



**FESTIVAL INFO No. 12 (1.10.2014)
Moving Epilogue in Packed Filmhauskino
4,000 Filmgoers Attend Festival, Many More at Accompanying Events**

On Tuesday, 30 September, 150 visitors packed Cologne's Filmhauskino to attend Tunisian director **Walid Fellah's** presentation of his documentary **BOZA**, about Europe's militarily secured southern border. The film shows the desperate attempts of Africans to cross the border fences, covered in NATO barbed wire, and get to the Spanish enclaves of Melilla and Ceuta in northern Morocco. It also documents the dismal living conditions of those who manage to make it legally or illegally into Europe, and shows demonstrations such as the "March for Freedom" to Brussels, through which several of them protested against "death on the EU external borders". Trésor, one of these activists, reported in Cologne of his difficult path from Cameroon to Europe, in which he had to live off rubbish in the woods of Morocco, and his attempt to cross the Strait of Gibraltar in a rubber boat (where he was illegally captured in Spanish waters by Moroccan Marines). He also recounted experiences with police forces on the fenced border of Ceuta, in which "good friends were seriously injured and a few died". He also showed photos that he himself took on his way to Europe, and shocking video footage from just recently of Moroccan and Spanish border police missions that resulted in multiple deaths. The audience discussed at length with the guests ways to practice solidarity and ways to change the oppressive situation on the European external border.

The closing evening was a further example of how much the festival audiences in Cologne appreciate the encounters with the African guests and how they enter into engaged discussions with them. At all the film presentations that offered a follow-up discussion with the directors, most filmgoers stayed in the hall to attend. These audiences often comprised over 100 filmgoers, sometimes even over 200. The workshops and podium discussions offered (such as "Women in the Working World of North Africa") were similarly well attended. If the hall was to be used again immediately for another film showing, dozens of interested filmgoers took up the opportunity offered by FilmInitiativ to continue the discussions with the invited filmmakers in small groups in the teaching atelier of the Museum Ludwig. These occasions included Thursday, 25 September with South African guests, and Saturday, 27 September, with Tunisian directors and actors.

All in all, 4,000 filmgoers attended the festival. Many more have attended or will attend the African-themed accompanying events. These include many participants in courses at the Institut français, where the photo exhibition of personalities from African cinema is on display, and book lovers visiting the Zentralbibliothek, where the exhibition of African caricatures is on display until the end of October. The institution receives 3,000 visitors per day, many of whom have seen the African unity-themed cartoons.

As a result of the solidarity action initiated by FilmInitiativ for the rebuilding of the Ciné Guimbi theatre in Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, three theatre seats will be financed by Cologne film festival donors for the only cinema in the country's second-largest city.