

Justice and Truth for Mawda

The trial regarding the murder of Mawda against one policeman and two so-called “smugglers” will start at the correctional tribunal of Mons on the 23rd of November.

We keep demanding a trial in the Cour d’assises, redefining the facts as “murder”

We have asked for such serious facts to be tried in the Cour d’assises (in Belgium, penal crimes court): the facts have been requalified. We keep demanding a trial in the Cour d’assises, redefining the facts as “murder”. On the one hand, to make sure that this case has a large hearing, with the direct witnesses being present and answering the questions of the judges, the jury and the parties’ lawyers ; on the other hand, **to unveil the political responsibilities in Mawda’s death**, the way the police tried to hide the facts and the lies of the Public Prosecutor’s office throughout the instruction.

The shooting and the murder of Mawda happened on the night of May 17th 2018, as part of Opérations Médusa, which track down migrants in compliance with **a racist policy of closing borders at Belgian and European levels**.

Criminalizing only the policeman or, worse, focusing the attention only on the “smugglers” are ways to avoid questioning the many political responsibilities of those who organize the migrants’ hunt.

If the armed police force does have its place among the accused, its presence hides that of the organizers of these operations. The instigators of these operations do not appear among the accused, neither do the Ministers who perpetuate and cover them (Michel Government, De Croo Government).

Besides, **the police and the judicial system have to be held accountable** — for their intervention techniques, as well as

The instigators of these operations do not appear among the accused

The policemen have repeatedly and consistently lied.

Plotting began just after the facts (see Michel Bouffieux’s investigation). In the first minutes following the murder a coalition of civil servants was set up : the public prosecutor’s office was not called and no exclusive judicial zone was determined, the shooter was invited to leave without proper interrogation. He was just informed by his superior that there would not be any lawsuit against him and that he could go home. He was also advised to write minutes describing an “armed rebellion” against him. The day after the funeral, the policemen present the day of the murder (except the shooter) met again to agree upon their versions.

There have been numerous thesis, some particularly odious: that the little girl fell from the van and had a head injury, that she was used as a human shield, that the van swerved, that there was an exchange of shootings... The versions of the police and of the Public Prosecutor followed one after the other, resulting in the police being exonerated while giving elements to the correctional tribunal to whitewash the murder committed by the police. There was also the **covering of the police conclusions by the Public Prosecutor who validated all the versions**, even the one where the van was used as a “weapon”, without ever prosecuting the lies and the attempts to corrupt witnesses, despite the seriousness of such actions. All this amounts to a coalition of civil servants, not only among the policemen, but also, by their attitude, among the prosecutor and the judges.

for the racist dehumanization of migrants. **Shooting without legitimate defence is unacceptable. It is not a “lack of discernment”. It is murder.**

From Semira Adadmu to Jozef Chovanec : a policy of organised violence

From Semira Adamu to Josef Chovanec, **the Mawda case is also a case of institutionalized police violence.** It shows what the police is allowed to do to individuals considered as foreigners (Adil, Mehdi for whom the council chamber dismissed the charge, Lamine Bangoura suffocated by 8 policemen whose charges were dismissed in the first-instance judgment,...) : techniques used, priority operations, disappearance of images and proofs against the police, hasty instructions, civil servants' coalitions, etc.

Stopping the State's racist police violence!

The trial is about:

- Demanding the **dismantling** of the Opérations Médusa and the “manhunts” as a priority measure to set up safe migratory roads.
- Demanding that the political responsibility in the death of Mawda be unveiled, through an ad hoc **investigative** parliamentary commission, that all the political parties are keen not to request.
- **Abolishing** the racist and deadly policies at the Belgian and EU borders by dismantling Frontex, by reforming the European migratory policies (in particular by abolishing the revised Dublin treaty that just accelerates the expulsions).
- **Setting up** a new migratory law based on the challenges caused by climate change and on the post-colonial structural imbalance and inequality to ensure freedom of movement and settlement.
- **Putting an end** to police violence, using all the technical and political means available.
- **Putting an end** to the impunity of police crimes.
- **Regularizing** the situation of undocumented people living in Belgium, both to ensure their access to he-

althcare, jobs, the welfare state, housing rights... but also as a post-colonial reparation within a Truth and Reconciliation commission.

First signing parties :

Groupe Montois de Soutien aux Sans-Papiers, Refugee Women's Center, Comité Mawda - Justice et Vérité, Gauche Anticapitaliste, Le Village du Monde, JOC, CEPAG - Mons Borinage, Bruxelles Panthères, Théâtre des Rue, FGTB Wallonne, Marche des Migrants de la Région du Centre, Le Théâtre du Copion, Charleroi Solidarité Migrant.e.s, IWW Belgium, Nouvelle Voie Anti-coloniale, MOC Hainaut-Centre, Collectif Travailleurs Sans-Papiers (TSP), L'école des solidarités (Liège), Getting the Voice Out, Stand Up tegen racisme en fascisme, Le Mondes des Possibles, Migrations Libres, Équipes Populaires - Verviers, Solidair Gent, Éditions du Souffle, ObsPol, Compagnie Maritime, Acteurs de l'Ombre, CADTM Belgique, Collectif de Résistance Aux Centres pour Etrangers (CRACPE), Collectif liégeois de soutien aux sans-papiers, ATTAC-Liège, Fédération Anarchiste / groupe Ici & Maintenant, Brigade de Solidarité Populaire (Watermael-Boitsfort), Union Syndicale Etudiante, Réseau ADES, Decolonial International Network, Collectif 8 mars Bruxelles, Présence et Action Culturelles, Coordination des sans-papiers de Belgique, Collectif Heartbroken, Sans-papiers TV, Comité des Femmes Sans-papiers, Collectifs Latinos por la Regularización

To sign this declaration as a collective or organisation, please send a message to : **martinvde@yahoo.fr**

To sign this declaration as an individual person, please send a message to : **david.jamar@umons.ac.be**