Much more than the personal freedom of the ten Iuventa crew members is at stake under this investigation. When criminalisation is used as a strategy, nothing less than the freedom of our society is at risk.

"Why this trial is so important? Its outcome will be a road sign at Europe’s crossroad for fundamental rights and the significance of solidarity."

Nicola Canestrini,
lead lawyer of the Iuventa10

We are not simply fighting a case in court. We are on a mission to fight for solidarity And to do so, we need your support!

Borderline Europe e.V.
IBAN: DE97 4306 0967 4005 7941 04
BIC: GENODEM1GLS

Since August 2017 the rescue ship IUVENTA has been frozen in the port of Trapani in Sicily. The crew of the Iuventa rescued more than 14,000 people in distress. Now they are being investigated for aiding and abetting illegal immigration. The charge carries a sentence of up to 20 years in prison and a €15,000 fine for each „illegal“ immigrant.

WWW.IUVENTA10.ORG
IUVENTA@SOLIDARITY-AT-SEA.ORG

Solidarity at sea is not a crime!

IUVENTA SOLIDARITY-AT-SEA.ORG
WWW.IUVENTA10.ORG
By defining migrants as ‘clandestines’ and ‘illegals’ and by illegalizing efforts to rescue and assist them, EU policy has systematically denied their fundamental rights and demeaned their dignity.

Rather than working towards a humanitarian response, Italy has brokered an agreement with the very same people we are accused of colluding with. The so-called Libyan Coast Guard, set up by a Libyan militia, was funded and equipped in order to extend their scope for intervention in international waters to intercept and return migrants into conditions where they face death, torture, rape, deportation, disappearances and arbitrary imprisonment.

In an effort to bypass the Geneva Convention’s clause of non-refoulement, Italy, aided by the EU, is financing crimes against humanity.

"In countries across Europe, the criminal law is increasingly being used as a weapon to punish and deter those seeking not to violate but to uphold standards of decency."

Frances Webber, vice-chair of IRR & author of Borderline Justice

When people were drowning in the Mediterranean we knew we had to act. So we went out to sea and saved 14,000 lives. But we were forced to stop when Italian authorities seized our ship, the Iuventa. Now we are being investigated for “aiding illegal immigration”. We risk 20 years in prison.

Although we have to stand trial, it is us who accuses Europe. We accuse European politicians of turning their backs on people in need. We accuse the EU of collaborating with regimes who violate human rights. Our mission is solidarity.

What lies ahead of us is a marathon – not a sprint. We expect the legal proceedings to take between 3 and 4 years and legal costs to sum up to € 500,000.

#fight for solidarity

When European governments betrayed their own professed values and left people to drown at their borders, civil society compensated, upholding the rights, responsibilities and laws their states had deemed fit to discard. That it should fall solely on civil society to defend human rights of the most vulnerable is concerning; that their work should be discredited, obstructed and prosecuted is criminal.

We are raising our voices on behalf of the people deprived of human rights, who continue to die every day as they try to reach safety at European shores. We demand to save human lives wherever possible, to provide shelter where needed, and to treat every human being with dignity and with respect to their human rights – without distinguishing between first and second class humans.

“This trial is not just about me and the Iuventa10. All across Europe people are being prosecuted for providing shelter, handing out food, saving lives. I stand by my actions. How can solidarity be a crime?”

Sascha, Iuventa head of mission

Sign up for regular updates, let’s take action together and raise our voices

iuventa10.org