

PRESS RELEASE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN  
"COASTS IN SOLIDARITY"

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Open eyes, Open borders, Flight is not a crime.  
OSTEND and BRUGES 20 JUNE 2020, BELGIUM

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The "Coasts in Solidarity" campaign is said to have sailed off the external borders of Western Europe in June and July to underline the need for solidarity with migrants (passing through) and to connect solidarity movements and collectives along the entire coastline. This week the ship would also have moored in Zeebrugge and Ostend, had there not been the Corona epidemic. But even without a sailing ship the campaign will continue!

This campaign is launched to call on the population and the inhabitants of the coastal cities to show more solidarity and to open their eyes, to organise shelter and to ask local politicians to make a safe crossing over the sea possible, because Fleeing is NO CRIME! Open the borders and don't give a chance to human trafficking and smugglers of migrants on the run!

A first action will take place in silence around the monument of the Fishermen that lost their life in the North Sea on the Zeeheldenplein, to commemorate the many migrants who died at the borders of Fortress Europe and our North Sea! A second action will take place on the beach, where a cemetery will be built in the sea with placards referring to the many dead that Fort Europa has on its conscience. On the basis of a sculpture by artist Piet Wittevrongel, Nicknam Massoud was also present at the action. This Iranian drowning man, who was found dead last year off the coast of Zeebrugge, is only one of many tragic stories. Since 1993, 35,760 people have died and many more of whom we don't even know anything about.

The Rhythm of Resistance attract the attention of the public on the beach and the dike and chant slogans such as No Border, No Nations, stop deportation and No one is Illegal. In Bruges there was also a small manifestation.

2020 shows, more than ever before, that today we are far away from a world with equal rights for all people. The situation of migrants in Europe and other parts of the world is downright shameful. The closed centres (prisons such as the Refuge in Bruges) continue to exist and are overcrowded. We want an end to this situation. This situation is based on laws and political decisions that can and must be changed.

Nevertheless, the Defence Commission decided last week that 4 Belgian F16's are allowed to leave for Syria and Iraq again, to drop bombs - often over densely populated areas. The question has to be asked where the people fleeing from this war violence are still welcome.

Action is currently being taken as part of this "Coasts in solidarity" campaign in 10 cities in 4 countries along the North Sea and also along the canal. To view pictures of these actions: go to <https://twitter.com/CoastsIn> And later on the blog: [coastinsolidarity.noblogs.org](http://coastinsolidarity.noblogs.org).

This afternoon at 2 p.m. there is also a meeting in Brussels organized by the coordination of undocumented migrants in Belgium (and many other self-organisations of undocumented migrants) on the Luxemburgplein in Brussels to demand regularization of all undocumented migrants.

**Demands of the campaign "Coasts in solidarity":**

For the right to stay and move freely ! Abolish the Borders!  
Stop the deportations - once and for all!  
Regularisation of all people without the right papers !  
Valuable living conditions and health care for all !

Close all camps - once and for all !

Build solidarity cities and networks !

Let's change society !

**SOLIDARITY NOW !!!**