



PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

PICUM Newsletter June 2006

Finalized on 9 June 2006

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) in the following languages: English, German, Dutch, Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese. You are invited to distribute this newsletter widely.

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

DONATE TO PICUM!

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

You are invited to donate to PICUM by transferring your singular or regular contribution to account number 001-3666785-67 (Fortisbank, Schepdaal (B), IBAN: BE93 001366678567). Please mention your name and address, and reference: "donation".

THANK YOU !

Index

- [1. Death at the Border](#)
 - [2. News from EU Member States + Switzerland + U.S.A.](#)
 - [3. European Policy Developments](#)
 - [4. Upcoming Events](#)
 - [5. Publications](#)
 - [6. Miscellaneous](#)
-

**Please note that there will be no edition of the PICUM newsletter in July 2006.
The next edition of this newsletter will be in August 2006.**

1. Death at the Border

- A small truck packed with undocumented migrants from Afghanistan and Bangladesh crashed into a parked transport truck in southeastern Turkey on 19 May, leaving 42 people dead and six injured, authorities said. The migrants killed had entered Turkey from Iran and were to be transported into Bulgaria and then Greece. Dozens of migrants, estimated to be between the ages of 20 and 25, had made the journey standing in the back of the truck, covered by tarpaulin. They were provided with

plastic bottles for urination during the more than 2,000 kilometers of travel, authorities said. Most of the migrants died of brain trauma or internal bleeding, doctors said. The Turkish driver was killed and another Turk who were crushed to death in the compressed cabin of the truck. The migrants said they had been on the road for three days and that the truck driver had not slept in several days and was speeding when the accident occurred, Anatolia reported.

<http://www.turkishdailynews.com.tr/article.php?enewsid=44026>

- Eight months after the events in Ceuta and Melilla, in which hundreds of undocumented migrants tried to enter Europe on the Spanish-Moroccan border by climbing the fences, the organization kein.org has published interviews with two protagonists of the events. The first interview, entitled 'We are all a collective combination something ...', features M.K, who succeeded in entering into Ceuta and today lives in Madrid. The second interview is with Paola Domingo who has lived in Ceuta for six years and is now a nun of the Carmelito Verdona religious order.
<http://www.noborder.org/item.php?id=364>
- *The US-Mexico Border* is a guide that has been recently included in the Migration Information Source, with updates on regional population numbers, border crossings, border enforcement, and the economic ties between the United States and Mexico.
<http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?id=407>

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

General

- Three Italian organizations (NAGA, Area sanitaria Caritas, OIKOS) have made a proposal for a resolution in the European Parliament concerning the extension of health care to all foreigners present in the European Union, even if they are not legally residing in Europe. This proposal, which is directed at undocumented migrants, has been made to guarantee the full realization of the right to health for all within the European Union. Organizations and individuals are invited to sign the proposal, which has already been signed by 80 MEPs. A meeting with these MEPs and NGOs will be held in Strasbourg on 5 July. For more information and to sign the proposal, contact: Dr. Pierfranco Olivani, NAGA, tel. +39/338/65.57.057 or dirittosalute@fastwebnet.it
- The Jesuit Refugee Service recently held a competition for student journalists throughout Europe to write about issues concerning refugees, with the aim of tackling a significant humanitarian problem in Europe and helping to break down misunderstandings and myths. The winners, who were decided by a panel of professional journalists, were presented with their prizes at the European Parliament on 18 April. The first prize went to Kasper Tveden, studying in Denmark, for his article "Suicidal Silence," about the rise in number of attempts of suicide amongst asylum seekers in Denmark. www.jrseurope.org
- Teenagers in German speaking countries can gain insight into the trauma of fleeing persecution and seeking asylum experienced by refugees across the world in a new interactive game from the UN refugee agency. The internet-based game, which can be found free of charge at www.LastExitFlucht.org is designed to appeal to the youth market. The game does this by getting teenagers to go through the experience that millions of refugees have faced. As well as the testimonies of refugees, LastExitFlucht is a lively educational tool, designed with both teachers and students in mind. It charts the history of asylum in Europe and explains the difficulties refugees in Europe currently face in upholding their rights. <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/news/opendoc.htm?tbl=NEWS&page=home&id=440c89014>

- In Western Europe, every country has more people entering than leaving, and the same is true for many of the Central European countries that joined the European Union in 2004. Rainer Muenz of the Hamburg Institute of International Economics takes a detailed look at the latest European population data in *Europe: Population and Migration in 2005*. <http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?id=402>
- Appodi: The Implications of European Enlargement on Migration Phenomenon Communicated through Comics, is a new project aiming to raise knowledge about the enlarged Europe, with a special view to new destinations of legal and illegal migration flows. This initiative wants to promote awareness among the citizens of Malta, Cyprus, Italy and Spain about illegal immigration issues: reasons and ways beyond this event, the answers EU provided and is providing to face these questions and fears with an approach based on tolerance and reciprocal understanding. Comics will be designed on these issues and distributed in schools, youth centers, universities, etc. More info: www.appodi.net or redazione@africaemediterraneo.it
- MIREM, Migration de retour vers le Maghreb (Return migration to North Africa) is a new project that aims to develop greater understanding concerning return to countries of origin. The project will produce tools to analyze and understand the factors at stake in the reintegration process of migrants in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. Information will be freely available on the project's website in order to encourage a constructive debate on this issue. <http://www.mirem.eu> or jpcassarino@iue.it
- In November 2005, different activist networks from around Europe (especially from Spain and Italy) came together in Ceuta, Spain, for the first European Caravan against the "Valley of Death and for the Freedom of Movement". The caravan was organized in response to the deaths of numerous migrants trying to cross into the European Union from Morocco. The Second European Caravan for Freedom of Movement will be held from 23-25 June in Barcelona. For more information in Spanish, English, French, Italian, Arabic, and German, visit: <http://www.communia.org/caravana/>

France

- The French Parliament has given strong backing to a controversial immigration bill that will make it more difficult for the unskilled to settle in France. According to the bill, only highly qualified newcomers from outside the EU have the right to receive residence permits. The proposed law also requires immigrants from outside the European Union to sign a contract agreeing to learn French and to respect the principles of the French Republic, and makes it more difficult for them to bring their families over to join them. Deputies in the National Assembly approved the bill by 367 votes to 164 but it must also be passed by the Senate. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4990962.stm>
- Support committees have been formed throughout France on behalf of undocumented children who are faced with the threat of deportation as of 4 July, once the summer vacation officially begins in the school system (see PICUM Newsletter May 2006). In light of this increased national mobilization of teachers, pupils, parents and other actors, Minister of the Interior Nicholas Sarkozy announced on 6 June that approximately 720 families (between 2,000 and 2,500 people) could receive authorization to remain in France and receive an ID card. This regularization would most likely concern families in which the children have no attachment to their countries of origin, since they were born in France or arrived in France at a young age, are presently enrolled in the school system in France, and who only speak French. http://www.lemonde.fr/web/imprimer_element/0,40-0@2-3224,50-779983,0.html However, on 7 June, Mr. Sarkozy justified the deportation of two Kurdish

children aged 3 and 6 and their mother to Norway within the framework of the Dublin convention, as the family had originally applied for asylum there. The FCPE (Federation des Parents d'élèves) denounced the deportation, stating that such measures make it difficult to believe Mr. Sarkozy's announcement about a partial regularisation for undocumented migrants with school-age children.

<http://fr.news.yahoo.com/07062006/290/nicolas-sarkozy-justifie-l-expulsion-de-deux-enfants-kurdes.html> Contact: coorndatsanspap@wanadoo.fr

- Mr. Sarkozy estimated on 6 June that there are between 200,000 and 400,000 undocumented migrants in France. This estimate is the same as the one he made on 29 November 2005, during an investigatory committee hearing of the high assembly on clandestine immigration. Mr. Sarkozy underlined that while it is very difficult to give an estimate of undocumented migrants, there are nonetheless several indicators of irregular flows for 2005, such as: 16,000 people placed in holding zones, 23,000 people who were refused entry at the borders to France, 63,000 people who were arrested for irregular migration status, and the execution of approximately 20,000 repatriation orders. At the same time, there were an estimated 31,000 rejected asylum seekers.
<http://www.liberation.fr/page.php?Article=295743>
<http://www.armees.com/France-le-nombre-des-clandestins-estime-entre-200,2913.html>
- In an interview with the French Journal "Le Nouvel Observateur" on 19 April 2006, the Vice-President of the Judges Trade Union in France has strongly criticized the draft legislation regarding immigration. The Judges Trade Union consider this law a threat to basic rights such as the respect of private life, the right to asylum and the right to family life. The enacting of the law will make it more difficult to get a residence permit and thus new undocumented migrants will be created. The draft law considers individuals as workers only and abandons the humanitarian aspect. The Judges Trade Union tries to highlight critical points of the draft law and to influence deputies.
www.proasyl.de/de/archiv/newsletter-ausgaben/nl-2006/newsletter-muster/index.html
- 200 undocumented migrants that had occupied for one month the ANAEM (National Authority for the Reception of Foreigners and Migration) in Paris have been evacuated by the police. The occupation was a measure to protest against French Minister of Interior Sarkozy's draft law regarding immigration and for the regularization of all undocumented migrants.
www.proasyl.de/de/archiv/newsletter-ausgaben/nl-2006/newsletter-muster/index.html
- The three presidents of the Council of Christian Churches in France (Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox) have expressed in a letter to the Minister of the Interior Sarkozy their opposition to the draft law on immigration. The president of the Protestant Church worries about a weakening of migrants' situation by the new law and regrets that priority is given to economic arguments.
www.proasyl.de/de/archiv/newsletter-ausgaben/nl-2006/newsletter-muster/index.html

Spain

- This year alone, 7,000 people have reached the Canary Islands – five times more than in the first five months of last year. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4999378.stm> The Spanish government has decided to strongly fight massive arrivals to Canary Islands:
 - Spain has announced a three-year diplomatic offensive in West Africa to try to stem the flow of African migrants to Europe. Spain will base a diplomatic team in Senegal to try to persuade six nations to accept deported migrants, namely Senegal, Niger, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea and Cape Verde. This, in fact, is in line with recent declarations by the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Miguel Ángel Moratinos, who has stated that "all illegal

entrants will be repatriated.”

<http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2006/05/25/espana/1148538627.html>

- In addition, recent contacts between the Spanish government and the EU institutions have resulted in the European Commission adopting a whole series of measures to help Spain in its fight against mass arrivals of undocumented migrants along its coast. (For more information, see “European Policy Developments” in this newsletter).
<http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2006/05/23/espana/1148405045.html>
- SOS Racismo, an NGO present in the Canary Islands, continues to denounce the overcrowding of the reception centres and demands the Spanish government to repeal all expulsion orders. Many of these orders cannot be finally enforced. This fact entails an extremely serious situation of social exclusion, as undocumented migrants cannot either reside or work legally, nor return to their country of origin. For more details, see www.apdha.org.

Italy

- The new President of Italy, Giorgio Napolitano, who in 1998 along with Livia Turco drafted the law concerning CPTs (Center for Temporary Stay and Assistance, Italy's detention centers for foreigners), declared that “there is no alternative to CPTs. We can discuss their management, but to ask for their closure is another thing. They are neither prisons nor camps. If they are overcrowded, we must open new centers, rather than ask for their closure.”
<http://www.meltingpot.org/articolo7202.html>
- The Italian Supreme Court ruled in a decision made on 27 April 2006, number 14500, that undocumented migrants have the right to benefit from alternative measures of imprisonment that are different from jail, such as staying in social centres or doing some form of community service. Moreover, the Supreme Court also ruled in a decision made on 12 April 2006, number 152621, that an employer can be charged of a crime of favouring the illegal stay of irregular migrants in Italy only in cases of unjust profit. In practice, an employer cannot be incriminated only because s/he employs an undocumented worker but only in cases of serious exploitation and abuse of the worker. Source: CESTIM, elisa.gagni@studiomeduri.it
- On 5 June some of the migrants detained in Bologna CPT (detention center) protested, refusing to return to their cells after the lunch break. The police were called to monitor the situation but there were no violent incidents or rebellious acts. <http://www.meltingpot.org/articolo7709.html>

Greece

- Thirty-seven unaccompanied minors and 260 adults from Afghanistan live under terrible conditions in a camp at the port of Patras. According to the UNHCR, among 158 separated children registered as asylum seekers in 2005 by the Greek authorities, only a few effectively reside and are assisted at reception centres in the country. In addition, gaps in Greek legislation and practice remain concerning the identification of newly arrived persons (accompanied or unaccompanied) below the age of 18, the appointment of a legal guardian, and the provision of assistance and durable solutions for separated children. Source: (*Peloponnisos Patron*, 15 May)
- According to Amnesty International's Annual Report, presented during a press conference by AI's Greek branch on 23 May, migrants, refugees and members of minority groups in Greece suffer human rights violations, including denial of access to asylum procedures (cases were reported on

Greece's coastline and some islands, and at the border area of Evros), ill-treatment in detention (also against unaccompanied minors) and discrimination. Source: (*Financial Box, Metrorama, Kathimerini, Naftemporiki, Eleftheros Typos, Express, Avgi, Imerissia, 24 May*)

- During an immigration conference on the island of Samos, Deputy Interior Minister Thanassis Nakos announced that the children of migrants in Greece will soon be given legal status in the country as long as they have been to school in Greece and speak Greek. This will correct a legal loophole that has so far prevented the children of some foreigners from living in Greece legally. (*Nea, Express, Kathimerini, Avgi, Eleftherotypia, Vima, Kerdos, 30 May*)
- According to the existing legal framework in Greece, those who cross the borders and get arrested can be detained for up to three months, until it is cleared whether they can be deported or not. The most common practice, though, is totally illegal deportation. Police stations in most areas near the borders, as well as in the centre of Athens are used as detention centres for migrants. Detention spaces for undocumented migrants are as a rule terrible and most of the time detainees have no communication with the outside world or access to lawyers, nor the possibility to apply for asylum. Lately access by NGOs and other organisations has been forbidden in most of the centres. Source: <http://www.meltingpot.org/articolo7616.html>

UK

- Unity, the Scottish Union of Asylum Seekers, has called for a protest and rally in conjunction with other organisations to protest against deportations and inhumane treatment of asylum seekers. Source: <http://www.irr.org.uk/2006/may/fq000026.html>
- The Refugee Council has claimed that unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have difficulties accessing services, particularly in those cases where the child's age is disputed. In addition, the Home Office has begun the fingerprinting of asylum-seeking children under five years of age. <http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2006/05/17/54022/Asylum+seeking+children+have+difficulties+accessing.html> and http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/4773005.stm
- The Home Office has proposed to disperse unaccompanied child asylum seekers via short-term assessment centres, use X-ray age determination methods and link support arrangements more closely to immigration removal targets. <http://www.torturecare.org.uk/articles/news/809>
- The British government does not have accurate figures on the number of undocumented migrants in the UK but 1,000 failed asylum seekers are being deported each month, according to the home secretary, John Reid. Mr Reid was responding to remarks before the Commons home affairs committee on 17 May by Dave Roberts, the Immigration and Nationality Directorate's director of enforcement and removals. Mr Roberts told the committee that he did not have the "faintest idea" how many undocumented migrants were in Britain, and said that the focus of the immigration service was no longer on tackling individual cases. Instead, resources were being directed to people suspected of criminal activities and situations where large numbers of undocumented migrants were working for single employers. Mr Reid said it was impossible to calculate the exact number of undocumented migrants in the UK, since many arrived long ago at a time when there were no electronic registrations. The NGO Migration Watch estimates that there are at least 250,000 failed asylum seekers in the UK, basing its calculations on Home Office figures. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/immigration/story/0,,1776836,00.html>

- Government statistics have shown that 540 children were released from detention in the last quarter of 2005, 19 per cent more than the previous quarter. A third of these children had been held for over one week and twenty-five for over one month.
http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/2006/may06/relea0506_5.htm
- The arrival of migrant workers in the UK has had profound effects on the labour market and beyond. How can unions ensure these workers get a fair deal at work, access to decent housing and the enforcement of their rights on the job? What impact is the arrival of these new workers having in key sectors such as construction? This month the Union Ideas Network (UIN) features a series of articles looking at the challenges facing unions in organising and representing migrant workers. www.uin.org.uk To help mark the publication of this material the UIN will be hosting a lunchtime seminar, supported by the TUC, which will be held at the TUC, Congress House, London on 19 July 2006. To register for this free event which will take place from 12.30pm-2.30pm (lunch included), e-mail Ebony Tapper at etapper@tuc.org.uk.

Ireland

- The Immigrant Council of Ireland launched a *Directory of Migrant Led Community Organisations in Ireland* on 25 May. Reflecting the growth of the migrant population in Ireland and the increasing need for provision of information and support services, there are now over 130 such groups around the country. The directory has been compiled over the past two years, based on inputs from forty seven migrant led groups around the country. The work of these groups varies widely. Some are engaged in community activism; some in advising immigrants on work related matters; others provide family and social support; while others are working to promote inter-cultural understanding between different communities in Ireland. The directory is available on the Immigrant Council of Ireland's website at: www.immigrantcouncil.ie
- The Immigrant Council of Ireland will launch a new study and discussion on "Migrant Family Life – What Rights? The Case for Reform," on 28 June in Dublin. The discussion aims to highlight the personal experiences of Irish citizens and migrants who try to negotiate the family reunification system in Ireland; set out and critically examine the current policies and practices governing family reunification in Ireland; and propose key recommendations for change. More info: admin@immigrantcouncil.ie

Belgium

- For more than eight months, undocumented migrants in Belgium have been organizing in order to be heard, and are currently occupying more than 40 places (churches, secular houses, mosques, etc.). There have been several demonstrations: 5,000 demonstrators in Antwerp on 15 February; 10,000 demonstrators in Brussels on 25 February; 2,000 demonstrators in Brussels on 21 April; 5,000 demonstrators in Ghent on 20 May. Major trade unions and NGOs in Belgium actively support this movement, and are now calling for a national demonstration on 17 June in Brussels to pressure the government to regularize undocumented migrants. For more info contact UDEP (Union pour la défense des sans-papiers), tel. +32/496/40.33.09 or +32/498/33.07.48.
- In its annual report, Médecins Sans Frontières deplores the striking lack of access to health care for undocumented migrants in Belgium. Although a law was passed ten years ago that grants certain health care services to undocumented migrants, many are excluded in practice due to poor running of the system, administrative obstacles, arbitrary decisions, as well as undocumented migrants' mistrust of governmental agencies. In 2005, MSF carried out more than 8,000 consultations in

Belgium – of which 74% were for undocumented migrants – and tried to redirect these patients to official mechanisms to. However, all too often this access exists only in theory, not in practice.

www.azg.be/nl/terrein/belgie.htm

- In Antwerp, a church occupation (“Antwaarps Asiel”) has been started with the approval of church authorities. The action started on 1 May in a chapel of the Community of Sint Egidius and moved on to a chapel of the Protestant community of Antwerp on 14 May. On 31 May, undocumented migrants continued by occupying the offices of the Union of Mosques and Muslim Organisations of Antwerp. The action, organised by a number of different organisations, and planned to last until 24 June, aims for a more humane asylum policy and transparent regularisation criteria and wants to spread its message through a variety of cultural activities. More info: vluchtelingenteam@de8.be
- The local integration centre De 8 has published its protest against television coverage by the Dutch-speaking channel Canvas on the poor housing quality of undocumented migrants. Whereas the aim of the programme was to denounce abuse by landlords, the undocumented migrants themselves were not so much portrayed as victims of these practices, but in as being very much part of the problem. De 8 also expressed its disagreement in the way the local public welfare organisations (OCMWs/CPAS) were portrayed. More info: vluchtelingenteam@de8.be
- On 30 May the Commission of Internal Affairs of the Chamber held hearings on the reform of the Residency Law. One of the comments of the Flemish Minority Centre VMC was that regarding undocumented migrants, the new law held some important deficits in that it still does not stipulate clear criteria for regularisation. The complete text of the VMC statement can be found at: www.vmc.be
- Undocumented children go to school. Do they just have the right to education, or do they fall under the compulsory education law? These questions and other relevant matters were discussed in talks on 19 May with the minority groups sector, the cabinet of Minister of Education Vandenbroucke and the Administration of Education. The aim was to map problems and seek solutions. Further engagements have been made to continue the talks. More info: gunther.vanneste@vmc.be or bart.deceuninck@vmc.be
- On 2 June the Federal government decided that unaccompanied minors arriving at the border cannot be detained in closed detention centres for more than three days, after which they will be transferred to observation and orientation centres within youth protection schemes. Before this decision they were often kept for weeks in unsuitable circumstances. www.vmc.be/vreemdelingenrecht.

Netherlands

- In cooperation with OKIA and Searchweb, the NGO LOS has published “Basisrechten voor Ongedocumenteerden”, a document that lists the rights held by undocumented migrants and the legal texts that can be used by social workers. Although undocumented migrants mainly have the same rights as other people, they often encounter difficulties in realizing these rights. LOS is also carrying out a campaign to assemble complaints regarding the realization of these rights. The fear of deportation often represents an obstacle to seek protection in cases of work accidents or abuse by employers or landlords. For more info, contact: info@stichtinglos.nl
- After the adoption of the Foreigners’ Law in 2001, a large group of people that had applied for political asylum under the previous law lost the right to basic social services. A campaign has been

set up in the wake of growing expectations that a coming coalition will grant a general amnesty to this group of undocumented migrants. Dutch Minister for Foreigners' Affairs and Integration Verdonk believes that this concerns approximately 26,000 people. www.aftellentothetpardon.nl

- On 1 May the NGO Pharos launched the 'Check point access to health care' where those involved with asylum seekers or undocumented migrants can report harrowing situations regarding the accessibility of health care and other social care institutions. Pharos will assemble data and publish a report that will be presented to Parliament in the beginning of 2007. www.pharos.nl/meldpunt/
- *Correction:* In the April 2006 newsletter, PICUM reported that Pharos, the Dutch knowledge center on refugees and health, is keeping a file on the cases of approximately 250 Syrian asylum seekers who were deported to Syria. Pharos is not keeping a file on these cases. PICUM apologizes for the mistake. The Dutch Ombudsman is carrying out research on this issue and will be publishing a report in September 2006. For more information on the case of these rejected asylum seekers who were returned to Syria, consult: <http://www.nd.nl/htm/dossier/syrie/rechts.htm>
- The inspection report of the Inspection Youth Care, "Doelgerichte ontwikkeling AMA's", concludes that unaccompanied minors run a high risk of becoming undocumented migrants and of not receiving the schooling they need and of being badly reachable by public welfare. info@stichtinglos.nl
- MedNet, a paper on health care, has found that 60% of general practitioners and 50% of specialists have experience with undocumented migrants. 91% of the first group and 88% of the second claim to be prepared to help out undocumented migrants. (Source : MedNet 4.5.06 in Nieuwsbrief LOS 3-10, 28 april) More info : info@stichtinglos.nl
- The Dutch Minister for Foreigners' Affairs and Integration Verdonk will provide money to help undocumented women threatened with revenge of honour from their husband or partner. The Minister aims to have an existing funds provide these women with a livelihood and medical care until it has been decided whether they can stay in the country. (Source : Reformatorisch Dagblad, 12.5.06 in Nieuwsbrief LOS 3-10, 28 april) More info : info@stichtinglos.nl
- The Dutch Labour Inspectorate last year imposed 2,200 fines for illegal work, compared with just over 1,000 in 2004. Some 4,650 undocumented workers were tracked down, up from about 2,800 in 2004. The 2,200 fines totalled 13 million euros. The inspectorate also imposed 2,400 fines for bad labour conditions, totalling 7 million euros. http://internationalezaken.szw.nl/index.cfm?fuseaction=dsp_document&link_id=94839&rubriek_id=13002&lijstm=0,322_6457

Germany

- As a result of the kidnapping of a 3-year old Angolan child by the police of Dresden prior to a deportation, the "Die Grünen" party proposed to the parliament of Saxony a checklist for humanitarian standards for deportations. The checklist for the preparation, realisation and documentation of deportation measures should be geared to practices of North-Rhine Westphalia. www.proasyl.de/de/archiv/newsletter-ausgaben/nl-2006/newsletter-muster/index.htm
- A Hindu family with three minor children were deported from Coesfeld (North Rhine-Westphalia) to Afghanistan on 21 May. The president of the Afghan Hindu community in Germany, a doctor from Köln and the executive director of the Refugee Council of Coesfeld, Wolfgang H. Müller, protested

against this deportation which endangers the life of the family since there is no basis for living in Kabul any more and since Hindus and Sikhs are pursued by the Islam government and Islamic forces in Afghanistan. The family was given no opportunity to contact anyone before boarding the plane for their return, and were forced to stay in the ruins of a temple in Afghanistan, resulting in all of the children becoming seriously sick. The press release stresses that the family is in danger and absolutely needs help and has to come back to Germany. For more information, contact Flüchtlingsrat im Kreis Coesfeld e.V., frc1@tiscali.de

Sweden

- Although Sweden was once open to labor migrants from across Europe and refugees from all over the world, its policies have become increasingly restrictive over the last 35 years. Today, the country is wrestling with integration issues, as Charles Westin of the Centre for Research in International Migration and Ethnic Relations, Stockholm University, explains in *Sweden: Restrictive Immigration Policy and Multiculturalism*.
<http://www.migrationinformation.org/Profiles/display.cfm?ID=406>

Cyprus

- Asylum seekers started protests on 4 May in Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, but no media coverage has been given outside of Cyprus. Everything started with the uprising in one of Nicosia's detention centres, where undocumented migrants are kept for nearly for two years. The asylum seekers want the right to work without limitations, government housing, access to benefits where the right to work is refused, medical and pharmaceutical care, an end to police mistreatment, an end to deportations to countries which persecute them, and genuine examinations by an independent body of each asylum application. Although immigrant and anti-racism organizations have occupied the central square of Nicosia for two weeks now the government has rejected all the claims of the protesters.
<http://www.meltingpot.org/articolo7463.html>

Switzerland

- On 15 November 2006, a pre-conference will be held in Montreux, Switzerland, on migration and health in Switzerland. The event is organized by the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) and the Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies (SFM). The conference aims to give a state of the art in qualitative and quantitative research, as well as best practices at policy level in the field of migration and health in Switzerland. This conference is the first part of the EUPHA Congress on Politics, Policies and Public Health, which will be held from 16-18 November 2006. For more info, contact: Ms. Majda Lamkaddem, m.lamkaddem@nivel.nl or www.eupha.org

USA

- On 25 May, the U.S. Senate voted 62-36 to approve an immigration reform bill (S. 2611), calling for increased border security, guest worker programs, more immigration enforcement, and the immigrant legalization program.
 - Commenting on the bill, Migration Policy Institute Senior Fellow Doris Meissner said that "Real reform must accomplish four things: It must provide for effective border enforcement. It must back up border enforcement with provisions for a verification system through which employers can confirm the work eligibility of those they hire so jobs are no longer available for unauthorized workers. It must acknowledge the reality of 11 to 12 million unauthorized immigrants living in this country and provide a way to bring them out of the shadows. Finally,

it must provide legal channels to meet the needs of the U.S. labor market.” The Migration Policy Institute has extensive data and analysis on various elements of U.S. immigration reform, including immigrants in the workplace, border and worksite enforcement, and the U.S.-Mexico relationship. http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/US_Immigration_Resources.php.

- The immigrant rights' movement has raised concerns that the positive provisions of the bill have been compromised by the negative measures included in the bill, such as increased militarization of the border, more government power to deport immigrants, flawed and unrealistic legalization program and guest worker program. The National Immigrant Solidarity Network is calling for a National Grassroots Immigrant Strategy Conference this summer, to invite activists from across the country to discuss and strategize the next steps of the immigrant solidarity movement. <http://www.ImmigrantSolidarity.org> and <http://www.NoHR4437.org>

3. European Policy Developments

General

- The Western Mediterranean countries, namely Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Mauritania, met in Nice, France, on the occasion of the 12th Conference of Interior Ministers of the Western Mediterranean. They affirmed the necessity to reinforce their cooperation in order to combat illegal migration. Commissioner Frattini, who was invited to take part in the event, declared that the European Commission completely sustains the objectives of the Cimo (Conference of Interior Ministers of the Western Mediterranean) and that it is ready to collaborate with it. Next year the conference will take place in Mauritania, a country that is deeply affected by the departure of undocumented migrants towards the Spanish coasts. <http://fr.news.yahoo.com/12052006/202/la-lutte-contre-l-immigration-illegale-objectif-des-pays-mediterraneens.html>
- The second international meeting on migration has been organized by DGSN (Direction générale de la sûreté nationale) in Morocco. Hamidou Laanigri, general Director of the DGSN declared that even if Morocco is combating in a hard way the flow of undocumented migrants, their number continues growing. http://www.spcm.org/Journal/article.php3?id_article=2672
- During an international meeting in Dakar on 6 June, the EU recognized the necessity to help the economic development of Africa as a measure to diminish the number of immigrants. The EU accepted to send specialized people to develop sectors such as fishery, tourism, agriculture and artisan activities. For more information: [migreurp-bounces@rezo.net](mailto:migreurop-bounces@rezo.net)

Council of Europe

- The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) has recommended that the Committee of Ministers encourage Council of Europe member states and the countries that attended the First and Second Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forums to ratify or accede to the UN Convention on the rights of migrant workers and their families and other international conventions on the protection of migrant women and young migrants. Source: http://www.enar-eu.org/en/wmail/WM42_EN.doc

European Commission

- The Commission has failed to agree on a list of safe countries from which asylum claims can be dismissed and to which immigrants can be sent back automatically under a fast-track procedure. The European Commission "decided to take a bit more time to complete the list and come back and take a decision in a couple of weeks," its spokeswoman told journalists on 24 May. The draft proposal by EU justice commissioner Franco Frattini included seven states, according to commission sources: Benin, Botswana, Cape Verde, Ghana, Senegal, Mali and Mauritius. The list of safe countries is required under a new law approved by the EU last December which should lead to a common approach to Europe's asylum and immigration policies and so avoid cases of asylum seekers "shopping" for countries with more relaxed rules. <http://euobserver.com/9/21687/?rk=1>
- After talks with the vice-president of the Spanish government, Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega, European Commissioner Franco Frattini revealed to the press a whole series of measures to help Spain come to grips with the recurrent problem of mass arrivals of undocumented migrants along its coast. The EU25 are also said to have decided to finance centres in Mauritania and Senegal for undocumented migrants turned back at sea or upon their arrival in the Canary Islands. Spain and the Commission have expressed the hope that this diplomatic dialogue will then extend to other countries. A campaign for preventing immigration is also foreseen, with a specific plan for Western Africa. Commissioner Frattini recalled that a number of measures already announced would allow support for the implementation of such a plan comprising: joint repatriation on which 14 Member States have already agreed, the rapid intervention mechanism for Mauritania, and the release by June of part of the EUR 2.7 million earmarked for the Argo 2006 programme. Source: Brussels, 24/05/2006 (Agence Europe)
- Spain and eight other European countries agreed to the initiative to patrol the waters along the African coasts on 29 May after a meeting between representatives of the European Commission and the European Border Agency (FRONTEX) in Madrid. Austria, Finland, France, Italy, UK, the Netherlands, Germany and Greece are all to take part in the patrols. The operation will involve five patrol boats, five helicopters and an airplane which will attempt to reduce the number of boats sailing from Mauritania, Senegal and Cape Verde toward the southern part of Spain. The Spanish Herald reports that half of the costs will be paid by the Commission, with the rest of the costs still to be allocated. <http://euobserver.com/22/21723>
- The European Union intends to send a group of experts to the southern border of Libya to assess the needs of local authorities to curb the mass arrival of undocumented migrants. The decision follows the Commissioner's visit to Libya on 22 May, during which he met President Ghedaffi. Mr Frattini explained that Libya is ready to undertake closer cooperation to combat the trafficking of people and to stop gangs that seek to make a profit from this lucrative market. He recalled that the Commission would, after consultation with Member States, be studying the possibility of establishing an EU-Libya action plan covering various fields (environment, culture, investment, etc.) in the context of the Neighbourhood Policy. Source: Brussels, 24/05/2006 (Agence Europe)

Council of the European Union

- EU and Russia have signed an agreement on 25 May on the readmission of undocumented migrants and on the simplification of visa permits. Ireland, Denmark and UK are not part of that agreement since they do not belong to the Schengen area. According to this agreement Russia and the EU will be responsible for undocumented migrants entering in the territory of the other. For the first three years Russia will respond only for undocumented migrants of Russian nationality. <http://www.la-croix.com/article/index.jsp?docId=2270157&rubId=1094>

4. Upcoming Events

- Until 25 June, 18 giant photographs will be visible in various places in Brussels on the theme “Open our eyes to detention centers for foreigners” (« Ouvrons les yeux sur les centres fermés pour étrangers »). The exhibit aims to inform and raise public awareness about the harsh conditions in detention centers and will later travel through Flanders and Wallonia. www.ouvrons-les-yeux.be
- “Why involve us? Children’s participation in the policy-making process” was the theme of a reception organized by Eurochild with the support of Ms. Lissy Groner, MEP on 7 June at the European Parliament. contact@eurochild.org or www.eurochild.org
- « Les frontières de l’Union Européenne: Franchissement et résistance, » is the theme of a conference that will be held in Prague, Czech Republic, from 8-9 June, and organized by the Centre français de recherche en sciences sociales (CEFRES). <http://www.cefres.cz>
- «Destins clandestins : les réfugiés après Sangatte » (Clandestine destinies: refugees after Sangatte) is the theme of a photo exhibit that will be held from 7-30 June at the NGO Espace, in Marseille, France. After the Sangatte holding facilities were closed in 2002, many undocumented migrants were forced out on the streets. In the beginning of 2005, photographer François Legeait spent several weeks with undocumented migrants living in Calais. The result is a photo journal which includes images of the unsanitary housing they live in, their attempts to cross the Channel, distribution of food and police checks. www.espace.asso.fr
- “No Way Out, Foreigners in Detention”, is an exhibition in the Jail Museum in Veenhuizen, Netherlands, from 18 May to 29 October. By means of photographs, letters and videos, the exhibition will focus on the growing detention of undocumented migrants, trying to compare the current situation with earlier periods where large groups of foreigners looked for asylum in the Netherlands. www.gevangenis museum.nl

5. Publications

Van Harte Pardon? A Comparative Study of the Reaction of the Netherlands and Spain to Undocumented Migration in Light of a Joint EU Migration Policy, by Hiske van den Bergh, April 2006. In light of a joint EU migration policy it is more and more important to find out where differences and similarities between EU countries in their reaction to migration lie. This research focuses on how Spain and The Netherlands deal with undocumented migration, both in policies and public debate. Differences and similarities are sought through comparing the two countries on elements of the dilemma between normative obligations and national interests, a dilemma every immigration country has to deal with. With this comparison a cautious answer is given to the question: What causes the different reactions of EU countries to illegal migration? The original study is in Dutch and a summary is available in English. Contact: hiskevdb@hotmail.com

Children of Immigrants - Facts and Figures, by The Urban Institute, May 16, 2006
<http://www.urban.org/publications/900955.html>

Illegal Immigration in Europe: Beyond Control, edited by Franck Duvell. Palgrave Macmillan. The processes of globalization, increasing human mobility and European integration have led to immigration, and in particular illegal immigration, being among the top international policy, economic and security concerns. This book analyzes the causes of illegal immigration in Europe together with the history and

political economy of the phenomenon. It offers an assessment of contemporary political responses and proposes an alternative approach aiming at a more sustainable solution.

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1403997411/centerforimmigra>

Going Underground: Immigration Policy Changes and Shifts in Modes of Provision of Undocumented Immigrants in the Netherlands, by Joanne Van Der Leun and Robert Kloosterman. 13 February 2006.

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/toc/tesg/97/1>

How to Balance Rights and Responsibilities on Asylum at the EU's Southern Border of Italy and Libya, by Rutvica Andrijasevic, Central European University Centre and Open Society Institute.

<http://www.statewatch.org/news/2006/may/andrijasevic-Libya-Lampedusa.pdf>

Mineurs Etrangers Non Accompagnés en Andalousie (MENA): entre la répression et la protection (Unaccompanied Minors in Andalusia : Between Repression and Protection), March 2006, by the Association Pro Droits de l'Homme d'Andalousie (APDHA). This report highlights the current situation of unaccompanied minors in Andalusia, the majority of which are Moroccan. It describes the legal basis for protecting unaccompanied minors in Andalusia, including placement in centers, and highlights failings of the system. The report also discusses public policies to repatriate unaccompanied minors to their countries of origin. A forthcoming report will include an evaluation of the system as well as policy recommendations. www.apdha.org

Les causes multiples de l'émigration africaine irrégulière (The multiple causes of irregular migration from Africa), by Mehdi Lahlou, is the theme of a special dossier in the French magazine *Population & Avenir*, January-February 2006 (number 676). <http://www.population-demographie.org/revue04.htm>

Migranten in Mokum. De betekenis van migrantenkerken voor de stad Amsterdam is the result of a study showing that migrants' churches play an important role in providing basic services to undocumented migrants. These churches are part of the informal networks that provide help which is not provided by public welfare services. Contact: Marten van der Meulen, m.van.der.meulen@th.vu.nl

Jeugdzorg voor 'illegale' kinderen is a publication by Defence for Children about the accessibility and procedures of the Bureaus of Youth Care regarding the protection of undocumented minors.

Downloadable from the website of DCI: www.defenceforchildren.nl

Undocumented Migrant Workers: Taking the High Road, is an interview with Michael Samers, School of Geography, University of Nottingham, in the Spring/Summer edition of the King Baudouin Foundation newsletter. Mr. Samers was a speaker at PICUM's conference in March on "Regularization is Not the Only Policy: Ten Ways to Protect Undocumented Migrant Workers." [http://www.kbs-frb.be/files/img/en/International_newsletter_3_\(May_2006\).pdf](http://www.kbs-frb.be/files/img/en/International_newsletter_3_(May_2006).pdf)

6. Miscellaneous

PICUM News

- We are currently looking for volunteer translators to join the teams that translate our monthly newsletter from English to French/German/Italian/Portuguese/Spanish. If you can translate from English to any of those languages and are interested in helping out, please send an email to administration@picum.org and we will send you additional information.
- PICUM staff and board members have recently spoke at the following events:

- PICUM presentation on “**Measures to make social rights accessible to ‘irregular’ migrants,**” at the Third Meeting of the Working Group for the Preparation of the 2006 Forum on « What type of social policies do we need in a multicultural Europe?» 1-2 June, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France.
- PICUM presentation in French on « **Dix façons de protéger les travailleurs migrants sans-papiers** » (Ten Ways to Protect Undocumented Migrant Workers), at a round table discussion on « Sans-papiers : d’hier et d’aujourd’hui. Saint Bernard : dix ans après » (Undocumented migrants : today and yesterday. Ten years after Saint Bernard). Organized by CIEMI, Centre d’information et d’études sur les migrations internationales in Paris, 1 June.
- PICUM presentation on “**Access to Health Care for Undocumented Migrants in Europe,**” at the First Transnational Workshop of the URB-HEALTH Thematic network: "Vulnerable Groups and Health in the Urban Context." Organized by "Città di Torino" with the support of QEC – ERAN (European Regeneration Areas Network - Quartiers en Crise) in Bratislava, 2 June 2006.
- The second working session of PICUM’s project on Access to Health Care for Undocumented Migrants was held in Brussels on 22-23 May 2006. The main topics discussed were the European Social Inclusion process, the health needs of undocumented women in Europe and the methodology for data collection on undocumented migrants. The project partners as well as other experts on the field of migration, health and European policy actively participated in the meeting. Among keynote speakers, there were also representatives from the European Commission and the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN).

To subscribe to the PICUM newsletter, please send an email to administration@picum.org with “Subscribe-English” in the subject heading. To unsubscribe, please put “Unsubscribe-English” in the subject heading.
