Info-Plattform der antirassistischen Bewegung

Brief report from the We'll Come United summer camp +++ After Solingen... +++ 13 to 15 September in Chemnitz: Symposium "Erinnern Versammeln" +++ AKKA campaign - First Aid Argumentation Kit Health insurance for all! +++ Medico campaign against the criminalisation of migration +++ Resistance to payment cards in Hamburg and Munich +++ Echoes No. 13; Hold tight! +++ Around 6 October: Decentralised week of action against Frontex +++ 11 October: 10 years of Alarm Phone and new reports on the Central and Eastern Mediterranean +++ 18/19 October: From Tripoli to Berlin - Event with Refugees in Libya +++ Statistics on Dublin deportations from Germany in 2023 +++ Review: Pro Asyl award ceremony +++ Outlook: Transborder Summer Camp III in 2025...

#### **DEAR FRIENDS.**

First the terrible attack in Solingen and its blatant instrumentalisation in the entire mainstream, then the elections in Thuringia and Saxony with the - unfortunately expected additional shift to the right: both are now followed by the next outbidding competition regarding discrimination against refugees, for deportations and border closures. Fear-mongering and racism are escalating to a new level.



What can we do? 'Giving up is not an alternative' was already a slogan last year that has not lost its validity with the further increase in hate speech and externalization discourse. It appears to be the last line of defence for all those who have this choice or can afford it. Around 30% of the population in Germany would potentially be affected by the rampant fantasies of exclusion. At the same time, the recruitment pro-

grammes for needed workers are continuing and it should be clear to anyone with a shred of common sense left in them that the economy would quickly collapse without 'migrant labour'. In this respect, the media agitation and absurd 'emergency' scenarios could also be read as calculated 'strategies of tension'. Racism and ethnic divisions, inequalities and hierar-

chies, deprivation of rights and criminalisation as means of maintaining an exploitative system in a multiple crisis?



Also So what to do? We continue with solidarity on the routes and we fight for every boat. We continue to struggle for the right to stay and we fight against every deportation. Freedom of movement and equal rights for all remain our compass. We oppose the brutalisation of the border regime, the normalisation of failure to provide assistance at sea and the push and pullback practices on land and at sea with transnationally networked support structures that follow the autonomies of the refugee and migration movements. Basta!

The Welcome to Europe network has been in existence for 15 years in September 2024. The Alarm Phone will be ten years old in October 2024, as will civil sea rescue next year and, as an im-

pressive updated graphic shows, it has certainly not become weaker. All of these support structures are working with the aim of making themselves superfluous if there were safe passages and no more visa regime. 'Ferries not Frontex'! We are perhaps further away from this demand than ever before, but history shows that there are always surprising positive breaks and unexpected dynamics of struggles.

In this newsletter, we have included statistics on Dublin deportations in 2023, which vividly demonstrate how this intra-European deportation system was cut, first and foremost through the resistance of those affected. Even if 'Dublin' has hit the headlines again after Solingen and new discrimination is now being planned from all possible directions, there are not only good reasons but also many good experiences to throw sand in the gears and intervene to block these deportations again and again.



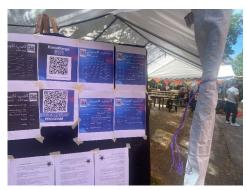
We end the intro with an impressive scene from Thuringia. The Welcome United summer camp took place in the small town of Waltershausen a week before the elections. Around 150 people took part, including refugees from various camps in Thuringia. At the beginning of the closing plenary session, several Syrian activists took the floor to talk about their successful protests, with which they had managed to close the inhumane Hermsdorf reception cen-

tre in June 2024. And how - also inspired by the workshops and discussions at the summer camp - they want to drive forward their networking, self-organisation and resistance against deportations and exclusion in the coming months. It was a decisive and courageous statement, which also seems to us to be the best response to the election results in Thuringia.

With best regards and solidarity, The Kompass team

#### DATES AND INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2024

# BRIEF REPORT FROM THE WE'LL COME UNITED SUMMER CAMP, SUCCESSFUL PROTEST CAMPAIGN BY REFUGEES IN THURINGIA...



Around 150 participants followed the invitation to a summer camp organised by We'll Come United (WCU) in Waltershausen in Thuringia at the end of August. The Kommune Waltershausen, or KoWa for short, a collective project in a former doll factory in the centre of the small town, offered ideal conditions for meeting, cooking, camping and dancing. The programme included workshops on options for action against

deportations and payment cards, on support projects on the flight routes and on regional and germanwide coordination and networking. In a painted picture - 'graphic recording' - an activist picked up discussions about structures and perspectives of We'll Come United in an impressive way.



In addition to WCU groups from various cities, numerous refugees from camps in Thuringia, who managed to close an inhumane reception centre in Hermsdorf in June of this year through a variety of protests, also took part. At the closing plenary session, those affected referred to this successful experience several times and announced their intention to intensify the fight for rights and against ongoing discrimination in the coming months. The next We'll Come United meeting was arranged for the beginning of No-

vember in Hamburg.

ATTACHED ARE SEVERAL LINKS TO THE PROTESTS IN HERMSDORF: HTTPS://BEHINDCLOSEDDOORS.BLACKBLOGS.ORG/PROTEST/

HTTPS://BEHINDCLOSEDDOORS.BLACKBLOGS.ORG/BRIEF-DER-BEWOHNER/

HTTPS://WWW.MDR.DE/NACHRICHTEN/THUERINGEN/OST-THUERINGEN/SAALE-HOLZLAND/

HERMSDORF-FLUECHTLINGE-NOTUNTERKUNFT-GESCHLOSSEN-100.HTML

#### **AFTER SOLINGEN...**

"... PRO ASYL warns: The political leaders in the democratic centre must not enter into a competition to outdo the right-wing extremists and nationalists. It is intolerable to place those seeking protection from Afghanistan and Syria under general suspicion. Over 1.3 million refugees from these two countries of origin live in Germany. An assassin who presumably killed on behalf of IS (Islamic State) cannot and must not discredit these people..."

HTTPS://WWW.PROASYL.DE/NEWS/ERKLAERUNG-VON-PRO-ASYL-ZUM-ANSCHLAG-VON-SOLINGEN/

"PRO ASYL appeals to the federal government after the devastating results of the state elections in Thuringia and Saxony for democratic parties: The federal government must not adopt any measures that violate the constitution, European law or international law. Unlawful tightening undermines the rule of law, plays into the hands of right-wing extremists and does not solve any social problems.

On the occasion of today's meeting between representatives of the federal government, the federal states and the largest opposition party, PRO ASYL warns: 'The CDU must fulfil its responsibility as a democratic party and must not further polarise the debate. The meeting should focus on measures that strengthen our democracy and social cohesion and prevent radicalisation towards Islamism or right-wing extremism.

'The CDU under Merz and Spahn is losing all sense of proportion in its desperate attempt to surpass the restrictive course taken by the coalition government. Demands for refoulement at German borders and the reference to an alleged emergency situation are not only contrary to European law, but also explosive in terms of European policy,' commented Wiebke Judith, legal policy spokesperson for PRO ASYL. 'An Orbanisation of the CDU that ignores EU law would be a gift for those who want to turn the EU into a union of nationalist 'fatherlands'. Asylum law is a gateway for this,' Judith continues.

Last week, the German government presented a restrictive package of measures that, among other things, provides for foreseeably unconstitutional benefit cuts for so-called Dublin cases. However, this does not go far enough for the CDU. It is now also calling for refoulement at internal borders, which would break EU law. The German Association of Counties is also making demands that would clearly violate European and international law...."

HTTPS://WWW.PROASYL.DE/PRESSEMITTEILUNG/PRO-ASYL-APPELLIERT-AN-KANZLER-SCHOLZ-ZUSAMMENHALT-IN-EUROPA-DARF-MIT-RECHTSWIDRIGEN-FORDERUNGEN-DER-CDU-NICHT-AUFS-SPIEL-GESETZT-WERDEN/

WE RARELY SHARE LINKS TO DER SPIEGEL AND IT IS BITTER THAT SUCH ARTICLES ARE NEEDED AT ALL, AND YET RIGHT THAT THEY EXIST:

HTTPS://WWW.SPIEGEL.DE/WISSENSCHAFT/MENSCH/SOLINGEN-DER-TERROR-UND-DIE-REAKTIONEN-GEFUEHLTE-BEDROHUNGEN-UND-REALE-RISIKEN-A-5BA05260-F37A-4B93-910D-C556A30AB33C

# 13 TO 15 SEPTEMBER IN CHEMNITZ: SYMPOSIUM ERINNERN VERSAMMELN (REMEMBERING IN ASSEMBLIES)



"...The election results in Europe and in Saxony and Thuringia are preparing us all for bad times. Not a day goes by without headlines about new racist practices. All the more reason for a broad anti-racist resistance!

Especially when it becomes difficult to

look to the future, perhaps we need to look back to the past, also to remind ourselves of all that has been defended and fought for by diverse anti-racist movements. With the anti-racist history and remembrance work of 'Assembling anti-racist struggles', we hope to

make a contribution to current struggles so that we can shape the future of an anti-racist society of the many.

To this end, we are creating a space for exchange, networking, learning and empowerment with you and together with 'Offener Prozess' and the 'Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung' from 13 - 15 September in Chemnitz. With the symposium 'Gathering to remember. Practices for the future of a society of the many'.

FURTHER INFORMATION, THE FULL PROGRAMME AND THE REGISTRATION FORM CAN BE FOUND HERE: HTTPS://LINKTR.EE/ERINNERN.VERSAMMELN

#### AKKA CAMPAIGN - FIRST AID ARGUMENTATION KIT HEALTH INSURANCE FOR ALL!



Powerful arguments and customised materials for a human rights-based health policy that fits in with our modern immigration society.

Right now it is important for us to make counter-proposals to right-wing extremist positions and xenophobic ar-

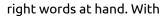
guments. Right now, we want to make it clear how we differ from the AfD. We want to show that we base our actions on democratic values and human rights. Access to medical

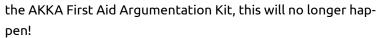
care is one such internationally recognised human right. It cannot be relativised in terms of migration policy. No one should fall ill and go untreated simply because they do not have a German passport. That is why our modern immigration society needs unbureaucratic health insurance for everyone. We are convinced of this.

But we are also familiar with this situation: we are passionate about something and believe in it - and suddenly we don't have the right arguments or the

Gesundheit
ist unser höchstes Gut.
Für eine Krankenversicherung,
die alle in unserer
Einwanderungsgesellschaft schützt!









Whether in an EU committee, at a village fair or in a private conversation: you can fall back on the AKKA packed by Medibüro Berlin. Regardless of which democratic party you are affiliated with, you will find text modules, statements of different lengths, slogans with suggested applications for election posters and examples of personalised speeches or video messages in the first aid kit...'

MORE ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN AND ALL MATERIALS AT HTTPS://AKKA-KAMPAGNE.DE/

## MEDICO CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CRIMINALISATION OF MIGRATION

How often is it claimed that the shift to the right in Europe can be stopped if migration is combated and the continent is sealed off? Borders are militarised, laws are tightened and the right to asylum is undermined. The European elections have once again shown

that this does not work. Right-wing parties are being strengthened and encouraged. It is time to take a stand against this and support those who are paying the price for this false logic. Europe's shift to the right began with migration policy. And it must end there too.



At Europe's external borders, people are not only stopped, pushed back, arrested or demoralised in camps. They are also increasingly being put on trial and imprisoned. Their crime: The search for protection, a life in peace or a new

beginning and, in doing so, helping each other. The sentence: often several years in prison - sometimes even for life. The criminalisation of refugees is on the rise across Europe. In Greece, refugees are now the second largest group of prison inmates. They are accused of helping people cross the border. Convictions are also repeatedly handed down in Italy, Spain and along the Balkan route.

Everyone has the right to live in dignity and peace - the right to escape intolerable living conditions and seek protection. If Europe's governments disregard this right, it is up to us to stand by those seeking protection and assert their rights.

With the Freedom of Movement Fund, we support people who are unlawfully imprisoned or forced to defend themselves on the fringes of Europe. We finance legal costs, provide support in everyday life and raise awareness through public campaigns - because migration is not a crime. This practical solidarity from below must be expanded and strengthened....'

MORE ABOUT THE NEW CAMPAIGN: HTTPS://WWW.MEDICO.DE/BEWEGUNGSFREIHEIT

#### RESISTANCE TO PAYMENT CARDS IN HAMBURG AND MUNICH



"On 15 February 2020, the city of Hamburg was the first federal state to introduce the pilot project for the so-called SocialCard - a payment card for recipients of asylum seekers' benefits. Over 2,000 people in Hamburg have already received this card. This is not only highly questiona-

ble under constitutional law, marginalising and discriminatory, but also lacks any basis. Transfers and use abroad are excluded with the SocialCard, as is online trading. Cash withdrawals are limited to a maximum of €50 per month. Minors do not receive their own SocialCard. We believe that restricting access to cash is incompatible with human rights standards and the protection of human dignity.

By establishing the payment card, the Hamburg Senate is supporting populist and right-wing demands at the expense of refugees. That is why we are getting loud and saying NO! to the payment card.... To give people with payment cards access to cash again, we are offering supermarket vouchers worth €50 from all supermarkets in return for a donation...."

HTTPS://WWW.BEZAHLKARTE-NEIN.DE/
HTTPS://TAZ.DE/LEISTUNGEN-FUER-GEFLUECHTETE/!6030480/

## Open! - Munich - For KARTENTAUSCH/Paycard Change

"50 € cash is not enough

In Bavaria, refugees receive their money on a payment card. You can only withdraw €50 cash per month from this card. You can't shop in places and shops where you can't pay by credit card. 50 in cash per month is too little and you think having to plan with this restriction is discriminatory?

Are you against right-wing populist symbolic politics and want to counter it with your practical solidarity? It's easy: come to our bureau de change and exchange your cash for a voucher. A person has bought the voucher with their payment card and received cash from us in return....'

HTTPS://OFFEN-MUENCHEN.DE/

#### **ECHOES 13: HOLD TIGHT!**



"Summertime 2024: the frequency of civil fleet rescue cooperations in the Central Mediterranean is increasing again to almost a daily level. A Tunisian Search and Rescue Region is established to extend the EU push-back regime. After the Tories were voted out of office, the UK-Rwanda agreement is finally dead. The Meloni government counts on the Albania deal to deter people on the move from reaching Italian coasts. Repeatedly the administrative seizure

of rescue ships by the Piantedosi decree is stopped by court decisions. Louise Michel is detained for another 20 days in Lampedusa. NGOs announce to get operative with two more rescue ships within next months... Still and again: contested spaces. Still and again: the movements of migration and the struggles for safe passages will continue!..."

HTTPS://CIVILMRCC.EU/ECHOES/ECHOES-13-HOLD-TIGHT/

## AROUND 6 OCTOBER: DECENTRALISED WEEK OF ACTION AGAINST FRONTEX



"Frontex - EU's murderous border agency - passes its violent, 20 year existence on the 6th October this year. Frontex remains a key actor in the Fortress of Europe. Germany has a core role in arming, militarizing and technologicalizing Frontex and the EU borders. Together we want to highlight the oppressive nature of Frontex, reinforce the responsibility of Germany, as well as the

responsibility of the ones profiting from Frontex and the border regime. We want to turn its birthday into an expiry date! Together we will take to the streets internationally to call to Abolish Frontex & Freedom of Movement for all!

As Abolish Frontex, we are planning a number of decentralized international actions around Frontex anniversary in the beginning of October. ..."

## 11 OCTOBER: 10 YEARS OF ALARM PHONE AND NEW REPORTS ON THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN



To mark the 10th anniversary of its foundation, the Alarm Phone will organise a meeting and several public activities in the city of its southernmost member group: Dakar, Senegal. In the weeks that follow, events will be organised in several cities in the north, including Frankfurt. From the first announcement: "On 11 October 2014, the Alarm Phone was launched with the aim of taking

action against dying at sea and supporting people in distress at sea. In October 2024, the self-organised hotline has now been in existence for exactly ten years, after 3,650 days and nights of continuous operation. During our shifts on the phone, we have been alerted by over 8,000 boats from all regions of the Mediterranean, the Atlantic and the Channel, directly by the people on the boats or by their relatives and friends.

Time and again, we have to experience how the voices at the other end of the telephone line become desperate and panicky, or even fall silent and contact is lost. Relatives contact us almost every day asking about missing boats and their loved ones. In the last ten years, death at sea has become a constant companion of our work. In the face of this cruel reality, we often feel a bitter anger towards the murderous border regime. At the same time, we are always able to support boats and enable them to land in Euro-

pe. Sometimes we communicate with the people on board in different languages for days and nights until they arrive at a safe harbour. Or we can pass on important information from the boats in distress to the civilian fleet and thus make a decisive contribution to a successful rescue.

Never forget, never give up! That is and remains our motto in the fight for freedom of movement and equal rights for all. We will not give up hope for a future in which the Alarm Phone only contributes to a systematic condemnation of state border crimes as an archive documenting the violence against People on the Move.

As a transnational network, we will continue to move in the contested spaces and follow the persistence of the refugee and migration movements that undermine and overcome the racist and exploitative border regime."

#### **CHAINS OF SOLIDARITY AT SEA!**

## Alarm Phone: Central Mediterranean Analysis, 1 January to 30 June 2024

"... Time and again, the chain of solidarity at sea – from our hotline to counter-monitoring aircraft and to the many rescue crews – has proven effective and resilient. According to the Civil Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, of which Alarm Phone is a member, nearly 5,000 people were rescued until the end of June by the civil fleet.

In this analysis, we provide a comprehensive chronology of the first six months of 2024, offering in great detail an account of developments as they unfolded. As nobody else is doing so, we need to create our own archive of migrant struggles, acts of solidarity, and forms of border violence at sea...."

## INCREASING CALLS FROM BOATS IN DISTRESS BETWEEN CRETE, LIBYA AND EGYPT - ALARM PHONE EXPERIENCES IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN



"...Europe tries hard and uses a lot of violence to stop people from moving and crossing its' borders. As Alarm Phone, over the years we have observed that the increased use of violence and surveillance only forces people to take more dangerous and deadly routes. One of the more recent results of the ever increasing violence of the European border regime is that boats start in

the far East of Libya, aiming to drive the very long distance towards Italy. Only a few weeks ago we commemorated the deadliest shipwreck on this route, the massacre of Pylos, where 650 people died.

In the last months, Alarm Phone has been in contact with multiple boats in distress close to Crete or the small island Gavdos – all of them had started from Eastern Libya. With this text we want to shed light on the calls we received from this area during the first half of this year.

We want to use this opportunity to thank the crews from the merchant vessels who saved many lives in an area where the so-called Libyan Coast Guard does not care if people are at risk of drowning. More than once the Greek authorities tried to prevent these ships from reaching Greek shores and the closest port of safety after they had rescued people and taken them on board..."

## **FULL REPORT HERE:**

HTTPS://ALARMPHONE.ORG/EN/2024/08/27/INCREASING-CALLS-FROM-BOATS-IN-DISTRESS-BETWEEN-CRETE-LIBYA-AND-EGYPT/?POST\_TYPE\_RELEASE\_TYPE=POST

## 18/19 OCTOBER: FROM TRIPOLI TO BERLIN - EVENT WITH REFUGEES IN LIBYA



Following similar events in Bologna in January 2024 and in Rome in June, a two-day event with the self-organisation Refugees in Libya will take place in Berlin on 18/19.10.24. A discussion event will be held on 18 October from 6 p.m., with several workshops on the programme for 19 October. In addition to current information on the situation in Libya and Tunisia, the focus will be on the resistance and struggles of the 'People on the Move', which will also be documented

in an exhibition. The new hotline and the Alliance's evacuation campaign by and with the refugees in Libya will also be presented.

HTTPS://WWW.REFUGEESINLIBYA.ORG/

#### **MIGRATION-CONTROL: RACISM IN TUNESIA**

"Racism is deeply ingrained in the Arab world and is centuries old. The idea that Arab slavery was fundamentally different from the European transatlantic slave trade has been thoroughly debunked. The trans-Saharan slave trade was still flourishing in the 19th century; the enslaved people at that time were exclusively sub-Saharans.

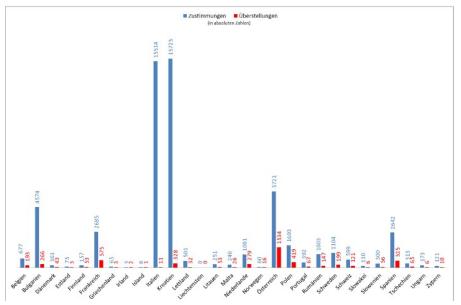
However, it is also true that Arab racism has only come to the fore in recent years when it has been linked to staged pogroms, such as in Libya in 2000, when sub-Saharans were expelled and persecuted in connection with the Gaddafi regime's rapprochement with Europe. The raids against black Africans in northern Morocco in 2019 were even directly 'commissioned by Europe'. Racism, beyond its importance in maintaining hierarchies and relations of exploitation, becomes a deadly social technique, especially when racist stigmatisation is linked by the state to the exclusion of population groups...."

THE WHOLE REPORT HERE: HTTPS://MIGRATION-CONTROL.INFO/DE/BLOG/RASSISMUS-IN-TUNESIEN/

#### STATISTICS ON DUBLIN DEPORTATIONS FROM GERMANY 2023

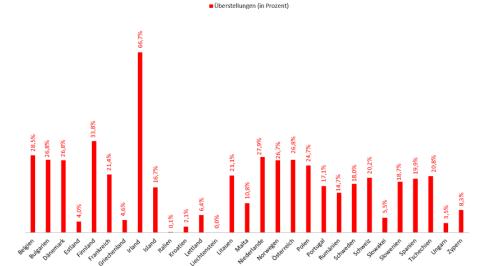
## Dublin-Überstellungen 2023

Quelle: Deutscher Bundestag, Drucksache 20/10869, 27.03.2024



From mailing lists we take over '- with thanks to Caritas Osnabrück - graphics documenting the extent to which Dublin transfers - after clarification of the responsibility of the respective Dublin Contracting State - were actually carried out in 2023:...

Some of the percentages are not meaningful: in the case of Liechtenstein (0 out of 0 transfers) or Ireland (2 out of 3 transfers), for example, the population is too small to draw any generalisable conclusions from the transfer rate. Nevertheless, it is clear that



for Italy, Greece, Croatia, Slovakia, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Cyprus and Malta, the probability of a transfer is low (for various reasons)."

### **REVIEW**

#### PRO ASYLUM AWARD CEREMONY



"...The Maltese human rights defender Dr Neil Falzon and the aditus foundation are extremely committed to the rights of refugees in Malta and in the European Union. The PRO ASYL Foundation honoured their outstanding commitment

to human rights, the rule of law and democracy with its Human Rights Award on 7 September..."

HTTPS://WWW.PROASYL.DE/NEWS/MUTIG-FUER-FLUECHTLINGSRECHTE-MENSCHENRECHTSPREIS-2024-AN-NEIL-FALZON-UND-ADITUS-FOUNDATION/

### **OUTLOOK**

### **TRANSBORDER SUMMER CAMP III IN 2025**

A first physical meeting took place in Bern at the end of August - preparations are now underway for Transborder Summer Camp III, which will take place again in Brittany, France, in the summer of 2025. As in the first two camps in 2019 and 2022, the creation and extension of infrastructures for freedom of movement will remain a focus of Camp III, and further working groups are being set up...

CONTACT CURRENTLY STILL VIA: INFO@TSC22.NET