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Aan: Veerle Solia
Onderwerp: Equal Times newsletter: Migrants, Syria, The Hobbit and more



= THE IMMIGRANT WAR

An average of two coffins arrive at the international airport of Kathmandu every day. They are bringing back the corpses of Nepali migrants who went to work in the Middle East or in the Persian Gulf. In the Americas, about 2,000 people have died trying to cross the border between Mexico and the United States in the last ten years. As for those who have tried to reach Europe from Africa and the Middle East across the Mediterranean, it is estimated that at least 20,000 people have died since 1990.

These are not the numbers of mere accidents, these are the numbers of an actual war: a war against immigrants.

And the conflict does not relate only to the undocumented nor does it stop at the borders. Even when migrants succeed in obtaining a legal work permit, pulled by the labour demand of richer countries, they are still faced with violation of core rights.

But how sustainable is the current migration system in the long term? How can we manage migration realistically, giving people both dignity and safety? The migration question has certainly not been resolved by militarising borders further or by reducing visas and permits.

The global phenomenon of contemporary migration cannot be left to the decisions and solutions of individual states. The only concrete, immediate alternative to further exploitation and violation of human rights is genuine grassroots organising by migrants.

Vittorio Longhi
Editor

= HIGHLIGHTS



GLOBAL: INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

Posted on December 18, 2012

On International Migrants Day, Equal Times editor and The Immigrant War author Vittorio Longhi explains why the solution to the migrant question will come from immigrants themselves.

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NEW ZEALAND: THE HOBBIT VS THE UNIONS

Posted on December 14, 2012

As the world gets swept up in a wave of Hobbit mania, we reveal the story of director Peter Jackson's astonishing attack on the unions and its long-term implications the New Zealand film industry.

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SYRIA EXCLUSIVE: 'THIS IS OUR ONLY WEAPON AGAINST THE REGIME'

Posted on December 7, 2012

As the violence in Syria escalates, Equal Times has an exclusive video interview with Khaled, a member of a media activist network. Currently in a refugee camp in Jordan after being shot in the hand by Syrian security forces, Khaled tells us his harrowing story.

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= CAMPAIGN

STOP THE NET GRAB



The World Conference on International Telecommunications may have ended in disarray following a walkout by the US delegation but the internet as we know it is still at risk.

The International Telecommunications Union (or ITU), a United Nations agency, is planning to adopt new rules to clamp down on the fundamental freedoms of citizens online. Unless we act now, our right to freely communicate and share information could change forever.

This is why Equal Times has launched the Stop the Net Grab campaign to ensure that the internet remains an open resource for everyone around the globe.

Read our special report and join our [global petition](#) to help ensure that the internet remains free for all.

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= COMING SOON

SPAIN: AUSTERITY AND THE SPANISH HOUSING CRISIS

The Spanish property market crashed in 2007. Five years and close to 400,000 evictions later, Equal Times takes a look at impact that austerity measures have had on the country's homeowners and the ways in which people are fighting back against evictions.

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