

human rights

KNOW

NO BORDERS.

menschenrechte KENNEN KEINE GRENZEN.
les droits de l'homme NE CONNAISSENT PAS DE FRONTIÈRES.



We are a non-party, non-organizational civil society alliance of individuals who disagree with the current asylum policy of the European Union.

We are planning a rally on May 20 at 19:00 to demand a European asylum system that is in line with international human rights law.

The Geneva Refugee Convention entered into force sixty years ago. The Convention stipulates that all persons who are forced to flee their countries due to persecution must be granted protection by the states in which they seek refuge. The reality of the Austrian as well as the European asylum policy does not reflect this obligation however; an increasingly restrictive migration policy, the erosion of the right to asylum and the intensified protection of borders make it near impossible for those seeking protection to legally reach safe countries.

The extended mandate of FRONTEX, the European Border Agency, with increasingly comprehensive powers; the legal nature of these often being problematic, has further impinged upon this right and has made seeking refuge in Europe even more life-threatening.

Since 2000, the reinforcement of "Fortress Europe" has cost at least 23,000 people their lives. In reality, the actual figures are estimated to be much higher. The near daily deaths on Europe's external borders arouse short-term political and media attention but the necessary political action remains to be seen.

The ongoing refugee crisis in Syria- the greatest of all time according to the UNHCR- and the slow uptake of Syrian refugees by EU member states demonstrates just how important political action and a European system in line with human rights law are.

Just as before, people do not voluntarily flee their homes and their native countries. Applying for asylum is a right and granting protection to refugees does not constitute a generous favour by receiving states.

That is why we want to take a stand together.

We want to show that it is people with names and stories that have died on Europe's borders seeking protection, not numbers and statistics.

We demand a fundamental reform of the European asylum system as the current asylum and border policy does not speak for us. We want to live in a Europe whose priority it is to protect humans, not borders.

We are a non-party, non-organizational civil society alliance of individuals who disagree with the current asylum policy of the European Union and we welcome organisations and people who wish to support this initiative.

We invite you to join us at a rally on May 20 at 19:00 to demand a European asylum system that is in line with international human rights law. At this rally, we plan to make the fate of refugees who died on Europe's borders visible through the projection of their names and the lighting of candles. A detailed programme of the rally is currently being prepared.

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