



Monday on the Couch

„Refugees, Activists and Humanitarians - all criminals?“

22nd July 2019 | 7pm
iac Berlin, Linienstr. 65a, 10119 Berlin



Doors open at 6.30 pm, the event starts at 7.00 pm. The event will be held in English language.

Refugees, Activists and Humanitarian - all criminals?

Armed conflict is driving more and more people from their homes. People also flee to escape the lack of human security linked to structural violence, persecution and oppression. Three years after the increased arrivals of asylum seekers on European shores and border check-points in 2015, the actions of NGOs and individuals who rescue, assist and advocate on behalf of survivors have brought both public and political attention to the scenes of humanitarian and civic action around asylum seeking. By the end of 2018, several of these actions have been publicly attacked and declared illegal, while those who continue to engage in rescue, humanitarian assistance and advocacy in favour of asylum seekers are labelled criminals and are subsequently arrested for engaging in criminal activity. A recent [report](#) by United Against Inhumanity (UAI) comes to the conclusion that the widespread and systematic use of criminal law and public defamation against NGOs and citizens who assist asylum seekers needs to be understood as an expansion and intensification of the wider criminalisation process against migration in the EU. Together with the report's author Sarah Hammerl, the Bosch Alumni Network and the Centre for Humanitarian Action ([CHA](#)) we will discuss the implications of these developments for humanitarian access to and civic action around asylum seeking in Europe. The Centre for Humanitarian Action (CHA) is currently researching on humanitarian access and the shrinking humanitarian space in the global south, as well as Europe's borders. It is a Berlin-based think tank fostering critical reflection, open debate and public communication of humanitarian action.

Speaker

Muhammed al-Kashef, Consultant researcher and advocate of WatchTheMed - Alarm Phone

Sarah Hammerl, United Against Inhumanity (UAI)

Moderation

Sonja Hövelmann, Centre for Humanitarian Action (CHA)

Monday on the Couch is a discussion format within the Bosch Alumni Network. One Monday each month, we are inviting experts from our network to the iac Community Space to discuss a current political or societal topic. After the discussion, there is time to continue the conversation over drinks. Are you interested in organizing a Monday on the Couch event? Please feel free to send us some lines with your idea to info@boschalumni.net!

A cooperation between:

