



PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

PICUM Newsletter November 2009

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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 PDF 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.**

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| 1 | [Death at the Border](#)

Three Egyptian migrants drowned and three others were missing after they tried to swim to the coast of the Sicilian town of Gela from a rubber dinghy carrying a total of 50 Egyptian migrants on 6 October 2009. The migrants had been abandoned at sea by the ship on which they had been travelling, and their smugglers had only given them plastic drums to hold on to, but no oars or other means to reach the shore. Eighteen of the survivors have already been repatriated. Sources: ANSA, "Abbandonati in mare, sei morti a Gela. Sbarchi anche a Malta e Lampedusa", 7 October 2009, <http://fortresseurope.blogspot.com/2009/10/abbandonati-in-mare-sei-morti-gela.html>; "Immigrazione: abbandonati in mare, trovato un altro cadavere", L'Unione Sarda, 10 October 2009, <http://unionesarda.ilsole24ore.com/Articoli/News/149187>.

At least eight migrants from Kosovo, including a woman and a child, drowned when a boat carrying an estimated 19 migrants capsized while trying to cross the Serbo-Hungarian border via the Tisza river on 15 October 2009. While only eight bodies had been recovered by 31 October, officials assume that a total of 16 migrants have drowned. The only confirmed survivors are a man and his two children. The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX Kosovo) has announced that it is investigating the case. Sources: "Les corps de huit Kosovars noyés découverts", 7 sur 7, 31 October 2009, <http://www.7sur7.be/7s7/fr/1505/Monde/article/detail/1023731/2009/10/31/Les-corps-de-huit-Kosovars->

[noyes-decouverts.dhtml](#); Marietta Le, "Hungary, Serbia: Tragedy At The Border", Global Voices, 28 October 2009, <http://globalvoicesonline.org/2009/10/28/hungary-serbia-tragedy-at-the-border>.

The body of a dead man was among a group of 298 migrants escorted to Sicily by the Italian coast guard on 26 October 2009. The migrants' boat had been drifting in rough waters between Italy and Malta for three days, as the Italian and Maltese authorities had argued about who was responsible to receive them. On 23 October, when an Eritrean migrant used a satellite phone to call family members in Italy for help, the boat was still in Libyan waters, but the migrants later reached Italian and Maltese waters. Bad weather conditions and the poor condition of the overcrowded boat prevented an attempt to return them to Libya. Sources: "Italy: Coastguard moves to rescue marooned migrant boat", AKI - Adnkronos International, 26 October 2009, <http://www.adnkronos.com/AKI/English/Politics/?id=3.0.3914409901>; AFP, "Italie: 297 immigrants secourus au bout de 3 jours en mer", 26 October 2009, http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jepah73Y0swVPnZVaJxem_z8_wrQ.

Five minors and three women from Afghanistan drowned on 27 October 2009 when their boat rammed into a rocky outcrop along the shore of Cape Korakas on the Greek island of Lesbos. The boat had carried a total of 17 Afghan migrants and a Turkish national. Source: Anthee Carassava, "8 Afghan Immigrants Drown Off Greek Island", New York Times, 27 October 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/28/world/europe/28greece.html>.

Spanish authorities found the bodies of two Algerian migrants on a boat spotted about 120 kilometres southeast of Cartagena on Spain's south-eastern coast on 29 October 2009. After getting lost on the open sea, the four migrants aboard the vessel had become so dehydrated that they drank sea water. The two survivors were hospitalised in serious condition. Source: "Spain intercepts migrant boat with two bodies on board", Earth Times, 29 October 2009, <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/292396,spain-intercepts-migrant-boat-with-two-bodies-on-board.html>.

| 2 | News from the UN + EU Member States + Switzerland + USA

UN

The United Nations' first human rights office in the European Union opened in Brussels on 14 October 2009. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said that she hoped the office would help EU countries in their efforts to combat racism and discrimination, and to tackle human rights violations related to migration and poverty, as well as deficits in other economic and social rights. Source: "First UN human rights office in European Union opens in Brussels", UN News Centre, 14 October 2009, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32533&Cr=human+rights&Cr1=>.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) expressed its concern on 23 October 2009 that European countries had been forcibly returning failed asylum-seekers from central Iraq, in spite of serious human rights violations and violence in the region. The UNHCR issued guidelines in April 2009 that stated that asylum-seekers from Iraq's central governorates should be considered as being in need of international protection, but European states have already returned a number of Iraqis, many of whom were from central Iraq. Denmark and Sweden, for example, have already forcibly returned 38 and 250 failed asylum seekers, respectively. Even though the Iraqi government has stressed that it will no longer receive Iraqis who are forcibly repatriated, and refused to accept 34 of 44

failed asylum seekers the UK tried to return to Baghdad on 15 October 2009, European governments have insisted that they will continue to deport Iraqis. Sources: "UN agency concerned over forced returns of asylum-seekers from central Iraq", UN News Centre, 23 October 2009, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32685&Cr=Iraq&Cr1=asylum>, Migration News Sheet, October 2009, p. 27; Marie Jackson, "Iraq sends back UK asylum flight", BBC News, 16 October 2009, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/8310572.stm.

Belgium

A special committee composed of members of the Belgian cabinet, the foreigners' office, NGOs and the professional lawyers body has been established. The committee will meet regularly to discuss problems and to clarify issues such as the interpretation of the criteria for the regularisation of undocumented migrants and asylum seekers between 15 September and 15 December 2009. (See PICUM Newsletter October 2009.) Source: Foyer, Juridische nieuwsbrief n°202, 23 October 2009, www.foyer.be.

The Flemish Minorities Centre has published an information package on undocumented students for teachers and others working in the education sector. It answers questions such as: Can an undocumented student take part in a school trip abroad? Can the police enter our school to arrest an undocumented student? The information package is available in Dutch at http://www.vmc.be/uploadedFiles/VMC/Publicaties/Publicaties/Infodossier_leerlingen_zonder_wettig_ve_rblif_-_september_2009.pdf.

Belgium and Kosovo signed an agreement on 20 October 2009 to regulate the return of Kosovars who are irregularly residing in Belgium and do not meet the requirements for the country's currently ongoing regularisation of undocumented migrants and asylum seekers (see PICUM Newsletter October 2009). Belgian media reported that the government of Kosovo had requested such an agreement in an effort to strengthen its ties with the European Union. The agreement represents the first bilateral readmission agreement that Kosovo has signed since its declaration of independence in February 2008. Source: "Accord avec le Kosovo sur le retour des Kosovars illégaux", RTBF, 20 October 2009, <http://www.rtf.be/info/belgique/divers/accord-avec-le-kosovo-sur-le-retour-des-kosovars-illegaux-152618>.

Bulgaria

Hasun Albaadzh, a migrant from Syria, died at the Busmantsi Detention Centre for Undocumented Immigrants in Sofia on 6 October 2009, having been denied proper medical care during his 34 months in detention. Other migrants at the centre staged a protest, and four Bulgarian human rights groups (Civil 21 Initiative, the Centre for Legal Help - Voice in Bulgaria, the Legal Clinic for Refugees and Immigrants at Sofia University, and the Centre for Torture Survivors) have formally asked the Ministry of Interior to fully investigate the circumstances leading to Albaadzh's death. The groups pointed out that Albaadzh was never taken to a specialised hospital, even though he had several chronic diseases, and that, in general, medical care was extremely poor at the centre. They also stressed that detainees suffered from malnutrition, that no psychological support was provided, and that individuals were often detained for much longer periods than the six-month maximum stipulated by the European Returns Directive 2008/115, which Bulgaria adopted in May 2009. Detainees at Busmantsi include failed asylum seekers who are awaiting deportation, migrants deemed to be a threat to public order or national security, and asylum seekers who are waiting to be transferred to a reception and accommodation centre. Source: Claudia Ciobanu, "BULGARIA: Migrants Denied Even Medicine", IPS, 17 October 2009, <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48903>.

Cyprus

KISA - Action for Equality, Support, Anti-racism and ENAR Cyprus have condemned the "Broom" police operation conducted in the old town of Nicosia on 25 September 2009, which police defended as a measure to combat crime and irregular migration. The organisations accused the police of indiscriminately arresting individuals on the basis of their skin colour, called for the police to be held accountable, and staged a demonstration on 4 October. Source: ENAR, Weekly Mail no. 201, 9 October 2009, <http://www.enar-eu.org/Page.asp?docid=22732&langue=EN>.

Denmark

The Danish Christian Doctors Association announced on 28 September 2009 that its annual congress had decided that the organisation would continue to provide medical assistance to failed asylum seekers, even though this is prohibited under Danish law. At the same time, the governing Liberal Party has requested the Minister of Justice to determine whether the group Kirkeasyl ("Church Asylum") is violating Danish law and "abusing" public funds by assisting failed Iraqi asylum seekers. (Also see PICUM Newsletter August/September 2009.) Source: Migration News Sheet, October 2009, p. 27.

France

The documentary film director José Chidlovsky was questioned by police in Toulouse on 5 October 2009 for giving shelter to an undocumented woman who is a protagonist in one of his documentary films. The woman had become suicidal when she was faced with deportation following her 18th birthday in April 2009. Meanwhile, the French Immigration Minister, Eric Besson, who had repeatedly affirmed that the "crime of solidarity" ("délit de solidarité") for assistance to undocumented migrants did not exist in France, acknowledged on 16 October 2009 that it might be necessary to clarify the legislation on the issue. Besson said he was in discussions with rights groups to determine where exactly the line was between humanitarian assistance and assistance that should be punished by law. Sources: "Affaire Chidlovsky : « J'hébergerai encore des sans-papiers »", La Depeche, 6 October 2009, <http://www.ladepeche.fr/article/2009/10/06/688093-Affaire-Chidlovsky-J-hebergerai-encore-des-sans-papiers.html>; Ligue des droits de l'Homme, "La LDH, le RESF et la SRF protestent contre la convocation du réalisateur José Chidlovsky pour avoir hébergé une femme sans papiers", 7 October 2009, <http://www.ldh-france.org/La-LDH-le-RESF-et-la-SRF>; "Délit de solidarité : Besson reconnaît qu'il y a un flou législatif", Nouvelobs.com, 16 October 2009, http://tempsreel.nouvelobs.com/actualites/societe/20091016.OBS4822/delit_de_solidarite_besson_reconnait_quil_y_a_un_flou_.html.

Several thousand people joined a demonstration in Paris on 10 October to demand the regularisation of all undocumented migrants. The march was organised by groups of undocumented migrants and began outside the migrants' "Ministry for the Universal Regularisation of all Undocumented Migrants" ("Ministère de la régularisation globale de tous les sans-papiers"), which was inaugurated in September 2009 (see PICUM Newsletter October 2009). Source: "Manifestation pour la régularisation des sans-papiers à Paris", Le Monde, 10 October 2009, http://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2009/10/10/manifestation-pour-la-regularisation-des-sans-papiers-a-paris_1252355_3224.html.

Despite strong protests by many French politicians and national and international human rights groups, the French government has begun to deport migrants from Afghanistan who were arrested during the

clearing of the “Jungle” migrant camp in Calais on 22 September 2009 (see PICUM Newsletter October 2009). While a planned flight to Afghanistan was called off at the last minute in early October, three Afghans were deported from France on 20 October 2009. The migrants were returned to Afghanistan on a plane chartered by the British government, which also carried 24 Afghans who were expelled from the UK. Sources: Laure Daussey, "Besson confirme les expulsions d'Afghans vers Kaboul", 7 October 2009, <http://www.lefigaro.fr/actualite-france/2009/10/06/01016-20091006ARTFIG00413-des-afghans-expulses-par-charter-vers-leur-pays-d-origine-.php>; Peter Walker, "British-chartered plane takes Afghan migrants home", The Guardian, 21 October 2009, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/oct/21/british-chartered-plane-afghan-migrants>; Sophie Hardach, Reuters, "Outcry as France, UK deport migrants on joint flight", 21 October 2009, <http://in.reuters.com/article/companyNews/idINLL8769020091021?sp=true>.

Greece

According to human rights activists, about 500 irregular migrants are held under extremely poor conditions in the detention centre on the Greek island of Samos. The activists report that families and children sleep on the floor, that the centre's only social worker has resigned, and that 15 to 20 unaccompanied minors have been held for more than 15 days, while another nine minors have been in the centre for 55 days. Source: UNHCR Greece Press Review, 26 September - 2 October 2009 (source cited: Avgi, 2 October 2009).

The Greek newspaper “Espresso” has published photographs showing the conditions at the detention facilities at Athens’ “Eleftherios Venizelos” airport. The facilities were built to hold up to 26 people, but currently house about 270 migrants, including women and small children. According to reports, the 270 migrants take turns sleeping on the floor and share only two toilets. Police officers use their own money to buy food for the detained children. Source: UNHCR Greece Press Review, 3-9 October 2009 (source cited: Espresso, 6 October 2009).

The Greek Ombudsman is investigating a report by the NGO “Forum of Crete’s migrants” about the refoulement of 40 Kurds and three Syrians to Turkey through the Evros land border. The migrants had been detained on the Greek island of Crete, and while 17 of the Kurds, including four minors, had expressed their wish to apply for asylum, the head of security in the detention area had refused to receive their requests. Greek police handed over 13 of the 17 Kurds, including the minors, to the Turkish authorities in Evros within the framework of a readmission protocol between Greece and Turkey. It has been reported that around 380 migrants, including children, were refouled to Turkey from the Aegean islands in July and August 2009. Source: UNHCR Greece Press Review, 3-9 October 2009 (source cited: Kathimerini, 9 October 2009).

Activists have accused the Greek police of being responsible for the death of an undocumented migrant from Pakistan who died on 9 October 2009, about a week after being released from police custody. Muhammad Kamran Atif had been arrested on 28 September after allegedly attacking a Pakistani teenager with a knife, and his relatives and friends claimed that he had been tortured with clubs and electric shocks while in custody. They said he had been afraid to seek medical treatment as he was an undocumented immigrant. Source: Demetris Nellas, Associated Press, "Protesters accuse Athens police of torturing an illegal immigrant who later died", Edmonton Sun, 11 October 2009, <http://www.edmontonsun.com/news/world/2009/10/11/11374086.html>.

Human Rights Watch released a report entitled “Greece: Unsafe and Unwelcoming Shores” on 12 October 2009, calling on the European Union to press the newly elected Greek government to end the

abusive detention and summary expulsions of migrants, including unaccompanied children, and to reform the country's broken asylum system. The report addresses the Greek authorities' large-scale crackdown on undocumented migrants between June and August 2009; illegal expulsions of unaccompanied children and potential refugees across the Turkish border; and ill-treatment, overcrowding and unhygienic conditions in detention facilities. The report is available online at <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/10/09/greece-unsafe-and-unwelcoming-shores>. Source: Human Rights Watch, "Greece: Escalating Risks for Migrants, Unaccompanied Children", 12 October 2009, <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/10/12/greece-escalating-risks-migrants-unaccompanied-children>.

Following the Socialist Pasok Party's landslide win in the Greek national elections of 4 October 2009, the new government under Prime Minister George Papandreou has taken several steps to review the country's policies towards undocumented migrants and asylum seekers. The Greek Citizens' Protection Minister, Michalis Chrysochoidis, announced on 15 October that 1,200 undocumented migrants would be released from police holding cells in Greece, and that the migrants would be given a month to leave the country and offered financial incentives for their repatriation. Chrysochoidis also said national legislation would be reformed to ensure greater rights for the children of migrants (see below, section on "Undocumented Children"), that a newly created police department would probe alleged rights violations by officers, and that the coast guard would be reorganised in an effort to curb migrant flows to islands in the eastern Aegean. Source: "Release for 1,200 illegal migrants", Kathimerini English Edition, 16 October 2009, <http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcqj/ w articles politics 0 16/10/2009 111607>.

A UNHCR delegation visited the Pagani detention centre for migrants on the Greek island of Lesbos on 22 October 2009 and called for the facility to be closed. More than 700 men, women and children are currently held at the Pagani centre, and the UNHCR noted that about 200 women and children live in one ward with just two toilets and one shower and that the detainees' damp mattresses were soiled by water leaking from the toilets. The delegation was accompanied by the Greek Deputy Citizens' Protection Minister, Spyros Vougias, who had assumed his office less than a week before and who apologised to the detainees, calling the situation at Pagani "a human tragedy". Vougias pledged to work with other government ministries to improve the quality of accommodation offered to migrants and refugees. On 23 October 2009, Vougias also announced an investigation into the fate of several hundred thousand euros of funding that the ousted conservative government had received from the European Union to accommodate migrants arriving in Greece from Turkey. Moreover, he said that the Socialist government would push for more operational support from the European Commission, as Greece faced particular problems as an external border state of the EU and because the Turkish government was refusing to honour a bilateral pact for the repatriation of migrants signed in 2003. Sources: Ketty Kehayoiyloou, "UNHCR delegation visits detention centre on Greek island, urges closure", UNHCR, 23 October 2009, <http://www.unhcr.org/4ae1af146.html>; "Gov't vows to improve centers for migrants", Kathimerini English Edition, 23 October 2009, <http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcqj/ w articles politics 0 23/10/2009 111813>; "Probe into EU aid for migrants", Kathimerini English Edition, 24 October 2009, <http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcqj/ w articles politics 0 24/10/2009 111844>.

Only a few days after visiting the Pagani detention centre and calling for its closure (see above), the UNHCR expressed its serious concern over reports of police brutality at the centre and urged an inquiry into the alleged beating of detainees protesting conditions at the facility. A 17-year-old Kurdish migrant is said to have been so seriously hurt while being beaten for half an hour that he fell unconscious and had to be taken to hospital. Human rights activists have said that the beating took place in front of 40 other migrants, who have signed affidavits. Source: Malcolm Brabant, "UN alarm at Greek migrant centre", BBC News, 27 October, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8328746.stm>.

The Pagani detention centre on Lesbos has been temporarily shut down. Since 29 October 2009, migrants arriving at Lesbos have been transferred to the detention centre of the neighbouring Chios island, and many of those detained at Pagani have already been released. As of early November 2009, the centre was only externally guarded, and all wards had been unlocked and detainees had been given free access to the centre's courtyard. While the centre is scheduled to reopen in mid-December 2009, many observers suspect it may be permanently closed. Source: UNHCR Greece Press Review, 30 October 2009 (source cited: Eleftherotypia, 30 October 2009).

A new report by the Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC), the Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers (NOAS) and Aitima argues that the principle of non-refoulement is severely threatened by the Greek practice of illegal deportations, and consequently by transfers of asylum seekers to Greece under the Dublin II Regulation. "Out the Back Door: The Dublin II Regulation and illegal deportations from Greece" is available online at http://www.nhc.no/php/files/documents/Publikasjoner/Rapporter/Landogtema/2009/44836_Rapport_out_the_backdoor.pdf.

Italy

A court in Sicily has acquitted three members of the German organisation Cap Anamur who had been tried for aiding irregular migrants by rescuing 37 stranded African migrants in the Mediterranean Sea in 2004. The Italian authorities had only allowed the organisation's ship, the "Cap Anamur II", to dock after three weeks, and all of the migrants were deported after landing in Sicily. While humanitarian groups have welcomed the acquittal of former Cap Anamur chairman Elias Bierdel and the ship's captain and first officer on 7 October 2009, the UNHCR reiterated its concern that the trial had scared fishermen from rescuing people stranded at sea. Source: "Italy acquits migrant rescue crew", BBC, 7 October 2009, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8295727.stm>.

Tens of thousands of people joined a protest in Rome on 17 October and demonstrated against the Italian law in force since summer 2009 which criminalizes irregular migration. (See PICUM Newsletters June and July 2009.) The demonstration was organised to mark the 20th anniversary of the city's first major anti-racism rally, which was held in October 1989 after a South African refugee had been killed in Caserta province. Source: AFP, "Protesters rally against Italian anti-immigration law", 17 October 2009, <http://www.france24.com/en/node/4903733>.

A new report by the Italian NGO NAGA seeks to dispel common misperceptions about undocumented immigrants. The report shows that the majority of 47,500 migrants whose data was collected between 2000 and 2008, when they received medical, legal or social assistance from NAGA, were young, employed and often better educated than average Italians. However, while 10 percent of undocumented migrants had attended university and more than 50 percent had completed their secondary education, the migrants generally worked in low-skill occupations and lived in sub-standard, overcrowded housing. The report, titled "Cittadini senza diritti" ("Citizens without Rights"), is available at <http://www.naga.it/index.php/notizie-naga/items/cittadini-senza-diritti.html>.

Netherlands

The Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, Corinne Dettmeijer, presented her seventh annual report on human trafficking in the Netherlands to the Dutch Minister of Justice, Hirsch Ballin, on October 29. Dettmeijer found that there was a serious lack of suitable accommodation for

victims of trafficking and that judges dealing with cases that involved exploitation in the sex industry were insufficiently informed about the subject. The Rapporteur also expressed her concern that little attention was paid to abuses in areas other than prostitution, although serious exploitation could also occur in the labour market, for example. The report is available in Dutch on the website of the National Rapporteur at <http://www.bnrm.nl>. Previous reports are available in English at <http://english.bnrm.nl>.

Poland

Poland's Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection, Janusz Kochanowski, has appealed to the Polish Ministry of Interior and Administration (MSWiA) to regularise undocumented migrants in Poland. In a letter sent to MSWiA in August 2009, Kochanowski suggested that an amendment to the Aliens Act should allow for the regularisation of undocumented migrants who have not been in conflict with the law. At present, irregular immigrants in Poland are only able to regularise their status if they have a terminal illness, if their children are born in Poland, or if they marry a Polish citizen. While a regularisation was conducted as recently as 2007, only about 0.5 percent of undocumented immigrants were able to meet its strict eligibility requirements. An estimated 0.5 million people currently reside in Poland irregularly, and it is believed that the regularisation proposed by Kochanowski would allow 50,000 Vietnamese immigrants and between 50,000 and 300,000 Ukrainians to regularise their status. Sources: "Imigranci czekaja na abolicję" ("Immigrants await regularisation"), TVP.INFO, 29 August 2009, www.tvp.info/informacje/polska/imigranci-czekaja-na-abolicje; Joanna Ćwiek, "Abolicja dla nielegalnie przebywających w Polsce imigrantów" ("Regularisation for illegal migrants in Poland"), and Leszek Szymowski, "Nielegalni celem przestępców" ("Illegal migrants as target for crime bosses"), NaszeMiasto.pl, 26 August 2009, <http://opole.naszemiasto.pl/wydarzenia/8787,abolicja-dla-nielegalnie-przebywajacych-w-polsce,id,t.html>.

Romania

A new paper published by Real Instituto Elcano on 27 October 2009 examines irregular migration to the European Union through the border between Romania, Moldova and Ukraine. The paper, titled "La inmigración irregular en Europa Oriental: la frontera entre Rumanía, Moldavia y Ucrania", is available in Spanish at http://www.realinstitutoelcano.org/wps/portal/rielcano/contenido?WCM_GLOBAL_CONTEXT=/elcano/elcano_es/zonas_es/ari150-2009.

Spain

The Spanish parliament approved the government's proposal to amend the Law on the Rights and Freedoms of Aliens in Spain and Their Integration ("Ley de los Derechos y Libertades de los Extranjeros en España y su Integración") on 29 October 2009. (See PICUM Newsletters July and October 2009.) While rights groups have welcomed some of the new provisions, such as increased protections for victims of human trafficking, several NGOs have warned that the amended law will significantly affect the fundamental rights of immigrants. Among the amendments' most controversial provisions are the extension of the maximum detention period for undocumented migrants from 40 to 60 days; restrictions on family reunification which will only allow migrants to bring their parents to Spain if the latter are more than 65 years old; and fines of up to 10,000 euros for individuals who sponsor foreigners to enter the country and continue to support them after the expiry of their visa. Sources: Tomás Bárbulo, "El Gobierno reforma la Ley de Extranjería con los nacionalistas", El País, 30 October 2009, <http://www.elpais.com/articulo/espana/Gobierno/reforma/Ley/Extranjeria/nacionalistas/elpepunac/20091>

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Switzerland

The Inter Press Service News Agency featured an article on 13 October 2009 about an autonomous school in Zurich that is run by undocumented migrants and offers German language classes for more than 150 undocumented migrants and asylum seekers. According to one of the teachers, the decision to establish the school was taken in December 2008, after a group of undocumented migrants had squatted in a church in Zurich for more than two weeks, demanding the right to stay in Switzerland. While the Swiss asylum law in effect since January 2008 contains a provision allowing undocumented migrants who have lived in Switzerland for at least five years and are well integrated to apply for a residence permit, the authorities in Zurich require applicants to have comparatively good language skills, and undocumented migrants generally are not given the opportunity to attend German language classes. Source: Ray Smith, "SWITZERLAND: Undocumented Migrants Run Their Own School", IPS, 13 October 2009, <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48829>.

USA

Migrant rights advocates have protested the sale of an "Illegal Alien" Halloween costume by major US retailers such as Target, Walgreens and Amazon.com. The costume consists of an orange jumpsuit, similar to prison garb, with "Illegal Alien" stamped in black across the chest; a space alien mask; and a fake Green Card. Activists and immigrants said that they found the costume to be offensive as it depicted undocumented migrants as "not one of us". Source: Edmund DeMarche, "Immigrant activists call out 'Illegal Alien' costumes", CNN.com, 18 October 2009, <http://edition.cnn.com/2009/US/10/17/illegal.immigrant.costume/index.html>.

A new report published by the Human Rights Immigrant Community Action Network (HURRICANE), an initiative of the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR), argues that immigration policing is causing a pattern of abuses and human rights violations that threaten the livelihood and safety of families, workers and communities in the United States. "Guilty by Immigration Status: A report on U.S. violations of the rights of immigrant families, workers and communities in 2008" calls for the restoration of due process and for the suspension of detentions and deportations, and urges a thorough investigation into immigration enforcement practices. The report is available at <http://www.nnirr.org/hurricane/GuiltybyImmigrationStatus2008.pdf>.

A report released by the Obama administration on 6 October 2009 shows that 60 percent of the 380,000 individuals in immigration detention in the US during the 2009 fiscal year were turned over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) by state and local police. While the US government has said that it wants to focus its enforcement programmes on immigrants who have committed crimes, the study produced for the Secretary of Homeland Security found that 57 percent of the 178,605 people sent through the Criminal Alien Program (which identifies possible immigration violators in local jails) and 65 percent of the 44,692 immigrants sent through the 287(g) programme (which allows state and local police officers to enforce federal immigration law) had no criminal convictions. Source: Nina Bernstein, "Report Critical of Scope of Immigration Detention", The New York Times, 6 October 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/07/us/politics/07detain.html>

At the same time, the Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced plans for further reform of immigration detention, saying that measures would be taken

to create greater federal oversight of the detention system for irregular immigrants in order to improve detainee care, ensure uniform standards at detention facilities, and to sort detainees by the threat they present to the US. As part of the reform effort, some undocumented immigrants would also temporarily be housed in converted hotels and nursing homes. While immigrant rights advocates have welcomed the Obama administration's intention to improve detention conditions for immigrants, groups such as Human Rights Watch have called on the government to quickly translate the reform plans into actual policy change and accountability. (Also see PICUM Newsletter August/September 2009.) Sources: Nina Bernstein, "Report Critical of Scope of Immigration Detention", The New York Times, 6 October 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/07/us/politics/07detain.html>; Daniel B. Wood, "Some illegal immigrants to be held in old hotels, nursing homes", The Christian Science Monitor, 6 October 2009, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/1007/p02s10-ussc.html>; Human Rights Watch, "US: Act on Immigration Detention Reform", 6 October 2009, <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/10/06/us-act-immigration-detention-reform>.

The Obama administration also reacted to the report on immigration detention released on 6 October 2009 (see above) by announcing that it would reform the 287(g) programme (which is named after the section of the 1996 law that authorises it). The changes announced on 16 October 2009 include a stricter focus on undocumented immigrants who have committed serious crimes and a requirement for law enforcement officers enrolled in the programme to abide by federal anti-discrimination law. However, while reports of human rights violations and abuse against immigrants have led rights groups to demand that 287(g) be scrapped altogether, federal officials have said that the programme would in fact be expanded. The number of participating state and local law enforcement agencies will increase from 66 to 67, despite the recent withdrawals of six agencies and the announcement by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on 16 October 2009 that it had withdrawn its authorisation for the street enforcement programme of Sheriff Joe Arpaio in Maricopa County in Phoenix, Arizona. Arpaio's department has been accused of civil rights violations and of singling out Latinos for immigration checks under 287(g) and faces a Justice Department investigation. Source: Randal C. Archibold, "U.S. Alters Disputed Immigration Rules for Police", The New York Times, 16 October 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/17/us/17immig.html>.

The US Department of Health and Human Services' "Human Trafficking Into and Within the United States: A Review of the Literature" is a comprehensive review of current literature on human trafficking into and within the United States and focuses on surveying what the social science or other literature has found about the issues of identifying and effectively serving trafficking victims. Please visit <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/07/HumanTrafficking/LitRev> for more information.

To commemorate the estimated 5,100 migrants who have died trying to cross into the United States in the past 15 years (see PICUM Newsletter October 2009), rights activists in the northern Mexican city of Tijuana have hung 5,100 small white crosses on the fence straddling the US-Mexican border. Source: Associated Press, "5,100 crosses at Mexico border mark migrant deaths", 30 October 2009, http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091031/ap_on_re_la_am_ca/lt_mexico_border_deaths.

The directors of the National Association of Evangelicals have unanimously passed a resolution calling for the US Congress to approve changes in immigration law and to provide a path for undocumented immigrants to become regularised. The National Association of Evangelicals represents the heads of 40 evangelical denominations in the United States. Source: Associated Press, "Evangelicals and Immigration", 8 October 2009, http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/09/us/09brfs_EVANGELICALS_BRF.html.

Two Republican US senators, David Vitter of Louisiana and Bob Bennett of Utah, have proposed making an amendment to a spending bill to bar the Census Bureau from using any of the funds for the 2010 census if it does not include a question about a person's citizenship status in its questionnaire. Census statistics are used to determine the distribution of congressional seats and federal funds, and the senators have argued that counting undocumented immigrants can inflate states' numbers. Latino immigration activists have previously called for a boycott of the 2010 census, and some have expressed their support for the so-called "Vitter amendment", as they believe it could pressure Democrats to overhaul immigration policy. However, many other civil and immigrant rights groups emphatically oppose the amendment, arguing that it violates the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution, which requires that all people be counted for the purpose of reapportionment. Sources: Nomaan Merchant, "Lawmakers Battle on Census Question", The Wall Street Journal, 19 October 2009, <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125590984570593243.html>; Jacques Spitzer, "Immigrant Rights Groups Blast Census Plan", NBC San Diego, 24 October 2009, <http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/politics/Immigrant-Rights-Activists-Blast-Census-Plan-65899632.html>.

| 3 | European Policy Developments

General

France and Italy have urged European Union leaders to step up their fight against irregular immigration, including by seeking greater cooperation with Mediterranean countries such as Turkey and Libya. In a letter to European Commission President Jose Barroso and Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt, whose country holds the EU's rotating presidency, French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi argued that irregular immigration represented a great humanitarian, political and social challenge for the EU and its member states, and suggested that Frontex should have more offices near the borders and more means to intercept immigrants trying to reach Europe through the Mediterranean Sea. They further argued that Frontex should regularly charter planes to deport undocumented migrants. Source: Francois de Beaupuy, "France, Italy Urge Tougher EU Fight Against Illegal Immigration", Bloomberg.com, 23 October 2009, <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601085&sid=ah8STuiYLDVQ>; DPA, "Italy and France seek EU-Libya accord to curb illegal immigration", 25 October 2009, <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refdaily?pass=463ef21123&id=4ae545c58>.

Council of the European Union

The European Council took stock during a session on 29 and 30 October 2009 of progress made on implementing measures regarding irregular immigration, and called for further efforts to be made, in particular as concerns the enhancement of Frontex. The Council welcomed progress made on implementing the measures identified at its June 2009 meeting regarding irregular migration in the Mediterranean, and argued that a determined European response based on firmness, solidarity and shared responsibility remained essential. It called for continued concerted action to address challenges in a comprehensive manner and to avoid the recurrence of tragedies at sea. Moreover, the Council welcomed the beginning of a reinforced dialogue on migration with Turkey, called on the Presidency of the EU and on the European Commission to intensify dialogue with Libya, and underlined the importance of readmission agreements as a tool for combating irregular immigration. It also invited the Commission to examine the possibility of regularly chartering joint return flights financed by Frontex.

Source: Brussels European Council, Presidency Conclusions, 29/30 October 2009, http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/110889.pdf.

| 4 | Health Care

The Nederlands instituut voor onderzoek van de gezondheidszorg (Netherlands Institute for Health Care Research - NIVEL) has published an update of its ongoing research on access to health care for undocumented migrants in the Netherlands. The report published on 19 October 2009 updates a more comprehensive study published in 2008 and examines changes and trends since the publication of NIVEL's first report on the issue in 1999. Among other things, NIVEL asked health care providers what changes they anticipated as a result of the new rules for the financing of assistance to undocumented migrants, which came into effect in January 2009 (see PICUM Newsletter January 2009), and while most care providers appeared to have become more willing to assist the undocumented, general practitioners received a disproportionate number of undocumented patients. The full report, titled "Toegankelijkheid van gezondheidszorg voor 'illegalen' in Nederland: een update", is available in Dutch at <http://www.nivel.nl/pdf/Rapport-toegankelijkheid-illegalen.pdf>.

The German Bundesrat (the legislative body that represents the German states at the federal level) passed General Administrative Regulations for the Residence Law (Allgemeine Verwaltungsvorschrift zum Aufenthaltsgesetz) on 18 September 2009, which clarify the law's interpretation with regard to undocumented migrants' access to emergency medical care. The regulations clarify that undocumented migrants can seek emergency care at hospitals without fear of arrest or deportation, as both medical personnel and hospital administrators are exempt from the duty to report undocumented individuals to the Social Security Office. The Social Security Office, in turn, may not transmit the personal data of undocumented patients to the Foreigners' Office. As a consequence of the new regulations, hospitals are more likely to be reimbursed by the Social Security Office for the costs they incur when treating undocumented migrants, and individuals can assist undocumented migrants as part of their professional responsibilities or their volunteer work with charitable organisations without fear of legal prosecution. For more information on the regulations, please consult the explanatory notes issued by the "Katholisches Forum ‚Leben in der Illegalität“" ("Catholic Forum 'Life in Illegality'"), available online at <http://www.benjamin-hoff.de/serveDocument.php?id=631&file=a/7/36d.pdf>.

| 5 | Labour and Working Conditions

More than 4,000 undocumented migrant workers in France have been striking since 12 October 2009 and are occupying more than 40 temporary employment agencies, restaurants, construction sites and businesses, demanding to be regularised. The strikes are coordinated by the Confédération générale du travail (General Confederation of Labour - CGT) and supported by several trade unions and associations, including Cimade. On 26 October, the French Council of State (Conseil d'Etat) responded by annulling the circular of 7 January 2008, which detailed the conditions for regularisation through employment under French immigration law, and Immigration Minister Eric Besson announced on 28 October 2009 that a new text was being prepared in consultation with the representatives of several French unions. Sources: "Sans-papiers : Besson prépare une nouvelle circulaire sur la régularisation par le travail", Le Monde, 29 October 2009, http://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2009/10/29/sans-papiers-nouvelle-circulaire-pour-la-regularisation-par-le-travail_1260181_3224.html; La Cimade, "Travailleurs sans papiers : en grève pour défendre leurs droits", 13 October 2009,

<http://www.cimade.org/nouvelles/1887-Travailleurs-sans-papiers---en-gr-ve-pour-d-fendre-leurs-droits;> AFP, "Nouvelle grève de sans-papiers à Paris", 12 October 2009, <http://www.lefigaro.fr/flash-actu/2009/10/12/01011-20091012FILWWW00435-nouvelle-greve-de-sans-papiers-a-paris.php>.

Undocumented migrant workers in France have released a video showing the unsafe and exploitative working conditions faced by undocumented migrants who are employed by a sub-contractor of Régie Autonome des Transports Parisiens (RATP; "Autonomous Operator of Parisian Transports", the transit operator responsible for public transportation in Paris and its surroundings) to renovate the metro stations in Paris. Sources: "Les incroyables conditions de travail des sans-papiers qui travaillent pour un sous-traitant de la RATP", 20minutes.fr, 15 October 2009, <http://www.20minutes.fr/article/355453/France-Les-incroyables-conditions-de-travail-des-sans-papiers-qui-travaillent-pour-un-sous-traitant-de-la-RATP.php>; "A Paris, des sans-papiers dévoilent leurs conditions de travail", Le Monde, 14 October 2009, http://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2009/10/14/a-paris-des-sans-papiers-devoilent-leurs-conditions-de-travail_1253732_3224.html.

A new report issued by the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), American Rights at Work and the National Employment Law Project, "ICED Out: How Immigration Enforcement Has Interfered with Workers' Rights", draws on several case studies from across the United States and finds that the federal government's immigration enforcement in recent years – including a heavy reliance on raids and often inadequately trained enforcement agents – has severely undermined efforts to protect workers' rights, to the detriment of immigrant and native-born workers alike. The report is available at http://www.americanrightsatwork.org/dmdocuments/ARAWReports/icedout_report.pdf.

In a chapter of the book "Human Rights in Labor and Employment Relations: International and Domestic Perspectives", published by the Labor and Employment Relations Association, Rebecca Smith of the National Employment Law Project in the United States argues that there is an urgent need to protect the human rights of migrant workers in countries of destination and that governmental efforts to combat involuntary servitude have not adequately addressed the causes and effects of forced labour. Smith's chapter, titled "Prosecute, Prevent, Protect: Migrant Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Rights", is available online at http://help.3cdn.net/1ddc58fdf0d397b5cc_awm6iq97r.pdf.

| 6 | Undocumented Women

In the context of the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and several other UN bodies organised a half-day panel discussion on "Women and migration in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, including in the context of the financial crisis" at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 4 November 2009. The objective of the panel was to discuss ways and means to protect migrant women's rights throughout the migration process in Europe, taking into account the gender dimension of migration and devising coherent migration policies promoting respect for human rights and integration in the European region. The panel also discussed the effects of the financial crisis on migrant women in the European region. Source: http://www.unifem.org/cedaw30/events_calendar/event.php?EventID=13.

| 7 | Undocumented Children

The newly elected Socialist government in Greece has announced that it will grant citizenship to migrant children who were born and raised in Greece but were never officially recognised and automatically become undocumented upon reaching adulthood (see PICUM Newsletter October 2009). It is estimated that up to 200,000 children will benefit from the decision. As part of the new government's reforms, unaccompanied children held in overcrowded detention centres will also be released. Source: Helena Smith, "Greek socialists to grant citizenship to migrants' children", The Guardian, 21 October 2009, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/oct/21/greece-citizenship-immigrant-children>.

Human Rights Watch has released a report titled "Lost in Transit: Insufficient Protection for Unaccompanied Migrant Children at Roissy Charles de Gaulle Airport", which concludes that France's system of detaining and deporting unaccompanied migrant children who arrive in Paris by air puts them at serious risk. The report criticises France's policy of detaining children who have not yet entered France in a "transit zone", where they are denied rights granted to other migrant children on French territory, and highlights a variety of issues, such as police intimidation of children to pressure them to sign documents and renounce what rights they do have, and deportation of children to countries through which they have merely transited, which forces them to continue their journey to another destination. The report is available at <http://www.hrw.org/en/node/86211>.

A study published in "Child Abuse & Neglect: the International Journal" examined 24 children in a UK immigration detention centre and found clear evidence that the children had developed mental and physical health problems. The study was the first of its kind, and a team of paediatricians and psychologists found that 73 percent of children they examined had developed clinically significant emotional and behavioural problems since being detained. The study's authors believed that there should be more safeguards in place to protect children from further harm in detention. Source: Karen McVeigh, "Children made 'sick with fear' in UK immigration detention centres", The Guardian, 13 October 2009, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/oct/13/children-immigration-detention-health>.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors, the legislative body of the City and County of San Francisco in the United States, has voted to overturn a policy introduced in 2008 which obliges the police to contact Immigration and Customs Enforcement whenever they suspect a juvenile arrested on felony charges of being undocumented. Under the changes approved by the Board of Supervisors on 20 October 2009, referrals to immigration officials will be required only after juveniles are convicted of crimes, instead of immediately after their arrest. Immigration advocates argued that the city's policy had resulted in the deportation of innocent youths, the break-up of families and a fear among immigrants to contact the police when they are the victims of crime. Source: Jesse McKinley, "San Francisco Alters When Police Must Report Immigrants", The New York Times, 20 October 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/21/us/21sanctuary.html>.

In his latest report to the General Assembly at UN Headquarters in New York on 26 October 2009, Jorge Bustamante, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, warned that child migrants remained especially vulnerable to human rights abuses. Bustamante argued that children often fall prey to trans-national organised crime syndicates who engage in exploitative practices such as smuggling, human trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery. He called on states worldwide to adopt "a serious and in-depth approach" to tackle racism, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance. Source: "UN human rights expert voices concern over treatment of child migrants", UN News Centre, 27 October 2009, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32746&Cr=migrant&Cr1>.

In a report dated 1 September 2009, the Schweizerische Beobachtungsstelle für Asyl- und Ausländerrecht (Swiss Monitoring Office for Asylum and Foreigners' Law) concludes that the basic principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are continually disregarded in Switzerland and that children are regularly deported to countries they only know from other people's stories, into a life of instability, poverty and potentially civil war. The report argues that the government's immigration policy particularly affects undocumented children, who are believed to constitute at least 10 percent of the estimated 80,000 to 100,000 undocumented migrants in Switzerland. The report is available in German at

http://www.beobachtungsstelle.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/pdf_divers/Berichte/Kinderbericht_def_D.pdf

and in French at

http://www.beobachtungsstelle.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/pdf_divers/Berichte/Kinderbericht_def_F.pdf.

The organisation Mineurs en Exil / Kindern op de Vlucht has produced a short film addressing the issues faced by unaccompanied minors in and on their way to Belgium. The film is available in French, Dutch and English. For more information, please email Ugo Guillet at ug@sdj.be.

| 8 | Events

Migreurop will organise an international meeting on readmission agreements, titled "Readmission agreements or blackmail to deportations?", in Paris on 27 November 2009. Please visit <http://www.migreurop.org/article1486.html> for more information.

The Centre for Parliamentary Studies will host a symposium titled "Tackling Child Labour and Exploitation in the European Union" in Brussels on 2 December 2009. The event will bring together local, regional and national authorities to gather comparative knowledge, discuss the latest challenges and share examples of cross-border best practices. For more information, please visit <http://publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/9L02-PPE.php>.

December 18, an international resource centre on the rights of migrant workers, will hold its fourth worldwide radio marathon, "Radio 1812", on and around International Migrants Day on 18 December 2009. The event brings together radio stations from around the world, and participants are encouraged to produce, broadcast and share programmes with a focus on migration to express their solidarity with migrants and to raise public awareness about the issues they face. December 18 will gather the audio material as it is broadcast or made available and will feature it on its Radio 1812 website, where visitors will be able to listen to a special play list and download the programmes for re-broadcasting. For more information or to upload audio material on migration issues, please visit www.radio1812.net.

Leiden University in the Netherlands will hold a conference on "The language of difference: mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion of migrants 1945-2005" on 14-15 January 2010. For more information, please contact Marlou Schrover at M.L.J.C.Schrover@hum.leidenuniv.nl.

| 9 | Publications

The UNDP's Human Development Report 2009, "Overcoming barriers: Human mobility and development", investigates migration in the context of demographic changes and trends in both growth and inequality. It presents evidence about the positive impacts of migration on human development and

that migration can empower traditionally disadvantaged groups, in particular women, but also argues that risks to human development are present where migration is a reaction to threats and denial of choice and that host country restrictions can raise both the costs and the risks of migration. The report is available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Portuguese at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2009/>.

Migreurop has issued a report entitled "Les frontières assassines de l'Europe" ("Deadly Borders of Europe"), which examines human rights violations at the borders of Europe, and particularly at the border between Greece and Turkey, in the Calais region in France, in Oujda in Morocco, and on the Italian island of Lampedusa. The report is available in French at <http://www.migreurop.org/article1489.html>. English, Italian and Spanish versions will also be made available.

A paper by Michael Flynn and Cecilia Cannon employs research undertaken by the Global Detention Project (GDP) to help situate the phenomenon of the privatisation of immigration detention within a global perspective, demonstrates the broad geographical spread of privatised detention practices across the globe, and compares the experiences of a sample of lesser known cases. "The Privatization of Immigration Detention: Towards a Global View" is available at http://www.globaldetentionproject.org/fileadmin/docs/GDP_PrivatizationPaper_Final5.pdf.

The booklet "Fermeture des centres de rétention: Récits de révoltes et de solidarité" ("Closing of the Detention Centres: Stories of Revolts and Solidarity") features accounts by migrants in French detention centres. It is available at https://infokiosques.net/IMG/pdf/CRA_-_recits_de_revoltes_et_de_solidarite_-_ete_2009.pdf.

Frontex has issued a report on the impact of the global economic crisis on irregular migration to the EU. It is available online at http://www.frontex.europa.eu/gfx/frontex/files/justyna/frontex_raport.pdf.

The online book "100 portraits 100 papiers", created by Edith Azam in collaboration with other artists and writers, portrays undocumented migrants through drawings, poems and prose. The book can be viewed at <http://kr.calameo.com/read/000023079a5d3bdb43eb7> or downloaded at <http://users.skynet.be/identiteenfant/100portraits.htm>.

| 10 | PICUM News

PICUM has published a report outlining its "Main Concerns about the Fundamental Rights of Undocumented Migrants in Europe (2009)". Based on a review of events reported in the PICUM newsletter during the year 2008, the report pieces together a year of European, national and local news issues on irregular migration to foster a better understanding of the main concerns of human rights of undocumented migrants, as well as the multifaceted ways in which civil society throughout Europe is responding to this situation of social exclusion. The report is available in English, French and Spanish on the PICUM website at www.picum.org.

Israel's Interior Minister Eli Yishai has insisted that he would not grant legal status to some 1,200 children of migrant workers in Israel. NGOs and ministers from the Likud and Labor parties, including Defence Minister Ehud Barak, have strongly objected to the decision and argued that children who were born in Israel and have never known another country should be allowed to remain in Israel. A new police unit has been rounding up undocumented migrants and 800 migrants have been deported since July 2009, while more than 2,000 have left voluntarily. Sources: Matthew Kalman, "Israel's Illegal Immigrants — and Their Children", Time, 21 October 2009, <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1931160,00.html>; "ISRAEL: 1,200 children face deportation", IRIN, 22 October 2009, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86694>; "Barak: We are obligated to keep migrant workers' children in Israel", Jerusalem Post, 19 October 2009, <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1255694847483&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FshowFull>.

Three video reports from the Panorama programme's series on migration from Africa to Europe, titled "Europe Or Die Trying", are available on the BBC's website. The series' three half-hour films, which were originally broadcast in September 2007, January 2008 and September 2009, are available at http://news.bbc.co.uk/panorama/hi/front_page/newsid_8283000/8283783.stm.

The Institut für Regional- und Migrationsforschung (IRM; Institute for Regional and Migration Research) in Trier, Germany, is accepting proposals for the 10th International IRM Conference on "Migration and Family", to be held at the University of Basel in Switzerland on 10-12 June 2010. Please refer to IRM's call for proposals for more information: http://www.irm-trier.de/veranstaltungen_aktuell_e.htm (English), http://www.irm-trier.de/veranstaltungen_aktuell.htm (German).

The Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe and the Conference of European Churches (CCME/CEC-KEK) have declared 2010 the Joint Year for European Churches Responding to Migration to underline their commitment to migrants and to upholding the dignity of every human being. Please visit <http://www.migration2010.eu> for more information. Source: ENAR, Weekly Mail no. 204, 30 October 2009, <http://www.enar-eu.org/Page.asp?docid=22912&langue=EN>.

A DVD and book of the documentary film "Come un uomo sulla terra" ("Like a Man on Earth") are now available for purchase. While the book is only available in Italian, the DVD features English, French, Spanish and German subtitles. Directed by Andrea Segre and Dagmawi Yimer in collaboration with Riccardo Biadene, the film gives voice to Ethiopian refugees living in Rome and shows the brutal methods Libya employs to control migration from Africa to Europe. For more information, please visit <http://likeamanonearth.blogspot.com>.

Three videos produced by the University of Pennsylvania Visual Legal Advocacy Clinic examine the issue of fraudulent immigration lawyers in the United States. "Notarios Notorios (Notorious Notarios)", "American Dream Shattered" and "Tips on Protecting Yourself when You Hire an Immigration Lawyer or Legal Advisor" can be viewed at <http://www.law.upenn.edu/academics/institutes/documentaries/studentactivities.html#immigration#immigration>.

Beth Lyon at the Villanova Law School in Pennsylvania in the United States is conducting research on how European countries handle undocumented immigrants in census counts. If you have any information on this subject, please email Ms Lyon at lyon@law.villanova.edu.

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