

TIME TO ACT

ABOLISH THE DUBLIN REGULATION

Never before was the resistance against the restrictions of the freedom of movement for refugees and migrants and especially against deportations within Europe so loud and convinced.

In Germany and all over Europe, initiatives call for self-organized resistance such as the „Lampedusa Groups“. European borders have never been more contested. Almost every week migrants collectively pass the borders in Ceuta and Melilla, thousands arrive on the shores of Sicily. On Lampedusa, hundreds of people reject their registration and in the Aegean sea boats arrive daily on the Greek islands.

The dublin-system takes the freedom of choice to choose where a refugee wants to apply for asylum. Responsible is automatically the country of entry. To make the dublin system effective, a huge biometric database was installed (Eurodac). The main responsibility is thereby transferred to the European outer frontiers. Germany is one of the main profiteers of the Dublin system. With the reformation of the system at the end of 2013, a huge wave of deportations was initiated, albeit already in 2013, one third were Dublin deportations.

The resistance against the Dublin system is manifold. In long-standing battles, the antiracist movement, lawyers, NGOs and the people concerned achieved a deportation stop to Greece. Nevertheless, deportations to other European states with similar disastrous conditions continue and the reformation of the Dublin System was just a cosmetic alteration. The catastrophic circumstances in European countries imprison many asylum seekers since years in a cycle of ongoing movement and deportation within Europe. One of the main ideas of Dublin, „No refugees in orbit“, the quick clarification of responsibility is led ad absurdum due to lasting odysseys and deportation experiences.

The dublin regulation is part of the inhumane European border regime. Abolish Dublin.

LAMPEDUSA IS EVERYWHERE

On a daily basis, refugees avoid being deported in absconding, resisting or moving on. As long as the living conditions in Italy, Hungary, Poland or elsewhere are inhuman, asylum seekers will not be kept from escaping – instead, they are silently „voting with their feet“ against the Dublin system.

In Hamburg, the group „Lampedusa in Hamburg“ has been fighting for a right to stay and the right to a life in dignity for the last year. In Osnabrück persons concerned and supporters have successfully opposed a Dublin deportation with a blockade. In Frankfurt, hundreds are demonstrating against deportations to Italy. In Hanau, a new Lampedusa initiative has been founded. In Göttingen, by means of a blockade, the deportation of a Somali to Italy could be impeded despite of police violence ...

Contact and concrete support are extremely important for everyone and raises the chances that all options will be exhausted – the feeling of fighting with others helps not to give up. **People are needed to get in contact and build friendships.**

Many concerned people have made traumatic experiences. To help them and to stop Dublin deportations, treatment and medical certificates of physical and psychical illnesses are necessary. Often, these are the only possibility to stop a deportation on a legal way. **Hence, contact to doctors, psychologists and psychiatrists who issue such clinical diagnostics is essential.**

We need protected spaces for people threatened by deportation. Many of them simply have to bridge a few months to avoid their deportation. Church asylum seems to be an effective instrument as it opens a concrete space for protection and – if combined with public initiatives – creates public pressure at the same time. **Let's get in contact with solidary communities and supporters!**

It is essential to confront political actors with their responsibility. With their demands for a right to stay Lampedusa-groups are also addressing cities and communities where refugees arrived and wish to stay. We will not accept indifferent referring to European requirements! There are many options for action: **Call on communal political representatives to use their scope of action, write open letters, storm citizen consultation hours!**

Especially against deportations to Italy, but also to Malta and Hungary, refugees resist in last-minute manners. On deportation flights, they stand up and refuse to fasten the seat belt. If the first deportation attempt fails concerned people are taken into administrative detention. At the second and third attempt they are exposed to the pressure of escorting police officers. **Refugees need solidarity fellow passengers and support at the airport because they don't fly voluntarily!**

Refugees will certainly go on resisting deportations. Unfortunately, not all of them will be successful. After the deportation, it is important to stay in contact with the people, to show solidarity with their demands for freedom of movement and to support them practically. **We have to document the experiences of refugees after their deportation. Moreover, practical support for their return is important. We need a trans-European network that is able to support asylum seekers in what they are doing day by day: to undermine the Dublin system.**

PROTEST MARCH TO BRUSSELS

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... All these activities fall into a movement of reinforced self-organization that has developed a new dynamic with the protest march to Berlin in 2012 and that has since been further intensified.

The culmination of this development is a transnational march from Strasbourg to Brussels that has been initiated by refugees, Sans Papiers and migrants from different European countries. The march started on March 18 and will end with an action week from June 20 in the capital of the European Union to protest against the summit of EU heads of governments. A focus of the march is the fight against internal EU borders and therefore especially against the Dublin regulation and the EuroDac system. We call on you to join the march and action days in Brussels to further bring our struggles to the European level.