

KOMPASS – ANTIRA – NEWSLETTER No. 54 – NOVEMBER 2016

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Dear friends,

“We might see it happen that ‘Sanctuary City’, ‘Welcome City’, as a place of asylum and the right to stay becomes a term for itself in Europe, from Barcelona to Hamburg and from Calais to Berlin. First it has to get filled with life from migrants and supporters, from churches and associations. There is significant progress to see when it comes to schools, there is church asylum, medicine for migrants and medical counseling points, supporters groups and several squats as well as sometimes even a growing tolerance from the police for the migrant reproductions sphere. All of this could get more dense and strengthen itself as a response to the failed migration policies”.

This is a quote from an article of the „Research Association for Flight and Migration“ which deals with more and more examples of „sanctuary-cities“ in the United States and Canada. For us this approach is another challenge for the anti-racism movement which is being confronted with the aggressive and European wide deportation and deterrent policy, combined and carried with racist smear campaign.

It also correlates with the announcement for a series of events that will take place at the end of November and beginning of December in 11 cities in Germany and Switzerland with activists and migrants, who together had occupied the Hotel CityPlaza in Athen: „How to start processes of self organising in transit and beyond - and how to support them with



transnational networks of solidarity? ... Did we already start to build an ‘underground railroad’ for freedom of movement? Do we need safe spaces or even sanctuary cities all along migration routes as practical opposite pole to the racist and repressive political mainstream?”

In the invitation for a network meeting end of November in Osnabrück further is asked: *“Which possibilities do we have to fight for the rights of those (legalized and threatened of deportation) people? How we can create new perspectives beyond asylum? How can we destroy the image of the criminal illegal? How can we make it happen that solidarity is widely shown in the public and not just by a few in clandestinity?”*

The 'Jungle of Calais' was cleared with a huge presence of police to destroy the dreams of a life in Great Britain. Lesvos, which in 2015 was the transit station for many thousands of migrants and of which inhabitants were listed of potential nominees for the Nobel Prize of Peace, should step by step be declared as the island of hopelessness. The borders in the balkan route multiply and become higher. And right to stay-demands of the hunger striking protesters in Munich only face ignorance from authorities. There is a specific focus of the technocrats on the central Mediterranean: while the European military trains libyan border patrol units of a „phantom-government“, the German secretary of the Interior Maziere demands prompt pushback of all boat people to Tunisia and Egypt. More than 180.000 people will reach Italy until the end of the year, if the migrations movement takes place in the same frequency like of the last weeks. This marks a new record year inspite and against all the militarization and an all-time high of more than 4000 victims of the EU visa- and border regime in 2016.

“There is only one way to stop death at the sea: the creation of safe and legal means of entry”. In the beginning of

November Sea Watch put emphasis on their demands of a #safepassage. The hashtag is also shared by other civil actors like 'Doctors Without Borders' or 'Jugend Rettet'. They also were on permanent rescue missions near the libyan coast to save lifes. Their presence not only saved



those in need, they also create transparency in a zone that is strictly surveillanced and guarded but at the same time is left for the arbitrariness of the political-medial tactics of European border policy.

Following the same path the WatchTheMed Alarmphone as a hotline for people in distress at sea was created to help those in need. Since its foundation it was in contact with over 1750 boats.

They see their project in the same context: *“We understand the Alarm Phone as a concrete enactment of solidarity with those in transit, as part of what has come to be called the „underground railroad“ of flightmovements. We see ourselves as a transnational and multilingual node with varied connections to a growing network amongst those struggling for the freedom of movement.”*

With anti-racist regards,
the Kompass-crew

Contact: kompass-notify@antira.info

EVENTS AND DATES IN NOVEMBER 2016:

Beginning of November: Hunger Strike and Eviction of the self-organized Refugees in Munich



After a protest march from Munich to Nuremberg "for our right to stay and against the discriminating integration law of Bavaria", the self-organised Refugees from Bavaria gathered once again at the Sendlinger Platz in Munich to protest and start a hunger strike. On the 4th of November the police evicted the place. On the same night the tree sitting of the resisting Refugees ended.

More detailed reports and current statements here:

<https://refugeestruggle.org>

11.11. in Berlin: Bus-demonstration – Stopping Valetta

The network Afrique-Europe-Interact is asking for support for a bus demonstration on the 11th of November, taking place in front of several African embassies and the GIZ (German society for international cooperation).

"The reason is the Valetta process, which is getting more and more brutal. The EU is not only closing down the refugee and migration routes from African countries, but also wants to accelerate deportations from Europe. At the most recent meeting on the 21.10.2016, the EU-heads of state and government decided to implement so called mobility partnerships with the African countries Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Mali and Ethiopia (among others) as soon as possible. According to the EU Commission, a »mix of positive and negative incentives« should »acknowledge the efforts of those countries willing to successfully cooperate with the EU in terms of migration control, and to ensure consequences for those refusing to cooperate.« We have to take to the streets against such policies - immediately, loudly and plentifully! [...] Together with other groups, Afrique-Europe-Interact will demonstrate on the 11th of November (which is the anniversary of the Valetta summit) in Berlin in front of the embassies of Niger, Mali and Morocco as well as in front of the GIZ (German society for international cooperation). [...] We rented a double-decker bus with 70 seats for the day. Everybody is welcome, taking part is free (while donations are welcome of course). We'll meet at 9:30 at the Oranienplatz in Kreuzberg, from where we'll head to the embassies and the GIZ. The whole event will last till 16:00, but of course not everyone has to participate for the whole route. Contact: nolagerbremen@yahoo.de.

[...] Stop the terror of deportations! For a global freedom of movement!"

The whole call and more information: <http://afrique-europe-interact.net>

19.11. in Hanover and Frankfurt - (Further) Demonstrations against deportations to Afghanistan

In reaction to the readmission agreement between the EU and the Afghan government (see also <https://www.proasyl.de/news/rueckkehr-in-die-unsicherheit>), protest

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demonstrations happened in several cities, co-organised by Afghan refugees. In Hamburg and Berlin up to 2,000 participants were mobilized to protest on several occasions. Further demonstrations are taking place as follows:



in Hannover on the 19.11. at 13:00; starting at the central station at Bahnhofstraße/Ernst-August-Platz, and in Frankfurt on the 19.11 at 13:00 at the central station/Kaisersack. For more information, see

<https://www.facebook.com/afghanrefugeesmovement/>

19./20.11. Meeting in Frankfurt – possibility of a common AntiRa conference in 2017?

The question whether it would make sense and be manageable to organise a large, common AntiRa conference in 2017 was addressed already at the Welcome2Stay gathering at the beginning of September in Berlin and will now be discussed further in a meeting in Frankfurt. At such a large conference, the experiences and circle of providers of the Refugee conference in Hamburg, the Welcome2Stay conference in Leipzig and the former No-Border-Lasts-Forever conference could work together productively. Those who want to come to the meeting in Frankfurt to join the discussion please contact kmii-hanau@antira.info for a definite invitation.

Starting 22.11. - The Best Hotel of Europe on Tour!

After six months of City Plaza in Athens, supporters and former residents will share their experiences on events throughout Germany and Switzerland.

Tuesday, 22.11.: Frankfurt/Main, at 19:00 in the Cafe Exzeß, Leipziger Strasse 91, Theaterhalle;

Wednesday, 23.11.: Freiburg, at 20:00 in the theater, Bertholdstrasse 46, Winterer Foyer;

Thursday, 24.11.: Bern, at 19:30 in the Casa d'Italia, Bühlstrasse 57;

Friday, 25.11.: Zürich, at 19:30 in the Autonome Schule, Sihlquai 125;

Saturday, 26.11.: Augsburg, at 18:00 in the Grandhotel Cosmopolis, Springergässchen 5;

Sunday, 27.11.: Munich, at 18:00 in the Bellevue di Monaco, Müllerstraße 2.



The City Plaza is situated in the centre of Athens; in April 2016 the disused hotel was squatted by a group of activists. Since then the day-to-day operation has been jointly organized by the refugees who live there and people who support them in solidarity. The 400 new guests, among them 180 children, come from all over the world: Syria, Rojava, Iraq, Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan. In the City Plaza they find a place which provides

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them with privacy and secure living in dignity.

"We live together, we fight together, solidarity will prevail" is the motto.

The hotel demonstrates each and every day that, even in times of crisis and poverty, it is possible to welcome people and provide dignified living conditions for all. City Plaza is a political example: it is a place of equality and solidarity and thus the living opposite of Fortress Europe and its infamous borders. The City Plaza Hotel is a symbol of hope. At the meetings we want to listen and to discuss:

— What can we learn from the day-to-day challenges met by a hotel that provides sanctuary to 400 women, men and children, a community born out of necessity in a squatted building?

— How do processes of self-organization develop during a stopover and beyond and how can they be supported by transnational solidarity networks?

— How can spaces such as the City Plaza be used to create connections with other social struggles for equal rights? And how can access to housing, education and health care be claimed?

— Have we already started to build an 'underground railroad' for freedom of movement?

Do we need more sanctuaries and in the future 'sanctuary cities' along the migration routes to serve as practical opposites of the racist, repressive mainstream?

The guests: two or three friends from Athens will join the tour. They belong to the City Plaza Committee which has been organizing the day-to-day operation during the last six months. Friends who first found shelter in the City Plaza and meanwhile have found their way into Germany or Switzerland will take part in the varied meetings. Friends from the networks Welcome to Europe and/or Welcome2Stay, who supported the City Plaza during visits and from outside, will accompany them during the tour.

More information concerning City Plaza at:

<http://solidarity2refugees.gr/> <http://europas-bestes-hotel.eu>

Further probable tour plan in December:

6.12. in Göttingen, 7.12. in Cologne, 8.12. in Lübeck, 9.12. in Hamburg and 11.12. in Berlin.

The refugees in Europe's Best Hotel are in need of further donations.

Bank account for donations at medico international, reference: City Plaza!

IBAN: DE21 5005 0201 0000 0018 00, BIC: HELADEF1822, Frankfurter Sparkasse

25.-27.11. in Osnabrück: Network meeting – Germany as a part of the 'Balkan Route'

Substanz, Frankenstraße 25a

Freedom of Movement and Right to Stay belong together

During the last months, but particularly since the 'Summer of Migration' 2015, again and again activists made their way to the Balkan borders and to other places at the exterior borders of the EU, in order to support people on the run and to fight together against the fencing in of Europe. Even though this has become more difficult, due to increasing repression and in particular since the closure of the 'Balkan Route', nevertheless there are still people who succeed in conquering the borders. It is significant and important to continue showing our solidarity, but we should not forget that Germany is also part of this route. For many it is situated on the way into another Northern European country, for others it is their destination. While in the summer of 2015, the government was hypocritically celebrating our 'welcome culture', it was simultaneously introducing sharper

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asylum laws, which now make it impossible to stay for many people who were then 'welcomed'. After a long, expensive and perilous journey, these people must now leave the country 'voluntarily' or they will be deported.

For many people, the only possibility to stay in Germany is by going into hiding. This means a degrading life in constant insecurity, fear and social isolation and without a basic guarantee of housing, food and medical care. The 'sans-papiers' are systematically stigmatized and criminalized. Showing solidarity with people who are forced into illegality, does not mean supporting them out of charity. It means supporting people in exercising their fundamental rights – a task that ought in fact to be carried out by the state. In Osnabrück we want to elaborate on the following questions: what possibilities do we have to jointly fight for the rights of these people? How can we create a 'staying perspective' beyond the right of asylum? How can we destroy the image of the criminal illegal alien? How can we achieve that this solidarity is not shown by a few in secret, but in public by many? Moreover, we want to use the meeting to create a network, which can provide support in any form to people from the moment they arrive in Germany, as well as contact groups and contact places in the stopover cities. Optimally, people who arrive here should already be informed about this network during their journey, in order to significantly facilitate the initial orientation. These are the questions we want to discuss with you, in order to learn from each other in creating the network! Food will be provided for a donation. For places to sleep please inform us beforehand. Contact: openborders@riseup.net

30.11. in Szeged/Budapest - Free the Röske 11! Next day of hearing – Solidarity with imprisoned refugees in Hungary!



In September 2015 Hungary closed its borders for refugees travelling the so-called Balcan Route. Thousands of people were stranded at the Hungarian border fence, days of protest and confrontations with the police happened. Totally randomly the police imprisoned 11 refugees and charged them for "illegal entry", "participation" of "mob violence" and "terrorism" (in the case of Ahmed H.). In the show trials there was already pronounced a judgement in July for ten of the charged ones. On 30.11.2016 another process day will come against Ahmed H. who is charged for

"terrorism" and being the head of a group. He is threatened by a 25-years prison sentence. Amnesty International, Hungarian Helsinki Committee and more NGOs criticise the hearing due to serious legal mistakes. An international alliance demands the release of the charged ones and accompany the hearing. More information: <http://freetheroszke11.weebly.com/>

3./4.12. in Hamburg: Conference against G20 in July 2017. Invitation to the action conference

„On the 7th and 8th of July 2017 the G20 summit is supposed to take place in Hamburg. The heads of the governments of the 19 richest and most powerful states of the world, accompanied by 6.000 delegation members, surrounded and permanently photographed

by 3.000 journalists and of course cordoned off and protected by an army of at least 10.000 police and secret service operatives. All this is supposed to take place in the middle of Hamburg: in the exhibition halls, in the town hall, in the Elbphilharmonie.

Large-scale and multilevel barriers, ID controls, evacuated apartments – the main victims will be the people in the Karoiviertel and the surrounding neighborhoods. Especially those, that are already more exposed to frequent controls and harassments because of the color of their skin, their legal status, their precarious social situation or other reasons..“

More: <http://www.g20hamburg.org>

FURTHER INFORMATIONS

After the eviction in Calais



„The ‘humanitarian’ evictions have finished. Now comes the time of systematic raids. All those left behind by the first phase of the government plan are now at the next phase: at the mercy of hordes of police who fill the streets of Calais.

Those who couldn't access the buses, the minors whom the social services didn't judge to be minors, and those who want to stay in Calais – there are many who have been forgotten and neglected by the “social diagnostics” carried out by the

institutions (including humanitarian associations).

The controls and the arrests, based on racial profiling, are happening everywhere in the city. People are brought directly to deport centers, sometimes in other corners of France. It's there that they frequently face the danger of deportation to countries where they risk certain imprisonment or death.“

Complete text and more information:

<https://calaismigrantsolidarity.wordpress.com>

Greece: Impressions from Lesbos

Activists from Welcome To Europe and JOG (Teenagers without borders) have been again on Lesbos in October and had to find out that this island of thousand arrivals and transit now is about to be turned into a hopeless place of detention, detainment and pushbacks to Turkey. Two current reports in english:

<http://lesvos.w2eu.net/2016/11/04/lesvos-turns-into-a-deportation-hub-to-turkey/>

<http://lesvos.w2eu.net/2016/11/06/impressions-from-mytilene-october-2016/>

Sea Watch about the training of the Libyan coast guard:

A #SafePassage is the only way to cut migrants' deaths

Reply to the statement of the Commander of the European operation Sophia on the training of Libya's so-called “coastguard”:

“...Even if it was not named by the admiral, EU policy makers made it quite clear in the past, that the aim of the mission is to stop boats from leaving and bringing back those who made it on the water. This happens in conflict with the IMO SAR convention, which is not ratified by Libya but by the member states of the European Union. “This approach will be deadly for a simple reason”, Bayer says. “Many of the people we rescued report horrible conditions in Libya, they say they would rather die at sea than going back to Libya. So even if a coastguard is well trained in Search and Rescue, the refugees on the boat will panic as soon as they recognise that they’ll be taken back to Libya.” These situations are extremely dangerous, the lion’s share of the more than 4000 deaths at sea in this deadliest year of history on the med were caused through panic situations during rescue operations, as we have seen during the disaster of the 21st of october ...”



Complete text here:

<http://sea-watch.org/a-safe-passage-is-the-only-way-to-cut-migrants-deaths/>

Also recommendable the WoZ-diary-Blog of Noëmi Landolt, who has been with Sea Watch in October:

<http://www.woz.ch/blog/mission-mittelmeer/2016/10/22/in-der-hoelle-auf-see>

as well as the reports of „Jugend rettet“:

<https://jugendrettet.org/news>

WatchTheMed Alarm Phone: Balance and an appeal for funds

“We got emergency calls and support questions from more than 1750 boats from all the mediterranean areas until october 2016. Among them, more than 1450 calls came from the aegean sea (from boats between Turkey and the greek islands), about 150 from the western mediterranean (mainly from boats starting from Lybia) and about 150 from the western mediterranean (from boats who started from Morocco to Spain)...” That’s how the text making up the balance starts from the hotline for people in distress which is 24/7 reachable. New Flyer will be on the website in the coming days to ask for more fundings.

<https://alarmphone.org>

REVIEW

Transnational Social Strike in Paris

From the final declaration of the meeting from 23. until 25.10. in Paris:

„... From the protagonists of the French movement against the loi travail to Amazon workers from Poland, Germany and France, from the Deliveroo strikers from the UK to the Italian migrants struggling against exploitation and the immigration laws, from the German and Swedish care-workers to the activists along the Balkan route, from the English Junior doctors on strike to Slovenian students: a whole world of insubordinate labor met in Paris to discuss together how to overcome the limits of one's own local initiatives and how to connect them in a common project. (...) For strengthening our infrastructure we need to

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build our space and take our time. We want to turn the European space, with its internal differences, into our own space of struggle, knowing that this is a long process. This requires so much as the construction of a new language, a new imagination and the capacity to intervene so as to turn the differences we experience into points of strength. The next months will be dedicated to these tasks. We will be in London to take part in the organization of «a day without us», the strike that migrants are organizing in the UK on next February 20th, by bringing in our transnational perspective and the past experience of the strike of migrant labor, to overthrow the narrative according to which the solution to the crisis is to be free from migrants and to reject the idea that the only way to counter this narrative is on utilitarian or solidaristic basis. We will be in Ljubljana to meet with migrants and activists that in the last years have turned the Balkans into a political battlefield together with workers and students' movements, confirming the centrality of the East in the current constitution of Europe. Finally we will go to Poland where an international meeting of Amazon workers is planned, to discuss together how to organize trans-border strikes and symbolic initiatives able to "travel" through the warehouses. We will affirm our common project in all the occasions where the opposition to the current neoliberal Europe is discussed and exploitation is refused, with the intention of making the strike movement heard everywhere. (...)

[Complete text: http://www.transnational-strike.info](http://www.transnational-strike.info)