

No. 119
Newsletter
11/2023

KOMPASS



Info-Plattform der antirassistischen Bewegung

Against massacres, war and racist agitation +++ 26 November in Berlin: Stop GEAS demonstration +++ 30 years of the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act, 30 years of ex officio discrimination +++ Alarm Phone: interview, report and fundraising campaign +++ Commemorations in Kythira and Lampedusa +++ New migrant caravan in Mexico heading for the USA +++ Review: Transnational Social Strike Conference in Bologna

DEAR FRIENDS,

In view of the cruel massacre in Israel and another cruel war in Palestine, in view of a new wave of racism and a competition to outdo each other in terms of migration control in Europe and in Germany, we get by in this intro on quotes from texts that seem worth reading in times of simplistic positioning and polarisation:

"The left must resist anti-Semitism in the name of the anti-colonial struggle as well as racism in the name of so-called solidarity with Israel."

<https://www.akweb.de/politik/krieg-in-israel-und-gaza-die-linke-muss-ihren-moralischen-kompass-neu-ausrichten/>

"Because without a right to rights for all people in Israel and Palestine, in whatever state form, there will be no end to violence and therefore no security for Israelis and Palestinians alike."

<https://www.akweb.de/politik/israel-palaestina-gaza-eskalation-der-entmenschlichung/>

"I was a Zionist because I had the impression that it was necessary to establish a Jewish state after 1945. But today I can no longer be a Zionist, because Zionism has turned out to be what it has always been: racist and expansionist. All Israeli governments since 1967 have ensured that Zionism has become an occupying regime by colonising the West Bank."

<https://www.woz.ch/2341/die-lange-geschichte-der-eskalation/es-bleibt-nur-der-friedensweg!/EK6104XB2BH>

„Neither Hamas nor Netanyahu. The people of Israel will prevail. The people of Palestine will prevail."

*They only need to give themselves a chance and work hard at it.
Meanwhile, each war will continue to be only the prelude to the next, more ferocious,
more destructive, more inhumane.*

*From the mountains of the Mexican Southeast, Subcomandante Insurgente Moisés.
Mexico, October 2023."*

<https://enlace Zapatista.ezln.org.mx/2023/10/19/of-sowings-and-reapings/>

*"Anti-Semitism and racism must not be played off against each other or used as
justification for racist policies of exclusion and deportation.... We will not allow the open
society and the rights we have fought for in it to be taken away from us. Our solidarity is
and remains indivisible."*

<https://www.medico.de/die-offene-gesellschaft-verteidigen>

*"Not a day goes by without the fear of refugees being fuelled. The debate is often no
longer about actual solutions, but only about deterrence and deportation. Refugee
policy issues are misused in order to shift responsibility for the failings of society as a
whole and infrastructural deficiencies onto others....The successes of refugee reception
after 2015 or the reception of one million people who fled Ukraine in 2022 are also
forgotten. Yet these examples show that society can do a lot if politicians create the
right framework conditions."*

<https://www.proasyl.de/thema/fakten-zahlen-argumente/>

*"You have to plan well in advance. If I only ever operate at the limits of my capacity and
work with expensive temporary solutions - another container here and another hotel
there - then I have a problem. We often can't manage without the odd temporary
solution either, but our accommodation for refugees is designed for 15 years, after
which it becomes social housing...Yes, a breathing, resilient, sustainable system that has
a memory and doesn't simply erase the experience gained, but ensures that skills are
retained even during periods of calm."*

[https://www.fr.de/politik/gefluechtete-und-kommunen-ein-buergermeister-erklaert-
wie-es-geht-92562877.html](https://www.fr.de/politik/gefluechtete-und-kommunen-ein-buergermeister-erklaert-wie-es-geht-92562877.html)

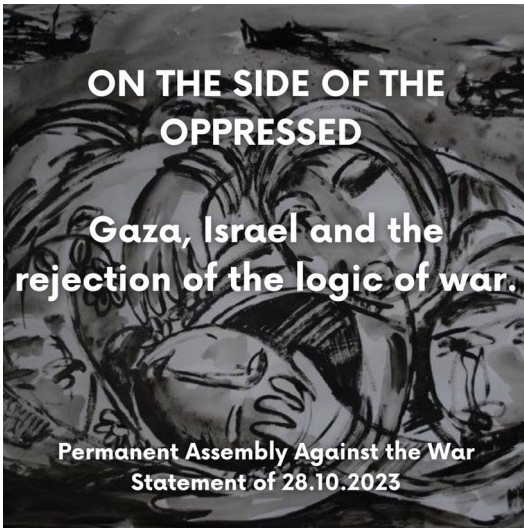
With solidarity greetings,

The Kompass team



DATES AND INFORMATION FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2023

AGAINST MASSACRES AND WAR ...

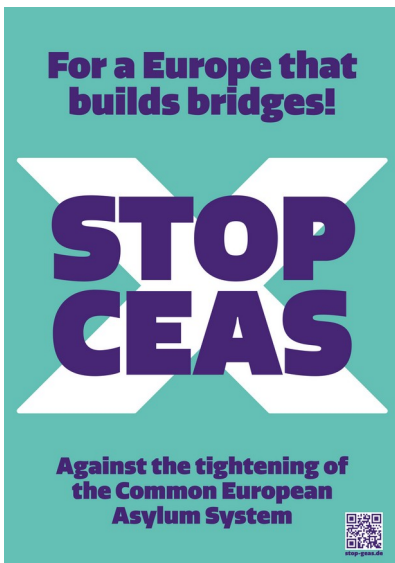


... we share two more links here, firstly the dossier from Labournet and secondly a current text from the Transnational Social Strike Platform:

[HTTPS://WWW.LABOURNET.DE/
INTERNATIONALES/ISRAEL/
FRIEDENSBEWEGUNG/NAHOSTKONFLIKT-FOLGE-
2023-ISRAELISCHE-UND-PALAESTINENSISCHE-
ZIVILBEVOELKERUNG-ERNEUT-OPFER-
FUNDAMENTALISTISCHER-HAMAS-UND-
RECHTSRADIKALER-ISRAELISCHER-REGIERUNG/
#LINKE](https://www.labournet.de/internationales/israel/friedensbewegung/nahostkonflikt-folge-2023-israelische-und-palaestinensische-zivilbevoelkerung-erneut-opfer-fundamentalistischer-hamas-und-rechtsradikaler-israelischer-regierung/)

[HTTPS://WWW.TRANSNATIONAL-STRIKE.INFO/2023/11/05/ON-THE-SIDE-OF-THE-OPPRESSED-GAZA-ISRAEL-AND-THE-REJECTION-OF-THE-LOGIC-OF-WAR/](https://www.transnational-strike.info/2023/11/05/on-the-side-of-the-oppressed-gaza-israel-and-the-rejection-of-the-logic-of-war/)

26.11. IN BERLIN: STOP GEAS - FOR A EUROPA BUILDING BRIDGES



Taking to the streets together against the abolition of the right to asylum in Europe

At the beginning of December, the EU Parliament will discuss an aggravation of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). The Parliament will vote on a whole raft of regulations that are intended to fundamentally tighten the European asylum system. As a result, there will be systematic human rights violations. The de facto abolition of the fundamental right to asylum is imminent...."

THE ENTIRE APPEAL IN MANY LANGUAGES:[HTTPS://STOP-GEAS.DE/](https://stop-geas.de/)

30 YEARS OF THE ASYLUM SEEKERS' BENEFITS ACT, 30 YEARS OF OFFICIAL DISCRIMINATION

The Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act (AsylbLG) came into force on 1 November 1993. To mark this sad anniversary, an alliance of 154 organisations is criticising the current particularly heated debate about ever more restrictions on social benefits for refugees and is calling for refugees to be integrated into the regular social welfare system!



30 years of discrimination, disenfranchisement and cuts to the subsistence level of refugees - that is the balance sheet drawn by PRO ASYL and welfare organisations, medical organisations, human rights organisations and anti-discrimination associations. And there is no end in sight. On the contrary: the debate is increasingly dominated by irrelevant and anti-human demands. The discussions about social benefits are a good example of this. The demands in the air range from a general switch from cash benefits to benefits in kind, discriminatory payment cards and a reduction in the minimum subsistence level to the demand that sick people should be denied basic medical care.

Human dignity, which applies to everyone, hardly seems to count for anything in the public debate. Every person has the right to a minimum subsistence level worthy of human beings. The current structure of the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act is already constitutionally untenable - and further discriminatory benefit cuts are even more so.

Benefits in kind are discriminatory, expensive and at least questionable under constitutional law. This also applies to the payment card demanded by some federal states and politicians and already planned in some cases, which is intended to restrict the ability to dispose of cash...."

THE ENTIRE STATEMENT:

[HTTPS://WWW.PROASYL.DE/NEWS/30-JAHRE-ASYLBEWERBERLEISTUNGSGESETZ-30-JAHRE-DISKRIMINIERUNG-VON-AMTS-WEGEN/](https://www.proasyl.de/news/30-jahre-asylbewerberleistungsgesetz-30-jahre-diskriminierung-von-amts-wegen/)

ALARM PHONE: INTERVIEW, REPORT AND FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

In October, the Alarm Phone published two texts.

Firstly, an interview on the situation in the central Mediterranean:

[HTTPS://ALARMPHONE.ORG/EN/2023/10/19/WE-CAN-ONLY-BE-CREATIVE-AS-A-BROAD-NETWORK-OF-SOLIDARITY/](https://alarmphone.org/en/2023/10/19/we-can-only-be-creative-as-a-broad-network-of-solidarity/)

Secondly, a report on the crossings from Senegal to the Canary Islands:

[HTTPS://ALARMPHONE.ORG/EN/2023/10/20/CROSSINGS-FROM-SENEGAL-TO-THE-CANARY-ISLANDS/](https://alarmphone.org/en/2023/10/20/crossings-from-senegal-to-the-canary-islands/)

Both texts provide background information for a fundraising campaign launched by the Alarm Phone on 11 October.

ALARM PHONE: SEA RESCUE HOTLINE NEEDS DONATIONS FOR RISING PHONE COSTS

Alarm Phone: Seenotrettung benötigt Spenden für steigende Telefonkosten

 Gemeinnützige Organisation



Alarm Phone is a self-organized hotline for people in distress at sea at Europe's external borders: a phone number that people on the move can call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

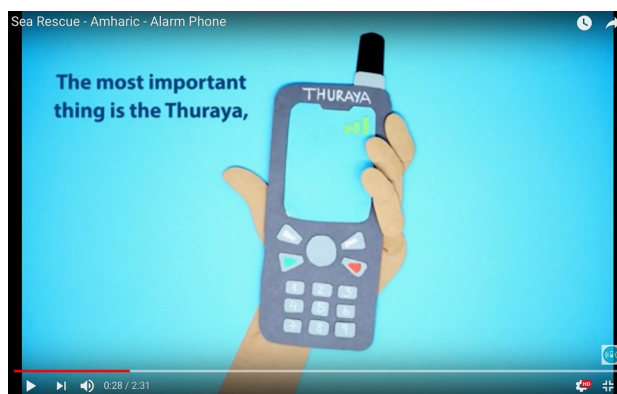
In 2014, people from across Europe and North Africa decided to take action against the lethal European border



regime: we create international networks, do extensive research on migration routes and judicial norms of maritime law and fight for safe passage. Since the founding of Alarm Phone, we have made use of this knowledge in order to assist more than 7000 boats and groups of people in distress on the Balkan Route, in the Aegean and Ionian Sea, in the Central Mediterranean (Libya, Italy, Malta, Tunisia), in the Western Mediterranean (Algeria, Morocco, Spain), on the Canary Island Route and in the English Channel.

Alarm Phone receives distress calls, researchs the legal circumstances and gathers information about the situation onboard. We then ensure that the SOS call is heard by relevant authorities and put pressure on said authorities to respond in accordance with maritime law and the human rights convention. In the Central Mediterranean, we have built up an independent rescue coordination structure in the past years, in close cooperation with the ships and small planes of the civil rescue fleet. Thanks to research on international maritime law and our transnational networks, Alarm Phone can act as a witness: We hold responsible rescue entities accountable, avert illegal pushbacks and other forms of human rights violations. We stay in contact with people on the boat to support them, and let them know they are not alone and forgotten.

Why do we need money?



To contact people without mobile phone reception in the Mediterranean and Atlantic, we often rely on satellite phones. Each life saving phone call costs between 1 and 8€/minute to make. So as a network we have an astonishing phone bill.

Alarm Phone has no paid positions - its work relies on hundreds of activists across many countries to keep the hotline running. Together, we organise international conferences twice a year in order to exchange our experience and research.

PLEASE DONATE WHAT YOU CAN SO WE CAN CONTINUE IN OUR MISSION TO ENSURE THAT NO DISTRESS CALL IS IGNORED.

[HTTPS://WWW.BETTERPLACE.ORG/EN/PROJECTS/127506-ALARM-PHONE-SEA-RESCUE-HOTLINE-NEEDS-DONATIONS-FOR-RISING-PHONE-COSTS](https://www.betterplace.org/en/projects/127506-alarm-phone-sea-rescue-hotline-needs-donations-for-rising-phone-costs)

COMMEMORATION IN KYTHIRA, GREECE - OCTOBER 5, 2023

A trip back to the EU border where many lost their loved ones a year ago.

They wanted to thank the local people of Kythira who, without thinking of the danger to their own lives, rescued a total of 80 people on October 5, 2022.



People who otherwise would certainly not be alive. Together, some survivors and family members came together to hold a memorial ceremony on the beach of Diakofti, the place where the night of 5.10.2022 will remain forever present for all.



Credit: Marily Stroux

“October 05 remains an indelible date for all of us. That night two boats capsized in Greece waters, one of them just off the island of Kythira. The people on the boats were fleeing war and terror – filled with longing for a safe future. Here in this place, very close to the harbor, the boat crashed into a rockface. The wind was strong, the waves high, and it was night. Many

inhabitants of the island came and tried to save the people by any means possible. They saved 80 people with their efforts. However, at least 15 people lost their lives that night. When the tragedy became known to the relatives of those onboard, those who could made their way to Kythira. In this time of shock and loss, survivors and relatives met there, as well as initiatives in solidarity and people willing to help.

Some of the dead could be found in the water. They were identified, transported to Kalamatas hospital, and then buried in Komotini. Others are still missing a year later. The survivors have been housed in inhumane camps and are fighting for their residence permits to live safe life.

Since October 2022, we – some of the survivors and relatives remained in contact. In March 2023, we remembered what happened in Erfurt with an evening called “A Sea Full of Tears.” More than 200 people created space for mourning, pain and remembrance, but also for courage and hope. It was possible to feel the presence of those who are no longer with us. In this touching atmosphere, the idea of returning to Kythira became more concrete.

We gathered here in Kythira with everyone to mourn and commemorate the lost. We keep alive the memory of the people who died in the sea. We also come angry at the European borders that killed them, and continue to kill. We come with the desire to build another future in solidarity and without borders. It is our resistance....”

DER GANZE BERICHT ZUR GEDENKAKTION HIER: [HTTP://KITHIRA.W2EU.NET/2023/10/14/KYTHIRA-OCTOBER-5-2023/](http://kithira.w2eu.net/2023/10/14/kythira-october-5-2023/)



COMMEMORATION IN LAMPEDUSA ON 11TH OF OCTOBER 2023



In the evening of 11.10. 2023, more than 130 people - locals, tourists, transnational activists - followed our invitation and participated in the CommemorAction for the victims of the horrible shipwreck that took place off Lampedusa exactly ten years ago.

Alarm Phone presented a video documentation that remembered the unfolding of this violence and non-assistance, enforced and

executed by the Italian and Maltese authorities. Despite continuous and desperate calls by the people of the sinking boat via satellite phone to Rome and Malta, the respective coastguards did not react and waited, until it was too late. The boat capsized and 268 people were killed, including more than 60 children.

A lawyer then reported on the trial and the court decision of December 2022, in which Italian authorities were found guilty of manslaughter and negligence resulting in failure to rescue. Two activists from Malta emphasized the co-responsibility of Maltese coastguards, who were never held accountable for their left to die practices.

Afterwards a transnational composition of activists from Alarm Phone Sahara, Alarm Phone Morocco and Boza Fil pointed to the death in the desert and on the route to the Canary Islands. Friends from the Alliance with Refugees in Libya, from Mediterranean Saving Humans and the network We'llcome United were involved in the presentation. A comrade from the 18/18 struggle in Zarzis, then read the names of all known victims of the 11 October 2013 massacre, repeating several times in a chorus: "we will never forget, we will never forgive".

Photos of the victims were hanging in the background, and an endless list - more than 50 meters long - with the names of known victims killed by the EU border regime since 1993 was enrolled on the pedestrian zone.

Following a minute of silence, Alarm Phone and Lampedusa activists - accompanied by quiet drums of Senegalese Baye Fall crew from Palermo - read in Arabic and Italian the poems by Abdel Wahab Yousif Latino, a Sudanese author, who himself drowned off Libya in 2020 during the attempt to cross the Mediterranean sea.

The mourners then moved to sea front to hold another minute of silence, closed by the drums and prayers of the Baye Fall crew - a final moment of an impressive and intense CommemorAction, where we shared tears and anger as well as hope for a world where death at the border belongs to the past.

SEE ALSO THE PICTURES AT: [HTTPS://WWW.MALDUSA.ORG/L/LAMPEDUSA-COMMEMORATION-11-OCTOBER-2013-2023/](https://www.maldusa.org/L/LAMPEDUSA-COMMEMORATION-11-OCTOBER-2013-2023/)



NEW CARAVAN OF MIGRANTS IN MEXICO HEADING FOR THE USA



MEXICO CITY taz | Around 5,000 people made their way from the city of Tapachula in southern Mexico towards the US border at the beginning of this week. The so-called "caravan" offers the migrants the protection of the group, as the route through the Mexican interior is considered particularly dangerous..."

SEE [HTTPS://TAZ.DE/RIESIGE-KARAWANE-DURCH-MEXIKO/!5970694/](https://taz.de/Riesige-Karawane-Durch-Mexiko/!5970694/)

AND [HTTPS://WWW.TAGESSCHAU.DE/AUSLAND/AMERIKA/MEXIKO-MIGRANTEN-120.HTML](https://www.tagesschau.de/ausland/amerika/mexiko-migranten-120.html)

REVIEW

REPORT FROM THE TRANSNATIONAL SOCIAL STRIKE (TSS) CONFERENCE IN BOLOGNA FROM 27TH TO 29TH OF OCTOBER 2023

By Annalisa Cananzi and Giorgio Grappi

„There is no revolutionary imagination without transnational organisation'. The words of a Greek anti-racist activist sum up the meaning of the tenth meeting of the Transnational Social Strike Platform (TSS), hosted in Bologna by *l'connessioni precarie*. From 27 to 29 October, some 200 activists from 20 countries, not only European, took part in workshops and assemblies on social reproduction, the climate crisis, migration and the political and social consequences of war. It was not just an exchange of partial experiences of struggle or resistance: moving from their richness and the difficulties and differences of the material and institutional conditions in which they take place, the meeting consolidated the foundations of the transnational organisation of movements in the conviction that only by confronting this level can tangible results be achieved on the local or national level.

The question "where are we?" guided the meeting towards the identification of paths of communication and organisation capable of overcoming the current fragmentation of the struggles of precarious women and workers, women and migrants, trade unions and ecological movements. Those who participated recognised that transnational capacity is necessary when the organisation of struggles for wages is measured by processes of financialisation and migrant labour movements; it is unattainable when the



consequences of war go beyond the territories in which it is fought and produce divisions that hinder the possibility of fighting together; it is essential when these divisions are the fertile ground in which right-wing policies proliferate, which regime command over labour through social fragmentation and the production of racist and patriarchal hierarchies.



TSS

**BREAKING THE BARRIER:
CONFRONTING THE
TRANSNATIONAL
DIMENSION**

**TRANSNATIONAL
MEETING**

PORTA PRATELLO, VIA PIETRALATA,
BOLOGNA

IG: @TSSPLATFORM
FB: @TRANSNATIONAL SOCIAL STRIKE

WEBSITE: TRANSNATIONAL-STRIKE.INFO
EMAIL: INFO@TRANSNATIONAL-STRIKE.INFO

REGISTER HERE!

**27-28-29
OCTOBER**

The imperative of 'breaking barriers' - territorial, social, identity - has guided interventions on patriarchal and racist conditions of reproduction of our lives and the prospect of climatic class conflict. In the field of migration, breaking barriers is all the more necessary as migrants are already a transnational subject and 'war moves from Ukraine and Palestine to Europe creating the conditions to criminalise them' and govern their freedom of movement. As stated by the asylum seekers at the Mattei Centre in Bologna, the autonomous organisation and concrete support of the struggles of and by migrants is the first task of any transnational policy.

In the face of the constant return of patriarchy (...) the feminist strike is increasingly difficult to organise. Yet, 'it is one of the few processes that has produced a connection between different subjects, first and foremost women and migrants, and has strained existing organisational structures by forcing the trade union initiative and preventing the appropriation of feminism by liberal discourse'. This is a potential that the TSS is committed to keeping active towards 25 November and 8 March, focusing on the rejection of war to oppose the unbearable normalisation of the violence it produces.

War is also redefining the environment of the green transition. This awareness has united activists, unions and collectives (...). Green transition is now "an agenda against workers and is the lever for an aggressive geopolitics" and there are no easy solutions: "green transition is not homogeneous and requires a critique and practices capable of taking differences into account and showing what its effects are on wages and living and working conditions". Struggles for climate justice must avoid any specialism in awareness of the transnational centrality of the ecological initiative, especially in the era of World War III triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.



It was precisely the logic of war that was the focus of an impassioned and highly participative plenary of the Permanent Assembly Against the War (PAAW) introduced by Issa Amro (Youth Against Settlement), connected from the West Bank, Yeheli Cialic Sofia Orr (Mesarvot), from Israel, Vadym Yakovlev, Ukrainian activist who defected from the war, and Lee Chun Fung, artist and independent activist connected from Hong Kong. Issa reiterated that the Palestinians are "faced with the impossible choice between fleeing - with no real possibility of doing so - and staying, risking death or with the certainty of being condemned to be second-class citizens". Sofia, an 18-year-old Israeli draft dodger, asserted the need to keep the distinction between the oppressed and the oppressors clear, refusing to take part in the revenge and genocide carried out by the State of Israel, while Vadym denounced the recruitment of Ukrainian social movements under the banner of nationalism. Lee opened a channel of communication between PAAW and East Asia, where war is present as a horizon that crushes the spaces of imagination and political action.

On the terrain of war, PAAW emphasised the need for a 'transnational politics of peace'. Despite the efforts of states and their experts, the fronts are not homogeneous and stable, but constantly crossed by the demand for freedom and the struggles of women, workers and migrants who, not only in the Middle East and Ukraine, refuse to pay the price of a war conflict that fuels racism, violence and exploitation. Looking at war from the side of those who suffer it and not only from the side of those who make it is the prerequisite for a transnational peace policy that is able to recognise the blind spots of the peace movement: supporting without hesitation the resistance and struggle of the Palestinians does not mean supporting the confessional agendas of Hamas; recognising the Russian invasion of Ukraine does not mean supporting Zelensky's neo-liberal agendas.

Aware of the complexity of the challenges posed by migration, feminism, environmentalism and war, the TSS has long faced the dilemma of the transnational organisation of struggles. Faced with the catastrophe of traditional organisational solutions, we have to find ways not to be overwhelmed by the heterogeneity of local and national conditions. This problem was clearly formulated by the Interventionistische Linke: 'for a long time we managed to mobilise, though not to organise. Now we also have difficulty mobilising, which is why organising is even more urgent. The problem is not so much to multiply practical initiatives, but to equip ourselves with shared readings in order to be able to act in the long term, to accumulate strength, to consolidate the organisation itself. This is only possible if the transnational plan becomes an integral part of our initiative'. The choice of a platform, a mobile but not indeterminate space through which different movements can communicate and share organisational imagination, is the answer to this condition."

FURTHER INFORMATION ON TSS: [HTTPS://WWW.TRANSNATIONAL-STRIKE.INFO/](https://www.transnational-strike.info/)

