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The board of *Stiftung do* declares it's absolute solidarity with the work of the Association Beni Znassen pour la Culture, le Développement et la Solidarité (ABCDS) in the face of an article which was published on Saturday, 26 th of April in the newspaper „Assabah“, in which the president of the ABCDS was personally accused of the defamation of the Kingdom of Morocco.

We got to know the members of the ABCDS and the president Mr. Hicham Baraka as tireless and enthusiastic activists for the human rights of migrants. We absolutly appreciate their humanitarian work on the ground: The ABCDS is the first to provide refugees after a long and dangerous journey through the desert with medical aid, food as well as legal support.

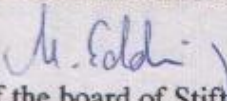
The motivation of this NGO is absolutly unquestionable in the purest spirit of the declaration of the human rights which is an international value, going beyond borders and nations.

We can not understand, how an organisation, which criticises the political conditions set into place against migrants by whom ever – be it the European Union or the Kingdom of Morocco can be accused of defamation. On the contrary, civil society in all countries of the world sees it's most dignified task in contributing to the improvement of the own society.

It shows his questionable sense of democracy, if the author of the article in „Assabah“ asks the authorities of Morocco to take action against Mr. Baraka only because he defends the human rights of migrants and mentions the responsibility of the European Union and of the Kingdom of Morocco for their migration policies.

We hope, that civil society in Morocco and all organisations working in the field of refugees and human rights will refuse this attempt of intimidation!

With all the best wishes for the important work of the ABCDS and for a close cooperation of organisations from the African and the European continent,


Miriam Edding (chair of the board of *Stiftung do*)