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We Stand with Migrants Resisting in the U.S.!

In the US city of Los Angeles, California, a sweeping crackdown on migrants has been launched. The operations carried out by the Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have resulted in mass detentions and threats of deportation in many cities. Protests and acts of civil disobedience are being organized in many regions against these practices, which especially targeting Latin American migrants. While the US administration has presented these actions as “security measures”, California state authorities have described them as arbitrary and in violation of constitutional rights. The state government announced that it has initiated a legal process against the federal government to withdraw the thousands of National Guard and military personnel deployed to Los Angeles.

In cities such as Los Angeles, Santa Ana, Compton and San Francisco, both operations and mass demonstrations continue simultaneously. Among those detained are immigrants who have been in the country for a long time and have the right to work and study. These developments are read not only as a local security policy, but as indicators of a broader political orientation. As the internal crises of the imperialist system deepen, the crackdown on migrants has entered a new phase both in the US and Europe.

What is happening in the USA is not new, but it is a clear indication that a more organized, more militarist and more reckless phase has begun. The imperialist capitalist system is trying to blame the crisis it is experiencing on immigrants. However, it is precisely this system that creates immigration! It is this system that displaces peoples through centuries of exploitation, war, environmental destruction and political interventions; it is this system that forces them to live in poverty and precarity. Today, millions of people trying to reach the USA and Europe are fleeing from these attacks. Now these people are being targeted by presenting them as “crisis-causing factors”.

SYSTEMATIC ANTI-IMMIGRANT SENTIMENT IS RISING IN EUROPE

Anti-immigrant policies are not unique to the United States. In Europe, a similar tendency is being put into practice at the level of both discourse and legislation. Especially the laws enacted in recent years are part of a clear program that excludes migrants from social life, legal security and basic human rights. The “Immigration Law” enacted in France imposes serious restrictions on basic rights such as the right to residence and family reunification, while making it difficult to access services such as housing, health and education. Germany's “Deportation Act” extends detention periods, speeds up deportations and grants the police broad powers. Italy and Greece criminalize NGOs rescuing refugees from the Mediterranean; people left to die at sea are ignored by the EU.

Across the EU, the “Reform of the European Asylum System” legitimizes the further militarization of borders and the widespread use of mass returns of refugees. All these regulations, while declaring migrant’s “undesirable”, facilitate their employment as cheap and precarious labour; social exclusion and economic exploitation are carried out together.

BLAMING MIGRANTS WON'T EXCUSE IMPERIALISM!

It is not the immigrants who are responsible for the crisis; it is the rotten and aggressive system itself. Trump and similar political actors are the spokespersons of not just a personal hatred, but the basic reflex of the imperialist system in the face of the crisis. This reflex is based on hiding the class contradictions inside by blaming those who come from outside. Problems such as unemployment and social collapse are not the result of immigrants.... but of capitalist exploitation and imperialist wars. What is happening in the US today, combined with the aggressive immigration policies all over Europe, poses a serious threat to the oppressed.

UNITY AND RESISTANCE AGAINST REPRESSION, BORDERS, AND MASS EXPULSIONS!

As the Confederation of European Turkish Workers (ATIK), we do not remain silent against these attacks! Every kind of attack against migrant workers is against all of us. We raise our voices against racist, fascist and discriminatory policies and salute the resisting migrants and peoples. Let us organize everywhere against the oppression, threats of deportation, exploitation and exclusion of migrants!

Let us be one voice, one fist against all forms of racism!

Long live international solidarity!

Immigrants are not alone!

The imperialist order will fall; the peoples will win!