

No Border Camp

July 15-24 2016

Thessaloniki (Greece)

for the circulation of transnational struggles
against state, nationalism, patriarchy and capital



"We want to move"

(migrants' slogan in the highway road between Athens-Thessaloniki)

"Don't give me food, don't give me water, open the borders"

(migrants' banner in the occupied railway line in Idomeni)

Calling

Today, with neoliberalism established across the planet, it is clear that capitalist relations are being intensified, together with nationalism and patriarchy. Fences and borders are being built not only in the physical space, but also across social relationships. However, the movements and transnational struggles of migrants are constantly producing new cracks in the system, new thresholds and pathways into an unexplored world.

More specifically, transnational and global agreements further liberalize “free” markets and the lifting of tariff restrictions further ensure property rights for the wealthy. At the same time the former social contract of the welfare state is breaking down and the neoliberal state is claiming the role of manager-partner of companies, keeping for itself solely the army and the police in order to retain some of its administrative and legislative power. Gender oppression, racism and fascism are being remobilized for the control of populations.

However, social struggles in the form of riots, rebellions, campaigns and movements both before and during the process of this recent “crisis”, seriously challenge all this. Prime examples are the riots in the French banlieues in November and December 2005, the Oaxaca Commune in 2006, the riots in December 2008 in Greece, the magnificently widespread Arab Spring in 2011, the Indignados Citizens Movements in Spain in 2011, the London riots in 2011, the “Occupy” movement in the USA in 2011 and 2012, the uprising at the Gezi park in Istanbul in June 2013, the Brazilian Spring in 2013, the uprisings in Bosnia and other Balkan States during 2013-2014.

The response of neoliberalism to the recent structural crisis, one that is interpreted by some as a crisis of over-accumulation, by others as a result of civil disobedience, or as the long expected explosion of “abstract labor” in a fully monetarized economy, to extend and intensify its strategy of land-grabbing and pillage of resources, of means of production and of reproduction of whole societies.

Austerity programs in the countries of the European South, war, religious intolerance and the intensification of gender oppression in the countries of the Arab Spring are part of the same strategy. Thus, whole populations are made to abandon their homes. These people, deprived of their natural and social space, migrate, cross borders, fences, barbed

wire, rivers, seas, mines and police patrols. They also face exploitation by traffickers, they are detained in concentration camps and then they are forced to search for a job (usually in the black market, often unpaid) even under extremely dire conditions. Most end up unemployed and they form a kind of reserve workforce or are forced into prostitution, trafficking networks and organ smuggling.

While more people need to move, more fences are being built. Fortress Europe rises from the ashes of its own crisis by using police procedures and policies of control, imprisonment, pushbacks, illegalization and penalization of the populations in motion. Police and military operations are intensified, N.A.T.O enters the picture, discriminations between immigrants and refugees are constructed and finally concentration camps, hot spots and pushback centers pivot the management of migrant people.

Migrants moving from Africa and the Middle East towards Europe have challenged and fought against borders and national and supranational policies in practice. During the last months, hundreds of thousands of populations have crossed borders, and the movements for solidarity and emancipation are flourishing. The migrants' movement with all its inventiveness and ingenuity proves that desires, social relationships and dreams cannot be imprisoned. Their power goes beyond borders and fences.

It also shows that the motives for migration are mostly to be found in the complex intersections of gender, ethnic, cultural, religious or class discrimination and oppression. Populations in forced mobility develop survival strategies, activate subjective capabilities, coordinate social relationships with other moving people and simultaneously, they create social networks with those they leave behind.

Therefore, we believe that we should understand but then go beyond the idea that perceives the state, capital, patriarchy and racism as totally dominant upon human subjects, and hence also immigrants as submissive victims in need only of charity, compassion and saving.

In the last few months, immigrants and people in solidarity with them have met within and beyond the kaleidoscopic fields opened by the crisis. We believe that meetings and

struggles should be encouraged, should acquire steady and lasting structures and reinvent the joy and the charm of companionship and sharing.

For all these reasons, we think it's crucial that we organize an international No Border Camp this summer in Thessaloniki.

As for the choice of the specific city, Thessaloniki, it finds itself at the core of conflicts over the control and management of immigration and of the freedom of movement, due to its geographical position in northern Greece, bordering Albania, Rep. of Macedonia and Bulgaria, with many detention camps and pushback centers at its perimeter. In northern Greece as well as in the wider Balkan area, initiatives and solidarity networks have emerged during the last few months that can empower and be enhanced by the organization of a No Border Camp here. Finally, we think that the need for the coordination of various local political collectives and also its available movement infrastructures make Thessaloniki a suitable and reliable choice for the organization of a global and transnational No Border Camp.

Based on the above framework, the present invitation is articulated as follows:

- a) practicalities of organization
- b) objectives
- c) working groups
- d) structure
- e) themes and topics of the gathering

A. Organization

We aim to realize the No Border Camp with self-organized, horizontal and direct-democratic structures and procedures. We are clearly opposed to the multifaceted and intersected relations and power systems of discrimination and suppression. The No Border Camp is an important opportunity to express opposition and resistance to racism, class privilege, patriarchy, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, religious bigotry.

We consider it important to promote unmediated processes of information and communication, so that we can fully disassociate our work from state and other official institutions, political parties and dominant global and local media.

B. Objectives

Based on the above framework our objectives are listed below:

We aim to:

- 1) Strengthen the already existing migrant groups, give them a central role as an organizing example for migrants who will be trapped within the greek or other state borders. Bring out the migrants' demands for open borders, papers, asylum and rights and for the immediate abolition of detention and refoulement centers.
- 2) Connect migrant struggles from Calais to Idomeni.
- 3) Create new, steady, self-organized structures for support and solidarity to migrants and link together the already existing ones.
- 4) In the last months many horizontal solidarity networks have been formed in various countries, cities and neighborhoods against the backdrop of an intentional absence of State care. We consider that spontaneous solidarity must take on concrete political characteristics so that it does not turn into charity or volunteerism as well as in order to stop further exploitation by NGOs and the state of the phenomenon of solidarity.
- 5) Fortify the Balkan and European solidarity networks which were formed over the last months, especially under the framework of the evolving increase of the militarized management of migration.
- 6) Respond to the emerging racist and nationalistic rhetoric.
- 7) Bring together the struggles of local and migrant workers.
- 8) In the spirit of "anyone who does not wish to speak about capitalism should rather remain silent about fascism too", someone who speaks against Fortress Europe must oppose not only racism but also the system which cultivates, reproduces and uses it: he/she must fight capitalism through self-organized structures and horizontal networks:

The so called “migration” issue has to be connected with other aspects of the world domination system: global warfare within the crisis, gender, class, disability, cultural discrimination etc. For this reason we believe that the No Border Camp must include – apart from the mobilizations, the meetings and the creation of structures– the organization of a self-organized anti-capitalist, anti-patriarchal and anti-racist gathering with a focus on migration.

C. Working Groups

To meet the stated aims of the No Border Camp, we suggest the creation of several special focus teams:

1. Infrastructure-technical team
2. Kitchen/Cooking team
3. Translators team
4. Press, internet and counter-information team
5. Economic management team
6. Legal team
7. Medical team
8. Network/contact/welcoming team

D. Structure

The No Border Camp could take place from 15-24 of July in Thessaloniki. For the organization and infrastructure of the discussions, we will use the university campus which is located in the city center.

We suggest that the structure of No Border Camp contain three parts:

A) Preparation campaign

- Creation of local preparation and co-organizational meetings of the No Border Camp
- Intensification and coordination of solidarity actions to migrants and actions against the borders, detention centers and nationalist rhetoric
- Publishing of a multilingual bulletin of counter information
- Networking, contacts and coordination of working teams
- Publicity for the No Border Camp (posters, social media, website)

B) Solidarity actions to migrants during the No Border Camp

- Actions at the borders
- Actions at hot spots, detention centers and migrants' pushback centers
- Rallies / demo at the city center

(more information will be announced in the following months)

C) International Gathering (discussions, workshops) during the No Border Camp

(description follows)

E. Thematic Fields (discussions, workshops)

A. Movement (transportation) autonomy

A1. Moving populations, nomadism and international geography of immigration (the concept of border, borderland, interstitial space, heterotopy and otherness)

A2. «Autonomy», «Exodus», «Nomadism», «Diaspora», «Travel». International immigration against neoliberal concepts of laissez-faire that consider immigration like a product of personal choice which complies with the seeking and offering laws of job market as well as the concept of «interventionism». «Interventionism» considers

immigration as a phenomenon in which the state should intervene in order to regulate its flow and ambit (extent).

A3. Mobile commons. Strategies and practices for survival, struggle (fight), solidarity, networking, communication, mutual aid and commoning of the moving populations.

A4. Solidarity structures, squats-social struggle centers, connection between the struggles of the locals and the immigrants

B. Intersectional new enclosures

B1. New enclosure policies, forced displacement, dispossession and grabbing of the means of production and reproduction, permanence of the so-called primitive accumulation

B2. Class aspects of immigration, danger, cheap workforce, surplus reserved army of unemployment

B3. Emergence of nationalistic-racist-fascist rhetoric and practice, fear policies and bigotry (racist committees of residents, the role of church and media)

B4. Gender aspects of immigration (women, lgbtq populations, sexism, gender violence, pregnancy)

B5. Age aspects of immigration (children and elderly people)

B6. Disability and Immigration

B7. Cultural arrogation of moving populations

B8. Slavery, dealing and trafficking, human organs' trafficking

C State and Hyperstate governmental policies for moving populations

C1. The role of the state

C2. Citizenship, rights, asylum

C3. The role of philanthropy, volunteering and the party of NGO

C4. Crisis, immigration and new governmental policies. How the so called «Shock doctrine» and the «regime of permanent exclusion» become more and more frequent in the handling of the populations

C5. War, geopolitics and neocolonialist policies

C6. Europe-fortress and detention refugee camps. State and Interstate policing policies, control policies, commitment policies, refoulement policies, criminalization and

illegalization of moving populations (NATO operations, divisions between refugees and immigrants, hot spots, refoulement centers).

Invitation

Radical, anti-capitalist and anti-racist groups, collectives and individuals who agree with the proposed No Border Camp organizing framework and who are interested in participating are kindly invited to:

A) notify us in time of the number of participants.

B) participate in one of the working groups [see. c) Working groups].

Those who wish to hold a presentation in the discussion/workshops section of the No Border Camp are kindly invited to inform as of the topic [see. e) thematic conference units] they would like to attend/have a presentation send their proposals in summary form (up to 250 words) until **June 1, 2016**. We are offcourse open to new topics suggestions.

Send us your suggestions to the e-mail: contact@noborder2016.com

More info: www.noborder2016.com

In solidarity

No Border Camp 2016 Organizing Assembly

Thessaloniki 03/31/2016