

QUO VADIS FRONTEx?

REFORM, CONTROL OR ABOLISH?



25th SEPTEMBER 2021

ADMISSION 11.30 AM

START 12:00

S036, BERLIN

Criticism of practices that violate human rights has accompanied the “European Border and Coast Guard Agency”, or “Frontex” for short - since its founding in 2004.

From its involvement in illegal pushbacks to its cooperation with the so called “Libyan Coast Guard”: in addition to the reports of those affected and eyewitnesses, extensive video material provides evidence of these practices. Finally, the EU Parliament created the Frontex Scrutiny Group to investigate.

According to the group’s report, Frontex is aware of illegal activities in the Mediterranean, but does not intervene. Moreover, the report states that agency head Fabrice Leggeri has removed incriminating material. With unparalleled cynicism, the agency now comments that the MEPs could not prove Frontex had engaged in illegal activities. However, this was not the task of the committee.

According to the group’s report, Frontex is aware of illegal activities in the Mediterranean, but does not intervene. Moreover, the report states that agency head Fabrice Leggeri has removed incriminating material. With unparalleled cynicism, the agency now comments that the MEPs could not prove Frontex had engaged in illegal activities. However, this was not the task of the committee.

Leggeri always manages to wriggle out of the accusations, no sanctions have been imposed so far and the agency continues to expand. As per its regulation, Frontex is independent, its director may not take instructions from the member states or the Commission. This has created a legal vacuum for the agency. At the same time, the power of the Frontex director continues to grow: planes and drones for aerial surveillance under its own control, a fleet of vehicles with surveillance technology, a new armed border force under Leggeri’s command.

Borderline-europe – Human rights without borders e.V. invites you for a two-part event in Berlin on 25th September 2021. We will discuss with activists and experts who are confronted with the practices of Frontex at various EU external borders and in different fields of work. Together we then want to show possibilities of civil resistance.

Why is it so difficult to indict and prosecute the illegal activities of the agency? To whom is Frontex actually accountable? What are Leggeri’s new narratives and how can we debunk them?

PANELS AND SPEAKERS

Panel 1: CURRENT BORDER PRACTICES OF FRONTEx

START 12:00

Situation reports from the EU external borders, on the new mandate and technical equipment of the agency.

Bérénice Gaudin (Sea-Watch Airborne)

Milena Zajovic (Are You Syrious/ Border Violence Monitoring Network)

Petra Molnar (Associate Director, Refugee Law Lab, York University)

Phevos Simeonidis (Disinfo Collective)

Moderation: Vera Deleja-Hotko (investigative Journalist, FragDenStaat),
Matthias Monroy

Panel 2: TACTICS OF CIVIL RESISTANCE AGAINST FRONTEx

START 15:00 PM

On the interlocking of political, legal, and practical struggles against the agency’s activities and its new narratives

Luisa Izuzquiza (Frag den Staat)

Omer Shatz (Lecturer at Sciences Paris, Legal Director of Front-Lex)

Bernd Kasperek (bordermonitoring.eu)

Amandine Bach (Political Advisor, Frontex Scrutiny Group)

Moderation: Matija Vlatković (ECCHR),
Niamh Ni Bhriain (Transnational Institute)

To attend in person, register via QR code.

For live stream visit our website: <https://www.borderline-europe.de/termine>



Co-funded by the
Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union

