



PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

## PICUM Newsletter

### April 2008

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This newsletter focuses on news items and policy developments concerning the basic social rights of undocumented migrants in Europe. It is currently available in Word format and on the PICUM website ([www.picum.org](http://www.picum.org)) in the following languages: English, German, Dutch, Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese. You are invited to distribute this newsletter widely.

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### **Do you want to contribute to a humane policy of respect of human rights of undocumented migrants?**

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Your contribution means we can continue to fight the marginalisation and exploitation of undocumented migrants.

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**THANK YOU !**

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### **1. Death at the Border**

- According to Fortress Europe in February 2008, 36 migrants died along the European borders: 24 victims off the Moroccan coast, two victims in Spain, one in Ceuta and six in Algeria along the routes toward Sardinia. <http://fortresseurope.blogspot.com/2006/01/febbraio-2008.html>
- Three Spanish coast guards have been charged with causing the drowning of a Senegalese migrant by puncturing his life jacket. The Senegalese migrant and three other migrants had tried to reach the Spanish enclave of Sebta off the Moroccan coast by swimming. They were stopped and

arrested by the Spanish coast guards, who brought them back to Moroccan waters and threw them back into the water, but before doing so destroyed their life jackets by puncturing them with a knife. The three other migrants were able to reach land by swimming but Landng Sonko, the Senegalese undocumented migrant, did not know how to swim and drowned. The three survivors testified against the coast guards who now face charges for murder.

[http://www.jeuneafrique.com/jeune\\_afrique/article\\_depeche.asp?art\\_cle=APA94118troissialag0](http://www.jeuneafrique.com/jeune_afrique/article_depeche.asp?art_cle=APA94118troissialag0)

- The Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos de Andalucía (Apdha) has released its report on human rights on Europe's southern border for 2007. This report, available in French and Spanish, investigates the human rights violations that happen in the southern border, particularly in relation to migrants entering into Spain. The report is based on different sources of information: news published in the press, statistical data coming from the government, various NGOs that work with Morocco, Africa and Canary Islands and some investigations done directly by APDHA in the field. [http://www.apdha.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=473&Itemid=63](http://www.apdha.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=473&Itemid=63)

## **2. News from UN+ EU Member States + Switzerland + U.S.A.**

### **UN**

- The United Nations working group on arbitrary detention denounced the abusive detention of irregular migrants at the global level. European neighbouring countries prefer to detain undocumented migrants for two main reasons: first of all they have signed some agreements with EU countries to stop the arrival of irregular migrants and secondly they are literally submerged by undocumented migrants. As a consequence, irregular migrants are often obliged to pass two to three years in prison without having committed any crime. Source : [http://www.lemonde.fr/organisations-internationales/article/2008/03/12/l-onu-denonce-la-detention-abusive-des-immigres-clandestins-dans-le-monde\\_1021848\\_3220.html#ens\\_id=1021856](http://www.lemonde.fr/organisations-internationales/article/2008/03/12/l-onu-denonce-la-detention-abusive-des-immigres-clandestins-dans-le-monde_1021848_3220.html#ens_id=1021856)
- Mexico's ability to protect migrants' rights is one of "contrasts," according to an independent United Nations human rights expert, who said that although the country has made steps towards addressing migrants' needs, much remains to be done. In a statement issued on 15 March 2008 after wrapping up a seven-day visit to Mexico, Jorge Bustamante, who serves as Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, voiced concern over "reports of rampant impunity for instances of corruption, including bribery and extortion, violence against women, and trafficking in children." <http://www0.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=25997&Cr=mexico&Cr1=>

### **France**

- Human rights' organizations have deposited a new recourse to the State Council against the digital database of foreigners liable of expulsion. The database, Eloi, would regroup personal information concerning foreigners undergoing an expulsion measure. Human rights leagues are concerned at the possible (mis-)uses of the proposed database and the plans to include children in it. After the first recourse concerning the form the organizations are now asking the 'Conseil d'Etat' to examine the content. [http://www.lemonde.fr/web/imprimer\\_element/0,40-0@2-823448,50-1019215,0.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/web/imprimer_element/0,40-0@2-823448,50-1019215,0.html)
- Studies measuring the economic impact of immigration are nearly non-existent in France. They however show that, in several countries, foreigners contribute more than they consume, in particular in social security benefits. In the UK, USA and Spain, national authorities who have examined the issue concluded that the balance is generally positive. Carine Fouteau, reporter at Mediapart, highlights the lack of similar studies in France. She further questions Sarkozy's policies aimed at managed migration seemingly developed without statistical background.

<http://www.mediapart.fr/journal/international/160308/etats-unis-royaume-uni-espagne-les-immigres-rapportent-plus-qu-ils-ne-c>

- The French migrants' associations (ASIIM) held a demonstration on April 5 to denounce state racism. They denounced the identity control targeted at foreigners, the criminalisation of undocumented migrants, the excessive power of the ministry led by French Minister of Immigration Hortefeux. The demonstrators called for global regularisation, annulations of racist Sarkozy and Hortefeux laws, a stop to deportation and the closure of detention centres, equality in rights between the French and the immigrants and the right to vote in all the elections. Contact: [asiim@gmail.com](mailto:asiim@gmail.com)

## Spain

- An Algerian transsexual, who was held at a remand centre in Valencia after having been apprehended for unlawful stay and who received a court order to leave because of his lack of a valid authorisation of residence, might be entitled to asylum in Spain. Pedro Zerolo, the Secretary for Social Movements and Liaison of the Spanish Socialist Party (PSOE), has announced that he would do everything possible to find a solution to the problem of the Algerian transsexual. (Migration News Sheet, March 2008, p. 12)

## Italy

- Seven Tunisian fishermen were arrested by Italian authorities after rescuing a group of 44 Eritrean, Sudanese and Ethiopian undocumented migrants and asylum-seekers, whose inflatable dinghy was about to sink almost 50 km south of Lampedusa. The fishermen were taken to prison and their boats were confiscated. Meanwhile, they have been released from prison, but are still awaiting the outcome of their trial. If found guilty of the charges against them (trafficking in migrants) they would risk up to 15 years imprisonment. (Migration News Sheet, March 2008, p. 11)

## Greece

- Norway decided to suspend returning refugees and asylum-seekers to Greece under the Dublin II Regulation. Dublin II provides criteria to decide which country is responsible to assess asylum applications and allows member states to return asylum-seekers to the state where they first entered or to the state responsible for their entry into the territory of the European Union, Norway and Iceland. The Norwegian Immigration Appeal Board (IAB) suspended the application of Dublin II, based on "the latest information about the possible violations of the rights of asylum seekers in Greece, and on the basis of the need for more information about the conditions of the asylum seekers in this country". Norwegian authorities are trying with other Nordic embassies to organize a fact finding field trip, and have already asked the assistance of Greek authorities, to gather more information in order to assess the situation in Greece. The decision was based on information provided by the Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC) and the Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers (NOAS), who pointed to grave concerns expressed by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) about the Greek practice of sending Iraqi refugees back to Turkey. According to the UNHCR, Turkey frequently deports the refugees back to Iraq, where they risk persecution. <http://www.ipsnews.org/news.asp?idnews=41199>

## UK

- The Independent Asylum Commission published a report about Britain's asylum policy. The commission found that Britain's treatment of asylum-seekers falls seriously below the standards to

be expected of a humane and civilised society. The most comprehensive examination of the UK's asylum system ever conducted has found it marred by inhumanity and not yet fit for purpose. Its interim report was planned to be delivered to the Home Office on 27 March 2008 by a delegation of asylum-seekers. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/inhumane-and-oppressive-the-final-verdict-on-britains-asylum-policy-801219.html>

## Ireland

- A group of Ghanaian nationals was deported from Dublin on 11 March 2008 having been assembled there from a number of European countries before being sent home. In what is believed to be the first such joint deportation from the Republic. The group was deported by the Irish, Italian and French authorities on board a 737 aircraft which departed Dublin airport on 11 March. News of the plan was kept secret for security reasons. Gardaí (Irish police) did not want to deport just one person on the aircraft, which seats around 110 people, and so offered other EU states seats for any Ghanaians they were waiting to deport. The multinational operation was assisted by the EU border security agency, Frontex. The French and the Italians both took up the offer from Ireland and transported a number of Ghanaians to the Republic on that day to catch the flight to Accra, the Ghanaian capital. The cost of that flight is unknown but the operation is believed to have cost at least €100,000.00. <http://www.ireland.com/newspaper/frontpage/>

## Belgium

- A group of 162 hunger-striking undocumented migrants, who occupied a building in the center of Brussels, agreed to put an end to their hunger strike after 50 days, on 19 February 2008. The Ministry of Interior offered to grant them a temporary residence permit valid for three months during which they will take steps to try to legalise their situation in Belgium. (Source: Migration News Sheet, March 2008, p. 8)
- The Union for the Defense of Undocumented Migrants (UDEP) has examined the preliminary agreement of the new government regarding immigration. They conclude that the agreement seems positive but the lack of concrete measures and guarantees demands caution. Nevertheless the direction taken in the agreement shows the success of the solidarity and demonstration movements over the past years. UDEP will continue its mobilization until the effective application of all measures and their evaluation is completed. <http://sanspapiers.skynetblogs.be/category/1232035/1/G%E9n%E9ral>
- 60 Belgian citizens and undocumented migrants occupied the headquarters of the socialist party on 12 March. Following the previous 'Silent Circles' held in Belgium to highlight undocumented migrants' demands for regularization and protection of their rights, the demonstrators transmitted their demands to the head of the party Elio di Rupo. The "Silent Circles" will continue to take place every Wednesday in numerous towns in Belgium. <http://sanspapiers.skynetblogs.be/>
- The Migration Group (Groupe Migration) of the PTB will hold information sessions on the theme of the regularization in Belgium and invites anyone who is interested in participating. Contact: [we\\_are\\_not\\_dangerous@yahoo.fr](mailto:we_are_not_dangerous@yahoo.fr)
- Often undocumented migrants are not allowed to volunteer in Belgium and the organisations that do want to employ undocumented migrants on a voluntary basis are in an unclear 'grey zone'. The Flemish Centre for Minorities has started a campaign, together with 40 other organisations, to plea for the right of migrants to volunteer under the same conditions Belgians can. The federal minister

of Employment Piette has stated he would like to work together with employers to find a solution. For more information (in Dutch), see <http://www.vmc.be/detail.aspx?id=5641>

- In Belgium, it is estimated that there are more than 100,000 undocumented migrants. 'Undocumented' should not mean 'without rights'. The purpose of the video is to show that these migrants are people and deserve human dignity. Several undocumented migrants tell their story in the video, which can be found here: [http://foyer.be/spip.php?lang=nl&pageb=article&id\\_article=5467](http://foyer.be/spip.php?lang=nl&pageb=article&id_article=5467)

## Netherlands

- Medical care in detention centers fails, says general practitioner Jankees de Ridder. In a letter to the Netherlands Health Care Inspectorate (IGZ) he reports his experiences during his work at the medical service of detention centre Alphen aan de Rijn. He says he is prevented in his work as a GP, that examining rooms are not appropriate and medical instrumentation is not sufficient, and undocumented migrants with psychiatric problems are not taken care of adequately. State Justice Secretary Nebahat Albayrak promised to investigate the medical in detention centers. (Source: Wereldjournalisten [http://www.wereldjournalisten.nl/artikel/2008/03/05/medische\\_hulp\\_in\\_detentiecentra\\_schiet\\_tekort/](http://www.wereldjournalisten.nl/artikel/2008/03/05/medische_hulp_in_detentiecentra_schiet_tekort/) full letter of GP De Ridder on [http://www.pharos.nl/uploads/site\\_1/Pdf/Documenten/brief.huisarts.deridder.detentiecen.dec2007.pdf](http://www.pharos.nl/uploads/site_1/Pdf/Documenten/brief.huisarts.deridder.detentiecen.dec2007.pdf))

## Poland

- On February 22, 2008, Polish National Border Guards detained a group of 89 Vietnamese and 6 Chinese migrants in the town of Wólka Kosowska near Warsaw. According to attorney Grzegorz Nowicki, the human rights of the detained migrants were violated as they had been treated with brutality. However, the brutal treatment at the hands of the Polish Border Guard during the raids carried out on irregular Vietnamese migrants in the past few months is not the only problem. Robert Krzysztoń, who works for Amnesty International and acts as a spokesman for the Vietnamese migrants, reported that, due to Vietnam being one of the last Communist totalitarian regimes in the world, the Vietnamese community in Poland is under observation by Vietnamese security forces, which cooperate with the Polish Border Guard. When interviewed by the national newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza*, Krzysztoń reported that "Eleven of the detained migrants figured on the list of the Vietnamese security forces, which wanted to interrogate them or deport them back to their country of origin". Source: "Border Guard Raid in Wólka Kosowska" ("Obława w Wólce Kosowskiej"), *Gazeta Wyborcza*, 22-02-2008, <http://www.gazetawyborcza.pl/1,76842,4951933.html>. Also see: <http://www.refugee.pl/?mod=knowbase&path=2159> and <http://www.intellasia.net/news/articles/governance/111240743.shtml>.

## Switzerland

- The State and the National Council of Switzerland have voted in favor of the use of Taser guns during the expulsion procedures of undocumented migrants. Arguments presenting the danger of these weapons, reports evoking their possible lethal use from Amnesty International and the fact the Special UN Committee still consider them as a form of torture did not manage to influence the decision. The Swiss refugee support organization condemns the decision and fears new deaths linked to the use of Taser guns. <http://www.tsr.ch/tsr/index.html?siteSect=200003&sid=8868939>

## USA

- The Mayor of Morristown, New Jersey, Donald Cresitello, met in March with Morris County officials to pitch his request to use the county jail as a holding area for undocumented immigrants if the town's local police are deputized as federal immigration agents. The mayor said county participation would increase public safety in Morristown and county wide. Cresitello has said he would consider looking outside the state for possible alternative jails if the county is not cooperative, but said he has not yet started negotiations with any other facilities. <http://www.nelp.org> Morris County Officials have denied the request by Morristown Mayor Donald Cresitello to open an unused wing of the county jail to hold immigration violators. Cresitello drew national attention when he began his campaign nearly one year ago to deputize police in Morristown. He said undocumented migrants were diminishing the quality of life through such things as loitering and living in overcrowded conditions. <http://www.northjersey.com/news/immigration/15865522.html>
- Lilia Garcia (Executive Director of the Maintenance Cooperation Trust, a janitorial watchdog organization) and her squad of investigators make sure janitorial services operating outside the law pay. Her office is the command center for a long-running battle against outlaw cleaning companies that prey on low-wage janitors. Her investigators - often former janitors - visit the mostly immigrant cleaners in their homes, or secretly in the stores and restaurants where they work nights, to document abuses by their bosses. Many of the firms that operate up and down the state pay workers \$3 or less an hour, often in cash, skirting tax laws, workers' compensation insurance rules and other required benefits. Janitors who complain frequently get fired. In the last three years, the fund has helped win more than \$26 million in back pay for workers from janitorial companies. <http://www.latimes.com/business/printedition/la-fi-sunprofile2mar02,0,3124283.story>

## **3. European Policy Developments**

### **General**

- British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and French President Nicolas Sarkozy are to announce a common immigration package. The initiative will focus on combating illegal immigration and will include the arrangement of joint charter flights to return rejected asylum seekers, an increase of lorry checks at French and British ports and an increased activity of French undercover officers targeting gangs smuggling people into Britain. Nicolas Sarkozy also called on the British Prime Minister to sign up to a common immigration policy with other EU nations: "It is illusionary to imagine we could have 27 different national immigration policies", he said. While the UK has opted-out of much EU immigration law, Mr. Sarkozy wants to make immigration a key issue during France's Presidency of the EU starting 1 July of this year and promotes the adoption of a common 'European Immigration and Asylum Pact'. Source: ECRAN Weekly Update 28 March 2008 <http://www.ecre.org>
- The petition «No to the outrageous directive» has signed by nearly 29,000 individuals, associations and political representatives. Signatures to this petition on the EU directive on return have started debates among parliamentary groups, however the Council of the European Union and the European parliament's rapporteur still want to obtain a vote in the first reading of the directive in May. [www.directivedelahonte.org](http://www.directivedelahonte.org),

### **European Commission**

- The European Commission announced on 11 March the establishment of a European Migration Policy Centre (EMPC), as a new platform for linking policy-making and research that should open in

autumn 2008. The EMPC, which will be set up by the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence, Italy, aims at providing policy-makers and other stakeholders with methodologies that address migration governance needs. "The main goal of the new European Migration Policy Centre will be to translate research findings into realistic policy recommendations and thus help guide Europe's policy options in the future. Europe needs to have research on its side," said Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security, Franco Frattini. Source: ECRAN Weekly Update of 21 March 2008. [www.ecre.org](http://www.ecre.org).

- The European Commission has proposed that the Council begin negotiations as soon as possible with Libya for a global framework agreement on human rights, trade, energy, immigration, education and the environment. Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner indicated that "we will talk about everything". Negotiations for the agreement should begin as soon as the "green light" is obtained from member states, and it will not have a time limit imposed on it. Ferrero-Waldner said that the period of negotiations depends on Libya's "political will". The offer also includes the promise of support for economic and social reforms and cooperation in a variety of fields (health, education, immigration, environment, culture etc). For more information see: [http://www.no-fortress-europe.eu/showPage.jsp?ID=2743&PR=0&AREA=2518&GRP=0&SITE=0&CH=1&TYPE=1&FILE\\_NAME=showPage.jsp&INTERNAL=1&ISSUE=0&POPUP=0](http://www.no-fortress-europe.eu/showPage.jsp?ID=2743&PR=0&AREA=2518&GRP=0&SITE=0&CH=1&TYPE=1&FILE_NAME=showPage.jsp&INTERNAL=1&ISSUE=0&POPUP=0) and [http://www.no-fortress-europe.eu/showPage.jsp?ID=2746&PR=0&AREA=2518&GRP=0&SITE=0&CH=1&TYPE=1&FILE\\_NAME=showPage.jsp&INTERNAL=1&ISSUE=0&POPUP=0](http://www.no-fortress-europe.eu/showPage.jsp?ID=2746&PR=0&AREA=2518&GRP=0&SITE=0&CH=1&TYPE=1&FILE_NAME=showPage.jsp&INTERNAL=1&ISSUE=0&POPUP=0)

## European Parliament

- The Socialist Group in the European Parliament (PSE or PES) held a two-day conference on "A management policy for migration flows compatible with Fundamental Rights" on 5-6 March. Panels of MEPs, academics and experts discussed the efficiency of the current migration management policy and respect for fundamental rights within the framework of external border controls. MEP Javier Moreno Sanchez (PSE, Spain) reminded during the conference that migrants are too often addressed in political discourse as a threat, while the fact that they are human beings with rights is often forgotten. It was also noted that the current proposals envisaged by the Commission with its border management package focus more on technologies, database and security than on the management of the people themselves. Source: ECRAN Weekly Update 7 March 2008 <http://www.ecre.org/topics/>
- The European Parliament published an external study on undocumented migrants, entitled "Trends on regularisation of third country nationals in irregular situation of stay across the European Union". The documentation contained in the publication gathers together information and data on regularisation processes in Europe. Further, it presents available statistics and bibliography. [http://www.no-fortress-europe.eu/uploadFortress/trends\\_on\\_irregulars\\_in\\_Europe\\_en.pdf](http://www.no-fortress-europe.eu/uploadFortress/trends_on_irregulars_in_Europe_en.pdf)
- On March 27, MEPs of the European Parliament's Civil Liberties, Security and Justice (LIBE) Committee adopted almost unanimously the report drafted by MEP Martine Roure (France, PES) on the Commission proposal extending the scope of the Long-term residence Directive (2003/109/EC) to beneficiaries of international protection. The proposal extends to beneficiaries of international protection the right to acquire a long term residence status, after five years of legal residence in an EU member state, having stable and regular resources and sickness insurance. The status entails, under certain conditions, the possibility of moving to another EU Member State. The report emphasizes that this Directive should apply to both refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection. Amendments to the Commission's proposal adopted by the LIBE Committee include exempting the fulfillment of the material requirement for beneficiaries of international protection "given their particularly vulnerable situation and the fact that they have limited access to

employment in some Member States." The European Parliament, which is only consulted in this procedure, will vote on its final report in plenary on April 24. Source: ECRAN Weekly Update 28 March 2008. [www.ecre.org](http://www.ecre.org)

### **Council of the European Union**

- At the European Spring Council on 13 March, which addressed the issue of climate change, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana and External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Walder presented a joint report on the security implications of climate change and the threats that Europe will have to face. In this report the two foreign policy officials predict that climate change will lead to considerable migration movements. Within a decade "there will be millions of environmental migrants", the report says. Moreover, the report warns that global warming will lead to "significant potential conflicts" in the coming decades in particular "over access to, and control over, energy resources". Those conflicts may as well cause important forced displacements of populations. The report sets out recommendations for future EU actions, including increasing monitoring and research on climate changes and assessing the EU's capacities and budget in order to prepare for early responses to disasters and conflicts. Source: ECRAN Weekly Update 15 March 2008 <http://www.ecre.org/>

### **4. Undocumented Children**

- A four year old Sudanese boy faces expulsion, while his mother, brother and sisters can stay in the Netherlands. This because the boy does not have a passport. Defence for Children, together with UNICEF Holland, asked attention for this case, in its fight for the right to respect family life (Art 8, ECHR). Member of Parliament Hans Spekman (PvdA), asked the Secretary of State to look in to the matter and make sure to align Dutch policy with the International Convention on the Right of the Child and admit children whose parents rightfully staying in the Netherlands. (Source: Defence for Children, <http://www.defenceforchildren.nl/>)
- UNHCR calls upon Greek authorities to avoid the use of force and especially to refrain from any forms of violence in their efforts to vacate and tear down makeshift camps at Patras, where around 1,000 asylum-seekers and irregular migrants, mainly from Afghanistan, have been residing for several years (cp. also PICUM newsletter February 2008). The UNHCR particularly stresses Greece's national and international obligation towards the (around 250) unaccompanied minors, living at the miserable camps, "to be placed under the temporary guardianship following judicial intervention and provided with appropriate accommodation that meets their special needs." (Source: Migration News Sheet, March 2008, p. 11)
- A musical and poetic show recounting the story of small boy, Anatole: not possessing the right papers he has to leave school, his friends, his neighbourhood to find himself in his so-called 'country of origin' where everything is different, which will make his new life less easy. The project was founded by a small theatre company, Lilananda. Contact: Chakib, tel. +33/4 73 85 85 54.
- A new report '*Claiming asylum at a screening unit as an unaccompanied child*' published on 3 March 2008 by the Children's Commissioner uncovers a series of unacceptable practices faced by unaccompanied children when they apply for asylum in the UK. The arrangements at the Croydon Asylum Screening Unit (ASU), where young asylum seekers go to log their asylum claim, give their personal details and explain their journey to the UK, fail to see these children first and foremost as vulnerable and traumatised and does not address their basic needs, says Sir Al Aynsely-Green in the report. <https://www.childrenscommissioner.org/adult/ccnews/index.cfm?id=1953&newsid=141>

- In a ruling released on 23 January 2008 by the Cour de Cassation (Supreme Court) (pourvoi 06-13344) the Court criticised the “bones test” used for the age determination of unaccompanied/undocumented children. According to the court the “bones test” is too imprecise to be considered as proof. <http://ldh-nancy.org/Decision-du-23-janvier-2008-de-la.html>
- The Centre for Study of the Child, Family and Law (Liverpool University), in collaboration with the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights in Vienna and with the support of the European Children’s Network (EURONET), have been commissioned by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency to develop a series of indicators to monitor the impact of EU activity on children’s rights and welfare. They are eager to learn from those with experience of either applying, campaigning for or monitoring children’s rights, either through directly working with children and young people, or through their work with statutory or non-governmental organisations, and are therefore asking them to respond to their survey. These responses will then inform the development of some preliminary indicators across a range of key areas of activity in which the EU is currently engaged. <http://www.priority-research.com/childrightssurvey/>
- The Belgian organization ‘Beweging voor Kinderen zonder Papieren’ (Movement for Undocumented Children) has made a petition to the new minister for Migration and Asylum on the practice of detention of children. To sign the petition, send an email to [info@kzp.be](mailto:info@kzp.be). On the 27<sup>th</sup> of April there will be a demonstration against the imprisonment of children. For more info contact: [info@vluchteling.be](mailto:info@vluchteling.be) or [nina.henkens@kinderenzonderpapieren.be](mailto:nina.henkens@kinderenzonderpapieren.be)).

## **5. Upcoming Events**

- With the aim of informing civil society in Europe about the situation of sub-Saharan migrants in Morocco and to contribute to the efforts of European partners working for migrants’ rights, ABCDS (Association Beni Znassen pour la Culture, le Développement et la Solidarité) is starting an awareness campaign in defense of migrants’ rights. In this context the organization organized held a conference on April 1 on: ‘Migration and human rights: War against migrants at the new borders of Europe’ in the Amnesty International centre in London. A second conference will take place in Hamburg, Germany on April 15. For more information contact Hicham Baraka, Président ABCDS-Maroc, Tél. +212 (0) 67 71 65 24, E-mail: [hicham.baraka@gmail.com](mailto:hicham.baraka@gmail.com)
- A national march in support of undocumented migrants will take place in France from Lille to Paris from 19 April to 10 May. Organized by the CSP59, a migrant support organization, the march’s slogan is ‘25.000 NO to Expulsion and 25.000 YES to regularization’. For more information on the different stages of the walk and the events along the way contact: [leosp59@gmail.com](mailto:leosp59@gmail.com).
- The Intercultural Cities Conference is organised by EUCLID and Comedia, in association with the Liverpool Culture Company, and with the support of the European Commission and the Council of Europe and will take place on 1-3 May 2008 in Liverpool, United Kingdom. As part of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, the Intercultural Cities Conference, will look at migration, diversity and urban life in a fresh way. New thinking is needed on how diverse communities can co-operate in productive harmony instead of leading parallel or antagonistic lives. For more information see: <http://inter.culture.info/icc>
- The Mercator Fund announces the fifth annual “Raymond Georis Prize for Innovative Philanthropy in Europe” and is calling for nominations. Candidates must be proposed by a Nominator in order to be considered for the Prize, thus offering the opportunity to attribute recognition to a project, foundation, organisation or individual’s contribution to European Philanthropy. The recipient of the Prize will receive an original piece of art chosen by Mr Raymond Georis. The Prize Ceremony will

take place in Istanbul on the occasion of the European Foundation Centre's Annual General Assembly from 29 – 31 May 2008. For more information contact: [mattocks@mercatorfund.net](mailto:mattocks@mercatorfund.net) or see: <http://www.mercatorfund.net/>

- The permanent international Secretariat of Human Rights and Local Governments will hold the Third World Forum on Human Rights in Nantes, France, from .30 June - 3 July 2008. <http://www.SPIDH.org>
- The Odysseus Academic Network and their members coming from all the Member States of the European Union will hold the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of their Summer School on Immigration and Asylum Policy of the European Union, at the Free University of Brussels (U.L.B.) from 30 June-11 July 2008. The aim of the summer school is to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the immigration and asylum policy of the European Union from a legal point of view. For more information contact: [odysseus@ulb.ac.be](mailto:odysseus@ulb.ac.be) or see: <http://www.ulb.ac.be/assoc/odysseus/>

## **6. Publications**

“Unintended consequences: limiting workers’ compensation benefits for undocumented workers exposes workers to greater risks of injury, business to greater costs” policy brief by the National Employment Law Project (NELP), February 2008. Limiting workers’ compensation benefits for undocumented workers has unintended consequences, as it exposes workers to greater risks of injury and business to greater costs. U.S. immigration laws prohibit employment of workers who do not have legal permission to work. Yet federal labor, health, and safety protections are - at least, in theory - supposed to be afforded to workers without regard to their legal status. NELP’s data show that employers have hired a significant number of undocumented workers, but many of them are not complying with workplace regulations. See report:

<http://www.nelp.org/docUploads/Workers%27%20Compensation%20and%20state%20laws%2Epdf>

The Bureau of the Dutch Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings has announced that the English translation of the (abridged) Fifth Report of the Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings is now available at <http://english.bnrm.nl/reports/fifth/> and will be printed soon.

University professor Abdelkrim Belguendouz, researcher in the field of migration and the expat Moroccan community published a book called ‘Politique Européenne de voisinage-barrage aux sudistes: de Schengen à Barcelon + 10’. Two themes are apparent throughout his publication, firstly he question migration policies based on security issues by Europe and the cooperation of Morocco on these issues. Secondly he examines the issue of sub-Saharan migration into Morocco.

[http://www.emarrakech.info/Parution-de-Politique-europeenne-de-voisinage-barrage-aux-Sudistes-a3385.html?voir\\_commentaire=oui](http://www.emarrakech.info/Parution-de-Politique-europeenne-de-voisinage-barrage-aux-Sudistes-a3385.html?voir_commentaire=oui)

“Administrative Detention of Asylum Seekers and Irregular Migrants in Europe: Common position of JRS in Europe,” March 2008, by the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS-Europe). The document firmly establishes JRS’ opposition to administrative detention, and the conditions that must be adhered to for people who are already in detention.

<http://www.jrseurope.org/JRS%20EUROPE%20POSITION%20ON%20DETENTION%2020081.pdf>

The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policy has published its health policy bulletin ‘Euro Observer’, the topic of which is “Migration and health in EU health systems - case studies from the Netherlands, Italy and Spain”. In this issue of ‘Euro Observer’ three countries’ migrant health policies are described revealing considerable differences. The issue of undocumented migrants and their access

to health care systems in those three countries is also addressed.  
[http://www.euro.who.int/Document/Obs/EuroObserver\\_Winter2007.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/Document/Obs/EuroObserver_Winter2007.pdf)

## **8. Miscellaneous**

La Strada International (LSI) wants to highlight the relation between trafficking and the violation of women's rights and did this with a launch of an international campaign and a presentation of its report "Violation of women's rights: a cause and a consequence of trafficking in women" on 8 March 2008 in Pakhuis de Zwijger, Amsterdam. At this event, representatives of all La Strada countries, namely, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland and Ukraine were present, providing a unique moment of sharing information on the fight against trafficking in human beings and the promotion of women's rights in different countries. For more information see: [www.lastradainternational.org](http://www.lastradainternational.org)., [www.mamacash.nl](http://www.mamacash.nl) and [www.women-inc.nl](http://www.women-inc.nl).

The French Network of Universities Without Borders organised a board games night on 20 March in Dijon, France, because fighting against the silence surrounding the expulsion of undocumented migrants should also be about meeting, sharing good times and creating solidarity networks to stop the fear of the other. <http://www.brassicanigra.org/agenda/2008/03/20/soiree-jeux-en-soutien-au-reseau-universite-sans-frontieres-21.html>

The Institute of Social Research at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University held a conference in Brussels on "Integration of female immigrants in labour market and society. Policy assessment and policy recommendations" on 31 March 2008. FeMiPol was a two-year research project supported by DG-Research under the Sixth EU Framework Programme for Research. The event was the project's final conference and was organised in close cooperation with DG-Research of the European Commission. [www.femipol.uni-frankfurt.de](http://www.femipol.uni-frankfurt.de)

The cinema festival 'Identity without borders' was held from 2-8 April in Paris. In partnership with the French organization Gisti, 41 movies and 8 debates were held. The festival aimed to question the reinforcement of the borders and the institutionalisation of xenophobia. Nicolas Klotz, Ken Loach, Avi Mograbi, Charlie Chaplin, Chris Marker, Alain Resnais were all on show at the festival.  
<http://www.local.attac.org/images-mouvementees/>

There is a new video game ('breakthrough'), [ICED](http://www.iced.org), which puts the player in the shoes of an immigrant to illustrate how unfair immigration laws deny due process and violate human rights. These laws affect all immigrants: legal residents, those fleeing persecution, students and undocumented people. The object of the game is to become a citizen of the United States.  
[http://www.breakthrough.tv/campaign\\_detail.asp?cid=13&id=2](http://www.breakthrough.tv/campaign_detail.asp?cid=13&id=2)

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