



## Dirty war against immigrants in Morocco

*The worsening dirty war against immigrants by the Moroccan government with cooperation by Spain*

After the judicial summons for Moroccan authorities, -resulting from the complaint lodged by PRODEIN, the SOS Racismo Federation and Andalucía Acoge-, to clarify some events that happened on the border between Melilla and Morocco which included -as is shown in the videos that were released- illegal expulsions and the beating of immigrants by the Moroccan police forces; **the Moroccan government**, instead of cooperating with the courts to shed light on the events, **showed what it is capable of if it is not guaranteed impunity for the acts of its police forces** in their task to repress those who seek to reach the EU. It informed hundreds of sub-Saharan Africans that they had a green light for 48 hours to jump into the sea and reach the Spanish coasts by sea. More than one thousand people managed to do so, and this was the response to the judicial act issued by the Melilla court.

Next, before the complete passivity, at least of the Moroccan police, this weekend there was a series of **attacks** using machetes, **beatings and sexual violence against migrants** from sub-saharan Africa that ended with many of them being admitted into hospital. **Among those attacked was Helena Maleno, of Caminando Fronteras**, a well-known defender of migrants' human rights whose only defence, when her life was in danger, did not come from the police, which was present but did not intervene, but rather, it came thanks to the protection she was given by sub-Saharans who were also under attack.

This is a further step towards making this reality invisible: seeking to eliminate those who defend human rights.

In parallel, **at the border with Melilla, the Spanish government**, far from ceasing its behaviour while it awaits the judicial decision concerning the legality of so-called "**hot return**" expulsions, **continues to carry them out**.

In this sense, in the last few days this hot return expulsions policy has produced—according to PRODEIN's complaint- at least **six dead migrants and an increase in the number of injured people who are admitted into hospital in Morocco**, as a result of beatings and injuries caused while they tried to jump the fence, as has been documented in several video recordings.

None of this transpires due to the pact of silence and cooperation that has been sealed between Morocco, Spain and European Union.

This is a further step in the escalation of the dirty war against migrants who are in transit in the Maghreb country: it is not just a matter of sealing the actions undertaken by the Moroccan security forces, thus rendering the reality about the violation of these people's fundamental rights in Moroccan territory invisible, but also to rule out accountability before organised civil society.

In this context, **the Spanish organisations that are Migreurop members call for** an immediate stop to the illegal expulsion practices and the violation of rights undertaken by the Spanish government; for the Spanish government and the EU to demand that Morocco stop its repression against immigrants and those who defend their rights; to denounce the Agreement for returns to Morocco, considering the systematic violation of migrants' rights; the urgent intervention of international bodies, such as OCSE and the European Fundamental Rights Agency, for them to visit the places where these events are occurring, to report on them and require that any responsibility for them that may be required be ascertained.

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