

KOMPASS – ANTIRA – NEWSLETTER N° 29 – JULY 2014

March of refugees and Sans Papiers (immigrants without papers) in Brussels +++ Fight for the school in Berlin and Lampedusa in Hamburg +++ Time to act – Resistance against Dublin II/III +++ International migrant struggles +++ From July 14th: Rafting tour with Women in Exile +++ Other announcements for the upcoming weeks +++

Dear friends!

Global freedom of movement, papers for all and no deprivation of rights or exploitation – with these demands, refugees and so called *Sans Papiers* (immigrants without papers) from several European countries came together in Brussels for the march for freedom at the end of June. More than 1.000 active participants coming from all parts of the migrant struggles protested together in transnational unity with multilingual slogans and in a dancing to angry, but anyway strong atmosphere. But apart



from few discussions and working-groups, the action camp was dominated by tension and internal arguments. The actually great potential could only rarely be used productively, because the differences in terms of content as well as the various organizational structures in competitive positions polarized the participants too much. Even though the

multitude of migration movements did not (yet) come together as hoped, there were many valuable encounters and new connections (as you can see below). As already described in the last newsletter, the march itself represented the union of a strong transnational group, which will influence the ongoing and upcoming fights from Berlin or Calais to Tunis or Melilla... On the borders of the EU territory, the social resistance grew stronger: Frontex, as symbol of the armament build-up, has metaphorically its back against the wall. In defiance of the surveillance program Eurosur and of all the forward shifting, the migration movements are less stoppable than ever. The recurring pictures impressively present the increasing social fight for freedom to move: Hundreds of migrants unitedly attack and surmount the fences of the Spanish enclave in Morocco. At the same time, round about 60.000 refugees and migrants crossed the Mediterranean Sea from Libya to Italy in the first six months of 2014, far more than in the whole year of 2013. The Italian government reacted since October 2013 with marine action to the critique on the mass of deaths in front of Lampedusa. But since the “boatpeople” cannot be sent back to Libya, “mare nostrum”, as the operation is called, becomes more and more an unintentional rescue program. It is as well a success – paid with tremendous sorrow – of the continuously



growing migration movement as the consequence of the North African upheavals that swept away the European watchdog regime in Maghrib.

On board the marine boats in the Mediterranean Sea as well as inside the refugee camps on Sicily, more and more refugees successfully refuse to be fingerprinted. The united action against Dublin II/III starts more than ever already on the arrival on the outer borders. And undiminished, the resistance against these “inner borders of the EU” continues in many places (see short reports). In Hesse, a light aircraft had to be chartered in the middle of June to impose Dublin deportations to Italy with force. The three affected refugees from Eritrea had

repeatedly successfully refused the forced transport by scheduled airliner. The racist persecution enthusiasm of the authorities also reflects a desperate deterrent attempt, so that the resistance against deportation does not spread. Having this in mind, *Welcome to Europe* recently published a new appeal called “Time To Act” summing up the different action options. It ends with the appeal to support for the possible return of the deported from Italy, Hungary or Poland and to reinforce the transnational network structure. So: With this in mind: *Solidarité avec les Sans Papiers!* (Solidarity with the immigrants without papers!”)

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

A REVIEW ON PROTESTS IN JUNE:

March of refugees and Sans Papiers (immigrants without papers) in Brussels

As already mentioned in the introduction, the central demonstration of more than 1.000 mostly self-organized refugees and migrants from various countries on the occasion of the EU summit made quite an impression. The office building of the EU agency “Enterprise and Industries” which also coordinates research programs for Eurosur and Frontex lied on the demonstration route. Accordingly, demonstrators cordoned the buildings with Frontex tape and sprayed some silhouettes of drowning victims/dead bodies in the entrance area. During the days before, embassies of Germany and the Netherlands had been focused by protest rallies in view of the imminent eviction of the squats taken by refugees and migrants. In front of the Italian Embassy, the demands of Italian Sans Papiers (immigrants without papers), the outer border and the protest against the Dublin deportations had been addressed. On the night before, an impressive event took place in the camp: relatives of the missing boat people from Tunisia described their sorrow and the fights alongside with one sub-Saharan activist who had to fight for his own life only few months ago in the forests of Morocco. Presented by an activist of Lampedusa in Hamburg, different experience horizons were united to on decisive charge against the border and visa regime.



Actions in front of the agency Enterprise and Industries (above) and at the italian embassy (right)



On the final day, three central battle fields have been discussed in three workshops: against the outer border regime, against Dublin II/III and against the casualization and exploitation of migrant work. Also, it has been agreed to meet again to a conference on this matter in Rome in the end of October.

Reports and more about the march on this website:

<http://freedomnotfrontex.noblogs.org/>

Videos about the march in front of and in Brussels:

Refugees Migrants Sans Papiers from Belgium, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, gathered together in Brussels at the arrival of the March for Freedom from Strasbourg to Brussels. Different political languages, backgrounds and trajectories met in this action week 22 to 28 of June. Basis are there for transnational connections challenging the order of the criminal European border regime.

<https://vimeo.com/99410217>

Some videos from the supporters of the participating group of Dutch Sans Papiers (immigrants without papers) „we are here- Wij Zijn here:

- march for freedom - last day walking and arrival in brussels

<https://vimeo.com/98862434>

- action @ vottem detention center

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uBWc0LLcw0>

- demo @ night in brussels

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3HAKrEH3C0>

- french delegation arrives in camp in brussels

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2b_HWifkYo

And finally, the German television channel WDR shows short report of four minutes length about the march (the report starts on minute 9.35):

http://www1.wdr.de/fernsehen/information/bericht_aus_bruessel/sendungen/fluechtline-fuer-ihre-rechte100.html

Struggle about the occupied school in Berlin

Parallel to the deadline of this newsletter, the events overturned. Below, you'll firstly find a short report from July 2, followed by a summary including photo series from the upheaval photo archives. Further current news can be found here:

<http://ohlauerinfopoint.wordpress.com/>

<http://asylstrikeberlin.wordpress.com/>

Report bref du 2 juillet 2014:

For more than one week now, a police state has been kept up in Berlin-Kreuzberg. Day and night activists block four intersections around Ohlauerstrasse, where the occupied school of the refugees is kettled by the police. Only the residents are let into the area where they have already organized several demonstrations. The inhabitants of Kreuzberg are mad at the politicians and the police. The negotiations at the district level, with the Senate of Berlin as well as with the police do not come



Foto: heba/Umbruch Bildarchiv; <http://www.umbruch-bildarchiv.de>

to an end whereas even within the police the legitimation for the police operation declines. Demonstrators invite the police women and men to use their right to the denial of service. On Monday the police announced to withdraw from their operation on Tuesday at 1 p.m. if no other order were be received up to then. Thereupon, 15 minutes before 1 p.m. councilor Hans Panhoff (green party) sent a letter ordering an evacuation by the police. This order was followed by an official police letter: "For this order does not necessarily mean an evacuation. We will carefully consider our next steps."

The statements of the refugees staying in the school, to commit suicide and to jump from the roof of the building in case of a violent evacuation, are to be taken serious. Here you find two videos from the school:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sADFHUEzHOo&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1g3UxoLkLA> The school for those who live it! The district as well as the senate shall finally find solutions instead of investing millions in to the police structures! On <http://grenzenwegberlin.wordpress.com/> you can find a good chronology (in german) of media reports from the beginning up to now (day 9).

Recapitulating abstract published by Umbruch images archive, 30th June 2014:

After one and a half years, approximately 250 refugees are to leave their current place of



living, the Gerhart-Hauptmann-Schule in Kreuzberg. The district government had ordered 900 members of police forces for the 24th June in order to execute the so called peaceful and voluntary „relocation arrangements“. This provoked a nearly unmanageable evacuation as a lot of the refugees left only after protest, a few dozens wouldn't even be evacuated at all. They occupied the roof of the school and therefore hampered the evacuation of the building. Thereupon the police and the district exchange sealed the refugees off, press conferences were forbidden and representatives of the press weren't let into the building, the area around the school was largely blocked by the police. While on the one hand the presence of the police and their barriers assume absurd proportions, the residents' resentments and support for the remaining refugees in the school increase.

Four online photo galleries show impressions of the last days:
http://www.umbruch-bildarchiv.de/bildarchiv/ereignis/250614refugee_dachbesetzung.html

Lampedusa in Hamburg – Recognition of the work and residence permits issued by the Italian authorities!

For more than one year the group of „Lampedusa in Hamburg“ has been fighting for these aims through numerous events, visits at schools, universities, neighborhood gatherings and churches, through demonstrations and other actions. Lastly, beginning of June, 5 activist were injured and 7 arrested by brutal police interventions during a sit-in at Rathausmarkt. The 1st May we showed our protest on a common demonstration with the DGB (german trade union organisation) and during a parade. Afterwards a former school in Laeiszstraße was proclaimed a Refugee Welcome Center, now the Lampedusa-in-Hamburg-House.

In the meantime almost 3.600 people supported the Solidarity-Manifest „Here a future“ (still going on: <http://manifest-fuer-lampedusa-hh.de/>) published by 200 celebrities demanding the school building as a center. Last week, the Hamburger Abendblatt (newspaper in Hamburg) headlined after a press meeting of the working group „Professions“ (<http://lampedusa-in-hamburg-professions.blogspot.de/>) „Lampedusa-Refugees: We want to work“. All media in Hamburg reported on extracts of the working stories of individuals of the group and statements by Peter Bremme (ver.di, trade union), who said that in Hamburg vacant jobs cannot be filled in and that the Lampedusa-refugees already have residence and working permits for a European country. That is the tenor of the demonstration on the Lampedusa-in-Hamburg-House (<http://www.lampedusa-in-hamburg.org>) on 5th July at 12 a.m. at Hachmannplatz – there are here to stay.

(Fragments of) Resistance against Dublin II/III

On the above mentioned call of the network „Welcome to Europe“: Time to Act – Abolish the Dublin Regulation! (in german and english)

<http://dublin2.info/>

Here follows the video report of the protest rally against Dublin III on 13th June in Berlin in front of the Federal Ministry of Interiors (english/english subtitles)

<https://vimeo.com/98830363>

Protest camp of the Refugees in Hanover, hunger strike against Dublin-deportations... (in english)



<http://ageeb1999.wordpress.com/>

5th prevention of a deportation in Osnabrück (only in german)

<http://www.noz.de/lokales/osnabrueck/artikel/485063/abschiebung-osnabruecker-sind-wieder-zur-stelle#lightbox&0&1&485063>

On the charter deportation of Eritrean refugees from Frankfurt (in german):

<http://lampedusa-in-hanau.antira.info/>

Refuges4change in Hesse against Dublin II/III (in english)

<http://refugeesforchange.wordpress.com/>

International Migrants and Refugee Resistance in June 2014

Below you can find some links (in english) in current struggles of refugees and migrants across Europe and beyond:

Current mass evacuation of more than 600 refugees and migrants in Calais:

<https://calaismigrantsolidarity.wordpress.com/>

Lesbos/Griechenland – Voices from inside Moria – The new Pagoni of Troika

<http://infomobile.w2eu.net/2014/06/30/lesvos-voices-from-inside-moria-the-new-pagoni-of-troika/>

Melilla, 18.6.2014: the video shows the Moroccan forces auxiliaires operating on Spanish territory in Melilla on the 18th June. People were beaten up with wooden bars and truncheons. Police forces threw rocks at people. 4 people died because of this violence.

<http://vimeo.com/98687161>

Italy-Switzerland: Yesterday the Noborder train managed to overcome the border between Italy and Switzerland, with hundreds of people, a great action in support of the Freedom March and of all those passing borders. Here galleries, videos and reports

http://www.globalproject.info/it/in_movimento/the-noborder-train-gets-to-switzerland-european-asylum-not-borders/17403

Greece/Korinth: Hunger strike at a deportation prisons, solidarity demonstration:

<http://ffm-online.org/2014/06/13/solidaritaet-mit-hungerstreikenden-abschiebknast-korinth/>

FURTHER EVENTS DURING THE NEXT WEEKS AND MONTHS:

14th July to 24th August 2014: Refugee women get loud! Action tour across Germany

Extract from the call: “Dangerous journeys, pushed around all over Europe, housed in collective homes which are often far away from any infrastructure, vouchers, work ban, a

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daily fight for adequate medical care, permanent fear of being deported ... and in addition sexism, as each woman experiences on top of that ... we refugee women have every reason to get loud and to demand a life in human dignity.

We invite all refugee women to get loud together with us!

In summer 2014, we want to participate, along with other refugee women, in a project of the musician Heinz Ratz and his band Strom & Wasser: On rafts we will travel on rivers and canals, from July 14th to August 27th, from Nuremberg to Berlin. This will be a floating demonstration to draw attention to the situation of refugee women and children, and to loudly voice our demands in public.”

The whole call here (in several languages): <http://women-in-exile.net/>

Framework program and tour dates can be found here: <http://www.strom-wasser.de>

Contact: info@women-in-exile.net

Tel.: 0331 / 24348233 (office)

End of August: NoDeportationCamp in Eisenhüttenstadt

More information coming soon on <http://www.stopdeportationcamp.org/> (german/english)

30th August in Büren: Demonstration against the deportation prison

More information coming soon on <http://buerendemo.blogspot.de> (mostly in german)

1st to 5th October in Jena : 20 years The Voice Refugee Forum

More information coming soon on <http://www.thevoiceforum.org/> (english)