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## BORDERS

### **EU / EU Ombudsman launches an investigation into Frontex's Joint Return Operations (JROs)**

The European Ombudsman, Emily O'Reilly, announced on 22 October 2014 that her office has opened an investigation into how Frontex ensures respect of fundamental rights in the context of forced returns under the agency's joint return operations (JROs). Ms O'Reilly highlighted that "by their very nature, forced return operations have the potential to involve serious violations of fundamental rights. Through this investigation, I want to find out how Frontex is equipped to deal with potential violations and how it minimises the risk of such violations." The Ombudsman's letter to Frontex is available [here](#).

Source: [European Ombudsman](#), Press release no. 20/2014, 22 October 2014

### **FRANCE / Additional police force deployed and solidarity protests with undocumented migrants in the city of Calais**

Following the debate about increasing number of irregularly staying migrants in the French city of Calais ([see PICUM Bulletin 16 September 2014](#)), more and more people have started to express their solidarity with the migrants through protests. Increasing numbers of protestors were expected around International Migrants' Day on 18 December. These protests follow a call for additional police reinforcements in the city to control the situation. The prefect of the Nord-Pas de Calais region, Denis Robin, has declared that the 1,500 migrants estimated to be in Calais at the end of August 2014 had increased to around 2,200 at the end of October 2014. The influx of new migrants, the majority of whom originate from Eritrea and Ethiopia, has been reported as a source of tension as fights have broken out between migrant communities.

Sources: [Le Figaro](#), 18 December 2014; [France TV Info](#), 24 October 2014; [Le Monde](#), 3 November 2014

## **REPORT / Fundamental rights at land and air borders of the European Union**

The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) launched on 11 November 2014 two reports focusing on the compliance with fundamental rights at air and land borders of the European Union. Analysing the border management and procedures and checks at five international airports and six land border crossing points, the report highlights the need for border guards to be better trained on assessing individual circumstances and to provide adequate information to persons who are subjected to advance checks or who are refused entry at the border. The report “Fundamental Rights at Land Borders: Findings from Selected EU Border Crossing Points” is available [here](#). The report “Fundamental Rights at Airports: Border Checks at Five International Airports in the European Union” is available [here](#).

Source: [EU Agency for Fundamental Rights](#), 10 November 2014

## **SPAIN / Call to stop amendment law which would violate human rights**

A group of 13 human rights organisations wrote a letter to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of migrants, François Crépeau, and the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muižnieks, urging them to press the Spanish government to withdraw a proposed amendment to Spain’s immigration law. The proposed amendment would facilitate automatic and collective expulsion of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers from the borders of the two Spanish enclaves in North Africa, Ceuta and Melilla. This would deprive migrants and refugees of the right to seek asylum and expose them to risk of serious human rights violations. A petition addressed to the Spanish Interior Minister and to the Popular Party Spokesperson to stop the amendment, can be signed [here](#).

Sources: [Amnesty International](#), October 2014 ; [Human Rights Watch](#), 30 October 2014 ; [Europa Press](#), 30 October 2014

## **UK / Britain will not take part in search and rescues in the Mediterranean**

On 27 October 2014 the new Foreign Office Minister, Lady Joyce Anelay, announced that Britain will not support future search and rescue operations carried out in the Mediterranean to prevent the death of migrants at Europe’s borders. A new operation called Triton, led by Frontex, the European Border Agency, started in November 2014. The British Foreign Office has argued that they will not participate in Triton claiming that search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean have become a ‘pull factor’ which encourages people to migrate to Europe. Human rights organisations have denounced the British government’s decision as they consider that such operations are crucial in order to avoid further mass drowning of migrants.

Source: [The Guardian](#), 27 October 2014

## **UN / New guidelines on human rights at international borders**

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) released its “Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders” during the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly in New York on 23 October 2014. The guidelines address, among others, legal and policy frameworks, ensuring human rights in rescue and interception, screening and interviewing, ensuring access to justice, avoiding detention, and return or removal. In reference to irregular migrants, the guidelines state that measures to address irregular migration shall not be discriminatory in purpose or effect. To view the guidelines, click [here](#).

## **UNITED NATIONS**

### **UN / General recommendation on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women**

The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) published on 6 November 2014 a set of guidelines on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women. The Committee noted that it is crucial to identify and understand gender-related forms of persecution, such as gender-based violence. The Committee recognised that in practice forms of persecution are often assessed through the lens of male experiences, which can result in claims to refugee status or protection not being properly assessed, or indeed being rejected. For more information on the General Recommendation No. 32, click [here](#).

## **UN / Rights of undocumented children and non-detention high on agenda on 25th anniversary of UN child rights convention**

Child rights actors celebrated Universal Children's Day and the 25th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) on 20 November 2014. The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights called on states to expeditiously and completely end immigration detention of children, as advocated by the [UN Committee on the Rights of the Child](#). The urgent need to end the immigration detention of children was also raised in joint civil society statements from the [Global Coalition on Migration](#) (GCM) and the [End Child Detention Campaign](#) (ECD). The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the occasion of the anniversary of the CRC on 27 November 2014, which also includes provisions in relation to the protection of every child and the mainstreaming of children's rights across all EU action. The resolution is available [here](#). The Council of the European Union has adopted draft [Council Conclusions](#) on 4 December 2014 which make a number of commitments to ensure that the rights of children are protected across all policy areas that are relevant for undocumented children.

## **EUROPEAN POLICY DEVELOPMENTS**

### **COUNCIL OF EUROPE / European Committee on Social Rights issues final decision on the case CEC v. the Netherlands**

In its decision on the case [Conference of European Churches \(CEC\) v. the Netherlands](#), issued on 9 July 2014 and publicised on 10 November 2014, the European Committee of Social Rights concluded that the current Dutch social welfare system violates the rights of undocumented migrants and that it is not in conformity with Article 13.4 and with Article 31.2 of the [European Social Charter](#), referring, respectively, to the right to social and medical assistance and to the right to housing. The Committee ruled that denying access to housing and health care to adult undocumented migrants without resources constitutes a violation of the European Social Charter. The Committee concluded that States Parties to the Charter must provide adequate shelter to undocumented migrants, regardless of whether they have been requested to leave the country.

Source: [Council of Europe](#), 10 November 2014

### **COUNCIL OF EUROPE / Parliamentary Assembly urges member states to enforce laws banning the detention of migrant children**

The Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly adopted, on 3 October 2014, its [Recommendation 2056](#) (2014), urging member states to introduce and enforce laws banning the detention of children for immigration reasons. The Assembly stated that the detention of children for migration purposes constitutes "a clear and unequivocal child rights violation". The Assembly particularly called on Belgium, Denmark, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom to enforce laws ending the immigration detention of children.

Source: [Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly](#), 6 October 2014

### **EU / Civil Society urges the EU and its member states to include migrants and migration-related targets in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals agenda**

A group of civil society organisations has addressed a [letter](#) to the European Commission, the European Parliament and the EU member states to urge them to take migration and migrants into account in the negotiations on the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals agenda. The letter highlights the concern of civil society organisations that an agenda driven by narrow economic and national interests would prevail over a more EU-oriented human-rights based approach to migration policy, which could indeed benefit countries of origin, transit and destination as well as migrants themselves.

### **EU / EESC recommendations to improve protection of migrant children**

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) adopted a report entitled 'International protection of unaccompanied minors' on 15 October 2014. A number of the recommendations are also relevant for undocumented children, including that the best interests of the child should take precedence over all other national and international law; should be established according to the rules and standards of international human rights conventions; and should be determined by an independent body not connected to the immigration

authorities. The EESC stresses that ending the detention of children should be an urgent priority, whether they are accompanied by their families or not, and regardless of which procedure they are subject to. The opinion is available to download in several languages [here](#).

### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION / New report on trafficking in human beings**

On the occasion of EU Anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October 2014, the European Commission presented a [mid-term report](#) of the EU's strategy against trafficking in the period from 2012-2016, accompanied by the [statistical report](#) on victims and traffickers for the years 2010-2012. The Commission is also reporting on the use of the [Directive](#) in providing residence permits to non-EU victims of human trafficking. Between 2010 and 2012, 30,146 victims of trafficking were registered in the 28 EU member states. 80% of registered victims were female and 16% were children. To view an infographic showing the major findings, click [here](#).

Sources: [European Commission](#), 17 October 2014; [EU Observer](#), 20 October 2014

### **EU COUNCIL / Justice and Home Affairs Council discusses irregular migration**

As part of the EU Council meeting which took place on 4-5 December 2014, ministers debated the implementation of the priorities identified by the [Task Force for the Mediterranean](#) as well as the Council Conclusions of 10 October 2014 on '[Taking action to better manage migratory flows](#)'. The Council welcomed the launch on 1 November 2014 of the EU-funded operation Triton aimed at reinforcing border surveillance in the Mediterranean. The Council also held a debate on actions carried out in cooperation with third-countries. A video summary of the Justice and Home Affairs Council held in Brussels on 4-5 December 2014 is available [here](#).

Source: Council of the European Union, [Press Release](#) (PRESSE 630 – PR CO 66), 4-5 December 2014

### **EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS / Ruling states that Italy violated rights of irregular migrants**

The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled on 21 October 2014 that Italy put the lives of a group of irregular migrants at risk when returning them to Greece in 2009. The 32 Afghans, two Sudanese and one Eritrean had boarded boats in Patras, Greece and had then arrived in the Italian ports of Ancona, Bari and Venice, from where they were sent directly back to Greece without due process. The court found that in Greece, the migrants risked being returned to their countries of origin and that this violated several clauses of the European Convention on Human Rights, including a failure to provide access to the asylum procedure.

Sources: [BBC](#), 21 October 2014; [EU Observer](#), 21 October 2014

### **COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION / Court rules on migrants' right to be heard in removal procedures**

In the [Case C-249/13](#) (*Khaled Boudjlida v Préfet des Pyrénées-Atlantiques*), the Court of Justice of the European Union clarified in its ruling of 11 December 2014 the extent of the right of an irregularly-staying third-country national to be heard, in line with the provisions of the Returns Directive ([Directive 2008/115](#)). The case concerned the complaint presented by Mr Khaled Boudjlida against his removal. Mr Boudjlida, an Algerian national who failed to apply for a renewal of his residence permit in France after his student visa expired in late 2012 became undocumented and, after submitting an application for registering as a self-employed entrepreneur, was issued with removal directions. The Court found that the right to be heard poses an obligation on national authorities to enable the person concerned to express their point of view on the detailed arrangements for the return. It also clarified that national authorities are not required to disclose the information to a third-country national on which they rely to justify a return decision. Finally, the Court ruled that return decisions may always be challenged by legal action, in order to ensure protection and the right to defence of the person concerned. The full case is available [here](#).

Source: Court of Justice of the European Union, [Press Release No 174/14](#), Luxembourg, 11 December 2014

### **COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION / Ruling in favour of undocumented workers' rights in the Netherlands**

In its judgment of 5 November 2014, in the case [C-311/13](#) (*O. Tümer v Raad van bestuur van het Uitvoeringsinstituut werknemersverzekeringen*), the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) ruled in favour of the application to undocumented migrant workers of the protections established by the [EU Directive on insolvency of employers](#). The Court ruled that denying undocumented workers access to back pay when their

employer becomes insolvent is “contrary to the social objectives of the directive” and thus clarified that member states could not refuse to apply the safeguards established by the directive to undocumented migrants. Source: [Judgment of the Court \(Fifth Chamber\) of 5 November 2014](#), O. Tümer v Raad van bestuur van het Uitvoeringsinstituut werknemersverzekeringen, Case C-311/13.

### **COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION / Judgment on removal order in France**

The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) issued on 5 November 2014 its ruling on the [Case C-166/13](#) (*Sophie Mukarubega v. Préfet de police and Préfet de la Seine-Saint-Denis*), concerning the complaint against a removal order presented by Ms Sophie Mukarubega, a Rwandan national whose asylum application had been refused in 2012 by the French national authorities. In its ruling, the Court states that EU law does not pose an obligation on national authorities to undergo a specific hearing concerning a return decision, where a decision on the irregularity of the stay and a removal order have been issued at the same time. Noting that Ms Mukarubega had a hearing about her irregular stay and was able to submit her observations on that subject, the Court concludes that the adoption of a removal order by the French authorities was not in breach of the right to be heard enshrined within the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights.

Source: [Court of Justice of the European Union](#), Press Release No 142/14, 5 November 2014

## **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS**

### **BELGIUM / About 50 undocumented migrants on hunger strike**

On 17 November 2014, a group of approximately 50 undocumented migrants, including eight women, went on a hunger strike in Brussels, Belgium. The group asks for their rights to be heard and to be regularised. A spokesperson for the Belgian Foreigners' Office stated that a hunger strike would usually not lead the office to make adjustments concerning the status of the migrants.

Source: [DH.net](#), 23 November 2014

### **GERMANY / Federal Office for Migration and Refugees criticises church asylum**

In response to an increasing number of church asylums in Germany, the President of the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge, BAMF), Manfred Schmidt, stated on 15 October 2014 that it is doubtful if the churches use the instrument of providing asylum to undocumented migrants and refugees in a responsible way. He argued that the provision of asylum in the church is no longer just about providing asylum to individuals in need but about generally questioning the Dublin system. According to data of the [German Ecumenical Federal Consortium of Asylum in the Church](#) (Ökumenische Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Asyl in der Kirche e.V., BAG), about 245 persons found shelter in about 136 congregations across the country in September 2014 compared to 62 persons in 34 church asylums in January of 2014. Church asylum has a long tradition in Germany of ensuring the right to shelter for asylum seekers and undocumented migrants.

Sources: [Die Welt](#), 16 October 2014; [Deutschlandfunk](#), 23 October 2014

### **IRELAND / New data on undocumented migrants in Ireland**

The Migrants Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI) published a new study on 26 November 2014 about the lives of undocumented migrants in Ireland. The data, which was collected by MRCI and its Justice for the Undocumented campaign group, reveals that there are between 20,000 and 26,000 undocumented migrants living in the country at present. The vast majority (81%) have been in Ireland for five or more years. 87% of undocumented migrants in Ireland are working and over 86% entered the country regularly and then became undocumented.

Sources: [Migrants Rights Centre Ireland](#) (MRCI), 26 November 2014; [The Irish Times](#), 26 November 2014

### **SPAIN / Campaign challenges sensationalism of media**

A campaign by the Spanish organisation Red Acoge challenges the sensationalist approach of media towards migration. With the coined term ‘Inmigracionalismo’ derived from ‘immigration’ and ‘sensationalism’, the campaign has launched a website with information and videos to raise awareness about the issue. To find out more about the campaign, click [here](#).

## HEALTH CARE

### **REPORT / Access to social and health care services for migrants in Europe**

Eurodiaconia launched its 2014 Migration report entitled "Access to social and health services for migrants in Europe: overcoming the barriers" on 13 November 2014. The report is based on research conducted among Eurodiaconia's members as diaconal and church-related service providers of social and health services. The report states that the key challenges of growing racism and xenophobia towards migrants is resulting in lack of political will to change policies; complicated administrative and legal hurdles and EU rights and freedoms from international treaties and EU directives not being implemented by member states. To read the full report, click [here](#).

### **SPAIN / CAMPAIGN / Challenging limited access to health care**

The Spanish organisation Red Acoge launched a new campaign entitled 'Yo elijo ser humano' ('I choose to be human') on 3 December 2014. The campaign demands the new Spanish Health Minister, Mr Alfonso Alonso, to reverse the Royal Decree Act 16/2012. Since the entry into force of the Royal Decree Act more than 800,000 migrants have been excluded from accessing health care. In order to convey the feeling of marginalisation and vulnerability felt by migrants who are being deprived of their right to health care, Red Acoge placed hidden cameras in a pharmacy to capture the reaction of clients when they are told by the pharmacist that their health cards have been destroyed. To know more about the campaign and sign the petition, please click [here](#). Source: [Para Inmigrantes.info](#), 3 December 2014

### **UK / Efforts to tackle NHS fraud risk undermining values of NHS and public health**

A report entitled "Ensuring fair use of the NHS efficiently and effectively..." Do no Harm' examines the UK government's regulations for charging for the National Health Service (NHS) and the proposed changes to improve services. The report highlights key challenges to achieving the government's objectives, and puts forward a number of recommendations. Published by Demos and Doctors of the World in October 2014, the analysis addresses the workability and impacts of the proposals, including on the functioning and efficiency of the NHS, in terms of resource allocation as well as cost implications of restricting access to primary, preventative and curative care. The report also raises questions regarding the funding and capacity to manage the new IT infrastructure which would be required for implementing the charging regime, as well as the negative impacts of potential or perceived data-sharing between the NHS and immigration authorities on migrants' access to the care that they need and are entitled to. Read the report [here](#).

## LABOUR AND FAIR WORKING CONDITIONS

### **CAMPAIGN / 'Used in Europe': human trafficking and labour exploitation**

On the occasion of the EU Anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October 2014, La Strada International, the European Network against Trafficking in Human Beings, and 30 partner organisations from across Europe launched the campaign 'Used in Europe: human trafficking and labour exploitation on our continent'. The campaign reaches out to consumers, the private sector and state governments to address human trafficking, providing an interactive map and figures on trafficking in human beings and labour exploitation across the European continent. To view the campaign page, click [here](#).

### **FILM / New documentary addresses exploitation of domestic workers**

The German documentary 'Dringend gesucht – Anerkennung nicht vorgesehen' (Urgently wanted – no recognition provided) premiered with a screening on 25 November 2014 in Hamburg. The documentary shares the personal stories and the struggle for the rights of several migrant domestic workers living in Germany and the Netherlands who experienced exploitation by their employers. The documentary aims to shed light on the lack of labour rights of domestic workers and looks at the first initiatives to organise themselves and join labour unions. More information on the German documentary, made by Mónica Orjeda and Anne Frisius, is available [here](#).

### **GERMANY / Left unionists want to integrate undocumented migrants and refugees in unions**

A new alliance for union rights for refugees and undocumented migrants was founded in Berlin through the initiative of the unionist group 'Ver.di aktiv' in November 2014. The initiative follows the occupation of undocumented migrants and refugees of the headquarters of the German Trade Union Federation (DGB) in September 2014. The action resulted in the forced removal of the occupants by the police on 2 October 2014. Supporters and some unionists were outraged by the forced removal of occupants. In 2013, the service employees' union Ver.di in Hamburg admitted about 300 undocumented migrants and refugees.

Source: [Neues Deutschland](#), 5 December 2014; [Ver.di aktiv](#), November 2014

## **UNDOCUMENTED WOMEN**

### **IRELAND / Case of asylum seeking woman highlights controversy around Ireland's abortion laws**

A recent case of a woman who came to Ireland to seek asylum in March 2014 and wanted to have an abortion which was denied and subsequently underwent caesarean so that her child could be placed in care, has increased calls for free, safe and legal access to abortion for all women living and working in Ireland. Through interpreters, the woman told a number of state agencies she would "rather die" than proceed with the pregnancy because it resulted from rape in her country of origin. By the time she accessed care in Ireland, she was told her pregnancy was too advanced. She began to refuse food and fluids and after 40 hours of refusing fluids, health authorities offered her an immediate Caesarean section. Her baby was delivered at 25 weeks and placed into state care. A leaked report from Ireland's Health Service Executive (HSE) identified "missed opportunities" and found that the various agencies dealing with the woman were constrained by the legislation. The case is now the subject to reviews.

Sources: [Irish Independent](#), 2 November 2014; [The Irish Times](#), 4 October 2014; [The Irish Times](#), 11 October 2014

### **USA / CAMPAIGN / Training for undocumented women in abusive relationships**

The city of Coachella in California launched a campaign in October 2014 in partnership with the organisation Shelter from the Storm and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department to train undocumented migrant women about their rights. [Shelter from the Storm](#) provides assistance to women who experience domestic violence. Many undocumented women who work in the fields in the region also experience sexual abuse. The campaign aims to inform the women about access to protection and assist them in the process.

Sources: [The Desert Sun](#), 26 October 2014

## **UNDOCUMENTED CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES**

### **EUROPE / Children from migrant households disproportionately in poverty as a result of recession**

The UNICEF Innocenti Report Card 12, entitled 'Children of the Recession: The impact of the economic crisis on child well-being in rich countries' has found that policy responses following the economic crisis have led to an increase in inequality in and among EU member states, where children in vulnerable situations have been disproportionately affected. The impact of the recession on children in migrant households in Europe was often greater than it was on children from non-migrant households. While undocumented children are for the most part not captured by these figures, the findings that living in a migrant household (defined as those with at least one adult born outside the European Union) increases risks of child poverty, indicate that undocumented children are likely to be even more vulnerable to poverty as they face additional barriers presented by having an irregular residence status. Read the report [here](#).

### **REPORT / What states can do to ensure respect for the best interests of unaccompanied and separated children in Europe**

A new report from UNICEF and UNHCR aims to support states to fulfil their responsibilities to protect the rights and best interests of unaccompanied and separated children in Europe. Entitled 'Safe and Sound' the report presents key safeguards and procedural guarantees, as well as good practices, to ensure unaccompanied and separated children's rights are upheld and best interests respected through the process of arrival, access to the territory, registration, referral to state child protection systems, process planning, applying the best interests

principle in asylum and immigration procedures, identifying a durable solution and monitoring. Read the report [here](#).

#### **REPORTS / Policy documents on education for migrant children and young people**

The SIRIUS Network on the education of children and young people with a migrant background has released an [Agenda for Migrant Education in Europe and the supporting recommendations for EU institutions and for Member State authorities](#), which presents a vision on migrant education and a set of policy recommendations that aim to promote a more inclusive education system. Read the agenda [here](#). Alongside the agenda, the SIRIUS network and Migration Policy Institute are releasing a series of six policy briefs. The first, entitled [Enhancing EU education policy: Building a framework to help young people of migrant background succeed](#), provides an overview of how education policies can be improved for children of migrant background (migrants from countries outside of the European Union or the children of such migrants). All the briefs will be available (in English, French, German and Spanish) [here](#).

## **DETENTION AND DEPORTATION**

#### **BELGIUM / Secretary of Asylum and Migration wants undocumented children and families to be detained**

Belgium's new Asylum and Migration Secretary, Theo Francken, of the nationalist New Flemish Alliance (N-VA), announced plans to detain undocumented children and their families after taking office in October 2014. Moreover, he noted that the capacity of detention facilities needs to be substantially increased and criticised that many irregular migrants allegedly walk free due to limited detention capacities in Belgium. His announcement was criticised by civil society organisations and individuals protesting the plans and calling attention to detention conditions and violations of human rights of migrants and refugees. The new Belgian government was sworn in on 11 October 2014 by Belgium's King Philippe in October following general elections in May 2014.

Sources: [RTBF](#), 13 October 2014; [Flanders News](#) 13 October 2014

#### **FRANCE / Undocumented migrant to be awarded a medal or be deported**

In September 2014, Rachid J. saved the life of a man who jumped from the Pont-Neuf, a well-known bridge of the city of Toulouse in the South of France. Recognising his bravery, the prefecture of the Haute-Garonne region had announced that he would receive a medal for his actions during a small ceremony held in Toulouse. However, during a police check at the squat where he stayed with a friend in November, Rachid J. was arrested by the police, who subsequently discovered he was undocumented and transferred him to a nearby detention centre, in order to deport him back to Algeria, his country of origin. The organisation La Cimade advocates for him to obtain a residence permit on the basis of his heroic action.

Source: [La Dépêche](#), 25 November 2014

#### **FRANCE / Migrants' rights associations denounce detention conditions of migrants in the country**

On 18 November 2014, five migrants' rights associations which provide assistance to detained migrants in France's detention centres, presented the conclusions of their annual joint report. The five NGOs, Assfam, Forum-Réfugiés-Cosi, France Terre d'Asile, Cimade and Ordre de Malte, criticised the current government for a lack of reform of detention policies. The report states that during the year 2013, more than 45,000 migrants were placed in detention and among them, more than 3,600 children, showing a net increase in the number of detained children – from 2,700 in 2012 – despite French president François Hollande's promises to put an end to this practice. The NGOs also underlined numerous violations of the rights of the detained migrants. According to the report, 54% of them get deported without judicial control of the respect of their fundamental rights. The report is available [here](#).

Source: [La Croix](#), 18 November 2014

#### **GREECE / Continuous ill-treatment of irregular migrants in detention facilities and police stations**

On 16 October 2014, the delegation of the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) published a [report](#) on the conditions of irregular migrants in Greece. The report details visits to 24 police and border-guard stations, nine detention facilities and seven prisons

throughout the country. The Committee reported numerous accounts of physical abuse of migrants in police stations and detention centres, and was particularly critical of the conditions for unaccompanied children.

Sources: [The Wall Street Journal's Brussels Blog](#), 16 October 2014

### **ITALY / Report on how undocumented migrants can challenge expulsion and detention orders and access justice**

In a report entitled “‘[Undocumented' Justice for Migrants in Italy](#)”, published in October 2014, the [International Commission of Jurists](#) (ICJ) presents a legal analysis of the available avenues for undocumented migrants to challenge expulsion and detention orders in Italy. The report highlights the inadequacies of the Italian system in securing access to justice and substantive and procedural rights to undocumented migrants at national level.

Source: [International Commission of Jurists](#), 30 October 2014

### **PUBLICATION / Open Access Now releases booklet on detention of migrants**

The Open Access Now campaign, calling for more transparency and visibility of the realities of migrant detention, released a booklet entitled ‘The Hidden Side of Immigration Detention in Europe’ on 15 October 2014. With the view that immigration detention is being widely institutionalised and keeps criminalising those considered undesirable, the publication sheds light on the treatment and conditions of migrants in detention centres. It also responds to the evaluation report of the ‘EU Return Directive’ ([Directive 2008/115/EC](#)) published by the European Commission on 28 March 2014 and aims to underline the gaps between the realities of migrants’ lives in such centres and the principles that the Directive claims to defend regarding respect for human rights. The booklet is available in [English](#) and in [French](#).

## **PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER RESOURCES**

### **TERMINOLOGY / Leaflet promoting accurate language available in Dutch, Italian and Greek**

A pocket-sized leaflet which provides reasons why not to use the term ‘illegal migrant’, a lexicon with translations of ‘undocumented migrant’ and/or ‘irregular migrant’ in all EU languages and an overview of key institutions who have already committed to accurate terminology in reference to undocumented migrants, is now also available in [Dutch](#), [Italian](#) and [Greek](#). The leaflet is the major tool of the campaign ‘Words Matter’ which was launched by the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) in June 2014 and advocates for fair language when referring to undocumented migrants. For more information on the campaign, click [here](#).