

# International call to mobilization

**On Thursday 8 November 2018,**

the trial of the 7 activists, comprised of 4 French citizens, 2 Swiss citizens and one Italian citizen will take place in Gap.

They face sentences of up to 10 years in prison and a €750'000 fine. They stand accused of **“aiding the entry of foreign nationals in an irregular situation on French territory, as part of an organized gang”** on the occasion of the solidarity march which took place on 22 April 2018. This spontaneous demonstration was a reaction to the increasing militarization of the border and the racist and dangerous provocations of the group Génération Identitaire, who had been blocking the col de l'Échelle (border France/Italy) with impunity since the previous day.

Following the march, 3 activists were put in custody on remand for 11 days, before being assigned to residence for more than 25 days. They were finally released as they waited for the decision of the Constitutional Council regarding “crimes of solidarity”. This decision was made on July 6<sup>th</sup> and ultimately did not affect their situation, which currently remains punishable under criminal law. Indeed, the Constitutional Council decided that solidarity should be reduced solely to bringing punctual humanitarian aid, on the French side, to those who risk their lives to cross the border. Are not considered punishable those who help by chance, without consciously questioning migration policy, while those who organize themselves in solidarity and across borders are!

**Following this decision, four more people were put in custody and are currently being prosecuted for the same motives.**

**The trial for all seven of them will take place on 8 November at Gap (France) courthouse.**

This group summon follows the many pressures and intimidation efforts which they have been subjected to over the course of several months. It must also be seen in the context of European migration policy's growing violence (incarceration, expulsion, criminalization,...) which primarily affects people in exile. This is compounded by an inadmissible increase in ill-treatment by police officers (racial profiling, theft, beatings, threats at gunpoint, intimidation, ...)

Yet, at the same time, the solidarity which refuses the endangerment of these people is liable to be accused of human trafficking when it only seeks to protect people from the mountain's deadly hazards and to uphold fundamental rights and liberties which are increasingly sacrificed in favour of economical, security and identity imperatives. This disastrous and unjust situation, which prevails at the border, must incite us to adopt a critical stance towards the causes, which is to say the failures of capitalist society (slave and colonial history, plundering of resources, climate change, corruption, imperialist wars, structural adjustments, ...), the consequences of which thousands of exiles suffer.

Beyond the support for the 7 people summoned before the court, we want the support which will manifest itself during these mobilizations to be an opportunity to show solidarity to the people in exile who are perpetually criminalized and dehumanized, to denounce the violence and the societal mechanisms they are victims of and to make proposals for a more welcoming world for everyone.

**To this purpose, we call for the largest possible gathering of support on 8 November in front of the Gap courthouse, as well as decentralized actions of support everywhere prior and up to the date of the trial !**

**Borders are man-made and unnatural, it is our job to unmake them !**

**FREEDOM  
FOR THE  
BRIANÇON 3+4  
SOLIDARITY WITHOUT BORDERS**

**Resistance and solidarity without borders !**

*Les comités de soutien Français, Suisse et Italien aux 3+4 de Briançon*