

boats  
4 people

# BOATS 4 PEOPLE

Stop migrant deaths at sea.  
For freedom and solidarity  
in the Mediterranean



# **STOP** migrant deaths at sea. **For freedom and solidarity in the Mediterranean**

## **MIGRANT DEATHS AT SEA**

Today, the Mediterranean acts as a route into Europe for migrants seeking survival and a chance of a better life. Some are rescued at sea in tragic circumstances by agencies of European states, only to meet with detention and deportation. In most cases, migrants in distress at sea are left adrift or are intercepted and “pushed back” to countries in the Southern Mediterranean.

As a result of the conflict in Libya, almost one million African, Asian and Middle Eastern migrants fled to neighbouring Tunisia, Egypt, Chad and Niger. The European Union and member states adopted a repressive approach. The EU border control agency Frontex launched an operation to intercept migrants in the Strait of Sicily. Increasing evidence demonstrates that NATO and states participating in the NATO operation in Libya failed to respond to distress calls from migrants off the Libyan coast. The war in Libya is supposedly over, but the war on migrants continues, each shipwreck adding to the more than 1500 migrants who died in the Mediterranean in 2011 (source: UNHCR).

Kaddafi and Ben Ali may have been overthrown, but

so far, the transitional authorities in Libya and Tunisia have not broken with past migration policy. On the contrary, migration agreements are already being concluded with the EU and member states without transparency and emigration continues to be criminalised and migrants in transit continue to be arbitrarily detained. Military boats intercept migrants off the Tunisian and Libyan coasts with the consent of European authorities and camps such as the refugee camp in Choucha, Tunisia are now being used to detain migrants intercepted at sea.

Migrants in the Choucha camp and in Italian detention centres are protesting against violations of their rights. Families of missing Tunisian migrants have organized sit-ins in Tunisia and Italy to demand information on the whereabouts of their loved ones.

European and African governments continue to violate international agreements concerning unconditional rescue at sea, asylum and international protection, with almost complete impunity.

## **BOATS 4 PEOPLE**

Boats 4 People is an international coalition of organizations from the Mediterranean, Africa and Europe. Established to end deaths at maritime borders and to defend migrants' rights at sea, we advocate freedom of movement for all.

We call upon:

- The EU to end its violent control of maritime borders
- Governments of Africa to break with the past and to refuse to sign readmission agreements with European countries and the EU, as these agreements re-



**boats  
4 people**

sult in violations of migrants' human rights.

- All countries to stop prosecuting those who rescue migrants, in accordance with the law of the sea under which all sailors must "proceed with all possible speed to the rescue of persons in distress" (art. 98 of the United Nations Conventions on the Law of the Sea).

## OUR ACTIONS

Together we aim to:

- Build a network of organizations and activists on both shores of the Mediterranean and beyond to fight criminal State policies that violate human rights at sea;
- Build a network of sailors to alert violations of migrants' human rights at sea;
- Bring charges against State agents, NATO or Frontex for violations of migrants' human rights;
- Organize sea missions to document, denounce and prevent violations of migrants' human rights at sea;
- Mobilize people in the Mediterranean, Africa and European so that the Mediterranean becomes a place of solidarity and ceases to be a mass grave for migrants.

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

Boats 4 People will begin activities in July 2012 with a boat rally between Italy and Tunisia. The crew will be composed of activists, parliamentarians, artists and journalists. The planned stops are:

- **Cecina-Italy (1-2 July)**: International Antiracist Meeting
- **Palermo-Italy (5-7 July)**: Activists will stage pro-

tests against detention and in the harbour and will board the ferry to...

- **Tunis and Monastir-Tunisia (8-16 July)**: Protests, conferences and other activities will be organized in parallel to the International preparatory meeting of the World Social Forum Tunisia 2013.

- **Lampedusa-Italy (July 19th)**: Symbol of the EU's violent border policy and location of B4P final event coinciding with the launch of the Infestival film fest on migration.

We call on all activists, migrants and supporters of migrants' solidarity networks, to join us!

## TAKE ACTION NOW!

**DONATE!** online at [www.boats4people.org](http://www.boats4people.org) or by money transfer to IBAN FR76 1027 8060 1100 0202 6600 255 BIC : CMCIFR2A - Migreurop - 21 ter rue Voltaire - 75011 Paris

**SUPPORT!** Organize an event to support B4P with your local group/organization! For information, posters, flyers...: [contact@boats4people.org](mailto:contact@boats4people.org)

**TRANSLATE!** B4P needs translators ! To join our international translation team: [contact@boats4people.org](mailto:contact@boats4people.org)

**JOIN US!** If you have a boat (or not!) and want to participate to our rally: [contact@boats4people.org](mailto:contact@boats4people.org)

For more information about our project, how to donate and subscribe to our mailing-list :

[www.boats4people.org](http://www.boats4people.org)

Twitter and Facebook: **Boats 4 People**

[contact@boats4people.org](mailto:contact@boats4people.org)



# WHO ARE WE?

Boats 4 People is an international coalition, created to defend migrants' rights at sea and sure these rights are respected. It brings together the following organizations:

**INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS:** **Afrique-Europe-Interact**, **Euro-African network Migreurop**, **FIDH** (International Federation For Human Rights)

**FRANCE:** **CCFD-Terre solidaire** (Comité Catholique contre la Faim et pour le Développement), **FASTI** (Fédération des associations de solidarité avec les travailleurs.es immigré.e.s), **Cimade**, **GISTI** (Groupe d'Information et de Soutien des Immigrés), **RESF 13** (Réseau Éducation Sans Frontières Bouches du Rhône)

**GERMANY:** **Flüchtlingsrat Hamburg** (Refugee Council Hamburg), **Welcome to Europe**

**ITALY:** **ARCI**

**MALI:** **AME** (Association Malienne des Expulsés), **ARACEM** (Association des Refoulés d'Afrique Centrale au Mali)

**MOROCCO:** **ABCDS** (Association Beni Znassen pour la Culture, le Développement et la Solidarité), **GADEM** (Groupe antiraciste d'Accompagnement et de Défense des Étrangers et Migrants)

**NETHERLANDS:** **All Included**

**TUNISIA:** **CETUMA** (Centre de Tunis pour la Migration et l'Asile), **FTDES** (Forum Tunisien pour les Droits Économiques et Sociaux)

## THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PROJECT:

ANAFE (Association nationale d'assistance aux frontières pour les étrangers - France), CCFD - Terre Solidaire (Comité Catholique Contre la Faim et pour le Développement - France), CIRE (Coordination et initiatives pour réfugiés et étrangers - Belgium), CNCD-11.11.11 (Centre National de Coopération au Développement - Belgium), Emmaüs International, FASTI (Fédération des associations de solidarité avec les travailleur-euse-s immigré-e-s - France), FIDH (International Federation for Human Rights), Forschungsgesellschaft Flucht und Migration e.V (Germany), Gisti (Groupe d'Information et de Soutien des Immigrés - France), Réseau Foi et Justice Afrique Europe (France), Secours Catholique (Caritas France)...



boats  
4 people

graphic design:  
**CLAUDIA RANZANI**

photos:  
**SARA PRESTIANNI**  
**LEONA GOLDSTEIN | ZAPANKA**