



Press statement

**f.Lotta is sailing
from
Mazarra del Valo to Lampedusa!**

11/09/2024 | This morning, **f.Lotta** civil fleet has set sail in direction of Lampedusa, the door of Europe. Our objective is to occupy the Central Mediterranean Sea and to advocate for freedom of movement for all.



Press statement

The situation now: repression and invisibilization

The central Mediterranean sea has become a symbol of the border regime itself. Here, we witnessed a recent worsening of state repression: people on the move are constantly criminalized, a wave of arbitrary detentions blocks rescue vessels, Libyan militias, sponsored by the EU, deliberately open fire against SAR assets. Shipwrecks and deaths at sea are not a humanitarian tragedy, they are the result of conscious political choices. We remember the latest shipwreck, on 13th August, close to Lampedusa, with grief and anger.

Our Response: Occupation as Political Presence

f.Lotta refuses the normalization of border violence. We are occupying the central Med and other seas and land areas with our bodies and our boats to reclaim it from the logic of the border regime and to fill them with another logic: that of **freedom of movement**. Our occupation is a collective act of resistance and liberation, we stand as political actors, not as a humanitarian mission.

Freedom of Movement: Our Political Horizon

Our collective political horizon is **freedom of movement**, a vision which many political groups within f.Lotta shaped through several campaigns. These campaigns are many and intersectional, projecting ideas for a radically different alternative present: <https://flotta.noblogs.org/campaigns/>. Each ship of the **f.Lotta** action is associated to a campaign, and it becomes its witness and standard bearer, carrying the demand in the contested area of the central Med. If freedom of movement is our manifesto, each campaign becomes a demand for change.

Decentralized Occupations: Sea and Land

The occupation in the central Mediterranean has stirred occupations elsewhere, liberating other areas from the border regime. While it unfolds, parallel actions will unfold across Europe and beyond. From **Marseille**, **Berlin**, **Elba**, **Rome**, **Lampedusa**, **Nicosia**, **Brest** to **Calais**, **f.Lotta** spreads across borders. At the moment, it can count on 6 f.Lottine (occupations on rivers and sea other than the one south of Lampedusa) and 10 land f.Lotta actions.

Who we are ?

f.Lotta as a grassroots and decentralized initiative allows many groups and individuals to join a shared platform, counter far-right narratives and Fortress Europe with collective action.

f.Lotta is a spontaneous, horizontal, grassroots movement, created by individuals and groups bringing solidarity and resistance practices other than professionalized sea rescue.

Why now?

10 years ago, on September 2015, thousands of people on the move started to walk from the borders of Hungary towards Germany, effectively opening the closed borders of fortress Europe. They proved that collective, coordinated, direct action can break the cycle of normalized violence.

f.Lotta pays tribute and takes inspiration from that act of collective defiance. Some anniversaries should not go without noise.