



KOMPASS – ANTIRA – NEWSLETTER NR. 18 AUGUST 2013

+++ Nobordercamp Rotterdam started +++ Wave of Protests of Refugees and Migrants is spreading +++ Protest and Hunger Strike in Stuttgart +++ Protest Tent in Bitterfeld +++ Demonstration by ‘Lampedusa in Hamburg’ +++ Two Protest Marches through Bavaria planned +++ Retrospective of July Protests +++ Update of Blocking of Deportations +++ No-Fingerprint Protests on Lampedusa +++ New Storm on the Fences in Melilla +++ Transborder Map becomes interactive +++ Common Actions in Tunis early September +++ International Blockupy Conference in Frankfurt in October +++

Dear Friends!

Greek activists talked about a ‘virus of solidarity’, when during a recent round trip they reported about their struggles and projects against the crisis regime. A similar ‘virus’ seems to be spreading as well in the resistance against the border and deportation regime...

Early July we already reported on the increasing protests in Hamburg, Karlsruhe, Stuttgart and Munich, in which places demonstrations, hunger strikes and protest marches keep occurring throughout August. In addition to this, there were self-organized protest actions during the last days and weeks, e.g. in Eisenhüttenstadt, Witzenhausen, Jena, Eisenberg and Bitterfeld. Below we will document this growing wave of resistance in short excerpts and with links to the relevant blogs and websites. We will furthermore give you an update on the anti-deportation protests of the last weeks. In the last newsletters we elaborated on the parallel protests of refugees and migrants in Vienna, Amsterdam and Budapest and from Greece to Tunisia. In the present edition we will now touch the current struggles and confrontations on Lampedusa and at Melilla.

The ‘persistence of the movements of

migration’ at the external borders of the EU is being dealt with in a chapter of a survey which was drawn up in May in the context of the transnational dimensions and dynamics of the struggles for freedom of movement. In this regard you will therefore find a reference and link below, as well as concerning the Transborder Map, a transnational map of resistance against the border regime, of which an interactive version will go online shortly. A call for participation will follow in the next weeks. This project will simultaneously be directly presented during meetings, e.g. in the next days at the Nobordercamp in Rotterdam, which started a few days ago and will continue throughout this week.

<http://kompass.antira.info> was established in 2011 as a platform for information and to offer a survey of the antiracist movement. It aims on the presentation of the manifold antiracist initiatives and its complex spectrum, last not least to facilitate a better access for new interested people. This monthly newsletter is another attempt to improve a continuous process of networking and to try to broaden the movement. And we are happy to pick up hints and short reports about your mobilisations and actions.



PS: The Kompass Antiracist newsletter was usually published in German and for the first time it is available now in English.

And we will also in the future try our best to provide at least translations into English.

All the best,
the Kompass Crew
Contact: kompass-notify@antira.info

MEETINGS AND CONTINUING PROTESTS THROUGHOUT AUGUST

As of 2 August and until 8 August in Rotterdam: Nobordercamp

Information and program: <http://nobordercamp.nl/english/program/>

Contact: info@no-border.nl

As of mid-July in Stuttgart: Protest and Hunger Strike against Deprivation of Rights and Deportation

“After we had numerous talks with Minister Öney, representatives of the Ministry of Integration, the head of police, the civil affairs department of the city of Stuttgart, as well as physicians, the hunger strike, which until now has lasted 5 days, will be discontinued for the time being!” the protesting refugees from the Main-Tauber-Kreis wrote on 2 August.

In their press release of 29 July 2013 they had worded it as follows:

“We, the refugees from Main-Tauber-Kreis, have been on the street in front of the Ministry of Integration in Stuttgart for the last 12 days. We refuse to accept the food packages to express our right to have free choice of nutrition, as well as to protest against the other inhumane conditions we are confronted with as refugees. Today is the twelfth day that we are outside our camp in order to offer resistance on the street against the isolating conditions within this society. In order to receive answers to our demands (mentioned in our first statement), we are now taking the next step: we, asylum seekers on strike in Stuttgart, see ourselves as part of the refugee protests throughout Germany and have today, Monday 29 July 2013, started our wet hunger strike. (...) We, the protesting refugees, do feel highly disappointed and fooled, hence we decided to go on this hunger strike to demand our fundamental rights. We do not want to have to fear deportation nightmares any longer; when we wake up in the morning, we do not want to find ourselves within the walls of isolated camps. When we are going on the streets, just like any other person in this society, we refuse to accept the oppression of the ‘Residenzpflicht’.

We, the refugees on hunger strike, demand that our dignity be respected:

1. Abolition of the ‘Sachleistungsprinzip’.
2. Permission to work for all!
3. Abolition of the ‘Lagerpflicht’.
4. Unlimited medical care.
5. The opportunity to learn the German language.
6. Stop all deportations!
7. Asylum for all, because every refugee is a political refugee.
8. No more discrimination of refugees!
9. Abolition of the ‘Residenzpflicht!’”

Further information: <http://refugeeproteststuttgart.wordpress.com/>

Bitterfeld: Protest Tent after the demonstration of 1 August 2013

“ (...) We, refugees of Friedersdorf, have decided that, as of 1 August 2013 after the final demonstration, we will set up a protest tent in Bitterfeld, at the park in the Walther-Rathenau-Straße, corner Binnengärtenstraße, in order to expose our protest to publicity. We are refugees from different countries in the Landkreis Bitterfeld. The reasons for our

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protest are the degrading and cavilling living conditions we are confronted with here day after day and the constant fear of the threat of deportation (...).”

Read more at <http://refugeeinitiativewittenberg.blogspot.de/>

On 17 August 2013 in Hamburg: Demonstration by ‘Lampedusa in Hamburg’

“We fight for our right! 2 PM Hamburg-HBF (Glockengießerwall)



(...) The European Union and the NATO member states are all responsible for our destiny. We are around 300 survivors of the war in Libya here in Hamburg. We have joined forces and demand a political solution and our recognition in accordance with §23 of the ‘Aufenthaltsgesetz’ (Residence Act). We would not be here if it were not for the war in Libya and the catastrophic human rights conditions for refugees in Italy. We are exhausted and worn out by a long involuntary and horrible journey.

We seek for an end to the refusal of our right to live. We are here to stay. We hope for your solidarity...”

Read more at <http://lampedusa-in-hamburg.tk/> , www.fluechtlingsrat-hamburg.de and <http://kein-mensch-ist-illegal-hh.blogspot.de>

As of 15 August 2013 two marches through Bavaria are planned, early September in Munich

(...) After the protest of the Non-Citizens in hunger strike at Rindermarkt, their violent eviction by the police and considering that none of the demands of the protesters were met, the Non-Citizens will continue their protests. So the protesters of the Rindermarkt, who do definitely not intend to go back to the camps, jointly decided that, in the form of two protest marches, they will walk through Bavaria to Munich (...) Route A will start from Wuerzburg and will by way of Nuernberg and Augsburg lead to Munich and Route B will start from Bayreuth and will go to Munich by way of Regensburg and Landshut. (...)The marches will start on 15 August, arrival is planned between 1 and 5 September.

Read more at <http://www.refugeetentaction.net>

SHORT RETROSPECTIVE OF JULY PROTESTS

Eisenhüttenstadt: Hunger Strike and Solidarity Demonstration

Stop the Deportation Machine! Solidarity with Refugees on Hunger Strike!

See also: <http://thevoiceforum.org/node/3285>

Video: <https://vimeo.com/70450112>

Quotation from the call: “(...) Since Friday eight refugees who are detained in the deportation prison are on hunger strike, part of them are also on thirst strike. Refugees who come to Eisenhüttenstadt are systematically being criminalized, isolated, deported and battered. We want to publicly put pressure on all actors within the Eisenhüttenstädter Deportation Machine. On Tuesday, 16 July 2013, the refugees and their supporters from

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Berlin and Brandenburg have set up an information and solidarity tent in front of the gates of the camp. The scandalous conditions for refugees must be revealed! We want to keep permanently in touch with the refugees, to break isolation and to build up and maintain a now lacking support infrastructure, as well as to support their demands. We demand the stop of all deportations, the closure of the deportation prison in Eisenhüttenstadt, as well as sufficient independent legal and medical care!(...)"

The complete call for the demonstration and further information:
<http://lagerwatcheisen.blogspot.eu/>

Witzenhausen: Strike of Refugees and 'lager-tour'

From a press release of 17 July 2013:

"Since the end of June refugees in the Werra-Meißner-Kreis organize themselves together with supporters in the Arbeitskreis Asyl (AK Asyl), which until now holds weekly meetings in Witzenhausen. Our aim is to make people aware of the humanly degrading treatment of asylum seekers in the Kreis and to support the victims in their requests, actions and demands. (...) During a 'lager-tour' last Monday, to see the camps in the districts in Eltmannshausen, Weißenborn and Eichenberg, the refugees from the camp in Witzenhausen and their supporters could gain an exhaustive impression about these very conditions. First contacts were made with people in these camps and foundations were laid for an organisation throughout the Kreis. ..."

Read more at <http://www.papiere-fuer-alle.org/node/834>

Jena: Action Days of the Roma Initiative Thüringen

From the invitation to the action days of the Roma Initiative Thüringen, held from 25 until 27 July 2013 in Jena, e.g. with a demonstration in front of the Aliens Department Jena: "Why do you do this to us?"

We, Roma from the various regions of Thüringen, after consultation with the Roma communities in Erfurt, Waltershausen and Gera, since 8 June 2013 in the refugee camps as Roma from Serbia, Kosovo, Metohija, Macedonia and Montenegro, have organized ourselves under the name of 'Roma Initiative Thüringen'.

The Initiative demands: 1. Regular asylum applications for all Roma! 2. Deportation stop and no forced 'voluntary' returns! 3. A life without persecution and discrimination! 4. Abolishment of the 'Residenzpflicht' for all! 5. No isolation in camps! Housing with privacy for all! 6. Equal access to education and right to work! 7. Free access to medical care!

In short we demand the right to live a selfdetermined life! With our Initiative we want to strengthen the solidarity within the Roma and refugee communities, as well as in German society!

<http://thevoiceforum.org/node/3292>

Eisenberg: Refugee Strike against Discrimination in the reception center

"We are human beings – not animals!"

On Tuesday, 30 July 2013, people went on strike in camp Eisenberg, the reception facility for refugees in Thüringen. They said STOP to the humanly degrading treatment they are confronted with day after day and protested against the aliens' authorities within the camp, by making clear that human rights have to be upheld in Eisenberg as well.

More about the strike of the refugees in the reception centre of Eisenberg:

Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=u8y13-zBmrg



Further information: <http://thevoiceforum.org/node/3300>
<http://alle-bleiben.info/fluchtlinge-protestierten-in-eisenberg-gegen-die-lebensbedingungen-im-heim/>

PROTESTS AND ACTIONS AGAINST DEPORTATIONS

Deportations of Refugee Activists from Vienna to Pakistan

The deportation of eight protesting people from the Refugee Protest Camp in the Servite Monastery in Vienna on 29 and 30 July 2013 was followed by multiple actions:

At first people thought that a charter deportation to Pakistan with Air Berlin was being planned, by which at least 20 refugees would be deported from Austria via Berlin to Pakistan. Evidently this information was wrong. Air Berlin has again and again executed charter deportations – this time they were flooded with e-mails and protest faxes – but they did not deny at any moment. When it became clear that there would not be a charter flight via Berlin after all, a solidarity mobilisation was called for scheduled flights from Berlin via Doha to Pakistan (in particular by the Refugee Protest Camp Oranienplatz) and there were protests at the Berlin Tegel airport: <http://asylstrikeberlin.wordpress.com/2013/07/31/pm-30-7-flughafenblockade-erfolgreich-widerstand-gegen-abschiebungen-wachst/>

In the meantime seven activists from the Servite Monastery were deported from Vienna to Pakistan after massive protests. One other activist was transferred to Hungary, was there immediately taken into custody (as of 1 July Hungary has again sharpened up the detention regime) and is since then detained in *Nyírbátor*. *Much still remains unclear, e.g. how the Austrian authorities got hold of travel documents for the 7-20 people (on the day of the arrest workers of the government agency mentioned a total of 20 persons who would be deported to Pakistan). In particular, it has since the deportation not been possible to make contact with the 7 activists who were deported to Pakistan. Moreover other people are acutely being threatened with deportation. Therefore increased attention shall also be required in the weeks to come. Current information can be found on the blog refugeecampvienna: <http://refugeecampvienna.noblogs.org/>*

Successful Blocking of Deportations to Hungary: all are free!

In our last Kompass Newsletter we reported on the prevention of three deportations to Hungary. We can now add that all three had meanwhile to be released from deportation detention.

After some deliberation Usman Manir was released from detention in Eisenhüttenstadt, after the Administrative Court of Frankfurt/Oder presumed there were considerable failures in the Hungarian asylum system: <http://bordermonitoring.eu/files/2012/03/VG-Frankfurt-Oder-24-7-2013.pdf>

In the case of Ehsan Abri the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs decided to apply a so-called 'Selbsteintritt'/Selfresponsibility, which means that his asylum application will now be dealt with in Germany and Hungary is completely brushed aside: http://www.frsh.de/fileadmin/pdf/presseerklaerungen/2013/2.pe.imsh_abri_23.7.2013.pdf

The Afghan head of the family who was in deportation detention in Munich was also released and the family (including the 12-year old son who had been lost on his way to Germany) will now go through the asylum procedure in Germany: <http://lora924.de/?p=23249>

“Bicske (Hungary) in Karlsruhe”

From the 72 Afghan refugees who came to Karlsruhe from Hungary in order to get away from the threat of homelessness, at least 45 persons have meanwhile (in breathtaking speed) already received deportation papers for Hungary – while in Hungary now the next group is on the verge of being evacuated from the Pre Integration Camp in Bicske.

For current information on the group in Baden-Württemberg see <http://stop-deportation.de/>
Information concerning the situation in Hungary at <http://migszol.com/>

Lampedusa: No-Fingerprint Demonstration and Occupation Action against Dublin II



In the last couple of weeks new boat people – refugees and migrants mainly from East African and Sub-Saharan countries – are arriving via Libya on the Italian island of Lampedusa. There they are interned in an overcrowded camp and registered before their transfer to Sicily or the Italian mainland, which includes having their fingerprints taken. Many of the persons involved know from friends and family who went through the same procedure, that due to these fingerprints their residence will be bound to Italy, that they may obtain a protected status there, but that socially

this is worth nothing. This because in general they will then find themselves homeless and without an income on the street and any continued journey towards North-Western Europe is threatened with immediate deportation back to Italy in accordance with Dublin II.

Against this background impressive protest actions occurred on Lampedusa in mid-July. About 250 refugees, mainly from Eritrea, refused to give their fingerprints and demanded from the responsible authorities their immediate transfer. After protests and controversies with the police in the camp, they held a more than 2-hour demonstration in the streets of the small tourist town on 20 July 2013.

“No Fingerprints” was their main slogan, a collective protest against the Dublin II injustice. Then a 24-hour sit-in on the square in front of the church was organized and in self-determined negotiations with the local authorities they even could carry through their main demand to leave without fingerprints.



Further reports on the website <http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/search/label/Lampedusa-de>
Short Video: <https://vimeo.com/70781121>

Italian YouTube film: <http://short4u.de/520269753edd3>



Melilla: New Storm on the Fences, Raids by the Moroccan authorities

In July several hundred refugees and migrants collectively tried again to conquer the fence facilities surrounding the Spanish enclave of Melilla. On the daily updated website of the Forschungsgesellschaft Flucht und Migration centring on North Africa/Maghreb (FFM-Online) it is reported: <http://ffm-online.org/2013/07/24/melilla-eu-zaun-500-fluchtlinge-update/>

“[...] About 500 of these refugees now tried, from the Moroccan side, to conquer the border fence to Melilla. More or less at the same time, two groups allegedly charged at the border fence in the early hours of Tuesday morning, a spokesperson of the Spanish government said. Allegedly the Africans threw stones at the Moroccan and Spanish policemen. About 100 people managed to get on Spanish territory, eleven refugees were allegedly injured during the action.

According to the Spanish authorities in Melilla the police rounded up 95 of the refugees, among whom eleven who themselves said they were minors. The Moroccan Ministry of the Interior on the other hand announced that 30 refugees had been wounded on the Moroccan side during the assault on the fence and had been brought for treatment to nearby Nador. [...]”

Shortly after the Moroccan police reacted with new raids against the transit migrants:

<http://ffm-online.org/2013/07/31/nord-marokko-razzien-misshandlungen-abschiebungen-bericht-uber-eskalation-seit-dem-24-07-2013/#more-11786>

On this subject there is the following call (in French):

<http://www.e-joussour.net/node/12828>

Survey concerning the Transnational Dimensions and Dynamics of the Struggles for Freedom of Movement

‘Against Exclusion and the Deprivation of Rights – Refugees and Migrants in the Struggle for global Freedom of Movement’ is the title of this text, which has been published in the last edition of Forums Wissenschaften.

From the Introduction: “In places from Berlin to Vienna, in the internment camps in Greece or already in the ‘forecourt’ of the EU border regime in Tunisia, the multiple struggles of refugees and migrants are intensifying. At the latest in the fall of last year, a new wave of self-organized protests developed also in Germany; simultaneously transnational projects are gaining continuity and meaning.”

The total text (only in German) can be found here:

<http://ffm-online.org/2013/07/19/fluchtlinge-und-migrantinnen-im-kampf-fur-globale-bewegungsfreiheit-hagen-kopp/#more-11288>

Transborder Map – Map of the Resistance against the Border Regime becomes interactive

As a printed static map offering a good overview of the multiple antiracist networks that are active at the exterior borders of the EU, a first version of the Transborder Map was published at the end of last year, see also <http://kompass.antira.info/netzwerke/>

In the next weeks a new interactive version will go online in which – as much as possible covering the struggles - groups and initiatives against the EU border regime are being documented and connected.

Contact at kmii-hanau@antira.info and in the next Newsletter you will find the invitation to

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participate and more...

SHORT PRE-ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER...

From 5 to 7 September 2013: Common Actions for global Freedom of Movement in Tunis

For instance protest actions in front of European embassies, theater actions, commemorative actions, as well as a stage and a political-cultural program on the main Avenue in Tunis.

The call with contact address can be found here:

<http://ffm-online.org/2013/07/11/tunesien-transnationaler-aufruf-action-days-for-freedom-of-movement-tunis-05-07-09-2013/>

Blockupy: 1 September and 25 to 27 October 2013

Blockupy continues and for 2014 – on the occasion of the opening of the new building of the European Central Bank with the accompanying big shots – aims for an increasingly strengthened international mobilisation.

In preparation there will first be a nationwide meeting in Frankfurt on 1 September, see the invitation at:

<https://blockupy-frankfurt.org/2196/bundesweites-treffen-am-1-9-2013/> and then from 25 to 27 October a European Action Conference, invitation at:

<https://blockupy-frankfurt.org/2217/in-bewegung-bleiben-lets-meet-in-frankfurt-einladung-zur-europaeischen-blockupy-aktionskonferenz/#more-2217>

In the organization of the latter conference some of the Antiracist networks also want to participate and in doing so initiate and deepen discussions concerning the relationship between the struggles against the crisis regime and the border regime.

