

considering the impact of the episodes of extreme border violence during May 2021, and placing this in historical context of illegal migrant push backs and human rights violations from the Spanish enclaves to Morocco, we have published a report on the situation in Ceuta and Melilla looking at the continued and increasing state repression against people on the move. This report was researched and written by the disinfo collective known in kitchen and consulted our wheels and was published by the border violence monitoring network. The report examines the context of the enclaves as places of transit analyzing developments around the fence, sea crossings and local border mobility, combining firsthand accounts of people subjected to violent returns as well as an overview of the actors and surveillance technologies involved. It outlines the constitution of the enclaves as a tool of deterrence and abuse.

The report focuses primarily on the events of May 2021 and beyond, when 1000s of sub Saharans and people from neighboring Moroccan cities crossed into Ceuta and Melilla, by land and by sea.

The way in which the Spanish and Moroccan authorities dealt with this large scale transit reveals existing patterns of collective expulsions and police brutality. Despite the fact that these regions are internationally accepted as Spanish and therefore part of the European Union people on the move there are treated differently, creating illegal pretext for forced expulsions and the subsequent violence inherent to this processes. A recent example is what happened on the 13th of August when Spain and Morocco initiated a massive push back operation, ultimately resulting in 54 minors being returned from Ceuta and two minors from Melilla in violation of Spanish child protection law and international law too. Additionally, the pandemic and the closure of the border for a year and a half have affected the situation in Ceuta and Melilla. In terms of the mobility of people entering from Morocco, and the use of racist violence to control it and repress it showing an escalation and expansion of violence carried out using racial profiling. Regarding pushbacks, also known as hot returns, after the expulsion of four people, including two minors on the 26th of July, a MDH reported the return of another two on the 28th of July. During the month of August, these unlawful returns were repeated. More recently, in the period of August and September entries by sea were intensified. 125 people arrived at Villet de la gomera on the 20th of September 41 People arrived at isla de tierra on the 21st of August, and two people arrived at the chap marinas island on the 18th of September.

All these people have been returned to Morocco. Although many had requested international protection on Isla de Tierra the anti riot unit and the Guardia Civil used violence against the arriving migrants with tear gas and batons.

At least 10 Migrants have died in the sea of Malaya this year either having fallen in while crossing the border are trying to board the ferry to mainland Spain. The arrival of dead bodies at the port of Melilla is not uncommon. The last two deaths were on the 10th of August on the 21st of September. In recent months, the tension on Melilla border has persisted due to the increase in mass crossings. The available record where many entries are not counted indicates that during the period from the 17th of August the 30th of September, there were at least 1294 attempts to enter the city of Melilla from Morocco mostly by attempting to jump the fence but also by swimming all the way which can take from six to eight hours. The vast majority of these attempts were prevented by the Moroccan and Spanish police who collaborate in the control of Spanish borders and through excessive police violence among other tactics that violate the human rights of migrants.