



# WITHOUT BORDERS



*A No Borders paper in Calais*



*Marie-Noëlle GUES, a great activist for freedom of movement, passed away on September the 17th in Calais. This banner was hung at the food distribution in her honour. The quoted verse comes from the chant du partisan, which Marie loved, and which was very representative, in her eyes, of her own commitment against police violence and the border system, which she considered a petainist revival in France.*

*Associations attempted to have a tribute in the deceased section of the Voix du Nord. Unfortunately, the message was cleaned up and its meaning emptied by management. The associations are considering a lawsuit.*

*5 days after her death, the family received a letter of insults from a person signing themselves H.P. On March the 4th 2011, Marie-Noëlle had already received death threats through the mailbox, signed in the same name. She did not want then that this be spread around. Nothing happened, although she and her family went through some tough and anguish inducing times in the weeks and months that followed.*

*Marie-Noëlle contributed once in a while to this paper, and we will miss her enormously. She never hesitated to question the authorities, and used her grey matter to detect the slightest police malfeasance, the deportations that were in the works, the beatings that went unnoticed, never contenting herself with the easy apologies of the authorities, as some members of associations often do. Her great heart, her informed, inquisitorial and defiant spirit is a great loss to us all.*

*Here is the quite tame message that was censored:*

*Marie-Noëlle Gues just left us. We will forget neither her long and brave commitment alongside the migrants, nor her stubborn will to protect them from institutional violence, nor her political demand of a world community founded on the equality of all human beings. To her family and relatives, we wish to express our sorrow. ■*

## Looking back on a repression

In September 2010, a No Borders camp was organized at a former railway station, gracefully lent by the owner, who was sympathetic to the cause, in the great town of Brussels.

As always, a number of workshops were held. A number of debates, meetings, exchanges, and demonstrations. And of course, the police were there as well. To intimidate, arrest, beat up, abuse, and threaten activists with rape.

At least such was the case of author and Leiden University professor, Marianne Maeckelbergh. She was reportedly beaten, called a 'dirty whore', threatened to be treated as such, and handcuffed to a heater, in full view of all the police officers in the room. We contacted her, and she informed us that she filed a complaint with Comité P, which is a sort of Belgian police of the police.

Naturally, we are not aware that any single person has been held responsible, even after all this time, even after such grave accusations, and the case will probably be buried, forgotten, endless procedures will reduce it to insignificance. As in the case of other people, many of whom were treated much worse still.

So as to not forget all the abuse and horrors of the Belgian police behaviour, one person created a PDF document summarizing the history of those illegal interventions. Those who have a heroic view of the police would do well to have a look, and to think twice before offering an automatic defence of their job. ■

<http://pdfcast.org/download/repression-camp-nb-bruxelles.pdf>

## THEY ARE DANGEROUS, LET'S ENDANGER THEM!

At the request of French Interior and Immigration Minister Claude Gueant, the main internet service providers were summoned to court on October 12th to make the Copwatching website unaccessible, found to be « dangerous » for the police.

But, being hosted in the US, this site cannot easily be punished by the courts, and Gueant can only petition China or Corea to satisfy his

*(...continued on page 2)*

ensorship desires.

Copwatchnord took up the goal of denouncing, with pictures and details, all the acts of Police violence from Paris to Calais, taking an American concept as a model. It is the work of a collective of citizens wishing to struggle through transparency and information against the violence and provocations of police in uniform or plain clothes during demonstrations and in social movements, and against the sans-papiers and refugees.

On October 14th, Gueant managed to get a blocking order for certain pages of the site whose contents are found defamatory, by using a law adopted last March to struggle against paedophilia and serious criminal activities.

That blockade ordered to the service providers will be effective when the suits that were filed at the beginning of October by the minister are examined. Once again, the law is hijacked by the government against a citizen action.

The rage of Gueant and the police "Alliance" union, allowed for some quick media coverage of that site and the creation of numerous mirror sites that counter their will to censor. (2) ■

(1) <https://copwatchnord-idf.org/>

(2) <http://werebuild.eu/wiki/Copwatch>



## IN BULGARIA

### When the European Union gets itself an home-made third world

At the end of the communist regime, Bulgaria was the richest country in the Balkan area after Greece. Today, it is the poorest in the European Union. Why is that?

In the division of tasks among Eastern bloc countries, Bulgaria was dealing with leading-edge industries, such as computers. At the fall of the regime, the western firms came in to take the technicians, and let the Bulgarian factories close for lack of capital.

The integration of Spain, Portugal and Greece came with important financial transfers to bring together the development levels, but, for Eastern countries, the European Union, whose policy had changed, used the shock effect of the economic differences to shake up the social systems and to liberalize the economy.

A country with low income levels that encourages outsourcing, with a limited access to the labour markets (...continued on page 3)

## French Republic and Nazi Dictatorship

More than a month after activist Marie-Noëlle Gues passed away, we would like to honour her memory by putting online two chapters of a book some parts of which she had read, and which will inform many on the reasons why she insisted on calling any person directly or indirectly linked to the deportation and detention system, a fascist or a collabo.

That book is *They thought they were free*. It doesn't exist in French, and that may not be surprising. Less than ten years after the end of World War II, an American journalist of German ancestry, Milton Mayer, traveled to Germany. He settled in the small town of Kronenberg, and attempted to understand how people who are presumably deeply religious and conservative, or who share such a background, could have joined such a movement.

Although Marie-Noëlle always repudiated the socialism in the term Nazism, always indicating that Nazism was a tool for the destruction of the workers movement, and therefore, an enemy, the Nazi regime *worked* for a great part of the population. The part alongside which the Jewish author of the book had lived, without revealing his religion, and had tried to understand through the numerous conversations he recorded. After reading this book, it is undeniable that Nazism *helped* a great deal of people, that it *created* a great deal of jobs, that it *organized* social activities for people.

So then, are we Nazis? No. That was the face of the regime reserved for the 'good' Germans, as opposed to the Communists, the Catholics, the homosexuals, and the Jews. That is well known. There really were *two* Germany's, two realities in a single country. And the last resort, the basic decency of the population, who, even convinced by Nazism, would never consider the mass murder of the Jews, was inactive. Apathy, indifference, self-deception, and fear reigned supreme.

War put an end to the will to revolt. Who would want to overthrow the government in the middle of a war? The genocidal program could be launched because Nazis knew that the people would not oppose it under those circumstances, that the last counter-weight would not rise up in outrage to overthrow them. We must stop saying that it was the war that stopped the Nazis from killing the Jews. *Exactly the opposite took place*.

Today in France, any allusion to that past is swept aside, rejected. However, we wish to remind you that Germany was a Democracy, before she was a Dictatorship. That there was a strong culture of *obedience* in that efficient democracy, and it is this culture of verticalism, which will not hear this or that, that Vichy wanted to implement, and that has been preserved, and that we find to *this very day*, at all governmental levels, and in all the nooks and crannies of the French police. Without that spirit of obedience, the Republic falls apart and the people are freed, once again to become master of itself, tolerating the intolerable no more. That obviously cannot be allowed to happen.

We lock hundreds of thousands of people up, we deprive them of their liberty for the most ridiculous of reasons. In the case of borders, it is because you need to consult Immigration Minister Guéant before setting the first toe on the sacred soil of Eternal France. If we can lock them up, what stops us from killing them? What matters is the potential, not the will, good or bad, of the people in power. Power may be hijacked by a band with murderous objectives, as it was under the Nazi regime, and gradually increase more and more, *without the people realizing it*.

We think you have the duty to read those chapters, and to spread them everywhere. And we ask of you: what are you doing? Where are you? We don't see you anywhere. You go from your house to your work to your house, sometimes dropping by at the bar, and then immediately return home. (...continued on page 3)

in the other countries of the Union, in application of a chosen immigration policy, Bulgaria shares with Romania a peripheral position with regards to the EU, half in, half out, with the greatest benefit to the corporations.

#### **A border-guard on the European glacis**

Neither Bulgaria, nor Romania are part of the Schengen space. Which means that border controls still exist between them and the other countries of the European Union. They have been emigration countries to the other parts of the EU for 20 years, but they are also transit countries for migrants coming from Turkey or the former Soviet Union.

Bulgaria and Romania are on the face of it little concerned with those transiting migrants, who have no intentions to stay on their soil, but, rather, want to continue their journey to western Europe.

But the Union does not want this: Bulgaria and Romania find themselves allotted with the role of border-guard, of hosting country for the asylum seekers by virtue of Dublin II, and of organizers of the eviction of undesirables.

Both countries are thus regular participants in the missions of the Frontex agency, the European agency of border surveillance, and they build on their soil hosting centres (for asylum seekers), and detention centres (for foreigners without papers on the way to be deported).

#### **A No Borders camp in the area of the three borders**

Siva Reka is a village of a few hundred inhabitants, in the south of Bulgaria, a few kilometers from the Greek and Turkish borders. The No Borders camp of August 2011 was first welcomed with a skepticism tainted with worry, but that quickly changed to sympathy. You do not see three hundred activists from all over Europe every day.

Film showings, debates, demonstrations and parties allowed for a large contact with the region's local population, limited only by the language barriers. In Stit, a border village that sees exiles passing through; in Svilengrad, the headquarters of the border police; in Pastrogor, a small village where a hosting center for asylum seekers will open, surrounded by a high wall crowned with barbed wire, and financed by the European Union; in Liubimec, where a detention centre has already been opened, and surrounded by a high wall crowned with barbed wire, and financed by the European Union.

The media response was generally good, despite a government propaganda that attempted to portray No Borders as rioters. An important impact was made in a country where there are practically no debates around the issue of migrations. ■

The last counter-weight, the true counter-weight, is all of us. And without our vigilance, without our resistance, power will take liberties with *our* liberties, and crush more and more innocents for crazier and crazier reasons. ■

<http://pdfcast.org/download/what-would-you-have-done.pdf>

<http://pdfcast.org/download/but-then-it-was-too-late.pdf>

The local collective D'ailleurs Nous Sommes d'Ici is launching a call out to denounce police abuse. We have uploaded a leaflet intended for the public at <http://pdfcast.org/download/face-aux-abus-de-la-police.pdf> And here is the text itself:

## **IN THE FACE OF POLICE ABUSE LET US REMAIN VIGILANT**

« Calais, the lawless town » has become a proverbial idiom. The police are constantly over-staffed, and under pressure to produce good statistics. Migrants are their main target, but not their only one. And all too often, the police do not obey the law.

#### **ID controls: not any where, any time, or any way**

- either by written order of the state prosecutor, or in a given area, during a given period of time
- or as part of an investigation
- or in case of an offence or public disturbance

#### **Outside of those three cases, an ID control is illegal.**

**It is forbidden to control someone's ID because of his or her physical appearance** (looks like a foreigner, a youth, or someone from the ZUP neighborhood...).

#### **If you cannot prove your identity**

You can be taken to the police station for an ID check, and held there for a **maximum of 4 hours**. The police must **tell you what your rights are** (warning a relative, having the prosecutor warned). You can only be questioned on your identity.

#### **Arrest: only in case of an offence**

It is not an offence not to have a permit to stay. The arrest should not be used as a means of intimidation. Anyone placed under arrest must be told of his or her rights (having a relative be warned, seeing a lawyer, seeing a doctor).

#### **The use of force must be strictly adapted to the situation**

In particular the use of handcuffs, gas, batons, and physical constraints. Police must remain polite (no use of "tu" or verbal aggressions).

Anyone may stop to look at a police check, take pictures or film the police in the course of his or her duties.

If you see police act in a way that seems abnormal, disrespectful of the law or violent, give us a call at **0787270186**, or send us an email at [dailleurs.dici@laposte.net](mailto:dailleurs.dici@laposte.net) ■

**Reading-Debate Night:** On **November 18th** at the **Alhambra Cinema**, in room 3 at 8pm, a reading will be held by Le Diable à un Sabot, on the theme of men-women relations, in the context of the international week of solidarity. Titled « That's my sofa! », the reading speaks of a machist migrant from Kosovo, who attempts to get to England to find his wife, son, and sofa. A debate will take place after the show, and the organizer hopes to discuss the fate of migrant women who end up in Calais.

## Deaths in Pantin: Guéant passes the blame onto « illegal » immigration

After the fire that caused 6 deaths in a migrants squat in Pantin [1], a suburb south of Paris, the immigration minister thought it a good idea to place the blame on « *the criminal rings of illegal immigration, fleecing the immigration candidates and who, after having made them hope for a better life, give up on them and let them face a miserable, roving life.* »

**Reality check:** those rings do get people across, but it is politicians, such as Claude GUEANT, who « *give up on them and let them face a miserable, roving life.* » And even that is wrong, because they are not roving, they are running, they are **being chased by police**, and it is not misery, but **oppression, fear and the feeling of a wasted life that they feel**, being forbidden to work openly, having always to hide, *because of the policies implemented by men such as Claude GUEANT.*

As was said in the March 2011 issue of the Sans Frontières journal [2], border crossings, even without the consent of his highness Claude Guéant, are a perfectly legal activity. Smugglers, by getting people across, are doing nothing that is wrong. Only acts of aggression are criminal, and crossing the border independently is not one, no matter what nationalists think of that, whether they are from the National Front, the Union for a Popular Movement (mainstream right-wing), the Communist Party, or the Socialist Party.

On the other hand, it is illegal to arbitrarily detain a person, without a valid reason. And this is what the CRS and PAF agents have to do every single day. To confine people under the credible threat of violence, for administrative and bureaucratic reasons that do not hold water.

So long as there are people free to move, they will go wherever they please, and instead of adapting to this fact of nature, the government would rather set the CRS on them. The government can destroy a great number of lives, and it is certainly, in the end, responsible for that tragedy, as well as all the others that occur as a consequence of the unnatural, criminal, and immoral system of repression and control, but it will never destroy human nature.

Claude Guéant had to blame the illegal immigration rings, because he needed to take the blame off his own shoulders, for his own moral faults as a political official who's responsible for the living conditions of the « illegals » he has created. It is simply disgusting that this trash had the guts to show up and make his pathetic speech on rings that had nothing to do with how insalubrious housing in France is for the illegalized. ■

[1] <http://www.leparisien.fr/faits-divers/pantin-l-incendie-d-un-squat-de-migrants-fait-six-morts-28-09-2011-1629432.php>

[2] <http://sansfrontieres-calais.blogspot.com/2011/03/mars-2011-le-journal-d-extreme-gauche.html>

## A little review

Because we must also judge and criticize the news, we want to go back to some of the events that occurred in the last two months.

On September 15th, an article of Voix du Nord spoke of « *punitive raids* » between rival bands of smugglers in Loon-Plage, Tétéghem and Grande-Synthe, that « *sometimes* » end with automatic gunfire. Of course, the title only speaks about « *Automatic gunfire settling old scores.* » (It's just to sell more issues, that's all. Who cares about the truth? Certainly not our readers.) Nevertheless, there is no doubt that smugglers use potentially deadly violence to obtain the control of crossing points, parking lots usually, and thus secure benefits to themselves. In a system of free movement, migrants would get a 40€ ticket at the ferry terminal. In the system of underground movement, migrants must pay 1000€ to get into a refrigerated lorry.

Last Sunday, October 9th, in the afternoon, a small cottage near the beach went up in smoke. According to the Nord Littoral of that day, the firemen found « young people » who fled when they arrived. Once again, more detailed descriptions would allow us to get beyond the clichés: what young people exactly? What clothes were they wearing? What kind of haircut? We don't know, but we would benefit from knowing, rather than branding an entire section of the population.

On Friday, October 14th, another Conseil des Migrants was held, during which the Mayor generally explains what's going to happen, the associations meekly taking the news. But this time, they had a common demand. They will not deal with the Plan Grand Froid, the extreme cold weather plan. (This is the plan that is activated every few days when the temperature gets below a precise number of celsius degrees, and cancelled when it gets above it.) The Mayor does not wish to have a more thorough plan, to avoid the stabilisation of migrants in Calais. If Madame Bouchart really cares about this, she is free to join the No Borders movement, and to demand and organize of the free movement of the people stuck in Calais. Otherwise, she may only use criminal measures, such as the destruction of shelters, and for instance, of the latest incarnation of Africa House, at the former Noyon factory.

Finally, on Saturday October 15th at 9pm, a young man of 15 was savagely assaulted by three people, two sons and a father, on Dolain street. (« *Insulté puis passé à tabac, un adolescent Calaisien victime d'une agression raciste* », La Voix du Nord, 18/10/2011) The article speaks of a « Camerounian teenager, » when in reality he is a French teenager, of Camerounian ancestry. Nationalism transpires in the ordinary discourse of people. Three suspects are under arrest and have been reported to implicitly recognize the charges, but to refute the charge of racism, which carries a more serious sentence. ■

**Calais Migrant Solidarity** is a transnational group of activists bringing daily support to migrants, through police monitoring, patrols and watches around squats, jungles and camps, clothes donations, english and french lessons, and other acts of solidarity. There is a great need of Calaisians! Get in touch by sending an email to [calaisolidarity@gmail.com](mailto:calaisolidarity@gmail.com)  
Keep informed by visiting the blog:  
<http://calaismigrantsolidarity.wordpress.com>