

# PRO ASYL

National Working Group for Refugees.

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**Press release**  
**10 July 2008**

**Stop the deathtrap at the EU borders!**

**PRO ASYL campaign generates a Europe-wide response**

NGOs from European countries are supporting the campaign 'Stop the deathtrap!' initiated by PRO ASYL. Thousands of people die at the borders of Europe every year. The Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic off the west African coast have become mass graves.

By signing this appeal, supporters call upon the EU member states to guarantee access to a fair asylum procedure in Europe. The Geneva Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights must be upheld. Therefore signatories demand an end to all operations carried out by the EU border agency FRONTEX which violate human rights. FRONTEX operates on the open sea in disregard of current refugee law and human rights. In international waters and partly also in the territorial waters of the countries of origin or transit, refugee boats are pursued and driven away. Those in need of protection do not stand a chance in such a system.

When the appeal to the European Parliament was publicly launched, PRO ASYL General Secretary Günter Burkhardt called for the Parliament to use its supervisory powers and put an end to this practice. An EU agency like FRONTEX whose operations disregard human rights should not be 'sanctioned' with an ever-increasing budget.

PRO ASYL is calling the citizens of Europe not to turn a blind eye to the case of refugees who are illegally prevented from reaching Europe by FRONTEX operations. In collaboration with human rights organisations, PRO ASYL is therefore gathering signatures in many European countries. They will be presented to the European Parliament on Human Rights Day, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008. The following organisations throughout the EU are already signatories of the appeal:

AUSTRIA:	asylkoordination österreich
AUSTRIA:	Diakonie Flüchtlingsdienst
CZECH REPUBLIC:	Organization for Aid to Refugees, OPU
FRANCE:	Cimade
GREAT BRITAIN:	Scottish Refugee Council
GREECE:	Committee of Solidarity to Refugees Chios - Lathra
ITALY:	Italian Refugee Council, CIR
NETHERLANDS:	Vluchtelingenwerk
ROMANIA:	Romanian National Council for Refugees
SPAIN:	Dpto. Acción Social - RESCATE
SPAIN:	Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado, CEAR
SWITZERLAND:	Schweizerische Flüchtlingshilfe

Further information can be found on the campaign website under: [www.stop-the-deathtrap.eu](http://www.stop-the-deathtrap.eu)

Signed: Günter Burkhardt, General Secretary.

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