



## **Monitoring Immigration Detention**

Quarterly Report September - December 2015

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## **A. MEETINGS-CONTACTS**

### **1 / Meetings with the competent authorities**

- Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Interior Mr. Filippakos
- Director of the Aliens Directorate of Attica Hellenic Police Mr. Grigorakis
- Manager of the First Reception Service, Mr. Nikas
- National Centre for Social Solidarity, Mr Dimopoulos

### **2 / Meetings / contacts with institutional actors**

- Ombudsman
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- Commission for the Prevention of Torture, Council of Europe

### **3 / Meeting with Greek and international civil society organizations**

- Asylum Campaign
- Greek Council for Refugees
- European Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)
- Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)
- International Detention Coalition (IDC)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

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## **B. MONITORING VISITS TO DETENTION CENTERS – INVESTIGATION OF CASES - FINDINGS**

### **1 / First round of visits to Detention Centers in Attica**

- Three visits to the Pre-removal Detention Center of Amygdaleza
- Visit to the Pre-removal Detention Center of Tavros (Petrou Ralli)
- Visit to the Detention Center for Women in Elliniko
- Visit to the Police Station of Drapetsona
- Two visits to the Detention Areas of the Police Directorate of Athens Airport

### **2 / Investigation of prisoners' affairs**

- In Aliens Directorate of Attica
- In Pre-removal Detention Center of Amygdaleza
- In the Unit of the Asylum Service at the Pre-removal Detention Centre of Amygdaleza

### **3 / Access to places of detention**

We were given full access to the following areas:

- Police station of Drapetsona
- Directorate of the Airport Police

We were not given full access to the following areas:

- Pre-removal Detention Center of Amygdaleza
- Pre-removal Detention Center in Taurus
- Detention Center for Women in Elliniko

### **4 / Findings-facts regarding detention**

**It has been identified an improvement of the situation with reference to:**

- A. the number of prisoners which has been limited to some hundreds
- B. the length of detention , as detainees are usually released before the maximum limit of 18 months

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**Despite the decline of the number of prisoners, serious problems have been identified in:**

- A. The procedures of the competent authorities that handle the administrative detention issues:
- There is lack of an individualized approach to the characteristics, the situation and the needs of foreign nationals who are under arrest
  - Alternatives to detention are not applied
  - There is a systematic, legally controversial and unjustified invocation of public order grounds
  - Detention of individuals whose removal violates the principle of *non-refoulement* (including asylum seekers)
  - Detention over six months despite the government's announcements
  - Re-arrest to return despite the prolonged and ineffective detention in the past
  - Detention of people with serious health problems
  - Failure to take into account data that arise over the period of detention regarding the health status of prisoners-extension of detention of vulnerable persons
- B. In detention conditions
- Use of detention areas deemed inappropriate by the Council of Europe Commission for the Prevention of Torture (Police stations, Pre-removal Detention Center of Tavros-Petrou Ralli)
  - Inadequate health care
  - Lack of support by social workers and psychologists
  - Inadequate and poor feeding
  - Inadequate heating
  - Lack of provisions in clothes, shoes and personal hygiene items
  - Lack of interpretation services
  - Lack of information to the detainees regarding:
    - their legal status;
    - the operational regulations of the detention centers;
    - the imminent execution of forced return.
  - Lack of free legal aid
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- C. The procedure for detained asylum seekers implemented by the Asylum Service
- Delays in the examination of subsequent asylum applications
  - The majority of opinions issued by the Asylum Service are in favor of applying detention, despite the fact that according to the legislation detention should be implemented in exceptional circumstances

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### III. RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS – REPORTS

- *Kathimerini*, 22/09/2015: **“Without food the migration detention centers due to unlawful provision”**  
<http://www.kathimerini.gr/831778/article/epikairothta/ellada/xwris-sitish-ta-kentra-krathshs-metanastwn-logw-paranomhs-diata3hs>
- *Zougla*, 30/11/2015: **“Intensity in the migration detention center of Amygdaleza”**  
<http://www.zougla.gr/greece/article/entasi-sto-kentro-kratisis-metanaston-tis-amigdalezas>
- *Efimerida ton Syntakton*, 03/12/2015: **“Hands off Sanaa”**  
<http://www.efsyn.gr/arthro/kato-ta-heria-apo-ti-sanaa>
- *Efimerida ton Syntakton*, 14/12/2015: **“The return of expulsions”**  
<https://www.efsyn.gr/arthro/epistrofi-ton-apelaseon>



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