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Newspaper of discussion and news about migrants struggles

مرحبا

#3

2015 november 21

THE DAILY REALITY OF FRANCE'S AND EUROPE'S «RECEPTION» OF MIGRANTS IS COMPOSED OF VIOLENCE, POLICE THREATS, A CONSTANT INCREASE IN EXPULSIONS HIDDEN BY MEDIA, TEMPORARY SHELTERS IN POOR CONDITION AND A HOSTILE BUREAUCRACY SLOWING ASYLUM REQUESTS. IN THIS ISSUE OF MERHABA WE PUBLISH TESTIMONY OF SEVERAL MIGRANTS IN THEIR VOYAGE TO Fortress EUROPE... BUT IT'S JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG.

First of all, we see that a constant low-level war is going on at the borders : walls go up, police have more and more weapons, and the methods of "control" place themselves beyond legal oversight. At the same time, deportations to countries of origin increase, and people without documents locked up in retention centers undergo daily violence.

The other dimension of the European governments' migration policy focuses on the people who succeed in crossing the borders: from the Dublin Regulation to the local management of shelter centers, the whole system is designed to keep migrants in a state of uncertainty, dependence, and marginalization. For long periods, new arrivals are forced to live in the street in a state of absolute precariousness: while the government talks about humanity in the media, it doesn't even guarantee a roof. Those who succeed in obtaining shelter (often for only a short period) have to deal with arbitrary removal to places very far from their place of arrival and from where they filed their asylum request. In many shelters, basic rights such as access to public transport, the right to visitors and to assemble aren't protected. Any chance of really integrating into the country (access to language classes, to education, to work) is just a mirage.

The system of receiving migrants is thus a true method of governance, whose objective is to prevent their collective organization and their integration into Europe. The result is the creation of a mass of people with fewer rights and possibilities – people easier to exploit.

THIS NEWSPAPER IS
WRITTEN BY MIGRANTS
AND PEOPLE IN SOLIDARITY
WITH THEIR STRUGGLE. IT'S
SPREAD IN FRENCH, ARABIC,
ENGLISH AND FARSI, IN
THE SHELTERS, DURING
DEMONSTRATIONS AND
ON CAMPEMENTS IN PARIS
REGION AND BEYOND.

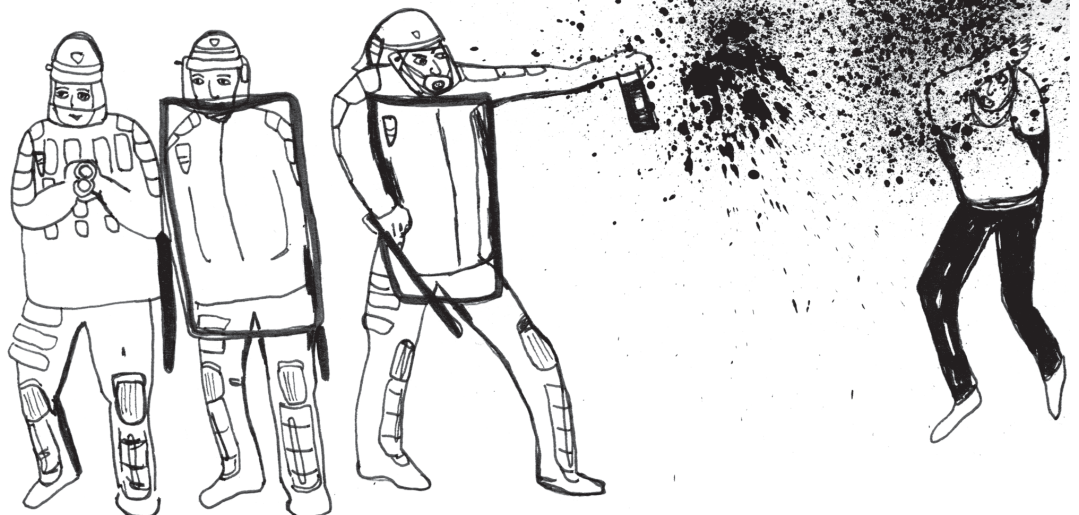
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Statement of migrants at Triel-sur-Seine after the fascist attack of november 7

Testimony of several migrants after the attack on the center where they live by members of the fascist group « génération identitaire » saturday 7 of Novembre. Besides the fear provoked by the racist and fascist assaults (some of the migrants had already been mugged at the football stadium of the village), migrants shared with us the problems they encounter in the center. On the same day, a meeting with the director of the Red Cross's section against social exclusion (pôle lutte contre l'exclusion) took place. The Red Cross is the company that manages the center. In the course of the meeting a spokesperson for the migrants could evoke all the difficulties they experienced daily. Immediately after, a local support committee was created to struggle with the migrants for the respect of their rights and their dignity.

« Now we are afraid and we don't feel safe. »

The problem is that racist people, about 50, arrived this morning. They forced an entry into the centre and climbed onto the roof.

They lit some smoke and threw some firecracker. They shot : « Go back to your country ! leave ! » We woke up, we all got out and we called the security staff of the center. We waited outside and we looked at the people abode and at the banderole were it was written « no welcome refugees ». After one hour the police arrived and asked them to go down. But they refused saying that as long as the refugees will stay there, they will stay too.

Then, one hour later, the mayor arrived, he called them but we dont know what has been said. After 15 minutes, the police climbed on the roof and forced them to go down using force. Now the problem is that we are scared. We decided to stop eating. Yesterday, one of us has been at-

tacked by five persons who pushed and insulted him. He managed to escape and run. They chased him until the center. In this place now we can't stay.

« Before that we had other problems. »

When we arrived, the mayor told us that he will help us to solve our papers problems. Now, we are 15 days after. The director of the center called the mayor yesterday because in 15 days nothing has been done. The director said that the purpose of the association was only to provide housing and food, and that for the papers we had to managed on our own. There are other problems in the center. There are control each time people enter and go out. We can only go out after 8am et we have to come back at the latest at 10 pm. If we spend more than 3 nights outside we are excluded. Even if you leave the center for 5 minutes you have to show your card. This is like jail. The beds are very bad and it is impossible to sleep in those campbeds. Every days, from 8 am, there are controls in the rooms. They call out the names of everyone. We don't have the keys of our rooms, so they open the doors and enter. And then since we dont have the keys, there are a lot of thefts. Once, they searched all the rooms. Last week, OFII came to take down the names and dates of birth. When we asked them what they will do for us, they said that they will help us to go back to our countries. But we haven't made all this way until here to go back to our countries.

We need your help. Now the problem is not only the papers but the life too. We need to go elsewhere because there are too many problems here. Journalists have to talk about that.



.....
Rassemblement de soutien
aux migrants du centre
d'hébergement de Triel, le 11
octobre

Dublin : deported to France, I've been welcomed by the street

France is not the only country which is applying the Dublin regulation by sending back migrants to their arrival country: there are also migrants who seek political asylum in other European countries and are deported back to France, because it is seen as their point of first entry into the Schengen Area.

Falling under the Dublin regulation, some migrants who were seeking asylum in Northern Europe were sent back to France. Whereas most of us got housing in refugee camps, receiving food and housing in these Scandinavian countries, they deplore the poor reception France offers migrants transferred to its territory. Indeed, the migrants who get to France through these Schengen readmission agreements do not understand why they cannot get housing or food upon arrival, although France was aware of their transfer at least two months prior to their arrival. The street has become their first accommodation. 'I am asking myself why France did not plan to give me a bed in a CADA, when it had agreed to receive me and to take on my case. Two months before my transfer to France, it already knew that I was going to arrive,' notes one transferred migrant with indignation.

And he goes on: 'If France, facing the migration flow on its territory, cannot provide housing for all migrants, forcing them to spend sleepless nights on the streets of Paris, why is it unable to refuse transfers on its territory?' It cannot be denied that this indignation of the migrants is justified, because the administrative procedure of the asylum application and the provision of shelter or hou-

sing have to go together. It is thus unconscionable that a democratic state, which respects human rights, can condemn people suffering from the aftereffects of traumas they experienced in their home countries to sleeping in the street.

When the time of disillusionment comes...

'Whereas I got housing in a refugee camp in another European country, once I had been transferred to France, I first found a home in the streets of Paris, because OFII¹ announced to me that there were no places available in a CADA. Furthermore, it was impossible for me to get housing through the 115² service. Railways and subway stations, sidewalks became thus my first home, before salvation came,' describes one transferred migrant. 'During these 30 days, I suffered so much that I felt abandoned.' How is it possible that a supposedly constitutional State can condemn humane beings to sleep in the street for one month, something I have seen in developing countries. I never thought that so many homeless people were living in France. Finally, I realized at that very moment that there exist in fact two countries in 'France'. The France that you see on TV, which – according to the medias – is something like an El Dorado, and the real one, full of contradictions and social inequalities.

1 French Office for Integration and Immigration
2 State Service in charge of homeless people.

About the housing in Tournan I live in a center in Tournan since three weeks.

The Prefecture came in place de la République and said : we will have house, money, tickets, French lessons and good eat. When I arrived in Tournan, there was nothing. There is no food during one week. My friend bring food to the center for us. There is no internet and we need it to join our families in our countries.

One woman came from prefecture : what are your problem? All is bad. We want French lessons, food, train tickets because it's very far from Paris. She answered : you have to wait one or two weeks. After two weeks, another woman came : I'm there for the papers, I don't deal with school, tickets ; I can't help you. I said : I need school to learn French. Now after three weeks there is still nothing. Although, I know they receive money but they give nothing. We want help because it's not good, we are not animals!!

The voice of Afghan refugees!

We are in danger in Afghanistan, we are not dangerous for France. we fear of because of our stress and homelessness problems. We want our rights which made for refugees. We call on French people and government to not send their Forces to Afghanistan if they say that Kabul is safe! Kabul and other provinces of Afghanistan are witnessing every day suicide and car bombed attacks and other insurgencies from Taliban and ISIS group.

Taliban still have control on most parts of Afghanistan, government has failed in the protection of the civilians in Kabul and other cities. Afghan national police and army give casualties and it increasing day by day, and most casualties of the war are civilians, now the security forces of Afghanistan and NATO just secure their selves and failed in the civilians protection from insurgents.

So please! Don't send Afghan refugees back to Afghanistan.

A short story one of the Afghan refuge in Europe.

I am about 25 years old from Afghanistan. I Had studied at Kabul University and after Graduation moved back to my own province. So I involved with the Taliban's problem in my Province and they tried to beheaded me.

Taliban don't care about any one who worked or studied in USA's aid academies. So I fled and left my country and moved to Europe. Because Europe was safer than other countries! And It has humanity, respect, education, justice. But when I have arrived to Europe, I submitted my case in One of the EU countries.

They have started my case procedure and it lasted about 9 months and the result was refuse because I was educated and young and that was my refusing point! And they were wrote me that you can go back to Kabul because Kabul is Safe! And Taliban are not more powerful than government!

But in the real, Kabul is safe for Those who have more power, security and bodyguards. Not for those who have no money, no home, no relation and no power.

Wednesday 6 november, there has been a rally in front of the Police Prefecture of Paris, boulevard Ney, in 18th district, to ask for stopping the Dublin procedure. This is the place where asylum requests are registered.

Police brutality and eviction

On Tuesday 3 November at the Formule 1 hotel at porte de Saint Ouen, a police action took place to remove a refugee sheltered there. The cops fired at him twice at short range with a Taser (electroshock gun).

This Iraqi Kurdish asylum seeker was a member of a group of migrants who had been placed in this hotel by the group SOS, one of many associations that make a living off humanitarian aid and assistance to people in distress. An SOS official decided Tuesday that he had to leave the hotel to go to an emergency shelter where conditions are much worse. Following his refusal to be displaced to this emergency shelter the hotel management told him their only solution would be to call 115 (an

overworked State-run service which often doesn't even answer the telephone), that is, living in the street – and the police were called.

Desperate, this asylum seeker then threatened to commit suicide, and the police present took out their guns and fired on him with a Taser. He was then handcuffed, although still under the effect of the electric shock, and, given his condition, sent to Bichat hospital, which admitted him and released him later that night after treating him. We met up with him in place de la République where he came to join the other migrants gathered there and to resist police violence, with them, every day and every night.

Afghanistan is not a safe country

Afghanistan is not a safe country, there is fighting about 40 years, up to now because first Russia attacked Afghanistan when the Russia failed after the situation was very bad, under the Taliban government it was not possible to go to the school, or out from house, after that America attacked and up to now.

From one side Pakistan sent intelligence Police and so they support to Taliban to continue bomb blasting in Afghanistan. And Pakistan doesn't want to rebuild Afghanistan, because of the Pakistan there is still fighting in Afghanistan.

And so there is no Afghan Taliban, a lot of them are from Pakistan and they destroyed our schools, mosques, homes, our roads and so Pakistan doesn't want we get promotion in future and they destroyed all our country. We need education, and we wanted to continue our lessons in Afghanistan, but Pakistan forbidden and they destroyed all school, home... Because we left Afghanistan, Pakistanis is our enemies because Pakistan doesn't want to leave Afghanistan in peace.

We can not live there by silently and we can't, we didn't

have facility in our life in Afghanistan. For this we obligate to left Afghanistan.

We crossed by 9 countries, when we moved to the Iran where we faced with more problems, Iranian police they hate us. We walked by the mountain named Salmas to go to Turkia, we climbed during 24 hours, we crossed the mountains, after that we take the road taxi and pick-up, the police follow and shoot rocket on the taxi, and people dead and few got injured, unfortunately we move fast with a pick up and escaped from Iran police, and we came to Turkia, we were Istanbul. After Istanbul we went to the jungle near border with Greece. At night, there was two boats one with 12 people and the second one with 10 people.

The first one overturn and all the people died. After that we came by boat to Greek. Our boat ripped and we had water until waist, we had to escape from the boat and arrived to the greek coast.

Then the greek police caught us and they put us in jail for one night. And the day after, they gave to us laissez-passer of two days. We moved to Bulgaria by boat. We went to Serbia, three hours by car and seven hours by foot.

We moved to Hungary jungle. In the jungle we took a taxi for 15 minutes, after, Hungarian police caught us, they put us in jail near Budapest for 22 days. There, police took our fingerprint by force. Then, they gave us a card and they put us in open camp. We escaped from there and we went to Budapest at midnight and we took the train and we moved to Austria. In Wien, we wanted to take a train for Italy but city police caught us and put us handcuffs. They put us in jail for one night. And they took our fingerprints and they bring us by bus to an open camp far from Wien.

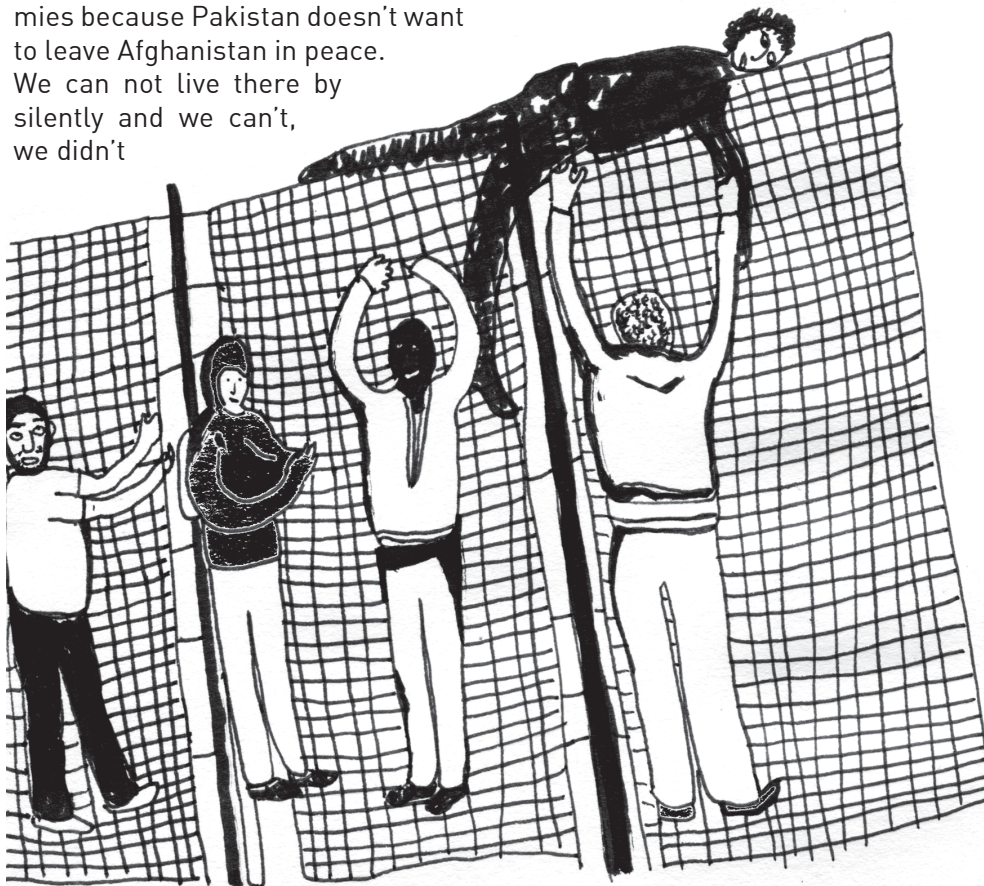
We stayed there 3 nights, then they bring back us to Wien. There, we took a taxi to go the Italian border [Tarvisio]. The police caught us and we spent 24 hours in the police station. They asked us : where do you come from? We don't know! They lived us. We went to Venezia from there to Roma and finally Vintimilla.

When we crossed the border, French police caught us and sent us back to Italy. We tried two times and failed. We saw many French people who were running from the French border and back, we had the idea to reach them. We run with them and so we crossed the border and we succeed. We took the train from Marseille to Paris.

We arrived in Paris, we want peace, a prosper life, we doesn't want fight because we are tired.

WE AFGHAN PEOPLE WANT EDUCATION AND WANT TO HAVE GOOD LIFE IN THE FUTURE. AND WE WANT FRENCH GOVERNMENT GIVE US OURS RIGHTS.

Story of two afghans from Kho-gyani (province of Nangarhar) and Maidan (Wardak)



THE 'HOTSPOTS'

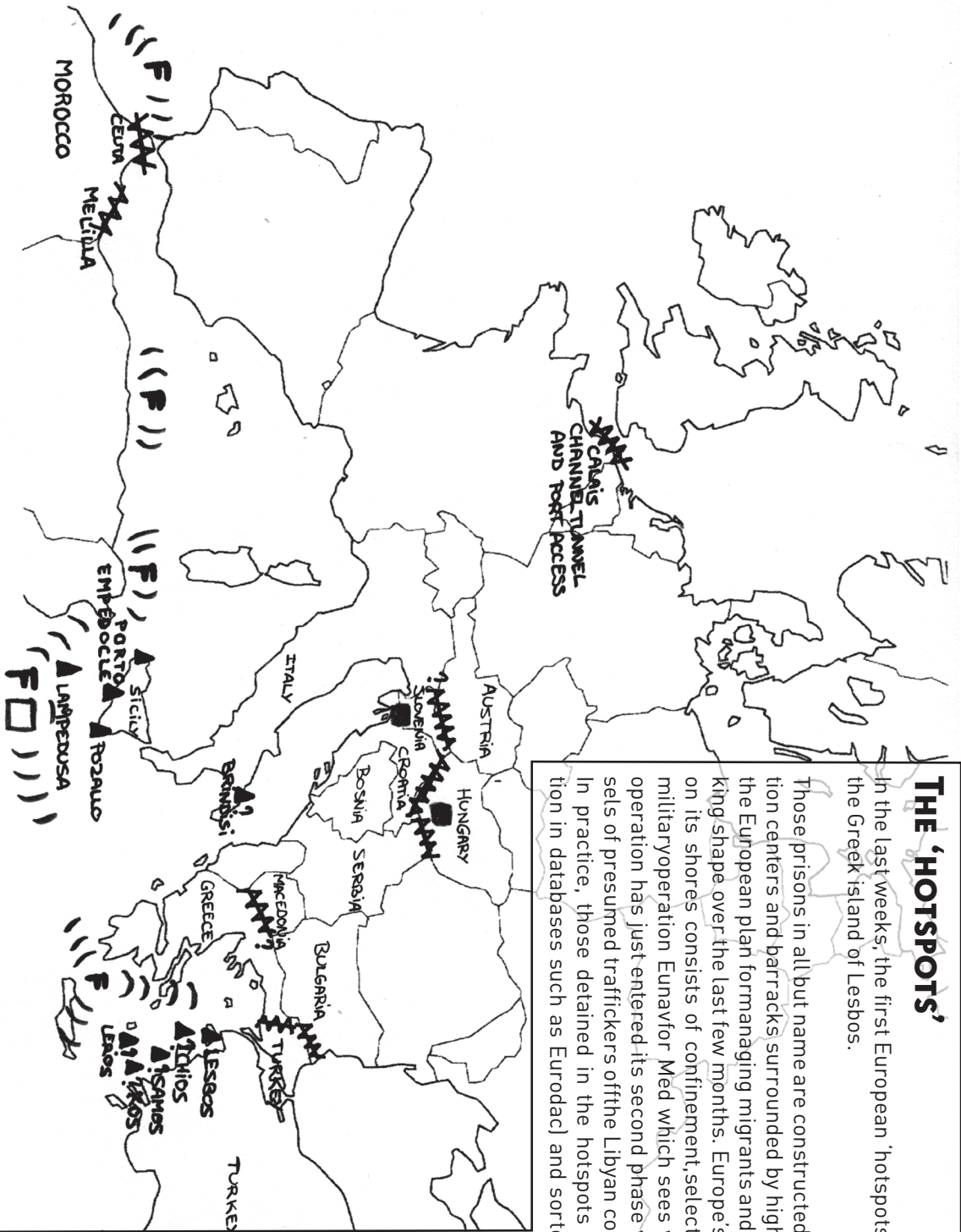
In the last weeks, the first European 'hotspots' have opened their doors in Sicily (Italy) and on the Greek island of Lesbos.

Those prisons in all but name are constructed with containers and prefabs or set up in detention centers and barracks surrounded by highbarbed wire fences. The 'hotspots' are part of the European plan for managing migrants and reinforcing borders that has gradually been taking shape over the last few months. Europe's response to the arrival of thousands of people on its shores consists of confinement, selection and deportations. In addition there is the military operation EUNAVFOR Med which sees war ships deployed in the Mediterranean. This operation has just entered its second phase with the agreement of the UN to bombard vessels of presumed traffickers off the Libyan coast.

In practice, those detained in the hotspots are identified (fingerprints, photos, registration in databases such as Eurodac) and sorted (as asylum seeker and / or migrant). Either their asylum applications are registered and they enter into the relocation plan for the 120,000 refugees the European Union agreed to receive. Or they are deported to their country of origin or to a country they crossed on their way to Europe. The European Union and its member states envisage the deportation of 400,000 people.

In order to succeed in doing this dirty work of human trafficking, the Italian and Greek state are supported by the European Union with money and material resources. The European agencies Frontex (border control), Europol (European police), Eurojust (coordination of judicial activities), or EASO (European office for asylum) are also present at the 'hotspots'. From now until the end of November other camps are set to open in Greece and Italy. Eventually the European Union would also like to open camps in Turkey and Libya.

On 29 October a first demonstration against the 'hotspot' camps and against all borders took place in Thessaloniki, Greece.



EUROPEAN REPRESSION AGAINST MIGRANTS

- BORDERS**
 - BORDER FENCE** (marked with 'X' on the map)
 - BORDER FENCE in discussion** (marked with '??' on the map)
- DETENTION**
 - EUROPEAN 'Hotspot' CAMPS** (marked with 'A' on the map)
 - PLANNED EUROPEAN "Hotspot" CAMPS** (marked with 'A?' on the map)

- MILITARY**
 - STATE ARMY AT BORDERS** (marked with 'F' on the map)
 - EUROPEAN MILITARY OPERATION "EUNAVFOR MED"** (marked with 'F' on the map)
 - FRONTEx OPERATION** (marked with 'F' on the map)

(((()))) AREA OF OPERATION

The life of refugees in France : a struggle to survive

The difficulties and problems refugees face in the course of their long journey towards Europe are things that demand our attention and reflection.

After the risk of death on the seas and oceans, something even worse awaits them. From a journey to find freedom, their situation changes to a struggle for survival and the defense of human dignity.

What makes things so very difficult, is that the European deliberately develop policies with the aim to bully and psychologically exhaust refugees in order to force them to return to their countries.

Those inhumane policies cause disasters that shake up human consciousness.

We see that France leaves refugees to sleep in the streets at risk of starvation, illness and exposure, without water, without medication, without clothing. There are hundreds, thousands of refugees deprived of their right to life and human dignity, not to speak of the liberty and security they sought in coming here.

From a simple quest for security and liberty their fight is transformed in a dramatic manner into a struggle for bare survival.

From my own personal experience, since I arrived in France, I am not exaggerating when I say that I have wished for death to end my plight.

Upon my arrival in Paris I learned that France does not provide housing for refugees on its territory, so I staid amongst hundreds of refugees who had occupied an abandoned school for some years. I found people who seemed to suffer from a destitution that was written on their faces, sleeping on the ground without anything to cover themselves.

We talked about how we could make the French authorities aware of what we were subjected to. Luck was on our side when the media came and disseminated those news to the French public.

It was at that point that the relevant authorities decided to enter into dialogue with us. We described our situation and communicated our demands to them, which included housing in humane conditions as well as trans-

port tickets in order to be able to move around Paris. We also demanded that refugees not be sent too far outside Paris, so that they could continue their procedures and those who had enrolled in French classes could continue them. We demanded the same for the small number who had been able to enroll at University.

The authorities responded in principle favorably to those demands and committed to meeting them.

But we were surprised by the deportation of over half of the refugees from the school to areas more than 400km away from Paris. Many of them returned.

I was unfortunately one of them. I explained myself to the authorities that I studies French in Paris and that I had also enrolled and was awaiting a reply from the university administration, but they refused to deal with this type of situation. I therefore decided to return to Paris, although I have no money to buy a train ticket. Many people in similar situations left. Then we found other migrants at Place de la République, but the French police took the encampment, where people slept, by force and expelled us in a very violent manner.

What I endured in France is not less than what I suffered and faced in my country where the oppression and persecution of an Islamist regime that has declared Jihad against its own people reign, and where political opponents are thrown into prison camps.

Furthermore, the history of our political comrade Professor Mahmoud Abou Bakr is on everyone's mind. He is a leader of the National Opposition Front, a body that brings together several parties in order to overthrow the regime. He was tortured by the Sudanese security services and sentenced to life imprisonment, but could escape and is now seeking political asylum in France, because there is no possibility of protection in our country.

France is a country with a great and long history in the struggle for human rights. The French Revolution shows this well enough. It was not only led for the people of France, but for all peoples, giving them new means to light their path to liberty and social justice.

Statement of the migrants evicted from the République square

2015 NOVEMBER 1

We are without houses nor any rights since more than one year. AND some of the deplacé are new arrived asylum seekers. This morning on 29th of october at 5 am thé police came in place de la republique to our tents and they evacuated us by force AND took all our staff.

After we took place at the school in the Place des Fêtes the go-vernement came and evacuated us from the school.

They promised us to give houses but they just gave some places for a few persons NOT for all.

We have no place for sleeping, no school, no aid from the gover-nement.

This is France ! Not Afghanistan or Palestine.

We are NOT criminals, we are faced with violence as criminals AND they injured us AND behaved as the criminals.

We call people to gether with us



CHRONOLOGY OF LA RÉPUBLIQUE

FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER (MORNING): expulsion of hun-dreds of migrants occupying the Jean Quar-ré high school. At the end of the expulsion over a hundred migrants haven't been taken to centers and are again left in the street.

FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER (AFTERNOON): migrants gather in front of City Hall. After several hours, they obtain places in shelters for 80 people. In the meantime, some have re-turned from shelters that are unfit. Again, 40 remain in the street and are chased away on the morning of the 24th.

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER: demonstration of se-veral hundred in solidarity with migrants imprisoned in London after having crossed the tunnel. At the end of the march the mi-grants occupy Place de la Chapelle then at-tempt to occupy the Bouffes du Nord thea-ter. Immediate, violent intervention of the gendarmes who push them back to Gare du Nord, which is surrounded. With a number of supporters, the migrants regroup and set up in Place de la République next to the tents of the association DAL (Droit au Loge-ment, Right to Housing).

THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER (MORNING): The camp is cleared by force by the CRS at 6 am and the migrants pushed into the subway. At 7 am the migrants that have come back and some supporters are again violently pushed into the subway. After regrouping at Gare de l'Est, the migrants produce a press release and call for a gathering in the evening, and a return to Place de la République.

THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER (EVENING): Gathering of several hundred at République. The camp sets itself back up to the applause of the group. The migrants announce that each time they're expelled they'll come back until their rights are respected.

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER: At 4pm the cops surround the migrants present. Buses are there to send them to shelter centers. The 60 mi-grants refuse to get in the buses as long as the comrades who have returned in the meantime aren't taken as well. The cabinet director gives in and 30 additional migrants board the buses. But others who arrive la-ter are left in the lurch. The police destroy the camp but let the supporters and DAL salvage some of the equipment.

SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER: The migrants who are still in the street and those in the centers who have come in solidarity gather and leave for the March for Dignity with the Collective of Sans-Papiers.

SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER: Several dozen migrants set up again in République.

MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER: Several hundred migrants and supporters demonstrate from République to Châtelet where the gendarmes try to block them. On their return to République the migrants set up tarpaulins for shelter. Intervention by gendarmes to remove the tarps. Despite support from DAL and the secretary of the CGT75 the tarps can't be reinstalled.

TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER: The cops come to wake up the migrants at 5:30am and then at 7:30am and ask that they leave. They stay. In the afternoon they try to reinstall a tarp. The CRS intervene to take it down. The migrants draft a call to gather Friday evening.

WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER: Police harassment in the morning. In the evening, the CRS intervene to remove the banner at the camp where no tarps or tents remain although it's raining. The banner is put back up.

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER: Gathering of 400 migrants and supporters. Tarps and tents are set up again. The head of the CRS comes to ask that they be removed. With the loud booing his megaphone is of no use and he leaves. The tarps and tents remain.

MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER: After three months of camping at République without negotiations with the Prefecture, the latter opens negotiations with DAL. DAL obtains temporary shelter for expelled families and promises of long-term housing. DAL thus takes down its tents but leaves equipment for the migrants who extend the camp.

FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER: At 6am the CRS surround the place de la République. 250 migrants are sent to shelter centers. The camp is destroyed by the police. Dozens of migrants who arrive are left in the lurch.

From Paris to Vichy, the migrants removal machine

Friday 23 of October, despite the judicial decision and contrary to the promises made by the municipality and the prefecture, the former Jean-Quarré high school had been evicted without informing its inhabitants early enough, and with a strong police intervention.

Among the hundreds of people taken in housing, 150 to 200 migrants have been removed in a center in Varennes-sur-Allier, located 350 kilometers to Paris, near Vichy. This without asking or even informing them about the place they were taken to.

Also, no one cared if they had started in Paris their asylum application, if they had set appointments in the prefecture or other office in charge of the asylum procedure.

Arrived there, the migrants found themselves isolated and without informations, with the feeling of being in jail.

Moreover, they were « welcomed » by a flyer titled « 200 illegal muslims arrive in Varennes », distributed by Riposte Laïque, a racist, islamophobic and anti-semitic groupuscule, who called to a rally the 31 of Octobre, noticed by a Front national local councillor of Vichy.

This day, the fascist rally didn't take place, but a counter demonstration of 200 people who support the migrants, called by a union front, took place. The migrants, once again not considered as subjects, were aware of this mobilization only by the news papers. Placed under a compulsory residence order, they couldn't attend the demonstration in solidarity with them.

One week later, about fifty migrants had left the center, preferring the street rather than the isolation. Most of them came back to Paris. As places were again unoccupied in the Varennes-sur-Allier center, the State carried on his removal strategy, transferring migrants from a center located in the 19th district of Paris, where 90 migrants were taken in housing after the high school eviction. Former old people's home, the place had been requisitioned in a hurry and the management given to the Secours populaire.

From the list established by OFII after they visited the center, which purpose was according to the promises to allow the renewal of the housing, the 50 Sudanese people taken in housing in the centre were picked on the basis of their nationality, regardless to any administrative procedure, even for those who had already started their asylum application in Paris. Monday 2 November, a bus arrived to take them. Once again, their opinion was not taken into account by the prefecture, who didn't consult them. The doors of their rooms having been locked, the choice was simple for the migrants : Varenne or nothing.

On the fifty people supposed to be transferred, 30 got into the bus. The other 20 personnes preferred to go back to the street.

New asylum legislation: how to trap asylum seekers?

Since 29 July 2015 France has adopted a new law on asylum in order to modify its legislation to conform to European law. This law is presented as simplifying the procedure, and above all as shortening delays, all obviously to the advantage of asylum seekers. The reality, however, is entirely different.

In each issue we will try to explain part of this incomprehensible law.

HOW TO APPLY FOR ASYLUM?

In terms of access to the procedure, everything has changed. The law talks about a one-stop-shop, which is supposedly easier as it brings together everything in one place.

However, before going to this one-stop-shop that combines the prefecture and OFII (a body attached to the interior ministry), one has to present oneself somewhere else. One better get up early to figure out where this first place where one is required to present oneself might be, because it is practically impossible to find that information.

Once one has found it after all, it turns out that first of all one has to go to the prefecture (although the preliminary obligation of registering a legal address has been scrapped). One has to go to a 'reception platform' managed by an external provider (an association subcontracted and paid by the administration), often large management structures such as France Terre d'asile, Coallia or the French Red Cross. Previously foreigners had to spend the night in front of the prefecture to be lucky enough to be received. From November on they have to queue in the same way elsewhere, in front of an association paid to fill out forms and gather information. How does this constitute any change for asylum seekers, especially since after a variable number of people (30 or 40 depending on the day), the Paris platform closes its doors. The queue starts earlier and earlier, starting around midnight, 11pm for an opening time of 9am.

Thus, while the new law stipulates that an asylum application has to be submitted within 3 days, it requires in reality already a lot of patience in front of the reception platforms and the willingness to sleep outside for several nights. For while France may have adopted the European rule of registering asylum applications within 3 days, the small, but very pernicious detail is that this period starts at the moment one enters the reception platform.

The reception platforms play an administrative role. No real support work is envisaged. Above all they have to gather all information in order to pass it on to the prefecture. Their role is clearer than previously; they are service providers of the administration. It is not insignificant that the administration lets associations handle this work. For the information they have to gather is very important for the subsequent procedure and one is more inclined to confide in an association than in an official of the prefecture. Those questions determine whether France can try to send the asylum seeker back to another country. Indeed, the association will ask the asylum seeker questions about their route in order to see if they can apply the Dublin regulation. Afterward fingerprints are taken at the prefecture, but it is the platform that collects information that can then be used by the prefecture to justify this deportation to another European Union country.

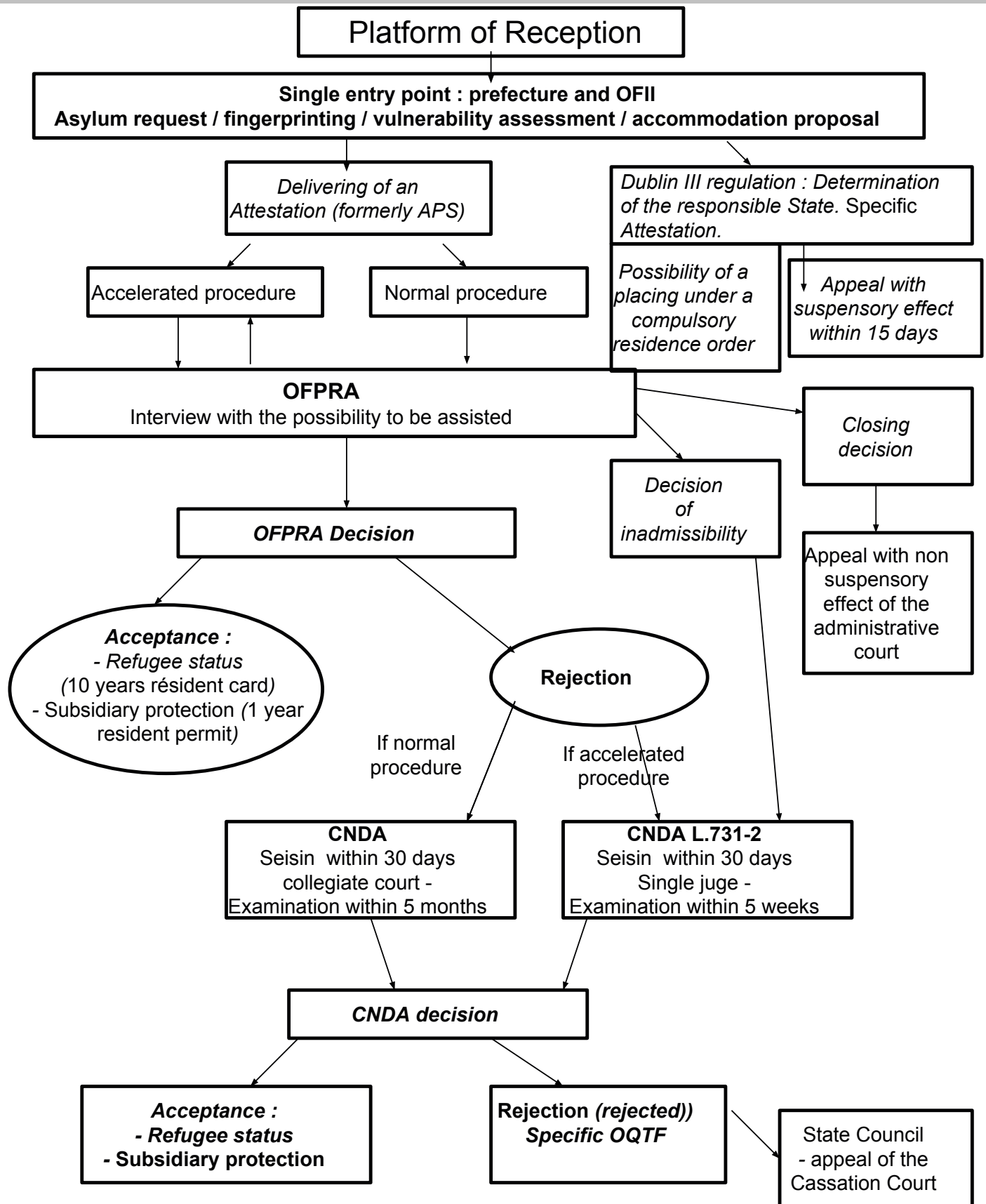
Those questions also allow the administration to determine whether they can apply an expeditious procedure called 'accelerated procedure'. When one is subject to this extremely fast asylum procedure, one is very unlikely to be granted asylum. This procedure can be applied, if one does not cooperate with the administration. That is, if one does not want to reply to the questions, if one lies about one's route or one's situation, if one does not say that one has tried to seek asylum in another country, if one has altered one's fingerprints, if one has applied for asylum after 120 days... The new law has increased the number of cases subject to the expeditious procedure. However, those situations are very common and not caused by bad intent on the part of the asylum seeker, but by their extremely precarious circumstances before they are able to actually access the procedure.

To apply for asylum in Paris:

- for individual asylum seekers: plate-forme d'accueil FTDA, 4 rue Doudeauville 18th (métro La Chapelle – line 2 or Marx Dormoy – line 12); Monday to Friday, 9am.

- for families: CAFDA, 44 rue Planchat 20th (métro Alexandre Dumas – line 2); Monday to Friday, 11am.

Asylum procedure – Reform of November 2015



Document GISTI

The rights of refugees flouted

The 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees defines a refugee as a person who is outside their country of origin or habitual residence, because they fear persecution due to their religious beliefs, the color of their skin, their ethnicity, their social group, or their political opinions, and who can therefore not return to that country.

The Bellagio Protocol (1967) removed geographical and temporary restrictions from the Convention (which had stipulated that only those, who had been victims of persecution prior to 1951, could gain refugee status). It is referred to as «modern refugee law.» Due to this convention, states are expected to receive refugees, protect them and to apply those agreements.

This applies also to states that have not ratified this convention; they have to respect the essential measures of protection, which are considered part of international law in general, and can under no circumstances deport a person demanding international protection back to the country they fled for the aforementioned reason. In addition to those already mentioned, reasons include, threat of assassination, of rape, of repression, and of the collective execution of civilians, employed by corrupt governments, who respect neither their people, nor the basic tenets of human rights. Their main objective is to stay in power, at the price of the souls and the heads of innocent people for as long as possible, such as Omar El Bechir, the president of Sudan, and similar rules of Afri-

can countries, who sacrifice the life and liberty of their citizens.

How could I go back to this environment, which I left, crossing desert and sea, for a brighter outlook, for another corner of the globe? Where are the peace, liberty and serenity I aspire to, if not in Europe? To my great despair certain European countries, such as Germany, Norway, Italy, France and others, send refugees upon their arrival on European territory after a dangerous journey back to the country they fled from. The EU countries have established special laws, the Dublin Agreements, which force the refugee to stay in a territory they have not chosen, which forced them to have their fingerprints taken, without the right to cross its borders.

This is altogether counter to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, in particular Article 13, which stipulates that:

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.
2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

And also Article 14:

1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

Despite all those laws and international conventions about human rights, the Dublin Agreement shuts and locks the borders a little more every day.

REPORT ON THE DEMONSTRATION OF 24 OCTOBER 2015

On Saturday 24 October a demonstration was organized in support of freedom of circulation and residence and against borders, in solidarity with migrants fighting for residency documents and housing, and echoing the gathering at St. Pancras Station in London in solidarity with the three people jailed in Britain for having crossed the Channel tunnel by foot.

Despite the expulsion of the occupied high school several hundred people showed up (700-800 people) -- supporters, collectives of sans-papiers as well as unhoused migrants chased away the same morning from the esplanade in front of City Hall, and others from shelter centers.

Behind the banners "Housing for all, migrants and refugees," "We want a house" in several languages, the march went down rue de Belleville then took Boulevard de la Villette – Boulevard de La Chapelle up to the subway station La Chapelle where numerous other migrants were waiting for the arrival of the demonstration. Another banner explicitly referred to the three migrants imprisoned in Britain: "Liberty for the three walkers under the Channel."

The police presence wasn't visible along the route of the demonstration but was very significant in the adjacent streets. All the squares and buildings occupied these last five months of resistance were heavily guarded, the authorities fearing that another camp would set itself up with the people who didn't get shelter and who left the shelter centers: Château Landon barracks, Saint Bernard church, Pajol Hall.

During the demonstration we received news of the migrants taken in buses to the so-called shelters after the first part of the occupation of the City Hall esplanade: some were taken to a center in Jouy-sur-Morin, others to a community hall in a neighboring village and the rest dropped off in... place de la Nation. The next morning all were thrown into the street.

After the demonstration, the migrants decided to block the intersection at La Chapelle. For 30 minutes traffic was totally held up, until the police presence was reinforced. The group of 100 people moved towards the Bouffes du Nord theater in an attempt to occupy it but were prevented from doing so by a violent charge by riot police (CRS). Several people were injured, some of whom had to be taken to hospital. The CRS continued to

attack and to disperse the demonstrators several times. One group retreated to Gare du Nord then decided to regroup at Stalingrad to discuss what to do. Many migrants were arrested and released. Finally, some decided to spend the night at place de la République, others here and there.

After these two days of repression, the dispersion was nearly complete. But migrants already were beginning to leave the shelters which were either too far away or very poor, while others were thrown back in the street. Henceforth, they're more than ever at the mercy of the police manhunt. Dozens of asylum demand refusals

were announced and these past days huge roundups have taken place in Calais and Paris: the State has to meet its quota of expulsions in the European plan of 400,000 deportations.

After the clearing of the high school, the migrants are again isolated and dispersed. All collective organization was crushed and it's more than necessary to reconstruct a dynamic of resistance and to develop a real position of strength, both to find concrete solutions to respond urgently to the situation, but also to continue the fight against the rule of borders.

LOOKING BACK ON THE EXPULSION FROM THE OCCUPIED HIGH SCHOOL

On Friday 23 October the building of the disaffected high school Jean Quarré was evacuated. Occupied since last 31 July, hundreds of migrants lived there and, over the course of three months, hundreds others had passed through. This occupation came after numerous camps and other occupations, each time evacuated by force and with promises of shelter, systematically leaving a certain number of migrants in the street with nothing, and disseminating the others far and wide in extremely poor conditions.

Announced in advance by the Mayor's office and the Prefecture, and ordered by an administrative court ruling, the expulsion was supposed to take place Monday the 26th. But Thursday rumors circulated that the expulsion would happen the following morning.

Empty promises, negotiated with the Mayor's office and the Prefecture by those who appeared to believe in them, included guarantees of an expulsion without a police presence in the building, with lodging in the Paris region for all residents. But who can still really believe, after five months of resistance, that one obtains anything without confrontation?

So, Friday morning, hundreds of cops, many masked and armed to the teeth, along with representatives of the Mayor's office, the Prefecture, the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless People, the French Office of Immigration and Integration, Emmaüs, and the Red Cross invaded the high school at the stroke of 5 o'clock in the morning. Buses were there to take the residents to shelter centers but without any guarantees regarding their location, administrative procedures, or conditions of shelter.

Inside and outside, supporters were present to demonstrate their solidarity with the migrants, while certain "volunteers" operating at the high school since July helped the authorities proceed with clearing the building.

The result was the same as always, maybe worse: about a hundred people received no shelter and found themselves in the street while others were taken to centers several hundred kilometers away. For the Mayor's office and the Prefecture everything went well and they can congratulate themselves. A well-executed communications operations with an effective result: the residents of the high school are now dispersed far and wide and can't annoy them anymore with their demonstrations, their demands, their collective struggle.

Oh yeah ? The struggle goes on. That afternoon, several dozen people -- migrants who didn't receive shelter during this expulsion and supporters -- marched to City Hall and demonstrated all afternoon, surrounded by the cops, to demand shelter for those thrown into the street after the expulsion. They were rapidly rejoined by others who were coming back from the shelter centers after refusing the reception they got there (difficult living conditions, no food, no guarantees regarding the duration of shelter, no administrative follow-up, distance...). The Mayor's office finally found 80 additional places, but not enough for everybody. Some migrants thus stayed all night in front of City Hall, surrounded by barriers, guarded by cops, until they were expelled at 4 in the morning.

**The struggle goes on! Solidarity with migrants!
Documents and housing for all! Freedom of movement
and residence!**

COMMUNIQUÉS OF MIGRANTS ASSEMBLED IN FRONT OF CITY HALL:



The Mayor's office said it would house us but it was a lie, some were taken but other refugees were left in the street. We need housing and documents. We're here [in front of City Hall] to get it to find a solution to our situation today."



Our priority is to have a roof over our heads. This morning, certain of us had appointments, others had procedures to attend to, when we returned they told us there were no more places. They evacuated the others from the high school and as for us, we're still outside. The Mayor's office lied to us and broke its promise."

FRONTEX

For six months, European government have been organizing meetings in order to solve what they call the migrants crisis. In practice, they meet to discuss how to prevent the most possible people living in poor countries or in countries in war to come to Europe and how to deport most of those who managed to reach Europe. Among their solutions, there is what is called joint flights for deportees. There are planes coordinated by Frontex, the European agency for the control at the external borders, to deport undocumented people living in several European countries. The plane stop in each European country participating in the operation, in order to get the people into the plane, voluntarily or forced. On the plane, there are only deported people, cops and sometimes a neutral observer, from the Red-Cross for example, who by the way denounce the violences only to the people who organize the deportation.

The European union just published a press released informing that these operations of joint deportation will increase more quickly. Actually, only on September and October, 569 persons have been deported through Frontex flights. To compare, in the last years, the deportations coordinated by Frontex were less than 2500 per year. This is thus a significant increase, knowing that this kind of deportations unfortunately doesn't allow the people who support the migrant to try to prevent these deportations, unlike what is possible when this happening on regular flights, where often passengers intercede on the behalf of the deported people.

GERMANY

The German Interior Minister announced last October that "the wave of Afghan asylum seekers is unacceptable" and warned that many of them "should return home."

According to him, the majority of asylum seekers come from "safe regions" of the country and are middle-class.

"These young people should return home and reconstruct their country," he added. With all the money Germany has spent on Afghanistan, "we can expect the Afghans to stay home!"

In short, Germany is mobilizing now, with the European Union, to deport more Afghan migrants, meaning that few of them will obtain asylum and that FRONTEX charter flights will be happening very soon.

In response, dozens of gatherings and demonstrations have taken place in different German cities as well as in shelter centers.

A demonstration is also planned for Saturday 14 November in Kabul to exert pressure on the Afghan government.

PARIS:

VINCENNES RETENTION CENTER

Between the 29th of October and the 3rd of November, about one hundred migrants were caught in Calais and brought to the holding center in order to be detained there. As the very height of cynicism, the bus which brought the first people there carried a commercial sign "safe journey".

Among them, seven Syrians started a hunger strike on the 10th of november.

According to some staff members of the center, other migrants rounded up by the police in Calais are expected.



Demo against borders, october 24, 2015

CALAIS: A HUMANITARIAN EVICTION

November 12, 2015

This morning the belated, much delayed construction of the « New Camp » began. The work was supposed to begin on the 2nd of November 2015. The associations have stated that this date was missed due to « communication problems » with the people living in the area. Actually, the people have consistently refused to leave.

Finally this morning the work began. The first bulldozer to arrive came at approximately 08:00am. It drove amongst people's tents and homes and removed the red poles that indicated the planned construction site. It was soon followed by other heavy construction vehicles throughout the morning. For the moment they seem to have restricted themselves to flattening open and flooded areas and putting up fences that delineate the new site area. However, it will be impossible to begin real construction whilst the people still live in the zone. Following shortly behind the diggers came a wave of « humanitarian » volunteers from the Associations. Wearing a plethora of differently coloured fluorescent jackets, they around the expulsion zone telling people that they had to move their houses and dwellings. They attempted to convince people that the New Camp would be far superior, and many stated that if people did not move soon, the police would come and evict them by force. Belonging to the Salaam and Vie Actif associations, there were around 50 volunteers present, including the President of the Salaam Association, who was seen loudly instructing a group of refugees who mostly didn't speak English that they had to move. They carried orange wristbands, which they gave to people who wanted to take a space in the new camp.

The sudden appearance of heavy construction vehicles and fluorescent clad volunteers did persuade some people to leave the area, picking up

their tents and houses and moving them elsewhere in the jungle. However the vast majority of the people chose to stay. They cited many reasons for doing so, namely the difficulties of living in a large tent with up to 50 people that they didn't know with no privacy, the preference for homes that they had built themselves rather than something that they had no part in constructing, a preference for living in established communities of friendship groups and a complete lack of trust in the French state. Many of the people living in the jungle do not want the new camp.

It should not be surprising to see how far some of the associations collaborate with the state. They have a long history of doing this in Calais. However it is still shocking to watch people giving their time to volunteer for aid organisations doing the work of the police for them. Many of the volunteers argued that the construction of the new camp was a necessary step to improve the conditions in the jungle and to « get people the help they need », however at the same time many acknowledged the coercive nature of what they were doing, with every request backed by the threat of state violence to move the people. There was great feeling of pessimism, that nothing could be done to stop the inevitable progress of the state. If the people had shown the same levels of defeatism and pessimism, they would have left the area on the 2nd of November and work would have already begun!

By the end of the day the association volunteers left having convinced a proportion of the people living in the zone to leave and a small amount of construction work had taken place in the uninhabited areas. CMS believes that there will likely now be an eviction of the zone by police either tomorrow (Friday the 13th) or on Monday (16th).

Calais Migrants Solidarity,

Borders



Demo against borders, october 24, 2015

22

NOVEMBER, AT 3:00 PM, PLACE DE LA BASTILLE

Demonstration in solidarity with migrants, called by many collectives of undocumented people, political organisations and solidarity collectives. For the rights and against Dublin procedure. This demo has been forbidden, but many people will go against the government decision.

then she's coming with a minor and a young woman refugees to take the train. After being arrested during 24 hours, and a police search at her home, she has been charging with «assistance to irregular residence et assistance to coming on the french territory». Solidarity !

8

DECEMBER, COURT OF GRASSE, 1:30 PM
(South of France)

Trial of Claire, an associative militant arrested in July in Antibes (France/Italy border)

14

DECEMBER, COURT OF BOULOGNE-SUR-MER

A militant, present for many weeks on the side of migrants in Calais, will be in front of the court for provocation to rebellion, rocks throwing on cops, refusal of DNA holding. He's accused to be a participant of clashes between migrants and cops. Solidarity and no borders !

FREE LEGAL ADVICES FOR ASYLUM

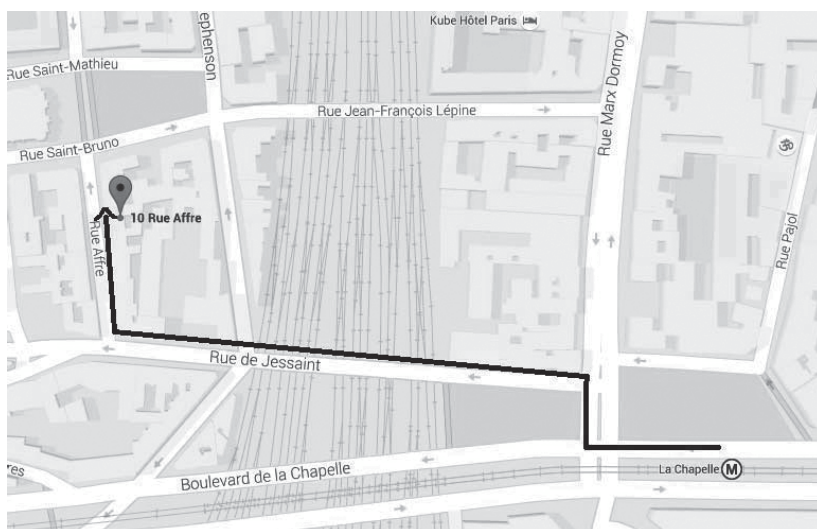
(ASYLUM SEEKERS, REFUGEES)

If you want to know your rights and the process to become asylum seeker in France, you can come to meet us. We will explain you the french laws and how to submit a file.

Our free legal advices are given in 10 rue Affre à Paris (near the subway La chapelle),

- all mondays : 3 pm to 7 pm

- all wednesdays : 1.30 pm to 5.30 pm



LES PERMANENCES D'ACCÈS AUX SOINS (PASS) : HEALTHCARE ACCESS PERMANENCES.

They are open to every person who doesn't get any health insurance (AME - health insurance for undocumented people in France since at least 3 months, CMU - health insurance for people with low income, common health insurance or with mutual insurance).

When you get there, it may be possible to meet a social assistant who would help you in order to get AME or CMU-C.

Lariboisière Hospital, PASS Arc en ciel (Rainbow), 2 rue Ambroise Paré, Subway Gare du Nord (L.4) or Barbès (L.2/4). Phone number : 01.49.95.81.24. For the social health insurance consultation, Phone number : 01.49.95.85.65. Open from Monday til Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saint Louis Hospital, PASS Verlaine, avenue Claude Vellefaux, 75010 Paris. Subway Colonel Fabien (L.2) or Goncourt (L.11). Phone number 01.42.49.91.30. Open from Monday til Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Bichat Hospital, Claude Bernard PASS, 46 rue Henri Huchard, 75018 Paris, Subway Porte de Saint Ouen (L.13). Phone number : 01.40.25.80.80 (switchboard), 01.40.25.84.65 or 01.40.25.80.78 (social health insurance consultation).

In order to call the **Dental Healthcare Bus**, please call the 06.80.00.94.21 or check <http://busdentaire.free.fr> to know when and where it might be possible to get a dental consultation.