

**ACTIVITY  
REPORT**

**2023**

**CA-MINANDO  
FRONTERAS**

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# 1/ LETTER FROM THE COLLECTIVE

The year 2023 has been marked by an increase in the number of victims on the routes to Spain. Since the month of June –with the activation of the migration routes from Senegal and Mauritania– the numbers of dead and missing people spiked. Our organization had to face the challenge of reinforcing its cross-border capacities in these two countries in order to respond to the increase in the number of shipwrecks and the thousands of families searching for their loved ones.

During the first half of the year, we were able to improve our lines of action and our psychosocial support with families through the knowledge gained at the 1st INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF FAMILIES OF BORDER VICTIMS.

This was a very important event, as it recognised, for the first time in Europe, the impact of border deaths on families and the human rights violations they suffer at the hands of states.



We have continued to accompany cases of rights violations transnationally, and to strengthen our support for the population on the move, with a special focus on women who suffer the violence of the border.

Two cases have marked our legal agenda, in which our teams have assisted the families. The Melilla-Nador massacre, which we addressed in a joint lawsuit with other organizations, and a shipwreck on the Canarian route which is being investigated by the prosecutor's office for alleged omission of the duty to rescue.

Our human rights observatory –where we apply a participatory action research methodology– allows us to identify situations where human rights are most threatened.

We could not have faced all these challenges without working hand in hand with migrant communities, families, organizations and allies who accompany us in the defence of human rights. Once again, thank you for your support.

Colectivo Ca-Minando Fronteras

## 2/ THE TEAM



Ca-Minando Fronteras is a collective founded in 2002 by a group of women human rights defenders who decided to step forward to accompany migrants in the fight for their rights.

Since then, we have been documenting rights violations on the Euro-African Western Border and working to protect the victims of migration policies and their families.

After more than 20 years of working hand in hand with organizations and communities on both sides of the border, we have built relationships of trust that have turned us into a point of reference in the protection and defence of rights for people on the move.

# 3/ ACTIVITY 2023

## Observatory of Human Rights on the Western Euro-African Border/**Right to Life**

In 2023, we have assisted through our life-saving alert system:

**25.564**  
people

**9,70%**  
women  
(2.479)

**3,29%**  
children  
(841)

Tragedies in 2023:

**128**  
shipwrecks  
Canarian Route

**34**  
shipwrecks  
Algerian Route

**6**  
shipwrecks  
Alboran Route

**45**  
shipwrecks  
Strait of  
Gibraltar Route

In 2023, we have documented the victims of the borders to keep on demanding justice:

**6.618**  
casualties on access  
routes to Spain in 2023

**363**  
women

**6.007**  
Canarian  
Route

**30**  
Alboran  
Route

**384**  
children

**434**  
Algerian  
Route

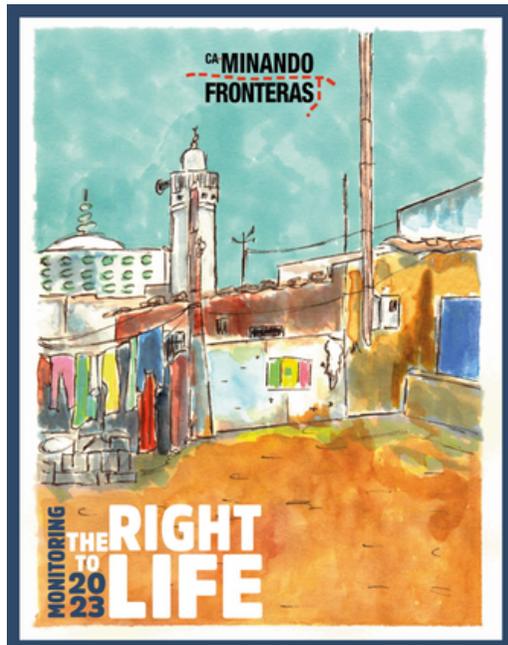
**147**  
Strait of  
Gibraltar  
Route

**84**  
boats disappeared  
with all the people  
on board

## 3/ ACTIVITY 2023

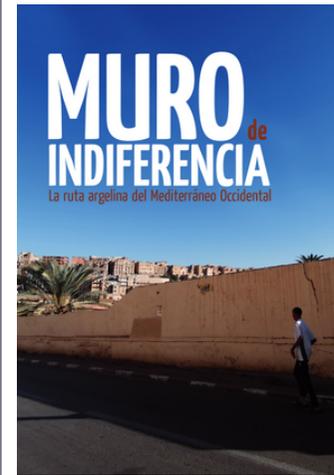
# Observatory of Human Rights on the Western Euro-African Border/**Right to Life**

Our observatory of Human Rights on the Western Euro-African border works with a participatory action research methodology that allows us to systematise the information obtained on the field from primary sources into documentation to feed the fight for human rights on the borders. In 2023 we have published the following reports:



With an edition for the first half of the year and another for the whole year, including data on victims on the migratory routes to Spain. The deadliest year our organization has recorded: 6618 people disappeared and died at the border.

[Download](#)



Publication of specific research on the Algerian route –the second deadliest migratory route on the Western Euro-African Border, and also the most invisible.

[Download](#)



Seven months after the massacre, we republish the massacre report, publishing exclusive testimonies from survivors we assisted during humanitarian aid missions following the massacre.

[Download](#)

### 3/ ACTIVITY 2023

## Observatory of Human Rights on the Western Euro-African Border/Cases of legal and transnational, social mediation

61  
cases

14  
cases

of family separation

25  
cases

of mediation with medical and police authorities in disappearance reports and/or identification of bodies. 10 cases where identification of the dead and dignified burials were achieved.

15  
casos

of asylum claims

7  
cases

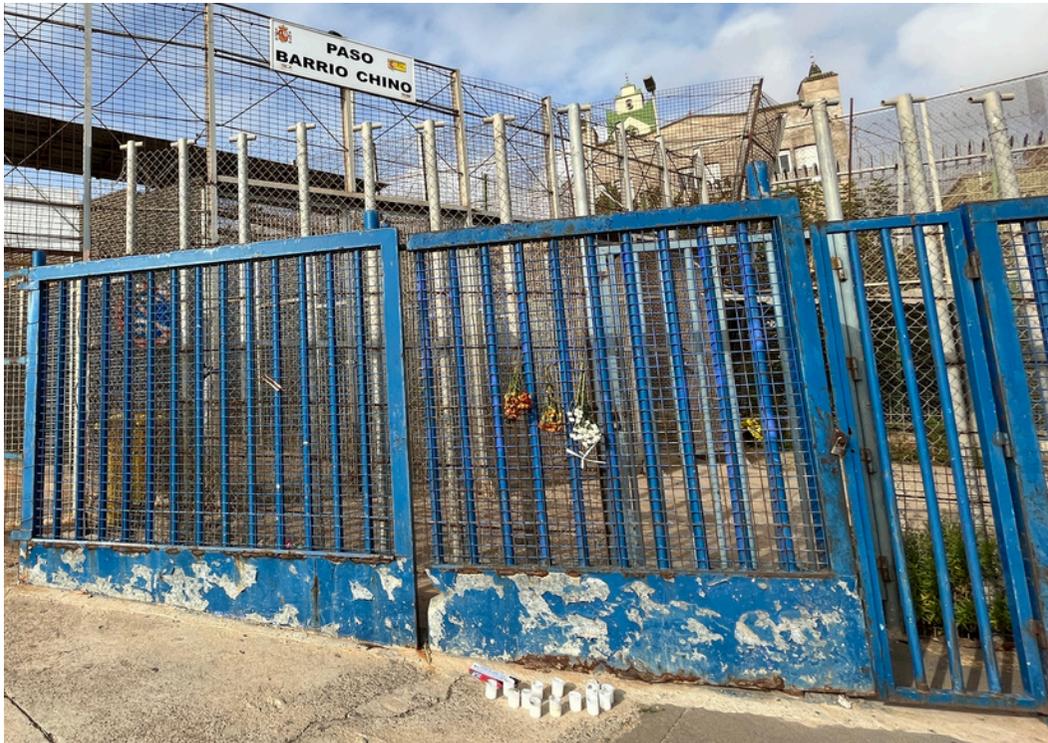
of assistance of people in detention centres for migrants (CIEs) in the Canary Islands

### 3/ ACTIVITY 2023

## Observatory of Human Rights on the Western Euro-African Border/Melilla-Nador massacre

This year we have filed two litigation cases that present serious violations of the right to life.

Together with the organizations Coordinadora de Barrios, Extranjeristas en Red, the Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos de España and the Associació Lab 38, we filed a complaint about the events of the Melilla-Nador massacre.



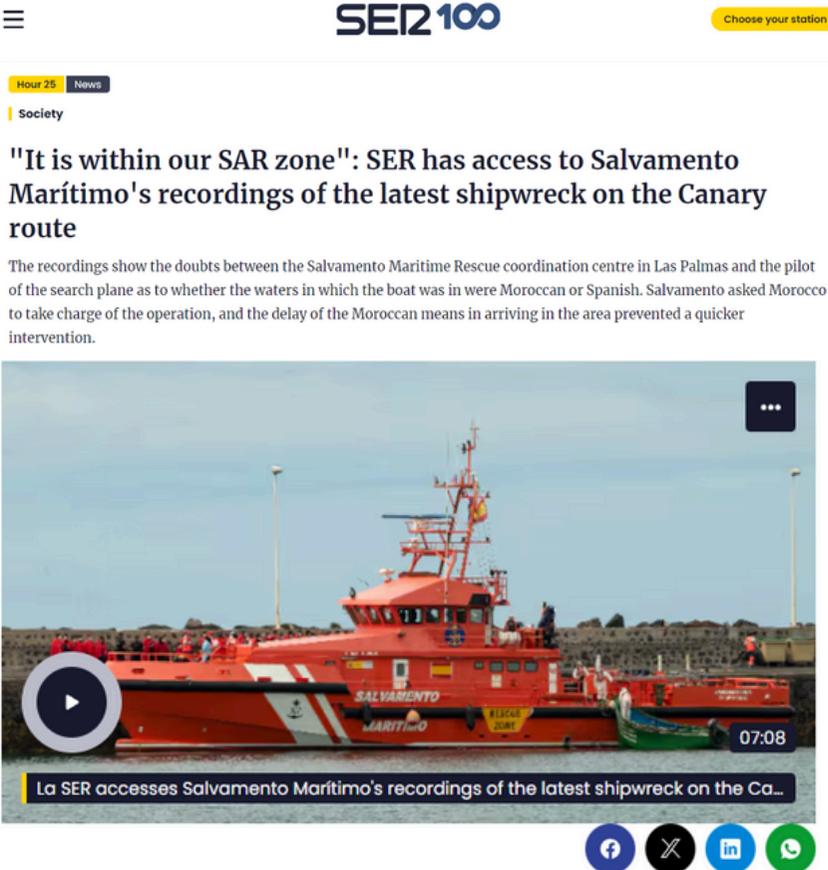
## 3/ ACTIVITY 2023

On 20th June, our organization monitored the situation of an inflatable boat at risk on the Canarian route. The rescue services delayed their actions for 10 hours, and finally there was a shipwreck that took the lives of 39 people, among them a four year old boy whose body was transferred to Las Palmas.

Our organization made the case public and an investigation by Cadena SER radio uncovered internal Salvamento Marítimo (national maritime rescue service) communications where some risky practices regarding lifesaving could be extracted.

Given the seriousness of the facts, we provided the Spanish Prosecutor General's Office with our monitoring data in case they could constitute a crime. It was then that the Prosecutor's Office itself filed a lawsuit for the facts, which are being investigated by a court in Las Palmas. Our organization has taken part in the proceedings as popular accusation.

## Observatory of Human Rights on the Western Euro-African Border/21st June shipwreck



Hour 25 | News

Society

### "It is within our SAR zone": SER has access to Salvamento Marítimo's recordings of the latest shipwreck on the Canary route

The recordings show the doubts between the Salvamento Maritime Rescue coordination centre in Las Palmas and the pilot of the search plane as to whether the waters in which the boat was in were Moroccan or Spanish. Salvamento asked Morocco to take charge of the operation, and the delay of the Moroccan means in arriving in the area prevented a quicker intervention.

07:08

La SER accesses Salvamento Marítimo's recordings of the latest shipwreck on the Ca...

— Nicolás Castellano Cadena SER 22/06/2023 - 20:08 CEST

**Madrid** • La SER has accessed the recordings of the rescue operation from the last shipwreck on the Canary Islands route, in which two people died and 37 are still missing. The operation took more than 12 hours. The recordings show the doubts between the Las Palmas rescue coordination centre and the pilot of the search plane as to whether the waters in which the boat was in were Moroccan or Spanish. The pilot insisted that it was Spain. However, Salvamento asked Morocco to take charge of the operation, and the delay of the Moroccan forces in arriving in the area prevented a quicker intervention.

### 3/ ACTIVITY 2023

## Observatory of Human Rights on the Western Euro-African Border/ Cases of legal and transnational, social mediation



This year, we have expanded our mediation services to in Senegal and Mauritania following the reactivation of migratory journeys further along the Atlantic route. The number of victims has increased and so has the need of families for assistance.



We continue to mediate in family separations that result from violent policies at the border, and we witness the effects of institutional racism in how difficult it is to achieve reunification.

We must highlight an increase in the number of migrant children during 2023, which puts forth with the challenges regarding the protection of their rights.



Cases relating to body search and identification processes have predominated in the Algerian and Canarian routes. We have found that reporting and DNA sampling is essential for identifications.

## 3/ ACTIVITY 2023

## From Pain to Justice: families and victims of the borders

In 2023 we have accompanied:

**521**  
missing person  
search requests

**289** people on the Canarian Route

**175** people on the Algerian Route

**6** people on the Alboran Route

**16** people on the Strait of Gibraltar Route

**55** people on other routes (land or Central Mediterranean)

**14**

people found alive  
thanks to our  
organization's search  
processes

### 3/ ACTIVITY 2023

## From Pain to Justice: families and victims of the borders/ Psychosocial, legal and administrative support



Accompanying families of missing people to file reports in alliance with organizations present in border areas has been a priority throughout 2023. As a result of one of these actions, we confirmed the death –in 2021–, of a person whose unidentified body was in the morgue in Malaga while his family was tirelessly searching for him.



We also managed to pre-identify the child who died during the shipwreck of 21 June and to assist his relatives –who are still fighting for legal identification and a dignified burial.

We travelled to the Canary Islands, Murcia, Alicante, Valencia, Almería, the Balearic Islands, Melilla, Rabat, Tunisia and Senegal.



The missions have included numerous meetings with authorities responsible for the search and identification of missing persons, with relatives of border victims and with partner organizations on the field.

We would like to highlight, during this year, our first mission to Senegal to work with families of victims and to strengthen ties with local organizations.

### 3/ ACTIVITY 2023

## From Pain to Justice: families and victims of the borders/ Psychosocial, legal and administrative support



As part of our work in accompanying the families of border victims, this year we organised two events aimed at putting families and their fight at the centre of the debate on borders. The first was the Online Meeting of Border Families, held on 26th January, with the participation of 77 people from various countries: Senegal, Algeria, Morocco and France.



This first contact helped us to prepare the 1st International Congress of Families of Border Victims, held on 9th and 10th May in Madrid. This event was attended by families of people who have disappeared at borders, members of United Nations Committees, forensic experts, legal experts, human rights and migrant rights experts, as well as representatives from the Spanish government.



# 3/ ACTIVITY 2023

## Humanitarian Assistance

In 2023 we assisted:

# 682

people on the move who  
needed psychosocial and  
humanitarian support



Health care  
services for  
women who  
have endured  
violence,  
including  
sexual violence

Assistance in  
forced  
displacement  
cases, paying  
special attention  
to women and  
children

Provision of  
warm clothes and  
food for people in  
informal  
settlements

Provision of  
shelter as a  
protection  
measure, paying  
special attention  
to women and  
children

Health care  
supplies

Access to  
medicines

Support for  
children who  
have endured  
violence

## 3/ ACTIVITY 2023

# Advocacy, communication and awareness-raising/ Communication



Given how diverse our activities are, we also have a diverse audience, and we tailor the content we share with different objectives. We continue to focus on migrant communities and families by providing up-to-date information on the border situation and about their rights.

We mobilise public opinion and share first-hand information of great value to journalists, policy makers and other actors.

The information we share continues to be a point of reference for the media –we provide interviews, press conferences and other forms of participation in the public debate.

Our impact in 2023:



19.490

media appearances



36.904

followers on social  
media platforms



60.389

page views on our  
website



511.459

followers on Helena  
Maleno's Facebook,  
mainly population on the move

## 3/ ACTIVITY 2023

# Advocacy, communication and awareness-raising/ Participation in events, conferences and trainings

In 2023 we have worked intensely on awareness raising and knowledge dissemination, participating in 37 events at national and international level (Tunisia, Morocco, Belgium, Switzerland, Brazil, Senegal...), including taking part twice in United Nations meetings:



7  
trainings



30  
panels and  
meetings

## 4/ NETWORKING

## Organizations we work with

Working as a network is in our DNA. Since our foundation, we have built strong transnational and cross-border alliances.

Delegación  
Diocesana de  
Migraciones  
(Morocco and  
Senegal)

APDHE

Geum  
Doudou  
(Melilla)

Fundación  
Amaranta

MDLR  
(Melilla)

Coordinadora  
de Barrios  
(Madrid and  
Alcantarilla)

Migration  
Secretariat  
(Canary Islands)

Spanish  
Association of  
Anthropology and  
Forensic  
Odontology

GEAR  
(Canary Islands)

Aquí estamos  
migrando  
(Tenerife)

Aldeas  
Infantiles SOS

UNHCR

Dutch Council  
for Refugees

Iniciativa  
Mesoamericana  
de Defensoras

CIMADE

EuromedRights

Terre\_Solidaire

Asociación  
Siglo XXI

## 4/ NETWORKING

## Awards and acknowledgements

Ca-minando Fronteras's work continues to be recognised and this year we have received the following awards:

Best Documentation Work award in the IV Desalambre awards by elDiario.es



9M Pablo Rosón award for Best Publication, Technological Application and Scientific Knowledge –awarded to the AEAOF's (Spanish Association of Anthropology and Forensic Odontology) monographic work "Death at the border", in which we have participated with the article "Dead and missing people at the western Euro-African border: forgotten rights, denied rights".



Dignidad 2023 award – Awarded by Aquarius Supervivientes

SER Canario award for Helena Maleno Garzón, founder of Ca-minando Fronteras

# 5/ FINANCIAL REPORT

## Funders:



## INCOME

## EXPENSES

Public Administrations 51%

Organizations and Foundations 49%

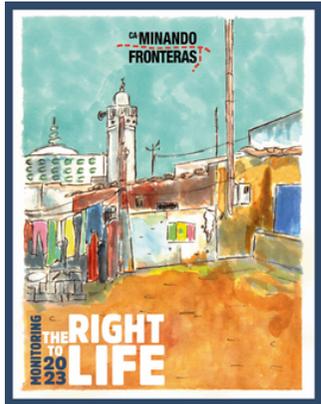
Staff 48,7%

Activity 49,4%

Overhead 1,9%

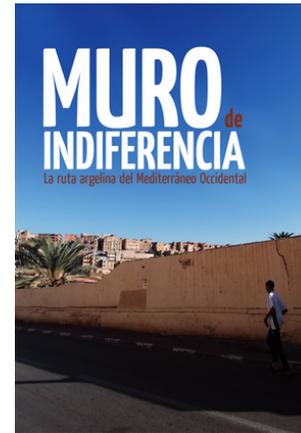
# 6/ PUBLICATIONS

Our publications are available in French, English and Spanish. In addition, our guide for families Guide to Search Migrants Missing at the Border is available in Wolof and Bambara as well.



Monitoring the Right to Life Report 2023

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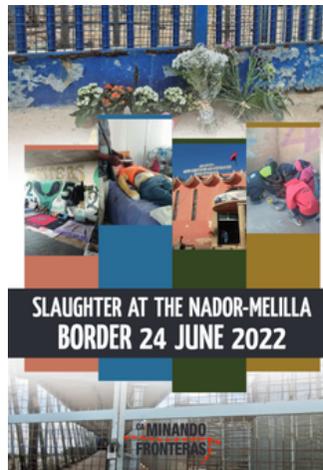
Wall of indifference. The Algerian route in the Western Mediterranean

[Download](#)



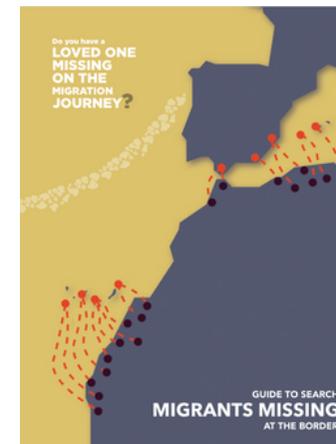
Monitoring the Right to Life – first semester 2023

[Download](#)



Slaughter in the Nador-Melilla border 24th June 2022 (reissued January 2023)

[Download](#)



Guide to Search Migrants Missing at the Border (reissued 2023 including Bambara and Wolof)

[Download](#)



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