



# Antifrontex days 19-22 may, 2015

On May, 21st, 2015 the crème de la crème of European racism will gather in Warsaw, Poland, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the creation of one of the most influential meta-organisations that guards assets of the Fortress Europe. The organization, not widely known, until recently standing in the shadows, is a hybrid of border police and intelligence service, as well as aggressive

promoter of anti-migrant policy. Frontex (from french Frontières extérieures), being discussed here, is the executive body of EU (anti)migration policy – enjoys autonomy in

decision-making (for EU foreign policy), and has a yearly growing budget, which is not accounted. Budget, used to finance futuristic projects, straight from distopia, like an automatic system of land drones, known as TALOS project, carried out in cooperation that included Warsaw University of Technology, Israeli Aerospace

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Industries and a lot of other military corporations. The trust also allows them to conduct their own foreign policy on migration – dealing with the neighboring dictatorships (Belarus, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria), sponsoring and organizing repression against refugees in a secure buffer zone, which blurs responsibility. As a result, the border of Europe moves farther away from the ‘old

continent’, helping to hide the effects of this policy in the eyes of Europeans.

Sponsored camps in the countries of the global south and ruthless anti-human

migration policy of the EU countries result in real victims – tens of thousands of people drown, starve, are left at sea or desert, or are directly shot – every year more than at the Berlin wall in the entire time of its existence.

Refugees are pushed out of their home countries by pillaging

**Lesznowola** (45 km south of Warsaw)

**Address:**

Strzeżony Ośrodek dla Cudzoziemców w Lesznowoli  
ul. Wojska Polskiego  
05-600 Grójec

**Tel number to the public phone located in the camp’s residential ward: (48) 802 20 18**

\*\*This phone is located in the hallway and any prisoner can answer when it rings. If you don’t know anybody inside, you can call and ask for someone who speaks your language (English, Russian, French, Arabic, German, etc.) in order to find out about the situation in the camp. Prisoners rarely receive calls and words of solidarity from people on the outside. It is even more rare that someone calls in order to pass information about prisoners inside the camp, to the outside world. Take a piece of paper, a pencil, or maybe a tape recorder and document people’s stories. We can publish them on this website ([migracja.noblogs.org](http://migracja.noblogs.org)). Prisoners often go on hunger strike because it is one of the only methods of protest possible behind bars. The border guard does not allow information about hunger strikes to leave the camps walls. In general, we discourage contact with the border guard because they always say everything is just fine.

## Detention Camps in Poland

“My brother cried everyday and asked my mother ‘why aren’t we free?’ He’s too young to understand any of this. Two months ago, with another family from Syria we made a protest- we stopped eating and drinking for three days. My brother, my mother, two other kids, their parents and me. The naczelnik of the camp came and told us to stop or we would be deported. All we want is to be free.”

Jusef is 16 and tells his family’s story as its only English speaking member. Over the past year he has grown up very quickly: along with his mother and 9 year old brother they fled their war-torn country. Military occupation, bombing and fear for their lives left them no other choice, but Jusef does not want to talk about this place. It took them four months to get to Poland. First they reached Turkey from where they walked to Greece and crossed the border by swimming through the river Evros. From Greece they tried to go by plane to Denmark, where Jusef’s father who fled their country first, is waiting for them. Their plane was transiting through Warsaw when it turned out that they were without papers. This is where their trip ends, it is March 2012. According to Polish law crossing the border without permission is not a crime, but people who do so are considered to be a danger to national security. To prevent them from crossing more borders without papers (lest they choose to head west), the court sent Jusef and his family to Lesznowola, one of six closed detention centers in Poland where they spent the next 7 months.

“Lesznowola? I could write a book about my days in Lesznowola. I close my eyes and I see the cameras, the bars in the windows, the barb wires on the walls outside, electric fences, rewizje at 6 o’clock in the morning. Male guards with alcohol on their breaths checking my body, touching me,” recounts Leila. Leila is a women’s rights activist from Iran. Her organization, “One Million Signatures for the Repeal of Discriminatory Laws” is a grassroots movement that has been struggling to end legalized discrimination against women in Iran. Their struggle receives wide support from the international community: the campaign earned the Simone de Beauvoir Prize for Women’s Freedom and the Global Women’s Rights Award in 2009. Their campaign considered a threat to the Iranian authorities, more than 50 campaign members, including Leila, have been arrested and spent time in prison. This is why Leila had to leave Iran. In following the Dublin II Regulation<sup>[1]</sup> she was sent to Poland after she entered Europe (she had a Polish visa in her passport). Here, like Jusef and his family, the court sent her to the detention center in Lesznowola where she spent two months.

neocolonial economy, conflicts fuelled by the seller of weapons, environmental disasters included in the cost of the European wealth, and finally imperialist invasions, and often have no choice but to flee in the direction of ‘European paradise’. The increasing stratification, hunger, poverty and fear motivate them to walk through deserts, passing oceans, and clinging to aircraft wheels, often submitting themselves under organized smugglers mafias. Frontex’ activities only add more kilometers and obstacles; without breaking Europe’s hegemony and its neo-colonial policies the determination, which families and sometimes entire villages rely on, of those people will never be reduced.

Usually tragedies are happening far away from the eyes of Europeans, but their scale, with an increase in the number of refugees (eg related to the events of the Arab Spring, the massacre of Afghanistan, the Syrian and Ukrainian war), had grown so much that it is impossible to keep ignoring them. Mass drowning off the coast of Italy and assaults on the borders of Ceuta and Melilla, death on the Evros minefields and barbed wire of the Bulgarian

border are just a few examples of the tragedied, which become increasingly larger and more frequent as the social crisis in neighboring countries deepens. The crisis, which often is the result of European foreign policy, economic colonization or direct military intervention.

In recent years, these events and harsh criticism led to changes in Frontex’ PR policy. Trying to introduce themselves as a humanitarian organization (mitigating the problems that it creates) or fighting the smugglers (for which it creates jobs) excelling itself in hypocrisy. However, its mode of operation is still deepening humanitarian crisis, simply looking at last naval operation, which banned the Italian crews rescuing refugees outside the coastal belt, or cooperation with organized crime, including the state run one, in Morocco and Libya.

For those who survive the long and dangerous journey to Europe, the problems do not end there. They just change their character. Undocumented immigrants become the target of anti-migrant domestic policy. They are not

totally excluded from the social order – there is a place for them in slave labour, as victims of police violence, and locked up in detention centres. The position of all migrants in the EU is very difficult, the racist policy model is proved with even a look at the fate of the refugees of war (even minimal humanitarian standards recognized by the EU Member States are not met). An attempt to legalize the residence is a bureaucratic ordeal, usually resulting in criminalization, since the rules were constructed so that conditions are unattainable. The entire apparatus, set solely on repression and criminalization, serves the economic interest of the European Union, even though ‘great’ European cities are built with slave labor of migrants whose legal harassment usually strengthens the position of employers. CEO’s offices are cleaned up with hands of invisible migrants. Also the position of local workers is weakened by lowering labor cost. This machine is oiled by everyday racism of neo-fascists who let out their scapegoat aspirations in pogroms,

denunciations, or work in the uniformed forces. This dramatic situation does not remain unanswered: in closed centers erupt hunger strikes and revolts, deportation are blocked – migrants know that they can count only on themselves, so they organize protest marches, occupy spaces, squat, resist evictions and confront the fascists.

We do not accept the policy of Euro-racism! Any innovation of repression we will answer with grassroots, anti-capitalist forms of brotherhood and sisterhood. As in the case of operation Mos Maiorum (the largest roundup in the history of post-war Europe), and other counter-information projects, warning actions, interactive maps of round-ups, and solidarity refusal to show documents by people holding them, which allowed many migrants escape the net casted by Frontex. Despite this 19,000 people were arrested, which for us is a call to intensify resistance. Also here, in Warsaw, where Frontex has its headquarters.

The last wave of hunger strikes in Polish camps, though brutally suppressed, helped forge contacts between prisoners and support groups, so that information about the strike came out. One of the ringleaders of the strike, Ekaterina Lemondzawa, is publishing a book on her experiences, in cooperation with the Warsaw NOII group.

For many years, Antifrontex Days have been organized in Warsaw – it's the time to give them a new impetus and strengthen each other's voices of protest. Thus, together, we, migrants and allies, invite you for the Antifrontex Days, which will take place in Warsaw on 19-22 May. We are waiting for you with meetings, screenings, demonstrations, and associated Activist Days Off festival.

We invite groups willing to take an active part in the organization of the event. We are a small collective from Warsaw, which together with you want to work together deconstructing our privileges and abolishing the boundaries imposed on us. When

migrant circles in Europe come together in resistance and repression is on the rise, we can not remain passive. Unite against institutional state fascism – in the name of a real and practical transnational solidarity!

**Come to Warsaw, 19-22 May!  
Let's create a strong front  
against Frontex!**

**19-22 may – Antifrontex days  
everywhere!**

For those who cannot come to Warsaw between 19-22 of may, we are proposing to do decentralized days of actions against Frontex. Let it be heard/seen everywhere during these days! We'll leave the form of solidarity up to your limitless fantasy. You know the best what's most useful in your local context, and where it hurts most.

**Down with the borders! Long  
live active solidarity!**

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