

transparadiso
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Concerns: Bakshish for Lampedusa

Vienna, April 2014

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We would like to address you, the prominent personalities of Sousse, as well as you, the residents of Sousse.

We are two artists from Austria participating in the art project „Bye bye bakshish system“, curated by the Tunesian artist Faten Rouissi, which will take place in the public space at the medina in Sousse from April 19-20, 2014. This art project supports „Help for the establishment of a national system of integrity“, a project launched by the UN for Development for fighting corruption in Tunisia.

This project will be significant for the future of your country, but also for the rigorous discussions with Europe. By participating in this project we feel to create and work for a more just future, based not only on the human rights defined by the UN, but expanded by social and ethical values.

By participating in this political and artistic project we want to pronounce our disagreement with the policy of the European borders and engage in a dialogue on universal values of harmonious cohabitation in the world by a concrete action.

Our participatory installation „Bakshish for Lampedusa“ at the square in front of the Big Mosque in Sousse will consist of a large savings box for collecting your contribution as aid for your compatriots who were refugees in Lampedusa. We hope to collect 10% of your irregular income of the last 3 years, in other words, the money of corruption. These collected fundings will be handed over to „African Intelligence“, an organization based in Sfax which takes care of refugees from Lampedusa.

This gesture of generosity will be an important sign for the public – not only in Tunisia but also internationally, by showing that defending communal values dominates the mere personal profit.

We are confident that you would like to profit from that occasion for bringing your contribution to the savings box of „Bakshish for Lampedusa“. If you wish your gesture will remain anonymous. Alternately you could profit from your gesture for presenting yourself as public persona.

You are cordially invited to participate in the final festive act of „Bakshish for Lampedusa“ on Sunday, April 20, at 6 pm, where we will announce the amount of money collected in the savings box and hand it over to our guest of honor, Father Jonathan, the director of „African Intelligence“.

Kind regards,

Barbara Holub and Paul Rajakovics