



## KOMPASS – ANTIRA – NEWSLETTER NR. 27 – MAY 2014

**+++ Come to Kehl-Strasbourg on 18 May: Start of the March of Refugees and Sans Papiers to Brussels +++ Struggles against Dublin II/III – e.g. on 8 May in Frankfurt +++ Movements of Migration at the external borders +++ From 15 May: International Days of Action of Blockupy +++ End of May, BuKo 36 in Leipzig +++ Review April: O-Platz Berlin and Lampedusa in Hamburg +++ Preview June: Residency Right Demonstration of Youth without Borders to the Interior Ministers Conference in Bonn, Refugee Women Conference in Frankfurt, Week of Action Brussels ...**

Dear Friends!

All of you for whom it is possible, should come to Kehl on Sunday, 18 May, to support the start of the March of Refugees and Sans Papiers at the first border crossing to Strasbourg. The march to Brussels will take more than five weeks and it is desired that people should also participate in stages of the march, e.g. during the weekend of 1 June, when the march will stop at the highly symbolic town of Schengen.

Since 1995 the Schengen Agreement stands for the freedom of movement for EU citizens, whereas so-called third-country citizens have been confronted with even sharper border checks and visa restrictions. Schengen symbolizes the distress and the thousand-fold death at the external borders of the EU, which will be made a public issue there.

Further places of action will be, among others, Saarbrücken, Luxembourg and three other borders (see below), before the march will be welcomed in Brussels with a first welcome demonstration on 20 June.

For the subsequent week of action, many protests against those responsible for and benefitting from the EU border regime have been planned. On Thursday 26 June, on the occasion of the first day of the Summit Meeting of EU Interior Ministers, a big rally and central

demonstration will be organized and the next day a counter-summit on the perspectives of the struggles of migration.

In the last newsletter we said: *“The march and the days of action have not by accident been planned in an early summer which, with regard to the ‘Movements of Migration’, the social and political struggles of refugees and migrants, could get a downright ‘historical’ meaning. Because there is a new dimension to what has been happening in the past weeks at the external borders of the EU.”*

These past weeks the dynamics have been uninterrupted: in the Aegean the highest figures of arriving boat people since the record years of 2009/2010; in Morocco unremittingly –e.g. again on 1 May– the well-organised attacks on the border fences of the Spanish enclaves of Melilla and Ceuta; and nearly every day reports of rescue operations in the Strait of Sicily, with figures ten times as high as last year. Whether or not and how the Italian navy operation ‘Mare Nostrum’ will continue is not only in Italy controversial (see <http://ffm-online.org/2014/04/24/lampedusa-28-000-boat-people-nutzten-mare-nostrum-eu-militaer-nordafrikanische-haefen/>).

Despite all the militarisation and armament with Frontex and Eurosur, the ‘border



guards' are currently everywhere in the Mediterranean with their backs against the wall. The speedy development in Southern Italy, the 'collapse of the reception capacities' (topical quote by the Chief of the Italian Border Police), could soon also have direct consequences for the Dublin regime. For the authorities and the courts it will anyway become more difficult to hide the homelessness and non-existent care of asylum seekers who are pushed back from all European countries to Italy because of Dublin II/III. And when – after Greece from early 2011 – Italy also fails as a place of refoulement, the Dublin system can be chucked straight in the bin.

It is therefore important that the struggles against the Dublin Regulation are intensified, that those involved organise themselves in order to increasingly prevent push backs even inside airplanes, that with Kirchenasyl safe houses are opened and that, even in case of a subsequent push back to Italy, they are not forgotten but supported upon their return to Germany.

In Frankfurt the protests against Dublin continue with a demonstration at the airport on 8 May (see below); on 1 May an old school was squatted in Hamburg to create a welcome centre (see below). In April Berlin went through a concentration around the O-Platz, which was initially caused by the successful discord spread among the refugees (see below the short chronology).

Self-organised groups from Berlin are

All the best,  
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simultaneously the driving force behind the transnational march; they will set off to Kehl-Strasbourg on 17 May, after a common action with the imminent crisis protests in Berlin.

For on 15 May the Days of Action that are organized all over Europe by <http://mayofsolidarity.org/> are beginning. On 17 May regional demonstrations from Blockupy Coordination are taking place (see below); not only in Berlin, but also in Hamburg, Stuttgart and Düsseldorf, the struggles of refugees will play a prominent role. Moreover initiatives from several countries have published their own calls, which –as to their content– link up the struggles against the crisis regime with the struggles against the border regime and – from a practical point of view– connect all these Blockupy mobilisations with the march that starts one day later. In this sense we hope that 'Solidarity beyond Borders' will really produce an effect in May and June, all the same we are in for two extremely eventful months ...

<http://kompass.antira.info> was established in 2011 as a survey of and a platform for information on the antiracist movement. It aims at comprehensively presenting the manifold antiracist initiatives and their complex spectrum, also to facilitate access to the subject for the newly interested. This monthly newsletter is, apart from the website, another attempt to improve the continuous process of networking and broadening the movement. We are also happy to publish announcements and short reports about your mobilisations and actions.

## ACTIONS AND DATES IN MAY:

**May 8<sup>th</sup> 2014: Regional mobilization in Frankfurt:** Third demonstration of the self-organized refugees against Dublin II/III, start at 3pm at the Frankfurt airport, for the call jump to: <http://www.linksnavigator.de/node/4578>  
Further info at: <http://milanrefugees.wordpress.com/>



**Transnational march and caravan to Bruxelles in May and June, start on May 18<sup>th</sup> from Kehl to Strasburg, arrival in Bruxelles on June 20<sup>th</sup>**

Like mentioned in the introduction, the preparations go full speed, all important info can be found on the website: <http://freedomnotfrontex.noblogs.org/>.

The route with the most important stops has been summarized on a new poster: <http://freedomnotfrontex.noblogs.org/route/>.

Calls, posters and calls for support in different languages can be ordered in Berlin, donations are very welcome on following account: "Protest March for Freedom", Knr.: 106028977 BLZ 17092404 Volksbank Fürstenwalde Contact: [freedomnotfrontex@riseup.net](mailto:freedomnotfrontex@riseup.net)

## May 15<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> 2014: Blockupy – May of solidarity – European wide action-days

Calls, posters and – since May 1<sup>st</sup> – a newspaper are in circulation, together with regional plans for actions to be found on <https://blockupy.org/>.

The international call for May is titled: "Solidarity beyond borders – building democracy from below" (<http://mayofsolidarity.org/>), and it has got a strong reference to migrant and refugee struggles. The fight against right-wing populism and the support of refugee protest are the main topics in all four cities of action on May 17<sup>th</sup> in Germany (Berlin, Hamburg, Düsseldorf and Stuttgart). In Düsseldorf, there will be an action at the deportation airport at 5pm, in Berlin farewell to the bus of the refugees going to the march in Strasburg. And in Frankfurt, the walk to the fence around the new building





of the European Central Bank is dedicated to the struggles of migration. (see: <http://notroika.org/termine/ezb-zaunspaziergang-grenze-und-krise> )

As mentioned before, initiatives from several countries have launched a call, which links the struggles against the crisis and those against the border regime: <http://ffm-online.org/2014/05/05/solidarity-beyond-borders/>

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## **BUKO 36 – 29.5.-1.6.2014 in Leipzig**

Everyone or nowhere!

Right to the city – right to freedom of movement



Within the growing metropolises or at the external frontiers: the apparently definite spaces of our society are permanently contested and questioned. Violent exclusion of the “superfluous” and inclusion of the “utilisable”, control and demarcations define the spaces we live in. But this is being questioned: the struggles for a right to the city and to freedom of movement massively challenge the present exploitation logic. On the BUKO 36 we would like to focus on these developments and inquire possible perspectives. So come to Leipzig and discuss with us the intersections between refugee struggles and

struggles for the city in order to develop common perspectives.

For more information, see [www.buko.info](http://www.buko.info) or write an e-mail to [buko\\_leipzig@buko.info](mailto:buko_leipzig@buko.info).

## **A REVIEW ON ACTIONS FROM APRIL IN BERLIN AND FROM THE BEGINNING OF MAY IN HAMBURG:**

### **A short chronology of the situation at Oranienplatz Berlin**

On April 8<sup>th</sup> 2014 the senator of integration, Dilek Kolat (SPD) caused a splitting among the refugees at Oranienplatz. A group of refugees concerted to a removal and to build down the tents. Under protest of the other refugees and some supporters tents were built down and the south side of Oranienplatz cleared. The senate and the district call the clearing a "volunteered clearing" of the site by the majority of the refugees. In progress of the clearing the refugee Napuli Langa stayed on a tree on the south side of Oranienplatz. She persevered there 5 days long and protested against the clearing of the camp.

On the north side of Oranienplatz refugees and supporters built a site of protest against the clearing of the camp and confirmed the previously made demands. Seven refugees on the north side started a hunger strike (see: <https://asylstrikerberlin.wordpress.com/2014/04/22/offener-brief-von-den-hungerstreikenden-refugees/>)



On April 13<sup>th</sup> Napuli Langa ended her protest from the tree, after receiving a written warranty by the senator of integration, Dilek Kolat, for the approval to establish an info-tent on the south side of Oranienplatz. On April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014 refugees and supporters built up their own info-tent on the south side of Oranienplatz. The tent remains there with exceptional allowance by the senate. The right to use it is undefined.

After 21 days of hunger strike on the north side of Oranienplatz the refugees obtained a meeting with the commissioner of state for migration and integration, Aydan Özoguz (SPD) and the commissioner for integration of the Berlin senate, Monika Lücke (non-party member):

Picture: Andrea Linss; Source: [http://www.umbruch-bildarchiv.de/bildarchiv/ereignis/130414napuli\\_langa.html](http://www.umbruch-bildarchiv.de/bildarchiv/ereignis/130414napuli_langa.html)

<https://asylstrikeberlin.wordpress.com/2014/04/28/brief-von-der-staatsministerin-fur-migration-fluchtlinge-und-integration-an-die-hungerstreikenden-refugees-von-oranienplatz/>  
 Their "6-Punkte-Papier" was completely denied by the strikers, but a new meeting was arranged. Thereupon the protesting refugees made a strike-break - until the next talks with the commissioner of state for migration. They remain on the north side of Oranienplatz. Mid May 2014 the group of hunger strikers will participate the European wide protest march of refugees from Strasburg to Bruxelles.

## Occupation in Hamburg – For a Refugee Welcome Center

Press release of "Lampedusa in Hamburg" on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014:

Occupation of the vacant school in the Karolinenviertel: Hamburg needs a Refugee Welcome Center!

On May 1<sup>st</sup> up to 3000 supporters of the "Lampedusa in Hamburg" group, together with refugees moved from the Michel to the Karoiviertel to spontaneously declare a vacant school in Laeiszstraße 12 to the "Refugee Welcome Center". After discovering the building unused, but in a very habitable and usable condition, we decided in a plenary assembly of more than 300 people – amongst them many of the Lampedusa group – to build up the school as a place of arrival, accommodation and community for refugees in Hamburg. All we ask for could be made real in this place: flats, assembly rooms, offices for advice and exchange, a café and more.

What this city needs is a place of welcome for people who found their way to Hamburg, be it because of war, poverty or persecution.

"This place can be our place", explained a speaker of the group on the plenary assembly.

"We need a place to live in, we need rooms to organize ourselves and to educate – we don't want charity, but we want to work and help ourselves."

At 7pm the police gave an ultimatum, that the school would be evacuated forcibly at 9pm. For the reason not to harm the refugees in their precarious situation we interrupted the occupation five hours after our peaceful opening and demonstrated vociferously for our claim of the place.

On a second plenary assembly we had earlier decided to meet again on Friday at 6pm in the court of the school to continue talks about how it should go on. Because it has to go on. It's not just in Hamburg that refugees started to organize and defend themselves against being treated like criminals, to be quartered, to be forced to unemployment and to be deprived of rights.

The opening of the Refugee Welcome Center wants to support this fight – a May 1<sup>st</sup> campaign and just one of many that will prove to the senate of the city: These people are here

– and they will stay here. Hamburg is making sure of this – now from the bottom up!

More info: <http://lampedusa-hamburg.info/>



Picture.: Rasande Tyskar

Source:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/rasande/13896628067/in/set-72157644412967866/>

## CAMPAIGNS AND DATES IN JUNE 2014

### June 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>: Anti-racist festival in Magdeburg

A festival with political, artistic and musical workshops, discussions and concerts from and with people suffering racism. The festival will be a space where racism, sexism, homophobia and discrimination encounter resistance.

Contact: [antira-festival-md@riseup.net](mailto:antira-festival-md@riseup.net)

More info and the program: <http://antirafestival.blogspot.eu>

### June 12<sup>th</sup> in Bonn: Demonstration by “Jugendliche ohne Grenzen” (JOG)

Support the protest campaign of the young refugees on the occasion of the conference of the home secretaries (Innenminister) in June in Bonn! “Welcome! Right to stay for everyone, now!” Demonstration on June 12<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 5pm, Münsterplatz, Bonn

More soon: <http://jogspace.net/>

### June 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014: Conference of female refugees

More info soon at: <http://thecaravan.org/>

### From June 20<sup>th</sup>: week of campaigns in Bruxelles

The march of the refugees and sans papiers will flow into a week of campaigns, in time with the EU summit conference about migration. Various actions from June 23<sup>rd</sup>, main manifestation and demonstration on June 26<sup>th</sup>, counter-summit on June 27<sup>th</sup> ...

More info at: <http://freedomnotfrontex.noblogs.org/>