



Non-Governmental Organization with Special status at the ECOSOC in the United Nations, member observer at the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) of the African Union and at the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)

PRESS RELEASE

STOP THE EUROPEAN POLICY OF CRIMINALIZATION AND CONFINEMENT OF MIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS.

The African Assembly for the Defense of Human Rights (RADDHO) expresses its serious concern over the first steps that inaugurate the French presidency of the European Union and whose agenda is the establishment of a European pact on immigration and asylum which will increase the vulnerability and the criminalization of immigration and asylum.

Already, the directive adopted by the European parliament on last June 18, limited if need to be entitled to immigrate or to seek asylum giving absolutely right to those who denounce the intend to build a European fortress against the hunger invaders. .

This directive result of an iniquitous compromise, tends to harmonize from the bottom by European legislation concerning detention and deportation of undesirable aliens on European soil and widespread policy of confinement of migrants.

The provisions of this directive are unfair and represent a deplorable regression of human rights and reflects the brutality to the fate of migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, all undesirable on the European continent. Let's judge:

- Eighteen months (18) of internment for the fact of having crossed the border and want to live in Europe
- Detention and deportation of minors and vulnerable people (pregnant women, the elderly, victims of torture ...)
- Possibility to be deported in a country of transit, even in the absence of family ties with / in that country
- Prohibition to come back on European territory for five years (5), for foreigners deported
- No issue of residence permits to foreigners suffering from serious diseases

This directive puts foreigners especially those from sub-Saharan Africa in a state of emergency (internment at the will of the administration, weakness of the rights of defence, banishment).

RADDHO :

- **denounces** these extreme measures which open the way for a widespread policy of criminalization, detention and imprisonment of migrants and constitute a new stage in serious sag standards for the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed by the European Convention for Human Rights, ,
- **deplores** the adoption of a directive where racism and xenophobia outweigh respect for the dignity and equality of all men and their right to move freely throughout the world. Situation still paradoxical in the context of globalization which guarantees the movement of capital and goods.

RADDHO :

- **recognizes** the responsibility of the African Union who stay in a deafening silence when Europe expands its borders control on the coasts of the West Africa (with the FRONTEX set up);
- Urges African Union to show more speed and responsiveness for the protection of its citizens.

The Président

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