

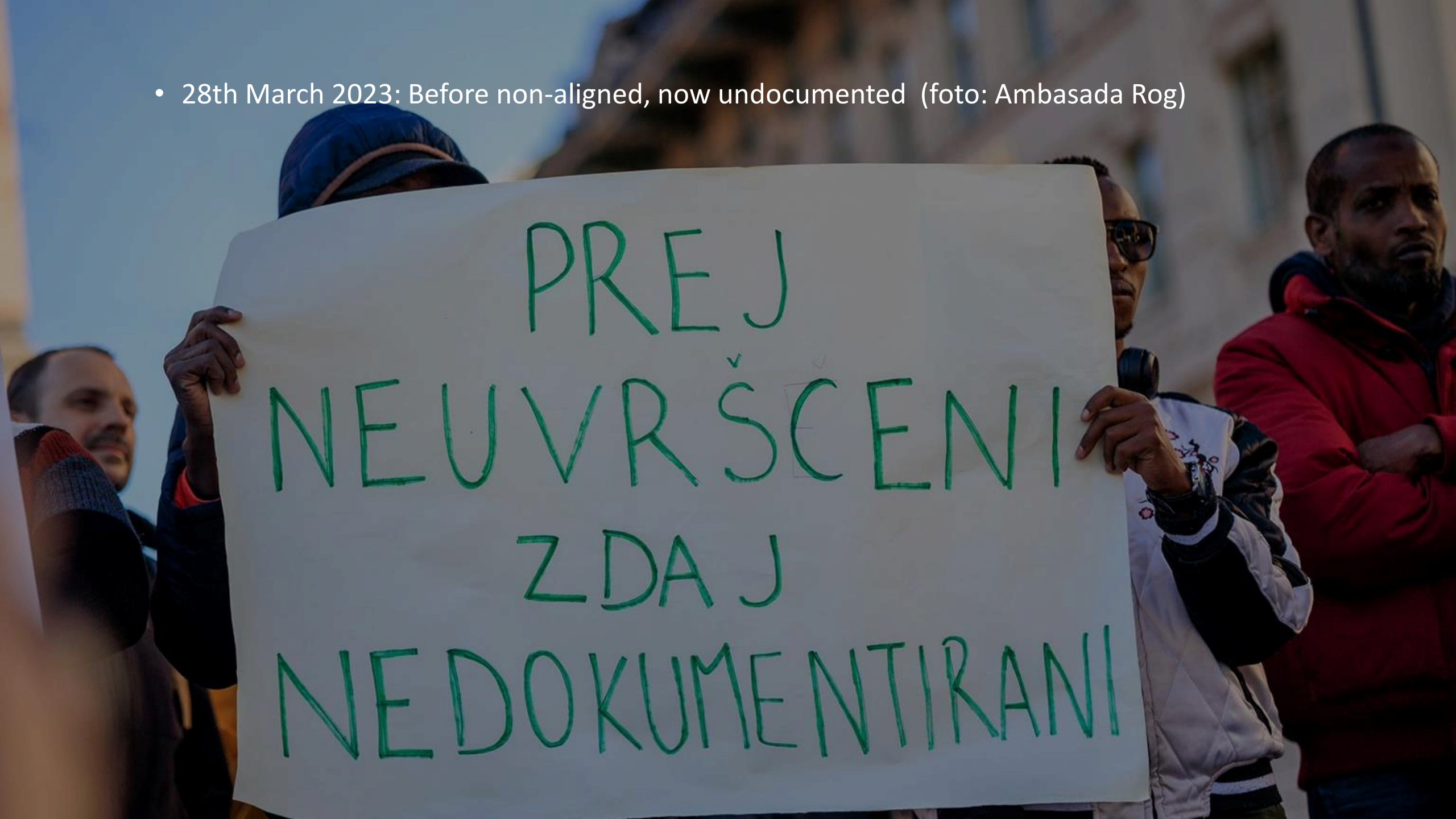
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State hunger for power, obsession with borders and resistance of the Erased as the
base for other workers_migrants struggles

- Erasure reflects state's (especially ministry of interior) obsession with borders since the independent state Slovenia was established
- Erased were among people that moved in the 1970s and 1980s from other Republics of former Yugoslavia as workers – but they were erased as Non-Slovenes (shifting the narrative, politization of ethnicity)
- Borders were erected everywhere, between the states but also within the public services: at local medical centres, at centres for social work, at the universities and secondary schools and at the pension and employment offices
- Ministry of the Interior erased 25.761 people thus they become undocumented and liable to police detention and expulsion
- The erasure was done without formal decision, it was executed in the legal gap (it was against Constitution) and secretly
- In 2002 the struggle begun, the word „Erasure“ was powerful and provocative to describe what happened and to gain public attention. This struggle is our stability, it is where hope, power and making sense to resist come from.



- 28th March 2023 protest of asylum seekers organized together with labor unions: against Dublin deportations, work and asylum for all, working rights, normal living conditions, against Slovene language as a criteria for family members to remain in the country. Foto: Ambasada Rog

- 28th March 2023: Before non-aligned, now undocumented (foto: Ambasada Rog)



PREJ
NEUVRŠČENI
ZDAJ
NEDOKUMENTIRANI





HRVAŠKA NI
VARNA DRŽAVA!
STOP DUBLINU!
STOP DEPORTACIJAM!

WE ARE HERE!!! WE
BELONG HERE!!! WE WILL STAND
AS ONE!!! WE ARE HERE AS ONE VOICE!!!
NO DEPORTATION!!! HUMAN RIGHTS ARE
FOR ALL!!! OUR LIVES MATTER HERE IN
SLOVENIA!!! WE WANT CONTRIBUTE TO THE
GROWTH OF SLOVENIA!!! WE FEEL SAFE HERE!!!
OUR FUTURE AND THE FUTURE OF A COUNTRY
IS BASED ON FOREIGNERS!!!



Autonomous Factory ROG (17 March 2006 – 19 January 2021), in front of the Social Centre. Asylum seekers and other migrants built the solidarity from below: from legal counseling to cooking, media campaigns against deportations and against detention etc. Social Centre was initially organized by the Erased and their supporters in a long-term struggle. All the initiatives were grass-roots, they had a tremendous transformative potential for the people involved and for larger society. During the Balkan refugee corridor, immediately the Anti-Racist Front Without Borders was organized and people that stayed in Slovenia were invited to participate (Ambasada Rog, Second Home, No Border Craft) (source of the photo: Avtonomna tovarna Rog)



- Ambasada Rog – one of the migrant collectives of the Autonomous Factory ROG. They led anti-Dublin deportation campaigns after the refugee corridor. On the left Ahmad Shamieh who fought the state for years. He won at the courts, but the Ministry for the Interior's hunger for power was insatiable. See: The Case of Ahmad Shamieh's Campaign Against Dublin Deportation: Embodiment of Political Violence and Community Care (2021) (photo: Ambasada Rog)



- Close the Concentration Camps! Protest against detention centre, 25 August 2020.
- Also the Erased were detained here and on other locations. Some were deported. They talked to the staff of the centre in local language (Slovene), they had their homes and families in Slovenia. (photo: Ambasada Rog)

As Aleksandar Todorović - one of the Erased activist said, „Regardless of this or that result, the most important think was that people became more human through the struggle; we had been totally dehumanized, not only on the administrative level, but also as people in our personal lives, in our relationships with friends and relative. It seems that this struggle, this exposure, the public proclamation of the Erased, standing up to the stereotypes of the majority - this is what it brings a kind of humanization“ (Once Upon an Erasure, Časopis za kritiko znanosti, p. 31; photo:





- ERASURE
- In front of the Parliament, October 2003
- The banners at the protest read: „Drive on, we don't exist“ (photo: Denis Sarkić)



ERASED OF SLOVENIA



Gorizia, Italy, March 2006.

The struggle of the Erased started in 26 February 2002 and it is still going on. The Erased won:

- at the Constitutional Court of Slovenia (in 1999 and 2003)
- at the European Court of Human Rights (in 2012).
- last year, after 20 years of struggle and 30 years from the erasure from the register of permanent residents the President of the Republic of Slovenia apologized the Erased for all the violations of their rights and also acknowledged the long term grass-roots struggle (photo Leon Megušar).



- The caravan of the Erased to the European Parliament in Brussels November 2006.
- Trivo Damjanić passport was issued 1 day before the erasure 25 February 1992 and on 26 February 1992 was no longer valid because he was erased by the Ministry of the Interior (photo Dare Čekeliš).



I FEEL
SLOVENIA

ERASED
PRECARIOUS
INVISIBLE

Current issues

- 20 years of permanent grass roots struggle transformed the society: in the activist context the evoking of the erasure (as violation of rights) and their struggle is common and important
- Erased activists are a very tiny but powerful group of people who support other struggles (in the course of 20 years of struggle some of the very active people died)
- Recently the Amnesty International Slovenia launched a campaign in support of keeping memory alive on the years living without documents and on the struggle and demanding compensations by the law
- Currently I'm analysing the narrative interviews with elderly social workers – one of the topics is on the erasure (how they remember the Erased during the 1990s, when the erasure was not recognized as human rights violation)

Thank you!

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The logo for ERIM consists of the letters "ERIM" in a bold, red, sans-serif font, centered within a light gray square background.