

A NEW TRAGEDY OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN THE COASTS OF GRANADA LEAVES FORTRESS EUROPE NAKED

APDHA will express its rejection and sorrow in an act called for next Thursday 12 at 8 p.m. in Plaza San Juan de Dios in Cádiz

To date, the painful balance of the dinghy that sank near the coast of Granada is of 18 people who have disappeared and the dead bodies of two babies and two men. APDHA cannot fail to express its pain and deep sorrow for the death of more innocent people who sought to reach Europe to look for a dignified life and future.

These deaths are not a result of the actions of people trafficking networks, as the envoy of the government of Andalusia stated. People who wish to exercise their right to live in another, more dignified, way resort to these networks exclusively because Europe has become a space that is shut with cement for the African continent.

We are seeing this in these days with the exodus caused by war in Libya. The EU, a far cry away from activating reception and refuge mechanisms, has deployed a wide-ranging interception operation targeting the boats that flee from Tunisia and Libya, shamelessly exerts pressure on the Tunisian government to secure the readmission of these intercepted people, and it even considers re-establishing its internal borders to detain migrants.

We are ashamed of this Europe that proclaims itself a leader in human rights but is incapable of receiving a few thousand people, while Tunisia receives hundreds of thousands of people in spite of its situation and Liberia received 135,000 people fleeing the war in the Ivory Coast a few weeks ago.

War in Libya may lead people who used to choose that route to opt again to cross the Mediterranean through Spain. In fact, during the first four months of this year, there has been an important increase in the arrival of people on the Andalusian coasts, reaching a figure of almost 600 people, far higher than the figure for the same period in the last year. The difference is that they are now arriving in vessels that are more fragile (like the toy inflatable dinghies used to reach Cádiz) and in worse conditions.

Contrary to what the government envoy stated, this terrible case shows, once again, the scarce usefulness of the very expensive SIVE (Integrated External Surveillance System) to rescue human lives. The government itself admitted in parliament that the SIVE in Valencia only detected two of the eight dinghies that arrived in this region in 2010. Alarms are often sounded by freight boats, patrol aeroplanes and even by warnings from cooperation workers in Morocco, as happened in this case.

APDHA expresses its pain, rejection and outrage for this event that, unfortunately, has happened before. We demand a complete change in the direction of European and Spanish migration policies, alongside the adoption of measures to receive refugees as is required by international treaties that have been signed, including the Geneva Convention.

APDHA has called an initiative in solidarity with the Arab peoples next Thursday 12 May at 8 p.m. in Plaza de San Juan de Dios in Cádiz. Criticism of the European policy of refusal of entry when facing the influx of people fleeing the war in Libya was already among its objectives. With even

greater conviction, we add the will to show our rejection and pain for this new tragedy caused by the lack of solidarity of Spain's and the EU's cruel border policies among its objectives.

7 May 2011

Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos de Andalucía