

MONTHLY REVIEW: DECEMBER 2022



This monthly press review covers Eurafrican migration control, migration and displacement in African countries and news on the European border regime. In case there is a news item, report, or campaign you would like to flag for in next month's review please write us to migr-contr@ffm-online.org or on Twitter [@MigControl](https://twitter.com/MigControl).

NEW ON MIGRATION-CONTROL.INFO

Blog EU Border Externalization in the Central Mediterranean: The Implementation of a System of Forced Return to Libya: We have translated the Civil MRCC report "The Implementation of a System of Forced Return to Libya" into Arabic. This report focuses on the increasing outsourcing of migration control in the Mediterranean, especially to the so-called Libyan Coast Guard. It shows how this so-called coast guard has gradually been established and expanded with the support of European states, above all the Italian state, in order to stop migration in the interest of Europe. This has created a system of forced return to Libya, which we observe today and all too often leads to deaths - a system that must be condemned in the strongest terms. Read the report [here](#) in Arabic, in English it can be found [here](#).

Blog Die IOM in Nordafrika (IOM in Northafrica): On our blog we published (in DE) an extensive review of Inken Bartels' publication "The International Organization for Migration in North Africa: Making International Migration Management." The book focuses on the International Organization of Migration IOM and IOM's activities in the context of North Africa, especially Tunisia and Morocco. The review provides insight into the structure of the book and shows the argumentative lines that Bartels follows in the book. Furthermore, the review also creates its own small historical outline of the more than twenty-year history of resistance against the IOM and thus creates an added value that is worth reading.

Blog Deadly policies in the Mediterranean: stop the shipwrecks caused off the coast of Tunisia: This blog post is both a petition migration-control.info project signed this month, as well as an informative report on the outsourcing of migration control to Tunisia, in particular to the Tunisian coast guard. The report traces the political decisions of recent years that have turned the Mediterranean into a cemetery. The report is also an announcement: "We - Tunisian and transnational civil society - will continue to jointly document, denounce and oppose these violent practices, this repressive mobility control

regime, and these violations of rights at sea on both sides of the Mediterranean, as well as the externalization policies that enable and encourage them.”

CENTRAL AFRICA

Chad 06.12.22: Al Jazeera: **Chad jails more than 260 people after mass trial over protests:** “A court in Chad has handed out jail terms of between two and three years to more than 260 people arrested after anti-government protests in October, while defence lawyers have argued that the trial was “illegal”. A total of 401 people were put on mass trial in Koro Toro prison, a high-security jail located in the desert 600km (375 miles) from the capital N’Djamena last week.”

Chad 13.12.22: AP: **Bodies of 27 migrants found in Chad desert, says UN group:** “The bodies of 27 migrants including four children have been found in the Chadian desert, the International Organization for Migration said. More than 5,600 people have died or gone missing trying to cross the Sahara Desert in the last eight years with 110 migrant deaths recorded in Chad, including these most recent ones, said the organization. The actual numbers, however, are thought to be higher as many deaths go unrecorded.”

Uganda 01.12.22: TNH: **‘Hell is coming’: The Ugandan army’s heavy-handed crackdown in Karamoja** [Background Report]: “This is the unforgiving logic of the Ugandan army’s disarmament campaign in Karamoja, a region of 1.2 million people in the country’s northeastern borderlands. Soldiers round up men indiscriminately and detain some for long periods without charge. They allegedly extort money, torture suspects, and kill civilians.”

EAST AFRICA

23.11.22: Tagesspiegel: **Dürre in Ostafrika (Drought in East Africa):** In the fight against hunger, German Development Minister Svenja Schulze (SPD) is making 360 million euros available to the drought-stricken countries of Somalia, Ethiopia and Sudan. As the ministry announced in Berlin on Thursday [22 December], the money will flow into rapid aid for the poorest as well as into longer-term projects to prevent famine disasters in the future. In the Horn of Africa, more than 35 million people are suffering from the worst drought in more than 40 years.

See also taz 20.12.22: **Somaliland: Jahre der Dürre (Somaliland: Years of Drought)**

Ethiopia 30.12.22: Al Jazeera: **Mediators meet to bolster Ethiopia truce as Tigray conflict dims:** “Mediators between Ethiopia’s federal government and authorities in the Tigray

region, embroiled until last month in a brutal war, are stepping up efforts to enforce a truce as relations between the two sides inch closer towards normality.”

See also 27.12.22: Al Jazeera: **Ethiopian Airlines to resume flights into Tigray region;** 29.12.22: taz: **Mehr Frieden und neue Ängste (More peace and new fears)**

Sudan 19.12.22: Al Jazeera: **Sudanese security forces tear-gas pro-democracy protesters:** “Thousands of demonstrators in Khartoum demand an end to military rule and justice for those killed since last year’s coup.”

Sudan 28.12.22: NZZ: **In den Leichenhäusern von Khartum geschieht Seltsames. Weil jemand Verbrechen vertuscht? (Strange things are happening in the morgues of Khartoum. Because someone is covering up crimes?):** Since the beginning of the revolution, hundreds of people have disappeared in Sudan. At the same time, dead bodies are mixed up in the overcrowded morgues. Or they go missing.

Sudan 28.12.22: Al Jazeera: **After Sudan deals, dissenters say military has silenced them:** “A series of reconciliation deals have sought to end the fighting in Darfur, but opponents say they do not go far enough, and that they have been punished for saying so. On December 11, more than 200 detainees from Darfur started a hunger strike to demand their release. The tactic prompted authorities to free 57 detainees, yet foreign officials have remained silent about the plight of those still behind bars. On December 6, Hemeti called the October coup a mistake and encouraged the security forces to commit to “transitional justice”. The next week, Sudan’s government-appointed National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) named Hemeti person of the year for 2022, citing his role in mediating peace agreements in Darfur.”

See also 05.12.22: Al Jazeera: **Protests as Sudan military, parties sign initial transition deal;** 06.12.22: taz: **Nur ein Deal der Eliten? (Only a Deal of the Elite?);** 06.12.22: taz: **Militär unterschreibt Machtverzicht (Military signs waiver of power)**

NORTH AFRICA

Egypt / Italy 18.12.22: Guardian: **‘Life is ebbing away’: Egyptians face peril at sea in dangerous new exodus to Europe:** “[...]Increasing numbers of young Egyptians [...] chose to flee Egypt’s deepening economic crisis and authoritarian repression. There is a well-trodden migration route previously subject to an intense crackdown by the Egyptian state with support by the European Union. This path, from Egypt to the Libyan coast and then to Italy, has recently been resurrected after a five-year drop in numbers: over 20,000 Egyptians have arrived in Italy via Libya so far this year, almost three times the number

who crossed by the same time last year, according to data from the Italian interior ministry.”

Libya 25.11.22: AfricaNews: **200 migrants bused in convoys to Libyan border crossings:** “Embassy staff from the migrants' home nations watched the process. The group of returnees included “105 Egyptians, 101 Chadians and 20 Sudanese”. Libya is a much travelled by route for people fleeing conflict and poverty across the continent, seeking refuge across the Mediterranean in Europe. Most enter via the country's vast southern borders in the Sahara desert. The United Nations previously handled the repatriations, but a deal between Libyan authorities in the west, east and south has enabled the Interior Ministry's agency tackling illegal migration to work across the country.”

Tunisia 17.12.22: Guardian: **Tunisian parliamentary election records just 8.8% turnout:** “Tunisia has been plunged into political uncertainty after it recorded the lowest electoral turnout in its recent history following President Kais Saied’s suspension of parliament and subsequent redrawing of the country's political map.”

WEST AFRICA

08.12.22: UN News: **UN agencies warn again of record hunger next year in West and Central Africa:** “The number of hungry people in West and Central Africa could reach a record high of 48 million next year, which should serve as a final “wake-up call” for regional governments to act now, three UN agencies said on Thursday [8 December].”

Burkina Faso / Ghana 16.12.22: BBC: **Wagner Group: Burkina Faso anger over Russian mercenary link:** “President Akufo-Addo, speaking on the sidelines of the US-Africa summit in Washington DC on Wednesday, said Ghana's northern neighbour had made a deal with the mercenary group. “Today, Russian mercenaries are on our northern border. Burkina Faso has now entered into an arrangement to go along with Mali in employing the Wagner forces there,” he said. He also said that Burkina Faso had ceded a mine, reportedly with gold reserves, near the border with Ghana in exchange for the group's services to deal with the militant insurgency that began in 2015. In recent weeks, hundreds of people fleeing militants attacks in Burkina Faso have crossed the border into northern Ghana.”

Mali 18.12.22: RFI: **Mali: le chef du Haut conseil islamique veut «dire la vérité» aux dirigeants de la transition (Mali: The head of the High Islamic Council wants to “tell the truth” to the transition leaders):** He speaks of an “unprecedented crisis” and believes that “things are not going well, either in terms of security or in terms of food. Cheick Chérif Ousmane Madani Haidara is careful not to attack the leaders of the transitional

government head-on and says he does not want to incite protests, but he is not content to call for prayer.

Mali 22.12.22: Reuter: **Mali's northern armed groups pull out of Algiers peace talks:** “A coalition of armed groups in northern Mali on Thursday pulled out of long-running peace talks based on a 2015 Algiers accord because of what they call a lack of political will on the part of the West African country's military government. The coalition, called the Permanent Strategic Framework for Peace, Security and Development (CSP-PSD), said in a statement that it would only come back to the table if talks were held in a neutral country under international mediation.”

Mali / Ivory Coast 30.12.22: NYT: **They Said They Went to Mali to Keep the Peace. Now They're Jailed as Mercenaries:** “A court in the increasingly isolated West African nation of Mali sentenced 46 soldiers from neighboring Ivory Coast to 20 years in jail on Friday, after the military junta that runs Mali accused them of being mercenaries. The government of Ivory Coast said the soldiers were in Mali to support the United Nations peacekeeping mission, but the Court of Appeal in Mali's capital, Bamako, convicted them of crimes including conspiracy against the government.”

See also AfricaNews: 05.12.22: **ECOWAS demands release of Ivorian soldiers held by Mali**

Mali / Sahel Nov / Dec 2022: Westpoint: **How the Wagner Group Is Aggravating the Jihadi Threat in the Sahel** [Background Report]: The arrival of Russian mercenaries hastened the departure of French and European forces. However, the Russian private military company did not deploy capable, disciplined, and well-equipped troops to fill the gap, and its brutal and indiscriminate counterinsurgency efforts are serving as a recruiting tool for the jihadis. A year after the arrival of the Russian mercenaries to Mali, the security situation has worsened. With concern that Wagner may seek out Burkina Faso as its next client, the Russian mercenaries' aggravation of the jihadi threat has very concerning implications for the stability and security of the region.

See also 01.12.22: International Crisis Group: **MINUSMA at a Crossroads**; 16.12.22: Africa Report: **Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger Islamic State in the Greater Sahara flexes its muscles**

Mauretania 07.12.22: Anadolu: **Mauritanie : Activation d'un système de contrôle de sécurité à Nouakchott (Mauritania: Activation of a security control system in Nouakchott):** Funded by China to the tune of \$20 million, the project will enable immediate and effective response through a communication system between different police and security departments, according to the agency. It will also process data that threatens public order and handle security emergencies through communication and

urgent police response, especially in complex areas such as large markets, banks, major road junctions and entrances and exits to major points. The system includes surveillance equipment for sensitive areas, a fourth-generation communication system with 1,500 mobile stations, 5 cars and 316 video surveillance cameras, in addition to the possibility of expansion to 1,000 surveillance points.

Niger / EU 05.12.22: Infomigrants: **Niger president calls for new pact with Europe to help manage migration**: "Nigerien President Mohamed Bazoum has said that new accords are needed with Europe in order to manage migration properly. He has called for quotas linked to the needs of the job market in Europe. "We should base things on the numbers of Africans that are needed by the job market in France, Italy and Spain," said Mohamed Bazoum, Niger's president, in an interview with the Italian newspaper La Repubblica on Friday, December 2. In order to try and manage migration, Bazoum thinks new "recipes" are needed, different from the accords signed in Valletta, Malta in 2015."

Niger / Germany 16.12.22: Reuters: **Germany to contribute to EU mission in Niger - defence minister**: "Germany will play a substantial role in a planned EU mission in Niger, German Defence Minister Christine Lambrecht said during a visit to the capital Niamey on Friday. "We are not leaving the Sahel on its own," she told reporters, without putting a figure on the number of troops Berlin would contribute to the mission. At a meeting in Brussels on Monday, EU foreign ministers paved the way for a three-year military mission to Niger to support the country in its fight against armed groups."

See also Al Jazeera 12.12.22: **Nigerian government rejects report on military abortion programme**

Sahel 14.12.22: Clingendael Echoes, Special Issue: **As Truth Gets Lost in the Sand: The Spread of Disinformation in the Sahel** [Background Report]: "The surge in active disinformation across the region comes at a time of deep political uncertainty and wavering regional partnerships. This correlation is relevant because it demonstrates the quest to harness public support through whatever means is happening at multiple levels, from the local to the international arenas. In the Sahel, political elites benefit from the dissemination of fake news or distorted information as they seek to consolidate influence and power."

WEST ASIA

Jemen 26.12.22: Jungle World: **Die Hälfte der Bevölkerung leidet an Nahrungsmittelknappheit (Half of the population suffers from food shortages)**: UNICEF highlighted that more than 23.4 million Yemenis, three quarters of the national

population, require assistance and protection, and 17.8 million lack access to water, sanitation and hygiene services.

Syria 04.12.22: Al Jazeera: **Rare anti-government protest turns deadly in southern Syria:** “Demonstrators are angry with the Assad government over rising prices, power cuts, food and fuel shortages. [...] Anti-government demonstrations are rare in Syria, where President Bashar al-Assad stamped out a pro-democracy uprising more than a decade ago. Nearly half a million people have been killed and half the country’s population has been displaced since the peaceful uprising in 2011 evolved into a bloody war. Assad has survived, but the conflict has plunged Syria into poverty. Its people also face food and energy shortages.”

EUROPE

Croatia 31.12.22: Al Jazeera: **Croatia to switch to euro, enter passport-free Schengen zone:** “With the onset of the new year in a few hours, Croatia will adopt the euro currency and enter Europe’s passport-free Schengen zone after nearly a decade since joining the European Union.”

See also 08.12.22: European Council: **Schengen area: Council decides to lift border controls with Croatia**

Greece 22.12.22: **Strafverfahren gegen Helfer (Criminal Proceeding against helpers):** The Kos prosecutor’s office has initiated criminal proceedings against two prominent refugee aid workers. The accusations are fierce: they are alleged to have founded a criminal organization and to have aided and abetted migration.

Italy 29.12.22: Al Jazeera: **Italy tightens rules for asylum seeker rescue ships:** “Italy’s right-wing government has approved new measures to fine charities who rescue asylum seekers at sea and impound their ships if they break new rules, possibly putting thousands of people’s lives in danger.”

See also 11.12.22: Al Jazeera: **More than 500 refugees arrive in Italy as rescue ships dock;** 27.12.22: Deutschlandfunk: **Ocean Viking darf in Ravenna anlegen (Ocean Viking may dock in Ravenna);** 29.12.22: taz: **Italien erlässt Dekret zur Seenotrettung (Italy issues decree on rescue at sea)**

Serbia / Kosovo 30.12.22: Al Jazeera: **Kosovo opens all border crossings as Serbs remove roadblocks:** “All border crossings linking Kosovo to Serbia have reopened after ethnic Serbs removed roadblocks set up in protest over a policeman’s arrest, easing tensions

in the volatile region. The main crossing between the neighbours opened on Thursday after barricades were dismantled from the Serbian side of the Merdare border point. Kosovo police said two smaller border crossings “opened for traffic in the afternoon” on Friday.”

Spain / Morocco 23.12.22: Al Jazeera: **Spain absolves border agents over Melilla asylum seeker deaths:** “A Spanish prosecutor has dismissed a criminal case against Spanish border agents for their handling of a mass border crossing, in which at least 23 people died attempting to enter the Spanish enclave of Melilla from Morocco. ‘It cannot be concluded that the actions of the intervening agents increased the risk to the life and physical integrity of the migrants, and therefore they cannot be charged with reckless homicide’ the prosecutor’s office said in a statement on Friday [23 December].”

Sweden / Turkey 22.12.22: Al Jazeera: **Sweden still has requirements to meet to join NATO: Turkey:** “Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Thursday [22 that a Swedish court’s decision not to extradite a man wanted by Turkey for alleged links to a failed 2016 coup had “poisoned” a positive atmosphere in negotiations on Sweden’s membership in the military alliance.”

Switzerland 10.12.22: Al Jazeera: **Asylum seekers take to the UN to reclaim inalienable human rights:** “As the world marked Human Rights Day on Saturday, David Yambio marched to the UN’s refugee agency headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, to stage a second day of a sit-in alongside civil society organisations and fellow asylum seekers.”

Turkey 27.12.22: DLF: **Türkische Küstenwache rettet Dutzende Migranten aus Seenot (Turkish coast guard rescues dozens of migrants from distress at sea):** They had tried to reach Greece from Turkey in several rubber dinghies. The rescue operations reportedly took place as early as Monday [26 December]. Where the migrants came from was not mentioned. People were also rescued from distress at sea in the Mediterranean, by the private rescue ship Ocean Viking. According to the aid organization SOS Méditerranée, among the 113 people are also 30 minors without their parents. According to the report, they were rescued in waters for which the Maltese coast guard is actually responsible.

UK 13.12.22: Al Jazeera: **UK PM announces new measures to curb ‘illegal’ immigration:** “British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak pledged to clear a backlog of asylum-seeker applications as he announced new measures aimed at curbing the number of people reaching the United Kingdom by crossing the English Channel on small boats. Sunak, who has faced mounting pressure to limit the growing numbers of people arriving by small boats, also said on Tuesday he planned to introduce new legislation early next year

to ensure people who arrive through so-called illegal means cannot remain in the country.”

UK 18.12.22: Al Jazeera: **Teenager charged after refugee boat capsizes in English Channel:** “A teenager has been charged with abetting so-called illegal immigration after a boat packed with asylum seekers capsized in the English Channel, leaving four dead, United Kingdom police have said. The 19-year-old was charged, police said on Sunday, after four people died trying to cross the Channel between Britain and France when the inflatable boat they were in started to sink.”

EUROPEAN UNION

EU / Mediterranean 02.12.22: ECRE: **Commission’s Action Plan on the Central Med Endorsed by EU Interior Ministers Amid Critiques Over Recycling Old Mistakes:** “The European Commission proposed an action plan on 21 November to “address the immediate challenges along the Central Mediterranean migratory route, recalling that sustainable solutions are needed, as set out in the Pact on Migration and Asylum”. Meanwhile, NGOs didn’t “find anything new” about the commission’s plan, underlining that it is “just another reshuffle of old ideas that do not work”. SOS Humanity added: ‘EU continues to rely on its policy of preventing people fleeing to the EU. The EU is planning to expand cooperation with non-EU countries such as Libya” despite ongoing violations including detention, pushbacks and torture towards refugees by the EU-funded so-called Libyan coast guard`.”

EU/The Gambia 08.12.22: Council of the EU Press Release: **The Gambia: Council increases the visa fee due to lack of cooperation on readmission:** “The Council today adopted an implementing decision increasing the visa fee applied to nationals of The Gambia to €120, seeking to improve The Gambia’s cooperation on the return and readmission of its own nationals.”

Frontex 08.12.22: Judith Sunderland and Lorenzo Pezzani: **Airborne Complicity. Frontex Aerial Surveillance Enables Abuse:** “Using data analysis and research testimony, the interactive web feature [...] documents the role that Frontex-chartered aircraft – several planes and a drone – play in detecting migrants’ boats in the central Mediterranean and their subsequent interception by Libyan forces. [...] The analysis of available data supports the conclusion that the EU border agency’s approach is designed not to rescue people in distress but to prevent them from reaching EU territory”, summarizes the HRW press statement.

Frontex 14.12.22: Al Jazeera: **Frontex delivers cruelty from the skies**: “[...] research demonstrates that Frontex uses its vast resources to assist interceptions of refugee and migrant boats by Libyan forces. Over the last few years, Frontex has signed contracts with private companies to operate a remote-piloted Heron drone and several piloted planes out of airports in Malta and Italy. We obtained copies of them through freedom of information requests.”

Frontex 21.12.22: taz: **Der Neue bei Frontex (The new guy at Frontex)**: The EU border management agency is now led by a soldier: On Tuesday, the Frontex Management Board appointed Dutch Lieutenant General Hans Leijten as the new Executive Director. He succeeds the Frenchman Fabrice Leggeri, who had to resign in April.

EU 2022: Review of the Year

24.12.22 Der Spiegel: **Bisher 255 Asylsuchende umgesiedelt – von geplanten 8000 (So far 255 asylum seekers resettled - out of planned 8000)**: Halfway through a European mechanism to ease the burden on Mediterranean countries in dealing with asylum seekers, Germany and other countries have so far taken in only 255 protection seekers. Of these, 212 came to Germany in recent months alone. This is despite the fact that a total of 13 countries actually offered to take in more than 8,000 protection seekers under the solidarity mechanism agreed in June .

27.12.22: NTV: **Grenzübertritte nehmen zu. Die EU schottet sich ab (Border crossings on the rise The EU is sealing itself off)**: Despite new fences and controversial cooperation to keep migrants out, illegal border crossings into the European Union increased significantly in 2022. The EU border agency Frontex recorded some 308,000 attempts to enter the EU without permission in the first eleven months of this year. That was an increase of 68 percent compared to the same period last year, Frontex announced last week. The Warsaw-based agency spoke of the highest figure for the first eleven months since 2016.

See also 16.12.22: Tagesspiegel: **Frontex schlägt Alarm: Wie viele Menschen reisen wirklich in die EU ein? (Frontex sounds the alarm: How many people really enter the EU?)**; 26.12.22: Deutschlandfunk: **Zahl der Asylanträge in der EU deutlich gestiegen**

REPORTS

12/22: **Alarm Phone: Testimonial: Push-back of a big group from police-custody Isaakio, Greece on 11 September 2022**: End of September Alarm Phone had been contacted by a group of people detained in a Greek prison under inhumane conditions. Soon after, the

contact broke off. After a few weeks, Alarm Phone was able to resume contact with one person of the group that had been pushed back in the meantime. This person reported what had happened to the group, and what had happened to so many others: “Once again, his witness confirms countless other testimonials received from this region. All of them report about an infrastructure of violence and death against people on the move alongside the landborder between Turkey and Greece. It is an infrastructure financed, tolerated and legitimized by the European Union and its cruel migration regime.”

12/22: **Border Violence Monitoring Network: The Black Book of Pushbacks. Updated and Expanded Edition:** “The majority of these pages are filled with testimonies from people-on-the-move who were beaten, kicked, insulted, humiliated and arbitrarily detained before being illegally pushed back both at the EU’s external borders and from deep within the territory of its Member States. In many cases these people were subject to different methods of torture such as rape, sexual abuse, excessive and prolonged beatings, the use of Electric Discharge Weapons against them, and even being shot at by border authorities and thrown into rivers, sometimes with their hands still ziplocked together. However, what this book evidences yet again is that these are not the sporadic actions of a ‘few bad apples’, nor are they coordinated actions by individual Member States; these are Europe-wide systems that have been reinforced from the very top.”

12/22: **FTDES: Floating bodies and drifting souls: The absurdity of burial and the State of contempt (The tragedy of the “Zarzis peninsula”):** The article depicts the situation of floating bodies and drifting souls created by European migration control and the absence of the Tunisian state in Zarzis. It is about the policies, but it is also about what these policies do to people who lose their loved ones - and who resist the killings, the politics of forgetting.

12/22: **FragDenStaat: All the Frontex documents:** “The EU border police Frontex is one of the most notoriously secretive EU agencies. Here, we are publishing thousands of documents we and collaborators have gathered from Frontex through freedom of information requests.”

See also **Frontex Public Register of Documents; Defund Frontex, Build a European Search and Rescue programme; taz 17.12.22: Die Rolle von Frontex im Grenzregime: Europas Zielkonflikt (The Role of Frontex in the Border Regime: Europe's Conflicting Goals)**

12/22: **LIBE Committee: EU migration and asylum funds for third countries:** “The study considers funding both from the Justice and Home Affairs funds and the external action funds, covering the previous Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) (2014-2020) and

the current MFF (2021-2027) funding periods. The study seeks to identify good practice in EU funding, including but not limited to the two country case studies on Afghanistan and Niger. It proposes a set of recommendations to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and transparency of EU funding.”

12/22: **Lighthouse Reports: Europe’s Black Sites:** “How refugees are being arbitrarily detained and tortured at secret facilities along EU borders before being illegally forced back across borders. [...] Lighthouse Reports and partners can reveal that security forces along EU borders – specifically in Bulgaria, Hungary and Croatia – are using secret facilities to systematically detain people seeking refuge before illegally deporting them, in what has been denounced as a clear violation of international law.

We have obtained visual evidence that refugees have been held in a derelict, cage-like structure in Bulgaria, sometimes for days at a time, held for hours in overcrowded and dangerously hot vans in Croatia, and held in containers and at an isolated petrol station in Hungary.”

Campaigns

CommemorAction 6th February 2023 - MIGRATION IS A RIGHT! “In February 2020, activist and relatives came together in Oujda, Morocco, to organize the first major Commemor-Action. In this event, we chose the symbolic date of February 6th, date of the Tarajal massacre, to organize worldwide demonstrations against the militarization of borders, and in support of the freedom to migrate. In September, 2022, we came together in Zarzis, Tunisia, for the second major Commemor-Action and reiterated our commitment to mark February 6th as a day to combine the voices of many organizations fighting every day to denounce deadly border regimes and to demand truth, justice, and reparations for migrants’ victims and for their families. We call on all social and political, secular and religious organizations, groups and collectives of families of migration victims, and citizens of all countries of the world to organize protests and awareness raising actions on 6th February, 2023.”