

No. 123
Newsletter
04/2024

KOMPASS



Info-Plattform der antirassistischen Bewegung

26-28 April in Frankfurt: We'll Come United conference +++ 10 April in Brussels: No to the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum +++ 13 April in Valetta: Human Rights Defenders Award for El Hiblu 3 +++ 19 April in Trapani: Decision in the Iuventa proceedings +++ Italy: Tighter detention of rescue ships +++ Echoes no. 11- No Borders, no Problem +++ Info on the Egypt deal +++ On the situation in the English Channel +++ Outlook: 8 June and 25 August: Demonstrations against the right; 21.8. to 25.8.: We'll Come United-Summercamp in Thuringia

DEAR FRIENDS.

We'll Come United - now more than ever! The preparations for the conference in Frankfurt at the end of April are in full swing and the provisional programme has been published. The opening event will be dedicated to current struggles against the EU border regime. This will be followed by over 30 working groups on a variety of anti-racist campaigns and fields of

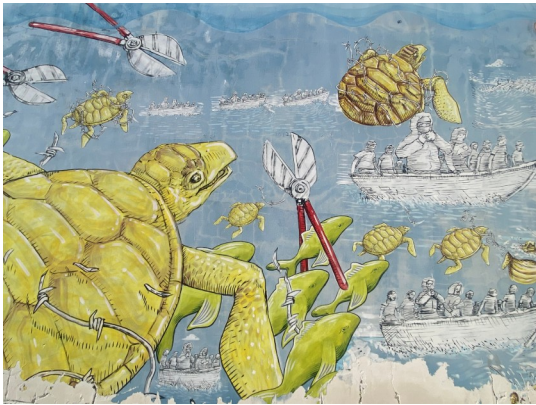


resistance as well as developments in several main countries of origin. A second panel will address the background to flight and migration and a final plenary session will summarise what has been discussed and developed

in the previous days. If you are interested in taking part in a „many-voiced and transnational space for exchange and empowerment in everyday struggles and for concrete strategies and mobilisations in 2024“, please register!

From Frankfurt to Cairo: "The EU has signed another deal with a North African country to stem illegal migration; this time with Egypt. The economically hard-hit country is to receive around 7.4 billion euros from the European Union...In addition to von der Leyen, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer, Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo and his Greek counterpart Kyriakos Mitsotakis were received in Cairo by Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi..." These were the headlines in mid-March about the „EU cabinet of horrors“ joint visit to the North African country, which is considered to be an "increased danger zone" in view of higher refugee and transit migration figures in 2023. After

Libya and Tunisia, this is the next dictator deal to complete the increasingly aggressive EU externalisation policy.



Wandgemälde auf Lampedusa

From Cairo to the central Mediterranean: the consequences of the Piantedosi Decree, named after the Italian Minister of the Interior, are becoming increasingly aggressive and "crazy". Several civilian rescue ships have now been openly arrested on the brazen accusation that they "did not follow the instructions of the so-called Libyan coastguard". While even Italy's highest court of appeal once again confirmed in a judgement in February 2024 that push-backs

to Libya are illegal under international law, the Meloni government is trying to block sea rescues with all administrative means at its disposal. Quoting the new issue of Echoes: "They (the government officials) know that they will lose on a legal level. But they are trying to buy time, or to put it more clearly: to weaponise time. A policy of deterrence that is causing more people to drown or be pushed back while fleeing. It is therefore all the more important that solidarity with and between those involved in the civil fleet remains strong!"

With this in mind, with solidarity greetings,

the Kompass Crew

DATES AND INFORMATION FOR APRIL 2024

26.-28. APRIL 2024 IN FRANKFURT: WE`LL COME UNITED CONFERENCE

**UNITED
GEGEN
RASSISMUS
UND
FASCHISMUS**

We`ll Come United
lädt ein zur
antirassistischen Konferenz
vom **26. bis 28. April 2024**
in **Frankfurt**

United against racism and fascism - Now more than ever!

"...We want to create a many-voiced and transnational space on podiums and in workshops: for exchange and empowerment in everyday struggles and for concrete strategies and mobilisations in 2024. Together we will discuss struggles

against deportation, camps and immigration authorities, the strengthening of solidarity structures along the routes and the backgrounds of flight and migration.

The programme will begin on Friday 26 April in the early evening at the Studierendenhaus in Frankfurt-Bockenheim and end on Sunday 28 April in the early afternoon. Catering and sleeping places are being prepared, for planning purposes please register as soon as possible at the following address: mail@welcome-united.org."

THE PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME CAN BE FOUND HERE:

[HTTPS://WWW.WELCOME-UNITED.ORG/EN/](https://www.welcome-united.org/en/)

10. APRIL 2024 IN BRUSSELS: NO TO THE EU PACT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM



DE L'EUROPE À BRUXELLES:
Dites NON au Pacte sur la migration et l'asile!

Résistons collectivement contre les politiques européennes sur la migration et l'asile!

Manifestation à Bruxelles, 10 avril 2024
Place du Luxembourg

Le 10 avril, le Parlement européen votera pour le nouveau Pacte sur la migration et l'asile. Cela aura des conséquences catastrophiques sur les vies des personnes migrant-e-s, institutionnalisant les pratiques les plus brutales et répressives.

"We are calling for a mobilisation to Brussels. The European Parliament will vote on the migration pact on the same day. We will not remain silent. We will not celebrate the systematic dismantling of human rights in Europe. We will be there together with affected communities, civil society organisations, collectives and international human rights groups to confront the leaders and politicians of the European Union who support this shameful deal that is incompatible with human rights...."

15:00 - 18:00 - PLACE DU LUXEMBOURG - 1050 BRUSSELS

[HTTPS://AGIRPOURLAPAIX.BE/10-04-24-DITES-NON-AU-PACTE-SUR-LA-MIGRATION-ET-LASILE/](https://agirpouurlapaix.be/10-04-24-dites-non-au-pacte-sur-la-migration-et-lasile/)

13. APRIL 2024 IN VALETTA: HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AWARD FOR EL HIBLU 3 AND STATUS OF THE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The Coalition for the El Hiblu 3 will celebrate the El Hiblu 3 as human rights defenders with an award ceremony on 13th of April 2024 in Valetta. During this celebration, the three will be praised in laudatory speeches from various civil society actors. They will be honoured for their engagement in helping to prevent an illegal push back in 2019 and for

their endurance and patience over five long years to defy imprisonment, endless court sessions and the ongoing threat of conviction.

Background and update on the court hearings



At the end of last year, the Attorney General kept the accusation of “terrorism” in the bill of indictment against the El Hiblu 3. Subsequently, two initial court hearings took place in Valetta in March 2024. While taking into consideration the pleas of the prosecution and defense, a new judge must decide if and which charges she will admit for prosecution in a jury. One

main argument by the lawyers is that all the accused offenses took place outside of the territorial waters of Malta and thus happened outside Maltese jurisdiction.

In December 2023, in a similar case in Greece, a court in Chania acquitted the accused refugees as all the alleged criminal offenses took place in international waters and thus outside Greek jurisdiction. And in a recent, ground-breaking decision the Italian Court of Cassation upheld the criminal conviction of a captain of a merchant vessel, who rescued 101 migrants and turned them over to Libya. Both court decisions should make clear that the charges against El Hiblu 3 have to be dropped immediately. There is no legal or moral basis to continue to prosecute the three young men.

The next court session will take place on May 30 in Valetta, where the judge has the chance to finally end this “travesty of justice” (Amnesty International) and the unbearable limbo that Abdalla, Amara and Kader are withstanding.

19. APRIL 2024 IN TRAPANI: JUDGE TO ANNOUNCE DECISION IN IUVENTA CASE



Credit: iuventa

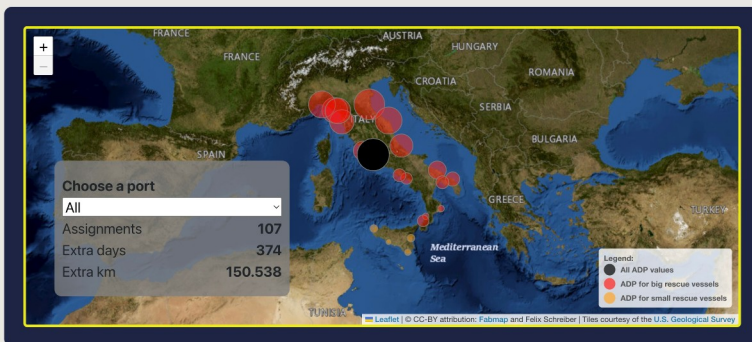
„Today marked the final day of the preliminary hearing against the iuventa-crew. Following the prosecution’s unexpected request to drop the charges, the defense delivered a powerful closing argument, demanding not only the dismissal of the case but also the full recognition of the legality of all actions. Moreover, they called for an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the case to establish accountability for the erroneous

investigation and its serious implications. The judge announced that he would deliver his decision on 19 April 2024...”

[HTTPS://IUVENTA-CREW.ORG/EN/2024/03/02/JUDGE-TO-ANNOUNCE-DECISION-IN-IUVENTA-CASE-ON-19-APRIL/](https://iuventa-crew.org/en/2024/03/02/judge-to-announce-decision-in-iuventa-case-on-19-april/)

ITALY: STRICTER DETENTION OF RESCUE SHIPS
SOS Humanity: Civil fleet: over a year of operation time lost!

Weit entfernte Häfen



Credit: SOS Humanity

„In conjunction with the new law which it passed in January 2023, the far right-wing Italian government has been systematically assigning distant ports for disembarkation to rescue ships for over a year, in order to

actively hinder their work. As this clearly violates EU and international law, in April 2023 we filed a lawsuit at the civil court in Rome together with other NGOs and submitted a complaint to the EU Commission in July 2023. Our new data analysis show the extent of the obstruction: in 2023 alone, rescue ships lost more than a year of operation time in total. (...) For the civil fleet this amounted to a total loss of 374 days of operation in the world’s most dangerous migration route. For over a year, rescue ships were forced to sail to and from distant ports instead of saving lives. The ships travelled more than 150,538 kilometres on unnecessarily long routes – that is more than three and a half times around the world! The political practice of assigning distant ports thus represents a new low in the obstruction of the life-saving work of search and rescue NGOs...”

[HTTPS://SOS-HUMANITY.ORG/EN/OUR-MISSION/CHANGE/OVER-A-YEAR-OF-OPERATION-TIME-LOST/](https://sos-humanity.org/en/our-mission/change/over-a-year-of-operation-time-lost/)

Sea Watch 5 detained



Credit Sea Eye

„...Following the rescue of 56 people from distress at sea in international waters on March 6, Italian authorities have detained the Sea-Watch 5 for 20 days. Previously, a 17-year-old boy died on board after Italy, Malta, and Tunisia refused to evacuate him. 4 other people in critical condition were only brought to the Italian

mainland after 9 hours. The remaining 51 people and the body of the boy were landed in Pozzallo, Sicily, on March 8 after political and media pressure. The authorities had previously assigned Ravenna, over 1500 kilometers away, as the port of safety...”

[HTTPS://SEA-WATCH.ORG/EN/SEA-WATCH-5-DETAINED/](https://sea-watch.org/en/sea-watch-5-detained/)

Sea Eye: Italy escalates the obstruction of civil search and rescue

Joint press release by United4Rescue, Sea-Watch, SOS Humanity and Sea-Eye

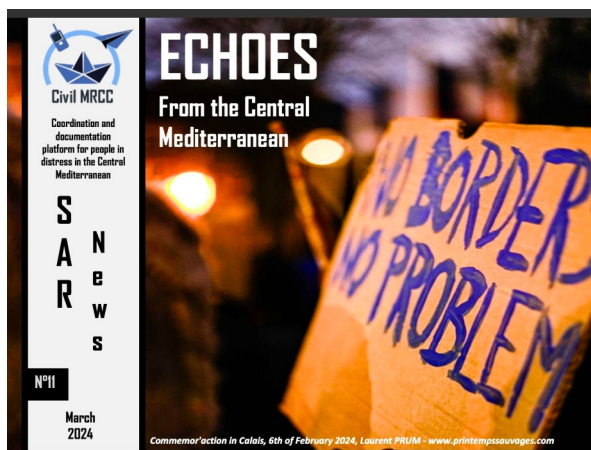
Within the last week, the Italian government has detained three NGO rescue ships flying the German flag. The Humanity 1, the Sea-Watch 5 and the Sea-Eye 4 are being prevented from carrying out their life-saving work on the basis of false accusations. For

the first time, the Italian government has blocked one of the ships, the Sea-Eye 4, for 60 days, marking an escalation of its actions against the civil fleet.

In a new wave of detentions, the Italian government has blocked the rescue ships Humanity 1, Sea-Watch 5 and Sea-Eye 4 – after rescuing over 390 people in total. All three ships are part of the United4Rescue alliance supported by the German Protestant Church and over 900 partners. The 60-day detention of the Sea-Eye 4 represents an escalation of the obstruction of the civil fleet. Together with the 20-day detentions of the Sea-Watch 5 and the Humanity 1, the rescue ships are being actively kept out of the Mediterranean for a total of 100 days. Since January 2023, nine ships of the civil fleet have been detained a total of 19 times by the Italian authorities.

JOINT STATEMENT HERE: [HTTPS://SEA-EYE.ORG/EN/ITALY-ESCALATES-THE-OBSTRUCTION-OF-CIVIL-SEARCH-AND-RESCUE/](https://sea-eye.org/en/italy-escalates-the-obstruction-of-civil-search-and-rescue/)

ECHOES NR. 11- NO BORDERS, NO PROBLEM



"Detaining Civil Fleet ships means letting more people die at sea Italian courts are apparently asserting their independence. For Albania or the Luventa crew, in Catania or in Brindisi, on a legal level, Meloni, Piantedosi & co. have suffered severe setbacks in recent weeks. At the same time, Italian authorities continue to misuse administrative measures to detain rescue ships in even more arbitrary ways.

They know they will lose again on a

legal level, but they try to win, or, better formulated, to "weaponize" time: to let more people on the move drown or get pushbacked as a policy of deterrence. It is therefore all the more important that solidarity with and between the civil fleet actors remains strong!"

Table of Content

- Political Developments: Italy: The Curse of the announcement and the flowing water, the permanent election campaign and the violence of the border; Effects of externalisation in Tunisia: Racism, Ordeal of migrants and No end in Sight
- Diary of Cooperation for January and February 2024
- Reports: Civil fleet: over a year of operation time lost! - Interactive map from SOS Humanity; "Left to drown" comics - Report of a boat rescued by the Geo Barents;
- amplifying Voices: Report of CommemorActions; Human rights defenders' campaign: first steps towards a safe evacuation from Libya;
- Legal Fragment: Italy-Albania protocol: A new attempt of border externalisation;
- Criminalisation: Solidarity with El Hiblu; Notes from Trapani - Unexpected twist in the case against the Luventa crew; "Sara Mardini - Sean Binder": A first big victory;

- Mobilisations: Italy escalates obstruction of civil search and rescue; United against racism and facism - now more than ever!

[HTTPS://CIVILMRCC.EU/ECHOES/ECHOES-11-NO-BORDERS-NO-PROBLEM/](https://CIVILMRCC.EU/ECHOES/ECHOES-11-NO-BORDERS-NO-PROBLEM/)

ON THE EGYPT DEAL

Taz: EU-Egypt agreement Europe's new favourite dictator Sisi

The EU and Egypt sign a new agreement: A well-fuelled cash injection for ruler al-Sisi and perhaps fewer migrants for the EU...

<https://taz.de/EU-Aegypten-Abkommen/!5998616/>

<https://taz.de/EU-Migrations-Deal-mit-Aegypten/!5996577/>

ZEIT: <https://www.zeit.de/politik/deutschland/2024-03/migration-eu-abkommen-aegypten-kritik-pro-asyl>

Human Rights Watch on the Deal

„...Key in this partnership will be the EU's support for Egypt's border control. While details are under negotiation, the blueprint is the same as the flawed EU deals with Tunisia and Mauritania: stop migrants, ignore abuses.

Human Rights Watch has previously documented arbitrary arrests and mistreatment of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees by Egyptian authorities, as well as deportations to Eritrea constituting refoulement. Recent reports of deportations of Sudanese should be investigated...“

[HTTPS://WWW.HRW.ORG/NEWS/2024/03/15/EU-DEAL-EGYPT-REWARDS-AUTHORITARIANISM-BETRAYS-EU-VALUES](https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/03/15/eu-deal-egypt-rewards-authoritarianism-betrays-eu-values)

THE SITUATION IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL



Credit: Alarm Phone

Spiegel: Migration to the UK - Number of refugees crossing the English Channel reaches record high
More than 5400 people crossed the strait between France and England in the first quarter...

[HTTPS://WWW.SPIEGEL.DE/](https://www.spiegel.de/)

[AUSLAND/GROSSBRITANNIEN-ZAHL-DER-GEFLUECHTETEN-AM-AERMELKANAL-AUF-REKORDHOCH-A-6BACD2D5-7E0D-407F-BAB5-802029FB45B2](https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/grossbritannien-zahl-der-gefluechteten-am-aermelkanal-auf-rekordhoch-a-6bacd2d5-7e0d-407f-bab5-802029fb45b2)

Alarm Phone: The deadly consequences of the new deal to 'Stop the Boats'

„There were more deadly incidents in the Channel in 2023 due to the new 'Stop the Boats' deal. Increased funding for the French has meant more police, more violence on the beaches, and thus more of the dangerously overcrowded and chaotic embarkations in which people lose their lives....“

REPORT FROM END OF JANUARY 2024 HERE: [HTTPS://ALARMPHONE.ORG/EN/2024/01/28/THE-DEADLY-CONSEQUENCES-OF-THE-NEW-DEAL-TO-STOP-THE-BOATS/?POST_TYPE_RELEASE_TYPE=POST](https://alarmphone.org/en/2024/01/28/the-deadly-consequences-of-the-new-deal-to-stop-the-boats/?post_type_release_type=post)

OUTLOOK

8 JUNE AND 25 AUGUST DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE RIGHT

"...The alliance is planning a large demonstration for 8 June, the day before the local and European elections in Germany. The organisation Campact, with which we are cooperating, wants to organise demonstrations in eight cities for the occasion. We are planning three demonstrations for 25 August, before the state elections in Saxony...."

[HTTPS://WWW.JUNGEWELT.DE/ARTIKEL/472236.GEGEN-RECHTS-ALLES-IST-BESSER-ALS-DIE-F%C3%BC%C3%9F-STILLZUHALTEN.HTML](https://www.jungewelt.de/artikel/472236.gegen-rechts-alles-ist-besser-als-die-f%C3%BC%C3%9F-stillzuhalten.html)

21.8. TO 25.8.: WE`LL COME UNITED SUMMER CAMP IN THURINGIA

"For August this year 2024, we are planning a summer camp for 150 people in the municipality of Waltershausen (www.kommune-kowa.de) in Thuringia..."

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT HERE:

[HTTPS://WWW.WELCOME-UNITED.ORG/DE/CALENDER/](https://www.welcome-united.org/de/CALENDER/)

