

## Short report about the ESF Assembly on Migrations - Saturday, 6.5.06, Athens

### Agenda:

1. Short report about results of the migration related seminars (will follow later)
2. Introduction: Proposals for common actions
3. Discussion and decision about common day(s) of action in 2006 and ideas for 2007

### 2:

A **calendar of events**, which are already fixed, was presented:

- 22.-24.06.06: World Social Forum on Migration in Madrid / Spain
- 23.-25.06.06: 2nd Caravan for Freedom of Movement in Barcelona / Spain
- 30.6.-1.7.06: Conference/Counter Summit to the EU-African Summit in Rabat /Morocco
- 06.-16.07.06: Antiracist Meeting in Cecina/Italy

January 2007: WSF in Nairobi / Kenia

June/July 2007: Anti-G8 (Migration-related Demo) in Rostock / Germany

For a **Common Day of Action**, there were already some proposals from different countries and movements, and some more ideas were added during the assembly. All these proposals concerning actions, dates and contents/demands were listed on a paper on the wall:

### Actions and Dates:

- 3rd Day of Action - in Europe, (with a relation to the) USA (mobilization for September) and Africa (Bamako-Nairobi-process) in the beginning of October 2006 (because of 1 year after the events in Ceuta/Melilla) or 18th December (UN-Convention of worker's rights)
- Global Day against Detention/Camps (Australian-British initiative)
- WSF-Bamako - Nairobi - process (call for an International Mobilization Day)
- Idea of a central Demonstration in Brussels
- Anti-G8-demonstration of migrants June/July 2008 in Rostock/Germany
- Campaign for the UN Convention of worker's rights
- International Tribunal against mistreatment and violence against migrants

For all of these proposals it would be important:

- to have a common call, also to promote our network
- to have a self-representation of migrants

### Contents and Demands:

- for an unconditional legalization on the European level / papers for all and equal rights to all migrants
- for freedom of movement and the right to stay
- for the closure of all detention centers and camps
- for the stop to externalization and deportations
- for the uncoupling of the link between resident permit and labour contract
- for worker's rights (UN Convention)
- for asylum and especially women asylum rights
- for a European citizenship
- against anti-"terror"-laws and criminalization of migrants
- attack immigrants laws
- attack African governments and their collaboration with the EU

### 3:

In the **discussion**, all speakers were in favour of a common day of action in autumn 2006. It should not only take place in Europe, but it should be coordinated with/referring to actions promoted by the American migrant's movements in September and the process started on the WSF in Bamako, proposing an international day of mobilization concerning migration in preparation of the WSF in January 2007 in Nairobi.

A common day of action could take place in a lot of cities in Europe and Africa. The idea of a demonstration in Brussels could be a part of this agenda in order to show that we are addressing Europe as a whole.

One idea was to have an action and a press conference in Brussels one or two weeks before the International Day of Action to launch the campaign, also referring to the actions of sans papiers in Belgium. If a central demonstration in Brussels is possible in 2007 or if it would be better to take the Anti-G8-demonstration in June/July in Rostock as a central migration-related mobilization, should be decided after discussions in the different groups and networks.

Other speakers proposed a campaign for the UN convention on worker's rights, which was adopted on the 18th of December, but not signed by most European and African governments.

Concerning the date of a **common day of action**, the 18th of December (or the Saturday after this date) was considered as too late and too close to Christmas by most of the speakers. A Moroccan speaker proposed the 2nd of October as a date to remind of the actions and the dead people in Ceuta, Melilla and Morocco one year before.

In the end, **all people agreed on the 7th of October**, the Saturday after this proposed date.

To summarize the discussions and decisions, a group of people from different countries wrote a text to propose it as declaration of the migration related networks for the final ESF assembly on Sunday morning. Most of the demands and proposals in this text became part of the Declaration of the Assembly of the Movement of the 4th European Social Forum, but it would be also important to spread our text as a whole:

### **Declaration of the ESF assembly on migrations**

The fourth ESF gives a strong place to the migration struggles, analyses and demands. The several meetings and seminars aimed at the European and transnational dimension of migrants' movement and struggles.

More or less every day we can find all over Europe, and not only Europe, protests and campaigns against camps and deportations, for asylum rights for women and men, for a European citizenship of residence and against exploitation of migrant labour. In this frame, we want to propose a European day of action and mobilisation, which will be the third in the European social forum process.

We decided for the date of October 7, 2006, because it reminds the events in Ceuta and Melilla, the southern European border, but also because it will connect the European action with the international mobilisation proposed in Bamako, toward the world social forum in Nairobi.

Furthermore, we want to connect our initiative with the one promoted by American migrants' movement in September, in order to stress the global dimension of migrant struggles today. The third European day of action will be directed against the denial of rights and criminalization of migrants, claiming for clear demands in the frame of freedom of movement and the right to stay: for a European unconditional legalization and equal rights to all migrants; for the closure of all detention centers in Europe, to stop to externalization, to stop the deportations; against the precariousness and for the uncoupling of the link between resident permit and the labour contract.

More documents about the ESF (4.-7.5.06, Athens) are on different websites, among others on [www.athens.fse-esf.org](http://www.athens.fse-esf.org) (in Greek and other languages) and [www.fluechtlingsrat-hamburg.de](http://www.fluechtlingsrat-hamburg.de) (in English)

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