

Open letter to subscribers (25.03.2011)

Dear friends, worth initiatives and organizations!

The declaration "Freedom, not Frontex" was signed by you, in many feedbacks there were explicit words for our text. For this confirmation and encouragement we would like to thank at first warmly. On the web pages called over again below find themselves – listed accordingly of the dates of receipt – all signatures come up to now.

When the text was written, the rulers were chased away in Tunisia and Egypt and also the Libyan despot seemed to stand shortly before the case. In this situation – with the concurrent road break of several watchdogs of the EU-border regime in North Africa – we wanted to formulate from migration-political perspective a more basic position and spread which turns offensively against the dishonest freedom rhetoric of those which brought once more Frontex against refugees and migrants in position.

The varied signatures and feedbacks confirm us that this positioning spoke obviously to many from the heart and in so far it has had an at least encouraging effect.

In the new issue of the left month newspaper „analyse and kritik“ the declaration was printed on the cover, in articles, e.g., of "Freitag" the text was quoted, in the Labournet and on some other web pages he can be found at prominent place.

However, a broader discourse intervention, thus after a movement-political spectrum, can and does not want to be maintained with it of course. Whether such a declaration in itself or in the teamwork with real-political initiatives of NGOs – can win indirect influence in the present situation, e.g., with the calls to the refugee's admission or evacuation from per asylum and Medico Internationally-, is absolutely a controversial question. In addition it would maybe need (money) means for the broader publication of which we do not dispose. However, we believe that a more important decision is, that such a discourse initiative would have to stand in the living interplay with practical interventions. This seemed quite difficult when the text was published for the first time. And also if in some towns solidarity actions with the uprisings took place in the Arabian world (in Bremen together with a "freedom instead of Frontex" demonstration), protests and activities have not become easier in addition under today's conditions.

Since as we know meanwhile, it came in Libya differently than in the beginning of March still expected and wished. The beginning of military attacks from the west followed the rolling forecastle of the Gaddafi regime against the uprising movement meanwhile. The foreseeable bloodbath in the opposition in Benghazi could be stopped with it maybe, however, the new war serves certainly own imperial power interests – with the usual "collateral damages". The hopeless situation is the result of a fatal power-political dynamism, in this

polarized discourse per and against military intervention we can't and we do not want to join in. We wish the Gaddafi regime further the coup. Whether the equipment massively demanded by the Libyan opposition of a so-called no-fly zone turns out really helpful, however, the history must point. The political influencing control of the west will allow to the Libyan population, in any case, barely autonomous, free and socially fair creation of her society. How further with the declaration?

We had – after the attempt of the discourse intervention – no concrete, other “plan” with our declaration. Indeed, we have not written the text also „from the hollow belly “.

On the one hand, we are involved since several years in the campaign against Frontex which has contributed at least in the German-speaking space to the fact that – the so-called protection of the borders agency – Frontex is perceived after narrow movement circles as a symbol or, in any case, jointly known as responsible for a deadly exclusion policy. In it we could and wanted to go back on the occasion of the operation Hermes with the text and the striking heading.

To the other we are involved at different levels in the growing euroafrican interlinking of migration-political initiatives. For many years there are good connections to Morocco, and with the caravan project from Bamako to Dakar few weeks ago the collaboration with groups has intensified topically in West Africa. In this respect it was obvious to position itself in view of the layouts in North Africa publicly and offensively, not least to develop new contacts in the lands where these seem up to now rare: in Tunisia, Algeria, Libya and Egypt.

In this sense the declaration is meanwhile not only on in English, in French, in Spanish and in Italian available but also on in Arabic. We ask with respect to that all signatories for forwarding to her respective political and/or personal international contacts – in particular in the Arabian world.

And at the same time seems to us at least for some other weeks important that the text on possibly many web pages remains well placed or becomes at least verlinkt.

Since even if it had disappeared – at first by the disaster events in Japan, then by the military attacks on Libya – from the main headlines of the last weeks which went migration movements from or over Tunisia to Lampedusa and continuously go on. The whole question of the migration control in North Africa is and remains for the EU-border regime of determining meaning. How the revolutionary processes develop in Tunisia and Egypt, is still open, the protests and uprisings in the whole Arabian space continue without reduction. And in this respect message and contents of “Freedom, not Frontex” still remain topical.

Possibly at the middle of April we will send once again an info letter to all signatories and enthusiasts to report about other developments and contacts in the context of the declaration. In preliminary

planning a visit trip is among other things to Tunisia. Who has more immediate cocreation and participation interest, may likewise announce itself briefly. (And vice versa: who has enough information and likewise wants to be loaded by us not further.)

With the best greetings from the editorial staff team of:
Welcome to Europe
Afrique-Europe-Interact
Netzwerk Kritische Migrations- und Grenzregimeforschung