

ABOLISH FRONTEX

Press release

9 June 2021

A new international movement rises to ‘Abolish Frontex’

9 June 2021 - Today, actions in seven countries (Austria, Belgium, Canary Islands, Germany, Morocco, Netherlands and Switzerland) will target the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, Frontex. The actions mark the launch of an international campaign to ‘Abolish Frontex,’ calling to defund and dismantle Europe’s deadly border regime.

In an open letter addressed to the EU Commission, Council, Parliament, and Frontex leadership, the campaign coalition highlighted the illegal and inhumane practices of “Fortress Europe,” citing 40,555 deaths from border-crossings to Europe since 1993 alone. “Left to die in the Mediterranean, the Atlantic and the desert, shot at borders, died by suicide at detention centres, tortured and killed after being deported — The EU has blood on its hands,” the letter reads.

The launch of the campaign to Abolish Frontex coincides with a massive expansion of the agency. Frontex has now secured a €5.6 billion budget until 2027, with plans to hire 10,000 armed border guards by the end of the period. Its budget has grown by over 7560% since 2005, using its new resources to buy its equipment like ships, helicopters and drones. Meanwhile, Europe has now built over 1,000 kilometres of border walls and fences.

The campaign coalition — which includes 50 groups, such as Sea-Watch, Watch the Med - Alarmphone and the Transnational Institute (TNI) — has released a list of demands to accompany their actions. These include the outright abolition of the Frontex agency and the end of migrant detention and deportations.

Following the launch on 9 June, the campaign plans to mount a series of actions in cities across Europe, advancing its core demands in Brussels, across EU member states, and in all jurisdictions that are complicit with Fortress Europe.

Luca of the 'Abolish Frontex' campaign said: "If we truly believe all humans are equal than we have to dismantle the systems which keep inequality in place. Frontex, as part of the border-industrial complex, has no place in our vision of a European society striving for justice and committed to repair damages inflicted on the global south in a mindset of white supremacy."

Taylor added: "We are not asking for a better European migration policy: we are demanding the abolition of Frontex and the demilitarisation of the borders. And we are taking action to achieve this."

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Updates from the actions will be available on social media (Twitter/Instagram: @abolishfrontex / FB: Abolish Frontex)

More information: <https://abolishfrontex.org>