

Statement



Tunis, April 12th, 2023

Tunisia is not a safe country!

Since the racist discourse and hate speech that opened the doors to violence against Black migrants, the situation in Tunisia is still escalating.

Thousands of people have found themselves without housing, jobs, social networks and other forms of support.

Black migrants are deprived of their basic human rights and activists supporting them are at risk of being criminalized by the state. The state that besides “taking new urgent measures” is still failing to provide people with solutions other than forced deportations and violence.

For many weeks groups of Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have been camping in front of UN agencies demanding solutions for their situations. Many of them for multiple reasons can't go back to their countries of origins. They demand evacuation to third countries. Their protests are met with total silence and ignorance from UNHCR and IOM.

Agencies that have proven a lack of communication and a failure to assist their people of concern on multiple occasions.

Among these people are very vulnerable groups like women, unaccompanied children and LGBTIQ+ people.

Today the situation took another turn when the police attacked the protestors with tear gas and a lot of violence. Things escalated from both sides and there have been damages to properties.

The frustration and the lack of reactivity from national and international authorities have led to that escalation. As long as there are no real solutions the situation will only get worse.

- We support the protestors in their demands to seek safety in another country where their rights can be guaranteed.
- We demand the cease of violence and the cease of criminalisation of migration.
- We urge the responsible authorities to do their jobs and to assist the people that are under their mandate and to guarantee their rights for a dignified life.
- We urge the local solidarity networks and organizations to support migrants in their demands.