

No.92
Newsletter
02/2021

KOMPASS



Info-Plattform der antirassistischen Bewegung

9.2. transnational: CommemorAction +++ 19.2. in Hanau and in many cities: Commemoration, accusation and protests one year after the racist terror attack +++ 21.2. Transnational Zoom meeting: Essential Strike for March 8th: Public Assembly ++ (Charter)Deportations at any price +++ Success for church asylums: deadline extensions stopped! +++ <https://www.borderviolence.eu> - Push Back Reports on the Balkan Route +++ Alarm Phone on Push Backs in the Aegean +++ Alarm Phone on Central Med: A struggle for every single boat! +++ Transnational Social Strike: Our Pandemic Transnational Revolt - Organising Struggles in Europe and Beyond +++ Outlook: In June in Palermo: Camp & Convergence; Zapatistas on tour in Europe this summer

DEAR FRIENDS!

Our preface remains short, also because February starts as heavy and bitter as the whole Corona mood seems. On the upcoming anniversaries of racist murders, small decentralised actions are possible at best. On 9 February in memory of the dead in the Mediterranean and on 19 February in memory of the victims of the attack in Hanau. We must not and will not forget them - Say their Names! Let's take up and spread the voices of the relatives and survivors - with all their grief and anger!

Live streams and video messages cannot replace real resistance and struggles. But in perspective they are definitely a complementary amplifier of our coming uprising. And in any case, better than nothing. Because the pandemic will continue to dominate our everyday life for at least the next few weeks. Then we hope for the combination of spring sunshine and vaccination successes to finally gather again in larger groups and also transnationally, at least from early summer. That we can see each other, feel each other and meet in order to (re)build and expand structures of resistance: against racist violence and agitation, against the border regime, against exploitation.

In this sense: bear up. For shelters and corridors of solidarity. For freedom of movement and equal rights for all. For the society of the many.

The Kompass Team

INFORMATION AND DATES FOR FEBRUARY 2021

09.02.2021: TRANSNATIONAL: COMMEMORATION

CommemorAction! Commemorate the dead of the border regime. Solidarity with the families of the 91 people lost in the Mediterranean!



CommemorAction in Marokko im Februar 2020

On 9 February 2020, the Alarm Phone received a distress call from a rubber boat with 91 people in distress just off the coast of Libya. The boat was losing air, the engine had stopped working and people had already gone overboard. Activists of the Alarm Phone informed all the relevant authorities, but no rescue operation took place and soon the people were no longer reachable. See [LINK](#) for the full Alarm Phone report.

The accident stands as one of countless

“invisible shipwrecks” in the Mediterranean Sea. While relatives and friends never heard from the missing people again, the responsible authorities still do not comment when asked. The accident and the missing 91 people are not even included in any statistics of deaths at sea because no survivors can testify that the accident ever happened. Without official recognition, it is even harder for the bereaved to mourn their dead.

#SayTheirNames

On 9 February 2021, on the anniversary of the tragedy, families of the 91 missing people will organise a demonstration in Al-Fashir (Darfur, Sudan), where many of the bereaved live. In solidarity with them, Alarm Phone activists are calling for the 91 missing and all unknown drowned to be remembered with solidarity actions in several European cities.

We want to make the memory of the dead of the border regime visible, every single death is important and to be mourned. We want to show the families and friends that they are not alone in their grief and anger. When people die during their crossing of the Mediterranean Sea, these are not accidents. They are part and consequence of a political system based on exploitation and exclusion.

Decentralised commemorative and protest actions will be organised on 9 February 2021: CommemorAction! In reference to the active relatives of the missing in Darfur and Tripoli, these activities will take place at least in the following cities: Palermo, Latina, Tunis, Marseille, Toulon, Strasbourg, Paris, Brighton, Berlin, Hamburg, Leipzig, Cologne, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Zurich, Vienna.

CONTACT: [MEDIA@ALARMPHONE.ORG](mailto:media@alarmphone.org)

SEE ALSO: [HTTPS://TRANS-BORDER.NET/INDEX.PHP/9TH-OF-FEBRUARY-TRANSNATIONAL-DECENTRALIZED-COMMEMORATION/](https://trans-border.net/index.php/9th-of-february-transnational-decentralized-commemoration/)

FIRST CALL FROM 18TH OF DECEMBER:

[HTTPS://ALARMPHONE.ORG/EN/2020/12/18/INTERNATIONAL-MIGRANT-DAY-EUROPE-THERE-IS-NOTHING-TO-CELEBRATE/?POST_TYPE_RELEASE_TYPE=POST](https://alarmphone.org/en/2020/12/18/international-migrant-day-europe-there-is-nothing-to-celebrate/?post_type_release_type=post)



19.02.2021 IN HANAU AND IN MANY CITIES: COMMEMORATION, ACCUSATION AND PROTESTS ONE YEAR AFTER THE RACIST TERROR ATTACK

From the call:



We accuse and demand action instead of words:

Remembrance, justice, investigation, consequences!

(...) One year later, we ourselves say what will not be said: We speak about the failure of the authorities before, during and after the crime, about the slowness of the offices in providing support and help, and even in recognising the most serious problems - the coldness of bureaucracy. We talk

about the inexcusable misconduct of the security forces on the night of the crime, about the unwillingness and sloppiness of the public prosecutor's office and the police in the investigations, in the pursuit of leads, in taking new threats seriously, in our protection. We are talking about the recurring disrespect and degrading gestures of officials, representatives of authorities and police towards relatives and survivors and even towards the dead. We are talking about the normal state of institutional racism.

One year later means for us, we accuse.

On 14.2 we will speak and in a streamed event trace the chain of failure, name the conditions of terror and denounce the ongoing racist normal state.

We will record and broadcast the event. We invite everyone to listen to us deliver our indictment on 14.2, a few days before the anniversary. We will make sequences of our accusation available as audio recordings for all places and cities where you will be on 19



February.(...)

We are the relatives, the survivors, the victims. We have made sure that the names of the victims are known - and not that of the perpetrator. We were disobedient and did our own research. We were received by the Federal President and appealed by many others in authorities and committees. We were stalled. We did not remain silent. We travelled, held meetings, large and small, public and behind

closed doors. We have created publicity. We have suffered and comforted, reassured and strengthened each other. We are visible and our voices are heard everywhere. We are networked with everyone who knows and understands that racism is the problem. We are Berlin-Neukölln, Halle, Cologne, Nuremberg, Mölln, Kassel, Wächtersbach. We are Kesselstadt, the JUZ, the Initiative 19 February Hanau and many more.



We stand together and fight together.

Against fear. For life. Remembering means changing!

FULL CALL (IN GERMAN) HERE: [HTTPS://19FEB-HANAU.ORG/2021/01/19/AM-19-FEBRUAR-IST-DER-RASSISTISCHE-ANSCHLAG-IN-HANAU-EIN-JAHR-HER/](https://19FEB-HANAU.ORG/2021/01/19/AM-19-FEBRUAR-IST-DER-RASSISTISCHE-ANSCHLAG-IN-HANAU-EIN-JAHR-HER/)
FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT „HANAU“(IN GERMAN) HERE: [HTTPS://19FEB-HANAU.ORG](https://19FEB-HANAU.ORG)

21.02.2021 17-20h ESSENTIAL STRIKE FOR MARCH 8TH: PUBLIC ASSEMBLY

The meeting will be hosted on Zoom and streamed online on the Facebook pages of EAST, LevFem and Transnational Social Strike. We are the women who are doing essential work and yet we find ourselves in miserable conditions: our work is underpaid and undervalued; we are overworked or jobless; we are forced to live in overcrowded places and to constantly renew our residence permits.

Our work is essential, at home and in the workplaces, and yet degraded. We face a daily struggle against male violence, at home and in our workplaces. We are fed up with these violent and exploitative conditions and refuse to remain silent! We started organizing together in a network that connects struggling women, migrants and workers in Central, Eastern and Western Europe: this is Essential Autonomous Struggles Transnational (E.A.S.T.). On the 8th of March we call all who struggle against capitalist, patriarchal and racist violence to strike. On the 8th of March we strike against the exploitation of our productive and reproductive labor. We refuse to be considered essential only to be exploited and oppressed! We build on the experiences of the global women's strike, the Polish women's strike and the feminist struggles in Argentina for the right to abortion as well as the protests and strikes of nurses, care workers, logistic and seasonal workers during the pandemic. With our essential feminist strike we want to join our forces across borders and to turn our essential status into a sign of transnational power!

We call all women, the workers and the jobless, migrants, LGBTQI+ people and all who share our vision to join us for a public assembly on the 21st of February at 5 pm (GMT+1) where we will discuss the horizons of our essential strike on the occasion of International Women's Day on the 8th of March. Further instructions on how to participate will be posted here soon. Stay tuned!

READ HERE THE FULL TEXT OF OUR ESSENTIAL STRIKE MANIFESTO FOR THE 8TH OF MARCH:

[HTTPS://WWW.TRANSNATIONAL-STRIKE.INFO/2021/01/25/ESSENTIAL-STRIKE-MANIFESTO-FOR-THE-8TH-OF-MARCH/?](https://www.transnational-strike.info/2021/01/25/essential-strike-manifesto-for-the-8th-of-march/)

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(CHARTER) DEPORTATIONS AT ANY PRICE

see: <https://noborderassembly.blackblogs.org/de/abschiebe-alarm/>

last updated 25.1.2021

UPCOMING ALERTS

!! Charter deportation to Gambia on 27.1.2021 !!!

!! Charter deportation to Armenia on 2.2.2021 !!!

!! Charter deportation to Afghanistan on 9.2.2021 !!!

!! Charter deportation to Nigeria 12.2.2021 !!!



!! Charter deportation to Pakistan on 17.2.2021 !!!

!! Charter deportation to Serbia & Northern Macedonia on 24.2.2021 !!!

SUCCESS FOR CHURCH ASYLUMS: EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES STOPPED!

The Ecumenical Federal Working Group (BAG) Asylum in the Church welcomes the decision of the BAMF (Federal Office for Migration and Refugees) to no longer extend the transfer periods for so-called Dublin church asylums from 6 to 18 months. Church asylum networks and churches had sharply criticised this practice. It is true that the Dublin III Regulation provides for the possibility of extending the transfer period if people are „underground“ - but in contrast, the whereabouts of people in church asylum are always known to the authorities. "We have therefore considered the application of the extension regulation to be unlawful from the very beginning" said Pastor Dietlind Jochims, chairperson of the board of the BAG.

Background: In June 2018, the interior ministers of the federal states and the federal interior minister decided on measures to tighten up the handling of church asylum. The most serious step was the announcement that in the case of a hardship case rejected by the BAMF, the transfer period for people in church asylum would be extended from six to 18 months if the church asylum was not ended immediately after the rejection. After the implementation of the measures, the number of hardship cases recognised by the BAMF had also fallen dramatically. In numerous legal proceedings since 2018, the majority of administrative courts had confirmed this view. Most recently, in June 2020, the Federal Administrative Court also confirmed in a decision that people in open church asylum are not considered to have absconded or fled and that an extension of the Dublin transfer deadline due to their stay in church asylum is therefore unlawful.

Now, on 13 January 2021, the BAMF has also confirmed that it will refrain from this extension practice. "We are relieved to note this step. It is long overdue," says Jochims. "We now hope that overall it will usher in a return to a solution-oriented understanding on humanitarian hardship cases." The Ecumenical Working Group on Asylum in the Church is also calling for a withdrawal of extensions of time already granted for ongoing church asylums. For the people in church asylum, there would now be hope that their reasons for fleeing could be examined more quickly. Jochims expressly thanks the parishes, monasteries and religious communities that have taken in people in cases of special hardship in recent years, even under difficult conditions, and reminds them of the motto for the year: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful". (Lk 6:36)

ORIGINAL INFO (IN GERMAN):

[HTTPS://WWW.KIRCHENASYL.DE/PORTFOLIO/PM-BAMF-HEBT-SANKTIONEN-GEGEN-KIRCHENASYL-AUF/](https://www.kirchenasyl.de/portfolio/pm-bamf-hebt-sanktionen-gegen-kirchenasyl-auf/)

HTTPS://WWW.BORDERVIOLENCE.EU - PUSH-BACK REPORTS AUF DER BALKANROUTE

January 2021

Italian court ruling on chain pushback

A new ruling from the Court of Rome has been released, finding in favour of an applicant who was subject to an illegal chain pushback from Italy, via Slovenia and Croatia, to Bosnia-Herze-



govina. This important development was brought to the court by Italian legal association ASGI, and supported by the Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN), who provided a first hand testimony from the applicant. The court found unequivocal evidence of violations of international law, and acknowledged the applicant's right to enter Italy immediately, and to full and proper access to the asylum system.

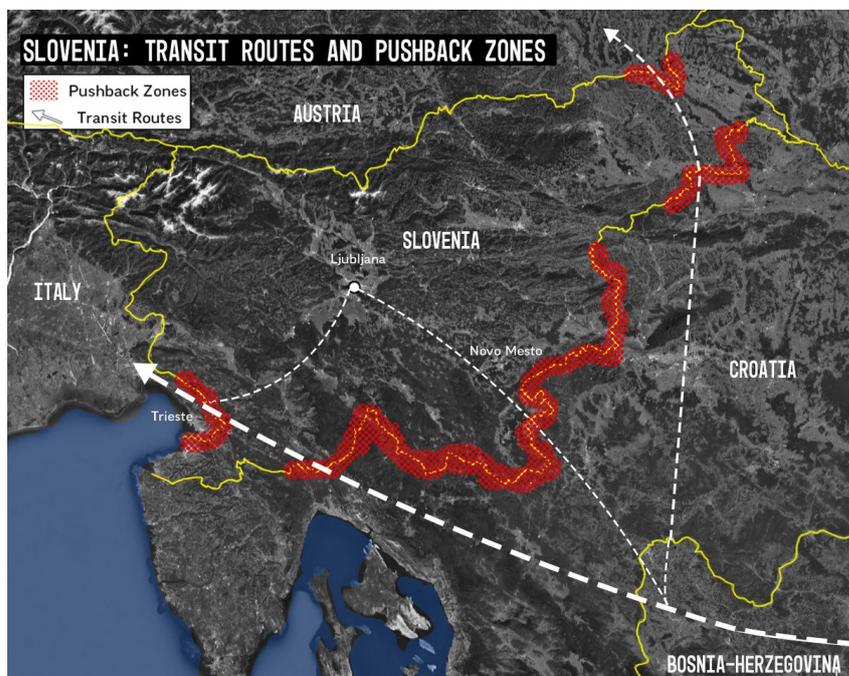
FULL REPORT: [HTTPS://WWW.BORDERVIOLENCE.EU/ITALIAN-COURT-RULING-ON-CHAIN-PUSHBACK/#MORE-16730](https://www.borderviolence.eu/italian-court-ruling-on-chain-pushback/#more-16730)

Balkan region report – December 2020

During December 2020, the Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN) gathered 25 testimonies of pushbacks, impacting a total of 707 people-on-the-move. This rounds off a year of consistent and compelling evidence collected by BVMN, exposing the systematised use of pushbacks at the European Union external border. In this report, updates cover a variety of violations including pushback practices, internal violence and the crisis around winterised shelter....

FULL REPORT:

[HTTPS://WWW.BORDERVIOLENCE.EU/BALKAN-REGION-REPORT-DECEMBER-2020/#MORE-16685](https://www.borderviolence.eu/balkan-region-report-december-2020/#more-16685)



Press release from BVMN-member Info Kolpa on Slovenian court ruling

Over the last year the civil initiative Info Kolpa, a key member of the Border Violence Monitoring Network, are sharing an important victory on their applicant's court proceedings seeking justice against the Slovenian state's expulsion practices. This month, the administrative court established once again that the Republic of Slovenia violated the applicant's right to prohibition of collective expulsions, his right to prohibition of torture and his right to access to the asylum procedure, by following the abbreviated procedure on the basis of the Readmission Agreement between the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Croatia, through which it handed the applicant over to the Croatian authorities in August 2019.



Info Kolpa has been assisting this applicant in court proceedings against the Slovenian state's arbitrary expulsion proceedings for over a year and this most recent news upholds an initial ruling which was given this summer. Throughout the proceedings, since he was illegally deported to BiH by the Slovenian and Croatian police, the applicant has been caught in an increasingly inhumane situation, where the situation is deteriorating on a daily basis. It has been 21 months since he was expelled from Slovenia for the first time.

FULL REPORT:

[HTTPS://WWW.BORDERVIOLENCE.EU/PRESS-RELEASE-FROM-BVMN-MEMBER-INFOKOLPA/](https://www.borderviolence.eu/press-release-from-bvmn-member-infokolpa/)

ALARM PHONE ZUR ÄGÄIS

Pushbacks Continue Despite Rising Pressure on Authorities

January 04, 2021

Aegean Cases Summary, 22 - 24 December 2020



Sudanese protesters at the UNHCR office in Guruji. The picture was shared with Alarm Phone by one of the protesters who wishes to remain anonymous.

Since the end of February 2020, the Alarm Phone has witnessed the dramatic increase of human rights violations in the Aegean region at sea and on land, which we have documented and published in a number of reports. Additionally, news outlets such as Spiegel but also investigative collectives such as Bellingcat, have demonstrated that the Hellenic Coast Guard is violating international, European, and national law by forcibly and violently pushing people that are seeking asylum at Europe's Eastern border back to Turkey. Further

investigations have shown that this is not conducted by Greek authorities alone but in partnership with the European border agency FRONTEX and with the knowledge of other European state leaders. It is obvious that illegal pushbacks at the border are carried out systematically, and that migrants are humiliated and (physically) abused both on land and at sea. The authorities and persons involved on a local, national and international level need to be held accountable for human rights violations....

FULL REPORT HERE:

[HTTPS://ALARMPHONE.ORG/EN/2021/01/04/PUSHBACKS-CONTINUE-DESPITE-RISING-PRESSURE-ON-AUTHORITIES/?POST_TYPE_RELEASE_TYPE=POST](https://alarmphone.org/en/2021/01/04/pushbacks-continue-despite-rising-pressure-on-authorities/?post_type_release_type=post)

A Struggle for Every Single Boat

January 14, 2021

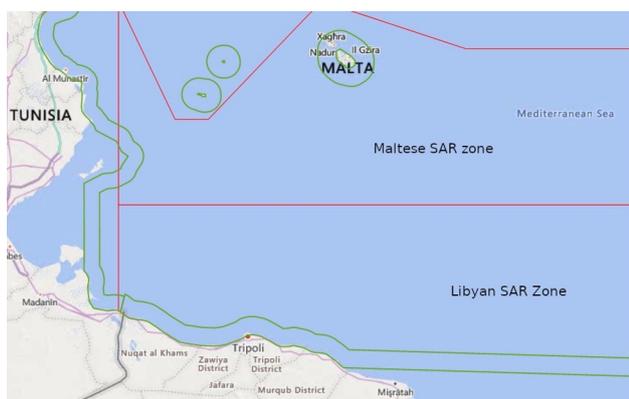
Alarm Phone: Central Mediterranean Analysis, July - December 2020

Over the past six months, from July to December 2020, we witnessed a continuity in the Central Mediterranean Sea, with Italian and Maltese state actors withdrawing from their rescue obligations, the administrative detention of the civil fleet and the unresponsiveness of the so-called Libyan Coast Guard in situations where people were in extreme distress off the Li-



byan shores. The combination of these elements has inevitably led to an increasing rescue gap, more suffering and many shipwrecks at sea.

Despite the attempts to let people die at sea, the rescue gap left by the absence of rescue did not stop people from fleeing the dire living conditions and arbitrary detention to which they are routinely subjected to in Libya, as well as those escaping the worsening economic crisis in Tunisia. Many people indeed have attempted this dangerous journey and arrived autonomously to Italy and Malta. On the 1st and 2nd November alone, a total of 13 boats arrived to Lampedusa. Moreover, our network has observed an increase in reports of boats having left from Algeria, heading for Sardinia. We continue to be amazed by the ongoing struggle for freedom of movement and dignity of migrants themselves. These autonomous arrivals are the sign that the EU border regime, despite its death drive, will never be able to fully contain the life force of people seeking to better their lives and escape oppression.



MALTA – LIBYA: 139 NAUTICAL MILES OF NON-ASSISTANCE

We estimate that overall, 27,435 people tried to leave Libya in 2020. 11,891 of them were intercepted by the so-called Libyan Coast Guards and pushed back to Libya according to the IOM. The IOM considers that 848 people died on the central Mediterranean route but this is certainly an underestimation. About 5,375 people in 75 boats arrived to Lampedusa from Libya – autonomously or with the help of the Italian Coast Guards. Almost 3,700 people

were rescued by NGO-vessels to Italy, 2,281 people arrived in Malta. In 2020 still, 26,349 people tried to leave Tunisia. Amongst them 12,883 people reached Italy, but 13,466 people were intercepted by the Tunisian Coast Guard, according to the FTDES.

Over the past year, the Alarm Phone supported 172 boats in distress in the Central Mediterranean carrying around 10,074 people. Mostly, these boats left from Libya but some also from Tunisia and Algeria. Of the people who reached out to us, about 7,503 were rescued to Europe by NGO vessels, arrived on their own or were rescued by Maltese and Italian assets. 211 were rescued by merchant vessels. Approximately 2,390 people on 42 boats who alerted Alarm Phone in 2020 were intercepted by the so-called Libyan Coast Guards. Of those who called Alarm Phone, 219 people unfortunately drowned or went missing. We also collected several testimonies about many more confirmed shipwrecks of boats that did not alert us when in distress. Lastly, the fate of about 578 people who called us, is unknown to us....

FULL REPORT HERE: [HTTPS://ALARMPHONE.ORG/EN/2021/01/14/A-STRUGGLE-FOR-EVERY-SINGLE-BOAT/?POST_TYPE_RELEASE_TYPE=POST](https://alarmphone.org/en/2021/01/14/a-struggle-for-every-single-boat/?post_type=release_type=post)

TRANSNATIONAL SOCIAL STRIKE

Our Pandemic Transnational Revolt: Organizing Struggles in Europe and Beyond

How do we struggle on a transnational scale and why is it so important? This question haunts the TSS Platform since its foundation. Over the years, we tried to answer this question by





fostering political initiatives across borders on some crucial terrains such as the logistics of exploitation, social reproduction and migrant labor. It was clear to us that the transnational challenge can't be limited to a mirroring of the international one. When we opted for this name, we intended to argue that internationalism is insufficient to grasp the contemporary interconnection of

struggles and social movements. The transnational perspective therefore was, and still is, the name of a political position and at the same time an indication of a challenge and of a possibility. The transnational is not the sum of national spaces, not even the mere recognition of interdependencies. The Transnational is the political space we live in, the hierarchies exploiting our lives and the dimension of our struggles. The transnational is what constitutes the concrete chains of power against which we fight. Since we launched the challenge and the project of the TSS Platform, we embarked on different paths of struggles with the aim of bringing the transnational to the surface, making it visible and turning it into



common political action. Today, we think to be closer to answering our initial question. We wagered on the political relevance of the strike because we thought that the strike is the form that rising tensions would develop in the workplaces and could erupt across so-

society to become a wider social movement. Today, the fact that the strike is the most powerful form of struggle and tool for connecting different subjects is widely recognised. (...)

In the recent years we have gained plenty of experiences that have reinvented the strike as social, migrant and feminist and showed the possibility to fight on a transnational level. Building on these experiences, we must keep discussing and organizing the transnational strike as a process and not just conceptualised as a single event. If we want our collective voice to become the dominant character in the post-pandemic reality, if we want to disrupt the reproduction of the hierarchies of exploitation, if we want to unleash our power, we must insist in bringing to light the transnational processes that shape even our everyday experiences. We must keep on building the transnational connections that animate our own political platform. We see our struggle in connection with the insurrection against racial oppression and its structural link with exploitation that has shaken the United States for months. Even beyond the direct communication that links struggles in Amazon warehouses or Black Lives Matter demonstrations across the Atlantic, these movements are a further display of the transnational circulation of strikes and insubordination in our present times. The transnational social strike is essential because it tackles the sexist and racist conditions of producti-



on and social reproduction as part of a wider logistics of exploitation. The transnational social strike is as essential as ever.

TSS Platform January 2021

FULL TEXT HERE:

[HTTPS://WWW.TRANSNATIONAL-STRIKE.INFO/2021/01/17/OUR-PANDEMIC-TRANSNATIONAL-REVOLT-ORGANIZING-STRUGGLES-IN-EUROPE-AND-BEYOND/](https://www.transnational-strike.info/2021/01/17/our-pandemic-transnational-revolt-organizing-struggles-in-europe-and-beyond/)

OUTLOOK

MID-JUNE IN PALERMO: CAMP & CONVERGENCE

A decision is to be made at the beginning of March: If pandemic conditions somehow allow it, there should be several gatherings in Palermo between 14 and 20 June 2021. The network of the Palermo Charter Platform Process wants to organise a summer camp for a few days and for 18/19 June the platform <https://fromseacity.eu/> is planning a conference in which "safe havens" or cities in solidarity and mayors from different European countries will participate.

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND FIRST INVITATION: KMII-HANAU@ANTIRA.INFO

ZAPATISTAS ON TOUR IN EUROPE THIS SUMMER



"For the first time, a delegation of the Zapatista movement from Chiapas / Mexico (EZLN) will visit all five continents - starting with Europe. The aim is to strengthen struggles from below and to the left in our regions and to network with their own struggles. It is about a global, emancipatory and continuous organising against capitalism and patriarchy...

As part of the 2021 round trip, more than 100 delegates (75 per cent women) want to first sail by ship from

Mexico to Europe and then travel to several European countries. This symbolically counters the supposed "conquest" of Latin America in an anti-colonial way. At the same time, the movement emphasises that the indigenous population could never be subjugated.

EZLN spokesperson Subcomandante Moisés recently explained the resolutions in a communiqué: "That after travelling to different corners of Europe from below and to the left, we will arrive in Madrid, the capital of Spain, on 13 August 2021 - 500 years after the alleged conquest (Spanish: Conquista) of what is now Mexico."



With their new initiative, the Zapatistas want to break through resignation, sow hope and once again shake the status quo of the ruling system and find new ways of solidarity and ecology - together with us. They say: "We are Zapatistas, carriers of the virus of resistance and rebellion. As such, we will travel the five continents."

The European Solidarity Network is organising and coordinating the journey to Europe and within the European regions..."

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[HTTPS://WWW.YA-BASTA-NETZ.ORG/DIE-ZAPATISTAS-KOMMEN-ZU-UNS/](https://www.ya-basta-netz.org/die-zapatistas-kommen-zu-uns/)

COMMON CALL:

[HTTPS://WWW.YA-BASTA-NETZ.ORG/EUROPA-VON-UNTEN-UND-EZLN-ZAPATISTAS-REISE/](https://www.ya-basta-netz.org/europa-von-unten-und-ezln-zapatistas-reise/)

