDENSPREIS.DE/2021-MECHTHILD-THUERMER-SEEBRUECKE-UND-DR-THOMAS-SPIES](http://www.goettinger-friedenspreis.de/2021-mechthild-thuermer-seebruecke-und-dr-thomas-spies)

CHARGES AGAINST IUVENTA



Credit Iuventa 10

"...After more than three years of investigation, the public prosecutor's office in Trapani (Sicily) has now officially brought charges against 21 individuals and 3 organisations for "aiding and abetting illegal entry". All charges relate to rescue operations between 2016 and 2017, and crew members of the Iuventa are among those charged.

This is a political challenge, with the intention of criminalising migration and solidarity - with deadly consequences: People die when they could be saved!

And we will fight! This is a political process. This is not about us, this is about the EU's deadly policy of closure and nothing less than the right to life that the EU systematically denies people.



We need your support now more than ever - the course and outcome of this trial will depend immensely on the media and public opinion.

You can support us by:

— following us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and sharing our content

— forwarding our press release (D, ENG and IT: <https://we.tl/t-7PvvS24sYq>) to journalists you trust

— follow the developments on our accounts and channels and stay up to date - the fight has just begun!"

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE IUVENTA CASE AND STORY, VISIT AND SHARE THE WEBSITE:

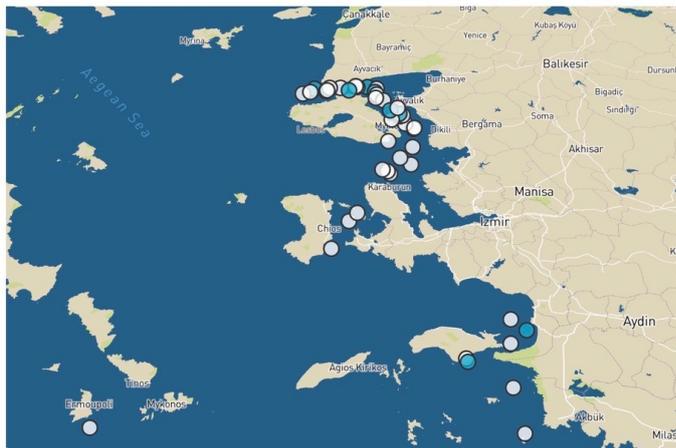
[HTTPS://IUVENTA10.ORG/](https://iuventa10.org/)

ALARM PHONE 1: PUSH BACK REPORT ÄGÄIS

“We asked for help, but they only shouted: Go back, go back!”

March 31, 2021

Alarm Phone Report: One year of pushbacks and systematic violence in the Aegean region, Feb 2020 - March 2021



One year of pushbacks and systematic violence in the Aegean region

February 24, 2020 – March 5,

2021: With this report, the

Alarm Phone aims to share one

year of documentation of repeated

attacks against migrants and

illegal pushbacks in the Aegean

Sea and at the Evros/Meriç land

border. Out of the 125 distress

calls we received in this time pe-

riod, 79 involved human rights

violations and violence exerci-

sed by mostly Greek authorities.

We also documented non-assi-

stance by Turkish authorities, as

well as the presence of vessels

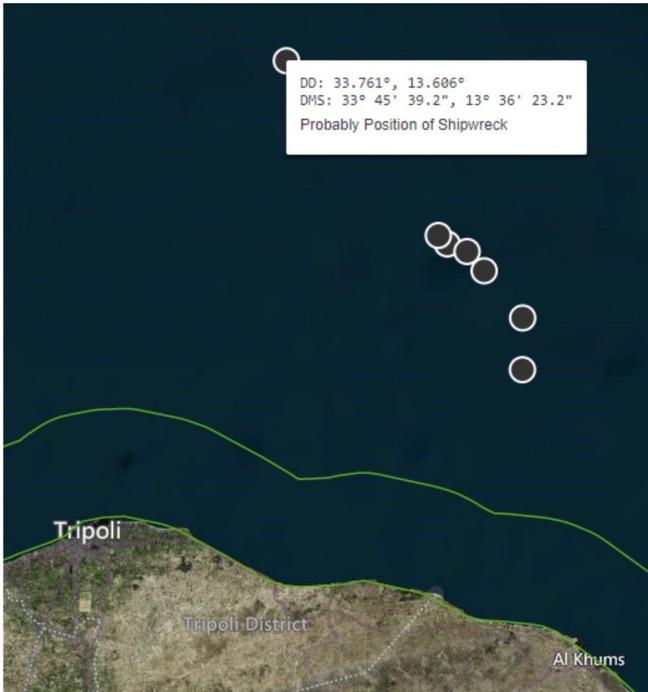
of Frontex and NATO in some occasions. We present in detail, the systematic violations of rights on the basis of individual distress cases about which the Alarm Phone was informed, and analyse the pushback tactics of the state actors involved. These are not isolated incidents, but striking examples that illustrate that the violence is systematic.

Some of these pushbacks took place at the land border between Turkey and Greece, but most occurred in the Aegean Sea. In many of the sea cases, vessels of the Hellenic Coast Guard were involved and masked men coming from the direction of the Greek islands attacked the travellers. Footage received by victims of such an attack was analysed on a 2019 Bellingcat investigation where it was found that “the distinctive vessel operated by the masked men suggests that the Hellenic Coast Guard was involved in the incident”....

VOLLSTÄNDIGER BERICHT MIT EINEM MAPPING DER MENSCHENRECHTSVERLETZUNGEN HIER:

[HTTPS://ALARMPHONE.ORG/EN/2021/03/31/WE-ASKED-FOR-HELP-BUT-THEY-ONLY-SHOURED-GO-BACK-GO-BACK/?POST_TYPE_RELEASE_TYPE=POST](https://alarmphone.org/en/2021/03/31/we-asked-for-help-but-they-only-shouted-go-back-go-back/?post_type_release_type=post)

ALARM PHONE 2: COORDINATING A MARITIME DISASTER: UP TO 130 PEOPLE DROWN OFF LIBYA



Positions of the 130 People in Distress. Source: Alarm Phone

Alarm Phone reports yet another massacre off the Libyan coast: We fear that up to 130 people have lost their lives. The people could have been rescued but all authorities knowingly left them to die at sea. Alarm Phone was in contact with this boat in distress over a period of ten hours, on 21 April, and repeatedly relayed its GPS position and the dire situation on board to European and Libyan authorities and the wider public. The only action undertaken was the launch of a surveillance airplane of Frontex, seven hours after the first alert, which found the boat and informed all authorities and merchant vessels in the area about the

critical distress situation.

Despite Frontex spotting the distressed boat from the sky, only non-state actors actively searched for the boat in distress at sea. European authorities rejected responsibility to coordinate this search operation and instead pointed at the Libyan authorities as the 'competent' authorities. The so-called Libyan Coastguard, however, refused to launch or coordinate a rescue operation, leaving the ~130 people out in a rough sea for a whole night. Our last contact to the desperate people in distress was at 20:15h on 21 April. Despite their relentless efforts to search for the boat, the NGO Search and Rescue vessel OCEAN VIKING of SOS Méditerranée and three merchant vessels came too late. On 22 April, they could only find remains of the boat and lifeless bodies.

... DER VOLLSTÄNDIGE BERICHT HIER: [HTTPS://ALARMPHONE.ORG/EN/2021/04/22/COORDINATING-A-MARITIME-DISASTER-UP-TO-130-PEOPLE-DROWN-OFF-LIBYA/?POST_TYPE_RELEASE_TYPE=POST](https://alarmphone.org/en/2021/04/22/COORDINATING-A-MARITIME-DISASTER-UP-TO-130-PEOPLE-DROWN-OFF-LIBYA/?POST_TYPE_RELEASE_TYPE=POST)

REPORT FROM SEA TO CITIES



Ideas, good practices and next steps for a welcoming Europe
„...In 2020, the Consortium launched a series of online conferences around five demands.¹⁰ These online events are the first step in a process aimed at creating a European network of



cities and communities whose initiatives and actions will be part of a joint campaign advocating for better European migration policies. The process to select the demands and organise the online conferences has been based on weekly exchanges that took place over the period of one year with representatives of all the organisations that are part of the Consortium.¹¹ This report is the account of the four conferences held over the course of 2020. The first chapter looks at Demand 1, dedicated to the collaboration between cities and civil society organisations working together for a radical change in European Union (EU) migration policy design and decision-making. Cities' representatives joining the conference have stated that "mayors have a very important role to play in educating people. Our message is always against racism!" (Leoluca Orlando). They have also stressed that it is thanks to progressive cities that migration policies in the EU might take a better direction with the support of NGOs (e.g., the collaboration between the city of Barcelona and the NGO Open Arms). Although a unified EU network of cities in solidarity does not currently exist, initiatives such as the French ANVITA, the German-speaking Seebrücke or the UK sanctuary cities indicate a new path toward achieving a common vision and coordinated actions, expanding the community of small and medium-sized cities. A long-term comprehensive mechanism for arrival and reception with European municipalities at its centre requires new 10 11 strategies to create legal corridors towards and across Europe. Demand 4 presented in Chapter 2 explains the functioning of the humanitarian corridor, a model adopted by the Project Mediterranean Hope and proposed for dissemination. The debate provides a comprehensive overview of the challenges that need to be met to counteract the "devastating" situation in the Mediterranean (Maurice Stierl, Alarm Phone) and the externalisation of migration policies (Filippo Furri, Mlgreurop). The first priority of the new coalition of cities should be to fight all together against the criminalisation of solidarity. Ensure an active role for cities and civil society organisations in the management of EU funds is covered in Chapter 3, which tackles Demand 3. Several EU-wide organisations, Eurocities among them, have long been pushing for cities to have direct access to EU funding. Although this is only possible through ad hoc projects (like the one presented at the conference by the city of Utrecht) the Humboldt-Viadrina Governance Platform promotes the creation of a new fund intended for just and inclusive cities. The main purpose of an EU Migration and Development fund is to reimburse cities for the costs incurred for receiving and including refugees in the community, as well as to provide additional resources for the development of the cities' municipal infrastructures. The pandemic required emergency measures to be put in place in defence of human rights-based policies on health, housing, education and labour, which are topics covered in the fourth chapter, focusing on Demands 2 and 5. The cities speaking at the online panels organised throughout 2020 shed light on the two sides of the coin: how a city can organise its public policies around welcoming newcomers, as is the case with Villeurbanne (France), and how it can suffer from the lack of capacity to ensure a human rights-based reception, as is the case with Mogan (Spain). While these two cases are not representative of all EU cities, the panel focused on the need to build alliances and "a coalition of the willing" among cities, organised civic society and at EU level to advocate for fundamental rights. ..."

[HTTPS://FROMSEATOCITY.EU/FILES/2021/03/FS2C_BOZZA-ESEC-WEB.PDF](https://fromseatocity.eu/files/2021/03/FS2C_BOZZA-ESEC-WEB.PDF)



BALKANBRÜCKE – FIRST NEWSLETTER



Credit Balkanbrücke

Dear supporters, we thank you for your patience and are happy to be able to send you the Balkan Bridge newsletter for the first time today. From now on, it will land in your mailbox every month and inform you about some

central migration policy developments on the so-called Balkan route and at the same time provide you with news about all activities of the Balkan Bridge. We are a rather young political group that started to organise in spring 2020. Many of us have previously worked in Greece, Bosnia or Serbia to actively support people on the run. In these countries, people seeking protection often live under catastrophic conditions in camps, on the streets or in improvised camps. During pushbacks and controls, they become victims of brutal police violence. Back in Germany, we could no longer tolerate the deafening silence of European politics and the public about these conditions. As the Balkan Bridge, we want to offer a platform for information that highlights the human rights violations along the external borders. These must be named as a direct consequence of the European policy of sealing off people and brought into the public consciousness. In addition, we are networking with various humanitarian and political actors in Germany and along the Balkan route in order to make their important work visible and to jointly build political pressure. In solidarity with all people on the run and with your support, we demand that German and European politicians ensure safe escape routes and put an immediate end to human rights violations at the external borders!

Content of the first newsletter:

- * Countries of the Balkan Route: Croatia
- * News on the Balkan route
- * Frontex: Overdue withdrawal from Hungary, but alarming plans for the future
- * Landmark ruling against chain pushback from Italy to Bosnia
- * Fire in Camp Lipa (Bosnia)
- * News from the Balkan Bridge
- * Publication of our statement on the fire in Camp Lipa
- * Actionday admission instead of isolation #NoPushbackIsLegal
- * Balkan Bridge meets Signal of Solidarity
- * Balkan Bridge Supports
- * Project presentation: KLIKAKTIV

DIRECT LINK: [HTTPS://CLOUD.BALKANBRUECKE.ORG/S/MRGQCCCMZDPMTHH](https://cloud.balkanbruecke.org/s/mrgqcccmzdpmtth)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR WORK, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

[HTTPS://BALKANBRUECKE.ORG/](https://balkanbruecke.org/)



REVIEW

SOLIDARITY WITH EL HIBLU 3



Actions and publications on the second anniversary (28.3.21) of the El Hiblu arrival in Malta and the criminalisation of El Hiblu 3: „In 2021 we mobilized many networks and public actors to speak up for the El Hiblu 3. Find a variety of voices in our social media channels under @elhiblu3 and selected statements here:

- A letter of 26 MEPs ad-

ressed to the Attorney General of Malta, demanding a termination of the proceedings

- A statement by the European Democratic Lawyers signed by 21 international legal associations
- A press release from the Migrants Commission, JRS Malta and the Justice and Peace Commission
- Our statement, requesting the immediate termination of prosecuting the #ElHiblu3 signed by 29 Human Rights Groups

MORE INFORMATION HERE: [HTTPS://ELHIBLU3.INFO](https://elhiblu3.info)

ON THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY THE NEWSPAPER SPIEGEL PUBLISHED AN IMPRESSIVE REPORT ON EL HIBLU 3: [HTTPS://WWW.SPIEGEL.DE/INTERNATIONAL/EUROPE/THREE-TEENAGE-REFUGEES-ON-TRIAL-IN-MALTA-HOW-ARE-WE-SUPPOSED-TO-BE-TERRORISTS-A-9356645F-42BD-4342-9647-89F8DC8BBFB2](https://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/three-teenage-refugees-on-trial-in-malta-how-are-we-supposed-to-be-terrorists-a-9356645f-42bd-4342-9647-89f8dc8bbfb2)

OUTLOOK

BORDER ABOLITION 2021 - JUNE 18TH + JUNE 19TH

Border Abolition 2021 will be a two-day online event aimed at connecting organising, campaigning, activist research and academic work around border violence, racism, incarceration and abolitionism. We hope to bring together people struggling against the border in all its forms, from immigration detention, prison and militarised border sites, to the solidarity practices that resist expanding systems of everyday bordering.

[HTTPS://WWW.BORDERABOLITION2021.COM](https://www.borderabolition2021.com)



SATURDAY, 19 JUNE: STAR FOR HANAU - BICYCLE RIDE FROM RHEIN-MAIN-KINZIG TO HANAU



Remembrance, justice, clarification, consequences - these are the central demands of those affected by the racist terrorist attack and the Initiative 19 February Hanau, which we want to give further backing to with this day of action. "Ass in the saddle, show your teeth!" Create publicity and show solidarity in the fight for clarification - first decentralised on the different routes and then All together in Hanau...

Regional "Ride to Remember"

We will never forget them: Ferhat Unvar, Hamza Kurtović, Said Nesar Hashemi, Vili Viorel Păun, Mercedes Kierpacz, Kaloyan Velkov, Fatih Saraçoğlu, Sedat Gürbüz and Gökhan Gültekin.

All cyclists who want to participate are asked to wear commemorative T-shirts with the faces and names of those murdered in Hanau. Or carry matching anti-racist patches, stickers or flags, e.g. with "Say Their Names". ... For the conclusion in Hanau we will develop a concept adapted to the Corona conditions in June, in the best case with a big joint final rally at 1pm on Hanauer Freiheitsplatz."

THE WHOLE CALL AND MORE INFORMATION HERE: [HTTPS://WWW.STERN-FUER-HANAU.DE](https://www.stern-fuer-hanau.de)

CONTACT: [INFO@19FEB-HANAU.ORG](mailto:info@19feb-hanau.org)

25./26. JUNI ONLINE: FROM SEA TO CITIES KONFERENZ

From the Sea to the City Consortium announces a new date for a hybrid Conference of Cities on 25-26 June 2021 online and in Palermo, in cooperation with the Cities of Potsdam and Palermo. The conference will continue the discussions started online throughout 2020 and will host online and physical discussions between Mayors and city representatives from all over Europe that have shown their willingness to uphold fundamental refugees' and migrants' rights.

From the Sea to the City aims to join forces to reimagine the European stance on migration with cities and human rights at the center. With this vision we want to send a strong signal to the European institutions that we want to pursue a welcoming and human-rights based migration and refugee policy...

[HTTPS://FROMSEATOCITY.EU/ABOUT/](https://fromseatocity.eu/about/)

SUMMER 2021: ZAPATISTAS ON TOUR IN EUROPE

„How will the trip be organised and who is involved in coordinating it?

As things stand, a delegation of compañer@s from the Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional (EZLN), the Congreso Nacional Indígena (CNI) and the Frente de Pueblos en Defensa del Agua y la Tierra de Morelos, Tlaxcala y Puebla (FPDTA-MPT) will visit Europe



from below and to the left from July to October 2021. The Zapatistas are expected to send 120 people, about 100 of them women. The whole delegation will probably consist of 160 people, who will also be divided between different places in the course of the trip.

Exactly when, for how long and with how many compañer@s they will be visiting Germany has not yet been decided. The Zapatista vanguard will set sail on 3 May. In the course of June, they will go ashore in Vigo, Galicia, and plan the exact itinerary of the trip together with their European partners. On 13 August, the 500th anniversary of the Conquista, the delegation will "celebrate" in Madrid.

The Ya Basta network is linked to organisations, collectives, groups, etc. in other European countries through the Europe Zapatista Network in order to coordinate the trip together. As a network, we mainly take on this function of a hinge to the international level as well as to networking within Germany. We also take on technical and organisational tasks..."

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PREPARATORY GROUPS AND REGIONAL CONTACTS HERE:

[HTTPS://WWW.YA-BASTA-NETZ.ORG/REISE-ORGA/](https://www.ya-basta-netz.org/reise-orga/)

SEPTEMBER 2021 IN PALERMO: CAMP & CONVERGENCE

„We have decided to postpone the Palermo Convergence 2021 from June to September. The pandemic situation in Sicily is not yet at a point, where we can plan and prepare a meeting of our size in an adequate way.

We imagine the Palermo Convergence to be a working meeting where many different groups, actors and networks come together. Along six thematic clusters, we want to create spaces of exchange between practices and visions for freedom of movement and equal rights. We want to organise very focused workshops as well as cross-over debates. We want to take this moment to reflect on the last years and think of how we can be more effective in our initiatives, and what new initiatives need to be forged, strategically, where should be move forward?

The six clusters are:

- * activism at sea
- * border struggles
- * documentation and litigation
- * identification and commemoration
- * solidarity across land and sea
- * transversal struggles

The six clusters - their format and topics - will be re-discussed within next the months. We invite everyone to join this preparation process.

IF YOU WANT TO JOIN THE PREPARATION PROCESS, OR JUST WANT TO REGISTER FOR THE CONVERGENCE, PLEASE GET IN CONTACT: INFO@PALERMOCONVERGENCE21.NET

