



European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 1049 Brussels
Belgium
20/10/2016

Mr Dimitris Avramopoulos

European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship

Dear Commissioner Avramopoulos,

The purpose of this letter is to alert you about the worrying conditions of Migrant Detention Centres in Spain. On the night of 18th of November a group of 39 migrants decided to start a protest on the roof of the Aluche Migrant Detention Centre in Madrid to ask for Freedom, Justice and Dignity.

This event has brought to the spotlight once again the poor and vulnerable conditions in which many migrants are forced to live in while they are detained awaiting their expulsion from Spain. In fact, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) of the Council of Europe published a report last year after visiting the Detention centre of Aluche in Madrid and the centre of Zona Franca in Barcelona reporting cases of physical ill-treatment and verbal abuse occurred in these centres. This report also denounced that the conditions of those centres were very similar to those in prisons, which is illegal and totally inappropriate for persons detained for an administrative fault. Many NGOs and associations have also denounced the poor conditions of these detention centres, highlighting the limited access to legal, interpretation and medical assistance, problems relating to hygiene and the general conditions of the facilities such as overcrowded rooms or extremely unclean toilets.

Other international organisations and experts have also denounced that the deprivation of freedom in the detention Centres in Spain is often arbitrary, since, generally speaking, immigrants have no administrative or judicial options with which to contest their detention. Many arrests are, in turn, motivated by discrimination on national, ethnic and social grounds, disregarding the essential equality of all human beings by not recognizing nor letting the migrants enjoy their human rights.

Given the long track record of complaints and reports concerning the hygiene conditions and health of detainees at these facilities, we would like to ask to the Commission to open an investigation to ascertain whether all the required health and hygiene standards are being met in the Spanish Migration Detention Centres, including the Aluche Centre, and to observe first-hand the extremely deteriorated Human Rights situation that has forced the detainees to protest. We also ask to the Commission to not approve this kind of centres,

given that the detention of this people is incompatible with the Spanish legislation but also is considered a Human Rights violation to the migrants that have their right to live a life in dignity without discrimination.

Since Human Rights of migrants are being systematic violated in the Spanish Detention Centres and the Spanish authorities are not complying with the Reception Conditions Directive regarding the conditions of the facilities and services provided in the Detention Centres and with the Return Directive, we request the Commission to immediately ask for the closure of all the Detention Centres in Spain.

I thank you in advance and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Marina Albiol, MEP

Xabier Benito, MEP

Javier Couso, MEP

Tania Gonzalez, MEP

Paloma Lopez, MEP

Florent Marcellesi, MEP

Lola Sanchez, MEP

Lidia Senra, MEP

Estefania Torres, MEP

Miguel Urban, MEP

Ernest Urtasun, MEP

Angela Vallina, MEP