

Abstract

Riccardo Noury

Riccardo Noury is the author or co-author of books on human rights relations, in particular on death penalty and torture. The speech of Riccardo Noury (Amnesty International Italy) will be divided in two parts. It reviews among of human rights crisis from Central America to Sub-Saharan Africa, from Syria to Myanmar, obviously touching on Afghanistan. In a second part, it will analyse the global response to migration which are the product of those crisis, focusing on the policies of externalisation and closure of borders. Among them, the episode of the US-Mexico, EU-Turkey, Italy-Libya, EU-Bosnia and lastly the requires to the states bordering Afghanistan to take charge of the people fleeing this country.

70 years have passed since the birth of the universal declaration of human rights. Regarding the report, the situation of human rights in the world by Amnesty International, one has a clear full idea the world is divided into. Human rights activists play an increasing crucial role on the impression, and the tax against them, a proof of their path and the disruptive force of their actions. If we cross the continents geographically, the items to silence them is constant. The methods, the shamelessness of the severity of these attacks change but the significance remains the same. Europe and Central Asia are not exempt from this trend.

In many countries anti-terrorism measures and the criminalisation of the workers activists are aimed at reducing the space of civil society. In Poland it has been introduced the restriction rights to protest. In Russia the protests arisen, there have been mass arrest of protesters including minors. In the Middle East, human rights defenders have played the role of combatting deep discrimination, violations and in denouncing and keeping the focus on conflicts, revealing the abuses committed by the security forces in the Maghreb. In Yemen, many activists have been subjected to unforce disappearance and arbitrary detained and threaten with death.

Italy-Libya agreement

In February 2, 2017 with the EU support, Italy signed an agreement with Libya to foster and sustain the efforts of this North African country to intercept migrants at sea and return them to its detention centres in Libya. Italy accepted to train, equip and fund the Libyan costal guards and other Libyan authorities for this purpose.

The governments concerned decided to renew the agreement in October 2019. The Italian government had initially committed to renegotiate it in order to address the plight of refugees and migrants in Libya. It stated having not brought amendments, but will nevertheless continue to cooperate with Libya.

In July 2021, the agreement was renewed. Italy, according to the Amnesty International website, has become gently responsible for the violations and abuses committed in Libya in a memorandum also signed by human rights watch and send to deputies and senators who are members of the commission concerned. The organisations reiterated the urgency to change the terms of cooperation with Libya. We urge Parliament to revoke any support for any Libyan cause and the general administration for cost security making a new agreement conditioner on the body of Libyan side of concrete measures to guarantee the rights of refugees, migrants including the commitment to disembark rescued people at sea in a region which cannot be in Libya.

The agreement with the EU-Turkey was signed on March, 18 of 2016. It provides for the Turkish government to take charge of migrants who have entered Europe illegally, including those whose

asylum applications have been rejected. It therefore provides for the return to Turkey of any illegal immigrant who has arrived on Greek territory and has not applied for asylum or whose application has been rejected. In that change, the EU has given Turkey billions of euros of which hundreds of millions in September 2020 to support refugees living in the country. After the agreement, Greece introduced measures of obliged people entering the country via the airlines, to say, in come or awaiting the outcome of asylum applications. Currently, the vast majority come from classic refugee countries of origin. They come from Afghanistan, Syria, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo and Palestine. While one in four is a minor. (26%)

Turkey host 4 million refugees. Eve Geddie, director of Amnesty International's office to the European institutions said: "The EU-Turkey agreement was a miserable failure". The EU and members states have failed to take charge of the people seeking safety in Europe, have failed to respect the rights of refugees and migrants and have failed to offer people second protection, a safe road to reach Europe. Ministers must find solutions that could save lives. The scandalous policies such as the EU-Turkey agreement and the unfortunate EU cooperation with Libya cannot represent a model to follow for future agreements with other countries on immigration matters. Five years after the agreement was signed, 50 000 women, men and minors remained trapped in overcrowded camps in the Greek islands and tens of thousands more have resisted staying there. Many were forced to sleep in tents facing the cold in conditions so insecure that it caused the death of some people. This agreement was detrimental to the history of EU human rights and highlights the EU weakness to sign immigration limitation packs with solid political convenience and with little concern for the innovative human cost.

Regarding the agreement between the USA and Mexico, Amnesty International wrote a report untitled "A front of a wall". The report describes the catastrophic impact of policies and practices that result in illegal push backs on asylum seekers at the borders and threaten the illegal detention of thousands of other families including children and babies in US immigration centres. The US and Mexico are complicit in a crime that give them a rise to a serious human rights catastrophe. The US is building a wider tight system to prevent people from receiving the international protection they need.

"Mexico is too happy to have the role of guardian" said Erika Guevara Rosas, director of Amnesty International for the Americas. With this war strategy, president Trump does not realize that these are people who if they want to live have not the choice but to leave their homes. The wall, the question about decrease and the expansion of detention centres for migrants will not prevent people from seeking shorttime in the US.

In this sad game of cat and mouse, the only ones to lose are hundreds of thousands of people desperately seeking escape from the extreme and deadly levels of unbalance in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. "Instead of pushing them to probable death, the US should cancel the border security and adopt entire new immigration policies", added Guevara Rosas.

Extensive field research of both sides of the borders since February, Amnesty International has come to a conclusion that the measures adopted by president Trump to stop immigration, violate international law. This included the decree of 25 January on strengthening the border security and a series of measures that allowed people to place a risk death and the growing on illegal use of automatic detention of asylum seekers, in some cases, all families for months. The decree of January 25 provides foreign increase in the capacity of detention centres for migrants and asylum seekers. According to official data, 8 788 of Southern applications were submitted in Mexico in 2016 compared to 1296 in 2013. 25% of the applicants were granted refugees status. In 20% of the required are citizens from the Northern triangle that is El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, countries played by violence. The US refugee agency estimates that required could reach tens of thousands in 2017.



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Instead of providing protection for these people, Mexico is pushing them back into situations of extreme danger. In 2016, according to the Mexican national institute of immigration, 108 595 irregular migrants were placed in detention and 20% of them from other Central American countries and of these 147 370 were sent back. 97% came from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Many have not even been right to seek protection by applying for asylum. Regarding the situation in Bosnia in the statement of Amnesty International, some European services are refugee rights to call for immediate action to reserve the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Bosnia Herzegovina and identify long term institutional solutions to meet the need of people transiting through the bargain states. Currently, around 2500 migrants and asylum seekers including people of the temporary camp, are left freezing. The authorities of Bosnia Herzegovina continue to fail to provide adequate asylum. EU agencies are always tending to support short time solutions.

“Authorities at all levels must immediately provide assistance for those who need it” said Eve Geddie, director of Amnesty International’s office of the European institutions. Over the past three years, the EU has provided Bosnia Herzegovina with more than 88 million in assistance funds to improve management of migration flows. Despite this, the countries authorities have not identified adequate facilities to receive migrants and asylum seekers take full responsibility for managing assisting ones and provide a minimum necessary support to support people in transit.