

MOROCCO – OUJDA February 6th 2020/February 8th 2020

Report of the meeting between the families of deceased, missing migrants or victims of forced disappearance and the activists who support them.

During “Commemora(c)tion” in Morocco, two meetings took place.

Participants to the first meeting were families from Tunisia, from Algeria, a representative of Movimiento Migrante Mesoamericano M3 and activists from different networks, among which Alarm Phone, Missing at the borders, Afrique-europe-interact, Welcome to Europe, Asylum and Migration Tribunal, “Milano senza Frontiere” and “Porti Aperti-Permesso di soggiorno per tutti”.

Two issues were discussed during the first meeting:

1. The importance of holding another day of Commemora(c)tion,
2. The need to improve the data collection method regarding missing persons and their families: a single form holding all useful data, with which to populate a private-access data base, to better gauge the depth of this problem.

Participants to the second meeting were families from Tunisia, Algeria, Camerun, Marocco, a representative of M3 and activists from the above-mentioned networks.

1. It was decided the next day of “Commemorazione” shall be held in Tunisia in 2021. Date and location are yet to be decided, but in April 2020 there should be a meeting in Tunisia where discussion about preparations should begin .
2. A decision was made to continue to reach out to families of migrants who are deceased, missing, and/or victims of forced disappearance, and are from other countries, to keep widening the network of relatives.
3. A decision was made to open the Marocco section of the website www.missingattheborders.org specifically using information supplied by the families from Oujda, who lost their loved ones in 2002.
4. Following a request by the Algerian family members, a decision was made to mobilise to build a working group to develop a legal strategy that will bring court cases which would serve as precedent, and focus around the cases of migrants who are deceased, missing, or victims of forced disappearance. It is therefore necessary to create an International Legal Coalition that groups all cases, because international institutions do not consider individual experiences. In order to build this “legal working group”, each participating country is required to select legal representatives who will systematically advance this project.

Regarding countries on the northern shore of the Mediterranean Sea, the network Milano senza Frontiere, out of Milan, Italy, will contact potential legal representatives. As things unfold, we will seek to build an alliance with those who are organising the next Asylum and Migration Tribunal in Bruxelles in 2021.

The representative of Movimiento Migrante Mesoamericano, speaking of the work being done from a legal aspect, has indicated that a meeting should take place in the coming months in Honduras, focusing on the juridical approach.

Milano senza Frontiere will be tasked with contacting possible groups and individuals interested in the juridical strategy, with the following goals:

- i) Organise a meeting in 2020 to assess progress in the work done specifically about this topic
- ii) Set up an opportunity for dialogue about this topic at the next “Commemorazione”, which will take place in Tunisia in 2021.