

## Mass Mortality at the European Union's External Borders

More and more people are searching for a life of dignity. They flee their countries because of war, ecological disaster, economical injustice or violent and discriminating circumstances in their societies. And their journeys often lead them to the European Union – perilous journeys that are increasingly ending in death at the EU's external borders.

The European Commission, as well as many national governments, count on the EU Agency, Frontex, which follows military principles and ignores the thousands of victims created by their border actions. Frontex coordinates an army consisting of both military and police with modern military equipment to prevent migrants passing the external borders. In southern Europe, the situation of migrants is particularly dramatic, since the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean constitute seriously dangerous obstacles.



Thousands of refugees and migrants try to reach Europe using little, usually unseaworthy, boats every year. It is not known for certain how many of them drown, die of thirst or become victims of acts of violence.

Spanish authorities estimate that around 6,000 people died on their way to the Canary Islands in 2006. Refugee organisations fear that every second person dies in the open sea on route between Africa and Europe.

At the eastern external border of the EU, the “fortress policy” is not as extreme as at the marine borders, but even there many human rights violations can be observed. These include, among other things, periods of extended imprisonment of refugees, detention in degrading refugee camps and deportations. Even those who try to support refugees and migrants are becoming increasingly criminalized – accused for merely providing humanitarian support and solidarity.

## Break the silence

Official Authorities remain silent regarding the existence and extent of the tragedy at Europe's borders, as it is deemed best that its citizens not be aware of what is happening.

We want to break this silence. *borderline-europe* is working to counter the authorities' cover-up attempts with in-depth research at Europe's frontier regions. We want to create a public awareness based on reliable information and facts of the deadly consequences of present migration policy.

Solutions can only be found if we have the courage to talk about the present and very real situation.

### What we do:

- Constant observation of the situation at the EU's external borders
- Production of Literature/Publications on the Issues
- Support of humanitarian aid at the borders
- Procurement of contact persons for media and other organisations
- Building up a European network.

### Contacts

#### Main office

Gneisenaustr. 2a,  
10961 Berlin, Germany  
Telephone/Fax: +49-(0)176 - 420 276 55  
E-Mail: [mail@borderline-europe.de](mailto:mail@borderline-europe.de)

#### Austria

Elias Bierdel  
Telephone: +43 (0)699 170 694 46  
E-Mail: [eb@borderline-europe.de](mailto:eb@borderline-europe.de)

#### Italy

Judith Gleitze  
Telephone: +39 340 980 21 96  
E-Mail: [jg@borderline-europe.de](mailto:jg@borderline-europe.de)

#### Account

GLS Bank, Bochum  
account number: 4005794100  
bank code: 43060967  
IBAN: DE11430609674005794100  
BIC: GENODEM1GLS

