



PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

## PICUM Newsletter April 2009

*Finalized on 06 April 2009*

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

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

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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, SWIFT/BIC Code: GEBABEBB). Please mention your name and address, and reference: "donation".

**THANK YOU !**

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

- One of the largest shipwrecks in the modern history of immigration into Europe occurred on 29 March 2009, 30 km away from the Libyan coast: out of three boats that set off from Libya, two sank and the third disappeared. Provisional figures refer to 23 survivors, 21 corpses recovered and over 500 disappeared people. At first, the Libyan press agency limited itself to announcing that a majority of the migrants were Egyptian and that the three vessels had set off from the port of Sid Belal Janzur, with a total of 257 people on board. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) announced on 31 March that the number of victims from the three boats was estimated at 300. In

Italy (the passengers' destination), the press switched between repetition of the news from Libya and reports that the 257 people referred to were all on one of the three boats, which, if it were revealed to be true, would throw up a far more appalling estimate of the total number of people who have disappeared. For more information see : <http://www.migreurop.org/article1414.html> and [http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20090331/wl\\_nm/us\\_libya\\_migrants](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20090331/wl_nm/us_libya_migrants)

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

### **United Nations**

- The Governing Body of the ILO adopted a report on 25 March 2009 made by the Committee on Freedom of Association supporting the right of migrant workers in Korea, regardless of status, to form and join labour union and calling for an end to measures such as targeted arrests and deportations aimed at interfering with their union activities. This report, issued in response to a complaint submitted by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) concerning the case of the Migrants Trade Union, is an important victory for migrant workers seeking to organize, not only in Korea, but also around the world. Statements within the report demonstrate unequivocal support for undocumented migrant workers' right to freedom of association by the most authoritative international voice on labor rights. Source: Seoul-Gyeonggi-Incheon Migrants Trade Union. For the full recommendation see: [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms\\_104130.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_104130.pdf)
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has released a booklet on the Universal Human Rights Index for use by NGOs and other civil society actors. This online information tool is designed to facilitate access to conclusions and recommendations made by the UN's human rights monitoring and reporting mechanisms. The website contains all the concluding observations and recommendations of the Human Rights Council's special procedures since 2006 and will soon include recommendations made in the framework of the Universal Periodic Review. With more than 1,000 documents available on this site, users may gain an international perspective on national and regional human rights developments as well as an overview of cooperation between States and international institutions. <http://www.universalhumanrightsindex.org/>
- The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has released a new guide for civil society actors entitled 'Working with the United Nations Human Rights Programme: A Handbook for Civil Society.' The guide explains how the different United Nations human rights mandates and mechanisms work, and how members of civil society, such as human rights defenders, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions, can engage with them most effectively. It also promotes collaboration between civil society and OHCHR. It introduces the role and activities of OHCHR, publications and resource materials, fellowship and training programmes, and funds and grants. The handbook is available in English and will shortly be available in Arabic, Russian, Spanish and French. Sources: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/NewCivilSocietyHandbook.aspx> and UN OHCHR 'Handbook for civil society - English version' (<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/NgoHandbook/ngohandbook.pdf>).
- The UNESCO Migration Programme has elaborated a handbook entitled: "People on the Move: Handbook of Selected Terms and Concepts". It is designed to be accessible to a general public which may not be familiar with the detailed discussions in the field of refugee and migration policy. Where misrepresentations are detrimental to an adequate international dialogue, it should provide

useful orientation. <http://www.thehagueprocess.org/upload/pdf/PDFHandbookWEBSITE.pdf>.

- The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention concluded a visit to Malta, organised between 19-23 January 2009. During this visit UN experts visited several detention facilities and conducted interviews with detainees. The group said the length of time undocumented migrants are detained is not "in line with international human rights law". Although a number of positive legal steps safeguarding against arbitrary detention were identified as well, the group expressed grave concerns regarding the automatic detention without genuine recourse to a court of law in Malta. <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=29670&Cr=arbitrary+detention&Cr1>

## **Austria**

- The Austrian federal government passed a law on 24 February 2009 regulating migrants' humanitarian right to stay in the country. The new regulations place the final decision regarding the granting of a residence title with the Interior Ministry while the federal states may only provide recommendations. The Interior Ministry will establish an advisory board in which church and humanitarian organisations will be represented. Preconditions for an application are continuous stay in Austria since May 2004 which must have been predominantly legal. Also, the migrant concerned should have a job, accommodation and health insurance. If not, a sponsorship may be given by an individual or organisations which are in turn obligated to pay for the claimant for a time span of three years. Source: DiePresse.com, 24.02.2009, <http://diepresse.com/home/politik/innenpolitik/455205>

## **Belgium**

- The Belgian federal government has failed to resolve the issue of regularization for undocumented migrants. Estimates of the number of irregular immigrants eligible for regularisation in Belgium differ significantly, with figures ranging between 20,000 and 100,000. A demonstration of support for undocumented migrants was held on 18 March in Brussels. Temporary shelters for irregular immigrants, which can accommodate up to 16,000 people - half of whom have submitted applications for regularization - have been totally overwhelmed by the call and have appealed to the government for help. Source: Le Monde, 16/03/09
- Three French citizens forcefully removed from a SN Brussels Airlines flight in April 2008 for protesting the conditions in which a Cameroonian national was being deported lodged a civil complaint against the airline on 25 March 2009. The three, who have already taken a legal complaint against the Belgian police, are supported by the Belgian League for Human Rights and the Centre for Equal Opportunity Against Racism. Their lawyers stress that the method used to restrain Cameroonian deportee Mr. Sontsa was similar to that used in the case of Semira Adamu, a young Nigerian woman who died by suffocation in 1998 during deportation when a cushion was held over her face to prevent her shouting for help. The legal team also note that a complaint written by Mr. Sontsa, after the attempted deportation and before his subsequent suicide in the detention centre, detailing the brutalities effectuated against him on board the flight, were not revealed by immigration authorities. Furthermore, a video of the incident filmed by one of the three French witnesses on his mobile phone was deleted by police officials. Source: Le Monde - 28/03/2009
- The Walloon Institute for Mental Health has released a report entitled 'Exils et Appartenances' which addresses the psychological needs of refugees, asylum seekers, undocumented migrants and new arrivals. Experts in the field of mental health and immigration have contributed to this report which covers a broad spectrum of issues including irregular migration, unaccompanied

minors seeking asylum for medical reasons and themes such as trauma, depression and social exclusion. [http://www.iwsm.be/confluences/C21%20\(3\).pdf](http://www.iwsm.be/confluences/C21%20(3).pdf)

- The Dutch magazine Vrij Nederland has published the portraits of several undocumented migrants who were on a hunger strike for already seven weeks in March 2009 in Brussels. Interviews and pictures available at: <http://www.vn.nl/Multimedia/Diashows/ArtikelDiashow/GeorganiseerdeHonger.htm>, click on the photo.
- On 26 March 2009, the Minister of Migration and Asylum Annemie Turtelboom announced regularization instructions for the Ministry of Foreigners' Affairs (DVZ) for undocumented migrants in "distressing humanitarian situations." The regulation counts for families with children attending school, people in an "unreasonable long" asylum procedure, parents of a Belgian minor child, family members of an EU citizen, and three other "distressing situations" . More information, criteria and precise regulation at: <http://www.vmc.be/vreemdelingenrecht/wegwijs.aspx?id=7136>
- On 1 April 2009, police raided a company that hired approximately 450 undocumented workers, mainly from Brazil and Ecuador, under the "service vouchers" system (diensten cheque / titres services). The employees, who were hired to clean private houses, were told by the evangelical pastor who hired them that their chances for regularization would be better if they registered under his company. Nonetheless, the workers still remain undocumented and many have not received their most recent wages. The organizations OR.C.A., CIRE and Abraço, and unions ACV, ABVV pointed out in a joint press release that the workers are the victims of the long uncertainty about the regularization agreement in Belgium and demand a quick implementation. More info available at: [www.orcasite.be](http://www.orcasite.be).

## France

- The NGO France Terre d'Asile has submitted an alternative report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding the French government's implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Committee is scheduled to examine France's periodic report during its 51st session in Geneva during June 2009. France Terre d'Asile responded to the Committee's request for alternative reports by submitting evidence regarding the situation of non-accompanied minors in France and was selected for interview by the pre-sessional working group responsible for preparing the session that will examine France's report. This report is available in French and with an abstract of its findings in English at: <http://www.france-terre-asile.org/>
- After a week on strike, a group of undocumented migrants employed by the fast-food chain Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) in Paris have obtained an agreement with the company in view to obtaining their regularisation. Source TERRA : <http://destinsdimmigres.wordpress.com/>
- The French government has set targets for 2011 in its "Projet de Loi de Finances 2009" (2009 Budget Proposal): to issue 28,000 expulsion orders to undocumented migrants and to arrest 5,500 people who provide assistance to undocumented migrants. Emmaüs France, in alliance with other French and European NGOs, plan a nation-wide action on 8 April 2009: in Paris, Lille, Marseille, Strasbourg, Lyon, Bordeaux, Toulouse, Rennes, and in dozens of other cities in France, 5,500 people are expected to demonstrate before the courts to voluntarily give themselves up and state that they have provided assistance to undocumented migrants. The organizations are concerned about the targets set by the French government because undocumented migrants are marginalized, face unsurmountable difficulties, and live in poverty, and the organizations feel that it is their duty as

citizens to help them to live in dignity and respect of their humanity. <http://www.emmaus-france.org/accueil/une.php>.

- A handbook entitled “Que dois je faire? Accueil des sans papiers et interventions policières” (What should I do ? Reception of undocumented migrants and police actions) has been released as a joint initiative of CIMADE, Emmaus, FEP, FNARS and Secours Catholique. The handbook answers ten general questions with a view to helping volunteers and professionals with information about legal aspects of providing social services to undocumented migrants. Source: <http://www.fep.asso.fr/newsletter/news.php?ID=LQ0NDY0NA==>

## Germany

- In March 2009, *ver.di*, the German service sector trade union, opened a contact point specialised in the concerns of undocumented workers in Berlin with office hours held twice a month. Undocumented workers and their supporters have been campaigning for trade union recognition for several years. The Hamburg office is now the second such contact point to open within a year. In return, undocumented workers may become members of the *ver.di* trade union. For more information, see [http://besondere-dienste.bb.verdi.de/lbzfq\\_sonstige\\_dienstleistungen/ver.di\\_ak\\_undokumentierte\\_arbeit](http://besondere-dienste.bb.verdi.de/lbzfq_sonstige_dienstleistungen/ver.di_ak_undokumentierte_arbeit), where you can also find the office's information leaflet several languages.
- In Berlin, the initiative for the implementation of a student database, in which the personal data of all Berlin students is to be stored, has been passed in the Senate. Student and parent associations have been campaigning intensely to prevent the database which will be accessible to law enforcement agencies, youth welfare and health offices. Officially thought to facilitate administrative processes and target absenteeism and juvenile delinquents, the measure will also negatively affect undocumented students who may stay away from schools altogether for fear of being detected. Even before the development of this database, undocumented children only attend school in Berlin in exceptional cases. Data protectors are now calling on parents to boycott the database. <http://www.ccc.de/updates/2009/schuelerdatei-boykott> and [http://www.fluechtlingsrat-berlin.de/print\\_pe.php?sid=424](http://www.fluechtlingsrat-berlin.de/print_pe.php?sid=424)
- The federal state of Berlin will present a legal initiative to the Bundesrat (Federal Council of Germany) seeking to secure and decriminalise medical treatment for undocumented migrants in Germany. The proposal includes introducing an anonymous sickness certificate to facilitate access to health care which is a human right and should not be subject to charity as is currently the situation in Germany. Furthermore, the proposal seeks to remove the legal gray area surrounding doctors who provide health care to undocumented migrants. A precondition for this measure is a change in the laws regulating the right to stay; these laws currently demand social officers to report information regarding undocumented patients to the Foreigners Office. The Berlin plan foresees that a public office will be established which will enable undocumented migrants to remain anonymous when being processed by the social offices who pay for their medical treatment. Source: Deutsche Welle, 27.02.2009, <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,4060922,00.html?maca=de-rss-de-all-1119-rdf>
- The Interior Committee of the Bundestag (Federal Parliament of Germany) held a hearing on the draft of the Law on Genetic Testing with Humans (*Gendiagnostikgesetz*) on January 21. In their statements, NGOs such as *Pro Asyl* and *Gen-ethisches Netzwerk* accused this law of discriminating against migrants and annulling their right to informational self determination. Of particular concern to these organisations is Paragraph 8 of the draft, which deals with the use of genetic testing in order to prove blood-relations when filing for family reunification. <http://www.gen->

[ethisches-netzwerk.de/gen/2009/gemeinsame-pressemitteilung-gen-pro-asyl-und-deutscher-anwaltverein-gendg-diskriminiert-mig](http://ethisches-netzwerk.de/gen/2009/gemeinsame-pressemitteilung-gen-pro-asyl-und-deutscher-anwaltverein-gendg-diskriminiert-mig)

- The *Jesuit Refugee Service Germany* and the organisation *Diakonie* conclude in their annual 'Bilanz' 2008 that detention prior to deportation is ordered far too often in Germany. Lawyers achieved the discharge of two thirds of all detained deportees who had been supported by the legal aid fund of the Jesuit Refugee Service in Bavaria, Berlin and Brandenburg. [http://www.jesuiten-fluechtlingsdienst.de/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=586&Itemid=41](http://www.jesuiten-fluechtlingsdienst.de/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=586&Itemid=41)
- Protestant and Catholic refugee pastors and priests in Germany have demanded minimum humanitarian standards for detention prior to deportation stressing that this type of detention should not be confused with penal detention and must be organised separately. Furthermore, they argue that psychologically and physically ill people, children and the elderly should not be detained at all. <http://www.nordelbien.de/nachrichten/newsne.1/archiv.news-nordelbien/archiv.news-nordelbien.2009/one.news/index.html?entry=page.newsne.200901.187&>
- Between 2005 until 2007, over 40 people who had been detained prior to deportation committed suicide or attempted suicide in Germany, the federal government announced answering a parliamentary request by the *Green Party* faction on 17 December 2008. <http://www.proasyl.de/de/archiv/newsletter-ausgaben/nl-2006/newsletter-nr-144/index.html>
- In the face of numerous elections taking place in Germany in the so-called bumper election year 2009, the *Interkulturelle Rat* (Intercultural Council), *PRO ASYL*, and the *German Trade Union Federation* (DGB) have issued a joint position paper on migration policy issues directed at the German political parties, including the demand for a perspective for undocumented migrants and the decoupling of basic social rights and residence status. The position paper is available for download from: <http://www.proasyl.de/>
- The Fifth *Jahrestagung Illegalität* (Annual Convention on Irregularity), a joint event of *Katholisches Forum „Leben in der Illegalität“* (Catholic Forum „Life in Illegality“), *Rat für Migration* (Migration Council) and *Catholic Academy* took place in Berlin from 4-6 March 2009. This year, the main focus was on the effects of diverse measures meant to control and contain irregular migration in several European states, especially concerning the schooling of undocumented children. <http://www.dbk.de/termine/data/01844/index.html>

## Greece

- The Hellenic Centre for Infectious Disease Control has expressed its intention to cooperate with the municipality of Athens on a number of initiatives that aim at ameliorating the living conditions of irregular immigrants residing in rundown buildings of central Athens, by providing a mobile medical unit, vaccination and other medical services. (UNHCR Greece Press Review: 14 - 20 March 2009 - Hora/ Metrorama/ Adesmeftos Tupos, 19 March 2009).
- Citing a recent European Commission report on the common EU irregular immigration policy (published 9 March 2009), an MP from the leftist party SYRIZA said to Parliament that in the period 2005-2007 Greece deported, or refouled 141,777 aliens. Meanwhile, the number of deportation decisions, issued for the same period, was significantly lower (54,608). This significant discrepancy between deportation decisions and actual deportations is said to raise worries about the legitimacy of the deportation procedure. In other major receiving countries of irregular immigrants, such as Malta and Spain, deportation numbers are significantly lower. Source: UNHCR Greece Press Review: 21-27 March 2009 (*Pontiki*, 25 March 2009).

- An 'acute humanitarian crisis' is how the Medecins Sans Frontières mission in Greece describes the precarious conditions for migrants living in the detention centres in Mitilini and Evros, as well as in Patras' migrant shanty town. The organization highlights that the care provided to undocumented migrants in Greece was and still is far behind what it should be, while the living conditions inside the detention centres and in Patras are unacceptable. Source: UNHCR Greece Press Review: 21-27 March 2009 (Herald Tribune, 26 March 2009)

## Ireland

- More than 30 Nigerian nationals were deported from Ireland in the beginning of March. The Irish Refugee Council has called for one of the deportees to be allowed to return to Ireland to care for her two young sons who were born in Dublin and have Irish citizenship. The 32-year-old woman, who had been detained in the Mosney centre, Co Meath, along with her children aged 2½ and nine months, was deported after her application for asylum was denied. A spokeswoman for the Irish Refugee Council said the youngest boy is still being breast-fed. She called for the children's mother to be allowed to return to Ireland immediately "on humanitarian grounds." Source: <http://archives.rezo.net/migreurop.mbox/200903.mbox/browser>.

## Italy

- The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN) has expressed concern about the deteriorating situation of migrants and asylum seekers on the Italian island of Lampedusa. The EMHRN sent a delegation to the island in February 2009 to clarify the situation of migrants. The conclusions of this mission clarified huge irregularities among the asylum claims made by those who have arrived on the island since the beginning of 2009. <http://euromed-migrasyl.blogspot.com/2009/03/italie-remdh-les-violations-importantes.html>
- 101 deputies members of the majority right-wing party in Italy have sent a letter to the Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi to protest against legislative proposal that, if approved by the Parliament, will oblige doctors to report patients they suspect of being irregular immigrants. The deputies have noted that the measure which they protest against would affect pregnant women and children, with the risk they renounce to the medical care assistance and to education because of fear to be reported to police authorities. Source: AFP 19 March 2009.

## Malta

- The international humanitarian organisation Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) announced on 13 March 2009 the suspension of its emergency projects in the three detention centres for undocumented migrants and asylum seekers in Malta. The decision follows a series of requests to Maltese authorities to improve the living conditions and healthcare services in these centres. MSF remains present on the island, however, supporting migrants and asylum seekers in the existing open centres and providing medical care to new arrivals. Since the beginning of its activities in Malta in August 2008, MSF has witnessed the unacceptable conditions in centres where migrants and asylum seekers are kept as detainees: men, women and children forced to share the same living areas; overcrowding; insufficient beds; broken windows and deplorable sanitation. These conditions are a threat to the physical and mental health of the migrants and asylum seekers. For more information see: [www.msf.org](http://www.msf.org); <http://www.romandie.com/ats/news/090313182142.fg0hdzqc.asp> and <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20090314/local/migrants-health-deteriorates-in-detention>

## Netherlands

- State secretary (staatssecretaris) of Justice Albayrak announced the abolition of categorical protection for asylum seekers from Somalia on 3 April claiming that it was a response to alleged fraud of Somali asylum seekers in the Netherlands. The Dutch Refugee Council is seriously concerned, saying that a measure to protect people from a brutal armed conflict can not be terminated to prevent fraud. More information: [www.vluchtelingenwerk.nl](http://www.vluchtelingenwerk.nl)

## Poland

- According to the database on Irregular Migration at the Hamburg Institute of International Economics, Poland is still not considered an attractive destination country for regular and irregular immigrants and apart from small, settled, irregular resident populations from Vietnam and Armenia, the majority of irregular migrants - mostly temporary irregular workers on regular tourist visas - come from neighboring Ukraine and Belarus. An explanation of the estimate of the stocks of irregular migrants in Poland and the "Country Report – Poland: Counting the Uncountable. Data and Trends across Europe" by Krystyna Iglicka and Katarzyna Gmaj is available online at: <http://irregular-migration.hwwi.net/>. Sources : [http://csm.mazurek.info/images/rte/File/Program%20Migracje/Porownanie\\_danych%20%20%20.pdf](http://csm.mazurek.info/images/rte/File/Program%20Migracje/Porownanie_danych%20%20%20.pdf) and <http://irregular-migration.hwwi.net/Poland.5800.0.html>

## Spain

- The global economic downturn has driven Spanish workers back to agriculture and other "dirty job" sectors. This return to sectors that were previously shunned by Spanish workers is driving out the undocumented migrants that constituted, until recently, the main source of workers in these sectors. Source: Migration News Sheet, March 2009, pg. 9.
- Many undocumented Bolivians residing in Spain do not want to leave their homes for fear of being arrested and prefer to go and come to work without changing their route. The intensive police checks also frighten those who are documented, because they lose time or are detained for several hours if their papers have been forgotten at home. Some immigrants, who do not want to see their relatives being held in Detention Centres for Foreigners (CIE), go as far as asking police to make financial contributions or even to pay the passages of their loved ones back to Bolivia. Source: <http://www.opinion.com.bo/Portal.html?CodNot=55853&CodSec=6>.
- A group of legal experts have identified and produced a report denouncing a change in the draft reform of the Spanish Aliens Act (Ley de Extranjería). The report, entitled 'El Internamiento de Extranjeros en el Anteproyecto de Reforma de la Ley de Extranjería' (The Internment of Aliens in the draft reform of the Aliens Act), elevates the allowed detention time from 40-60 days to up to 18 months. Sources from the Ministry of the Interior acknowledge that this is an "error" and that if the advisory bodies and the Government think it appropriate, it should be rectified before sending the document to Parliament for final approval. For more information see: <http://www.publico.es/espana/213971/retencion/inmigrantes/podria/alcanzar/meses>. Another aspect of this draft reform to the Aliens Act would establish a system of sanctions for any individual or organisation that provides aid and assistance to undocumented immigrants in Spain. According to article 53 of this proposed amendment to the law, individuals/organisations anywhere would be fined between 501 and 10,000 euros for helping an undocumented migrant. Source: <http://www.sisepuede.es/content/view/4066/7/>.



## Sweden

- Sweden's National Assembly of Health Professionals, the Vårdförbundet, issued a message to the Swedish Minister of State in November 2008 stating its opposition to the government's policy of blocking access to health care for undocumented migrants. The medical professionals state that denying healthcare contravenes the codes of professional ethics that apply to Sweden's midwives, biomedical scientists, radiographers and nurses who have pledged to continue complying with the principle of human dignity and providing healthcare on equal terms and on needs. These medical professionals have vowed that the right to health, as guaranteed in international conventions, will always take precedence over national laws and regulations that contravene the principles. The Vårdförbundet's National Assembly strongly urged all parties in the Swedish Parliament to assume their responsibility so that people without papers and those in hiding throughout Sweden may gain access to health care on the same terms as the rest of the population. [www.vardforbundet.se](http://www.vardforbundet.se)

## UK

- A High Court judge has ruled that the removal of an undocumented man from the UK was "manifestly unlawful" as it appeared that officers of the UK Border Agency, which is responsible for controlling immigration, had "deliberately misled" the man, referred to as Mr X, and deprived him of his right to seek legal advice before his removal. In a written statement, Mr X said that he was deceived into thinking he was being taken from Tinsley House immigration removal centre for an interview with an immigration officer. Instead, without warning, he was taken in a van by four security men on board a plane. He said that, when he resisted leaving the van, he was handcuffed, and punched in his private parts to make him straighten his legs so they could be belted together. Crying, he was lifted on to the aeroplane and flown out of the country. Mr X's mobile phone had been taken from him and he was given no chance to contact friends or lawyers, even though Home Office rules required that he should have 72 hours' notice of removal to give him a chance to make calls. Lawyers for the Home Secretary conceded in court that his removal was carried out illegally, but they argued that flying him back to the UK was pointless as the 38-year-old was bound to lose the new claim he wanted to make. However the judge has ordered the Home Secretary, Jacqui Smith, to "use her best endeavours" to bring him back. For further details on the case see: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/deporting-gay-asylumseeker-was-unlawful-1627052.html>.
- MRN (Migrant Rights Network) has recently released a briefing on the impact of the new citizenship provisions in the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill. The Bill was released in January 2009 and is currently passing through the House of Lords. MRN is extremely concerned about the rationale behind it and its implications for migrants' rights in the UK. For the full text of the briefing please see: [http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/briefingpaper/briefingpaper\\_on\\_citizenship.pdf](http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/briefingpaper/briefingpaper_on_citizenship.pdf).
- The Institute for Public Policy Research (ippr) is currently conducting research that examines the return intentions of irregular migrants who are living in the UK. As part of the project they are looking to commission researchers to interview people who have previously been irregular migrants in the UK. These interviews will be undertaken in five case study countries: India, Jamaica, Nigeria, South Africa and Vietnam. <http://www.ippr.org.uk/research/teams/?id=85&tid=85>.

## Switzerland

- Switzerland's National Council (Nationalrat on 4 March 2009) decided, by a large majority, in favour of a ban on marriages for migrants lacking a regular legal status in order to combat so-called

“fictitious marriages“. The register office will now have access to the central migration system (Zemis) and report marriages of migrants to the migration authorities. This will also be the case for civil unions. The organisation *Plattform für Sans-Papiers* (Platform for Sans-Papiers) protests against this renewed intervention into the basic rights and the right of self-determination of migrants and have denounced this regulation to be in breach of the constitution. Source: <http://www.sans-papiers.ch/> and Newsletter Migration und Bevölkerung 03/09.

- In late 2008, about 150 undocumented migrants and activists occupied the Prediger Kirche (Preacher's Church) in Zurich for more than two weeks as a sign of their protest against the asylum policy of Switzerland and the canton of Zurich. There is now a 30-minute film documenting the occupation available at <http://a-films.blogspot.com/>. New pieces of educational media, two short-films and a brochure on undocumented migrants, which can be used for public discussion, school projects and other activities, can now be ordered at: [http://www.sanspapiers.ch/site/uploads/media/Bildungsmedium\\_BODENLOS.pdf](http://www.sanspapiers.ch/site/uploads/media/Bildungsmedium_BODENLOS.pdf)

## USA

- The Federal Justice Department has opened an investigation to determine whether civil rights violations are being committed by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office in the state of Arizona. Sheriff Joe Arpaio has gained national attention for ordering deputies to patrol rural highways and to raid Latino neighbourhoods and municipal buildings in search of undocumented migrants. A letter from acting assistant attorney general Loretta King reports that the federal investigation will focus on alleged patterns or practices of discriminatory police practices and unconstitutional searches and seizures conducted by the Sheriff's Office as well as allegations of national origin discrimination. [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/12/us/12brfs-SHERIFFSDEPT\\_BRF.html?scp=1&sq=&st=nyt](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/12/us/12brfs-SHERIFFSDEPT_BRF.html?scp=1&sq=&st=nyt).
- A report was recently released by the United States Government Accountability Office on Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. This section authorizes the federal government to enter into agreements with state and local law enforcement agencies to train officers to assist in identifying those individuals who are in the country in an irregular status. According to the report, the Homeland Security Department has failed to ensure that local and state law enforcement partners pursue serious criminals and do not misuse their authority while enforcing immigration law. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano has already ordered a review of the program. For the full report see: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09109.pdf>. Sources: [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/04/us/04immigrants.html?\\_r=1&scp=4&sq=immigration&st=cse](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/04/us/04immigrants.html?_r=1&scp=4&sq=immigration&st=cse) and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/03/AR2009030302333.html>
- A new study reports that Latinos now constitute the largest ethnic group in federal prisons. Mark Hugo Lopez of the Pew Hispanic Centre says Latinos account for 40 percent of prisoners nationwide. Nearly half of the Latin prison population has been jailed on immigration charges, followed closely by drug charges. Source: <http://www.democracynow.org/2009/3/19/headlines#17>.
- A New Jersey state panel on immigrant policy released recommendations on 30 March 2009 that include in-state tuition eligibility and driving privileges for undocumented immigrants. Governor Jon S. Corzine said he agrees that undocumented immigrants, especially those brought to the U.S. as children and attending local schools, should be able to pay in-state tuition at the state's public colleges. About ten US states allow undocumented immigrants to pay in-state tuition rates, and similar federal legislation, called the Dream Act, has been proposed in Congress. Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj-->

[immigrantrights0330mar30\\_0\\_3459804.story](http://immigrantrights0330mar30_0_3459804.story).

- Marcelo Ballve of motherjones.com reports that undocumented workers were the economic lifeblood of small towns like Postville, Iowa until the immigration police showed up. In his recent article 'A Year Without a Mexican: The Debilitating Loss of Economic Lifeblood' he tells the story of how the ICE raids have affected the economies of American towns. Source: [http://www.alternet.org/immigration/134419/a\\_year\\_without\\_a\\_mexican%3A\\_the\\_debilitating\\_loss\\_of\\_economic\\_lifeblood/?page=3](http://www.alternet.org/immigration/134419/a_year_without_a_mexican%3A_the_debilitating_loss_of_economic_lifeblood/?page=3).
- The difficulty of confirming the very existence of Ahmad Tanveer, 43, an immigration detainee from Pakistan who died in a New Jersey jail in 2005 due to health complications, shows how death can fall between the cracks in migrant detention, reports the New York Times. The case underscores the secrecy and lack of legal accountability that continues to shield the system from independent oversight, despite years of escalating Congressional inquiries and new efforts by Obama administration appointees to promote transparency. [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/03/nyregion/03detain.html?\\_r=1&th&emc=th](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/03/nyregion/03detain.html?_r=1&th&emc=th).
- The New York Times has made available a document listing the number of deaths of immigrants being held in detention centres throughout the US from October 2003 to February 2009. This document, which was compiled by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and obtained by The New York Times under the Freedom of Information Act, lists the names of 90 people who died, their dates of birth and death, their nationality, where they died or were last held, whether an autopsy report or death certificate was secured, and the cause of death. Some errors appear on the latest list and it omits at least one known death from 2008. Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/03/nyregion/03detainlist.html?\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/03/nyregion/03detainlist.html?_r=2). List of detainee deaths since 2003: [http://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/nyregion/ICE\\_FOIA2.pdf](http://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/nyregion/ICE_FOIA2.pdf), and previous list: [http://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/nyregion/ICE\\_FOIA.pdf](http://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/nyregion/ICE_FOIA.pdf).
- The US immigrant-detention population has tripled in the past decade, resulting in a lack of due process that has driven some detainees to attempt suicide, according to a report by Amnesty International. Those detained include asylum seekers, survivors of torture and human trafficking, lawful permanent US residents and the parents of US citizen children. While international human rights standards require that detention should be only used in exceptional circumstances, must be justified in each case and must be subjected to judicial review, US law provides that all individuals apprehended at the border "shall be detained" pending deportation proceedings. Amnesty International has recommended that detention becomes a last resort and that Congress pass legislation that would ensure immigrants have individual hearings to determine the need for detention. Amnesty International has also called on the US government to ensure humane treatment and enforceable human rights standards in all detention facilities housing immigration detainees. Source: <http://www.amnestyusa.org/document.php?id=ENGNAU200903269942&lang=e>
- Interfaith Worker Justice, a network of people of faith that calls upon their religious values in order to educate, organize, and mobilize the religious community in the United States, has launched a website called "Can my boss do that?.com". This website is one of their many projects to promote issues and campaigns that will improve wages, benefits, and conditions for workers, and give voice to workers, especially workers in low-wage jobs. <http://www.iwj.org/template/index.cfm>.

### **3. European Policy Developments**

#### **General**

- Relations between the EU and three countries of the Maghreb - Libya, Morocco and Algeria - became 'difficult' when they refused to sign readmission agreements in the framework of partnership with the EU, indicated Mr. Jacques Barrot, European Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs. Readmission agreements facilitate the return of irregular migrants found in Europe to their country of origin or transit. According to Barrot, the Maghreb countries should show 'more firmness' in the fight against irregular immigration. He is the official behind the creation of a European Office of asylum support which may send teams to 'sort' irregular immigrants in case of overflow of the reception services in any given member state. Under these new provisions, the host country will not be necessarily the one who hears applications for political asylum. Currently, under the Dublin II regulation, asylum seekers are automatically returned to the first EU country in which they arrived. Citing the case of Morocco, Barrot explained the Rabat government was refusing to sign a readmission agreement with Brussels to avoid having to accommodate Algerians passing through its territory. Source: <http://www.africanmanager.com/articles/121574.html> and <http://www.elwatan.com/Bruxelles-demande-au-Maghreb-plus,119303>, 11 mars 2009

### European Commission

- The European Commission has submitted its proposal to the Council for a decision concerning the conclusion of a Readmission Agreement between the European Community and Pakistan. Following a lengthy consultation and approval process on both sides, the agreed text was finalized in September 2008. The agreement establishes, on the basis of reciprocity, rapid and effective procedures for the identification and safe return of persons who do not, or no longer, fulfill the conditions for entry to, presence in, or residence on the territories of Pakistan or one of the member states of EU. Under certain conditions the readmission agreement also applies to third country nationals and stateless persons. The Council will decide on the conclusion of the agreement by qualified majority and the European Parliament will have to be formally consulted. Source: Ecre Weekly Bulletin, 20 March 2009 [www.ecre.org](http://www.ecre.org)
- Jacques Barrot, JLS Commissioner and Vice-President of the European Commission, participated in a fact-finding mission on 13 March regarding the detention conditions of immigrants on the island of Malta. His visit came a day after the departure of Médecins Sans Frontières from the detention centers. Visibly shocked by the critical state of the island's detention system, the Commissioner stressed the need to improve the conditions prevailing in the detention centers. He also pledged to make more funds available to Malta, on top of the money already allocated, in order to improve the centers. Finally, he emphasized that the creation of the European Asylum Support Office could lead to the setting up of a pilot programme to transfer asylum seekers from Malta to other EU Member States, hopefully by 2010. Mr Barrot stated that there were few other ways of proceeding as Malta could not continue taking more migrants without facing insurmountable problems. Source: Ecre Weekly Bulletin, 20 March 2009 [www.ecre.org](http://www.ecre.org)
- The European Annual Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion, released in March 2009, highlighted the fact that 16% of Europeans are living at risk of poverty and 8% of workers are still below the poverty line, with these figures likely to keep rising. The report makes several references to the situation of undocumented migrants, specifically in relation to health care access in Spain, Sweden and Luxembourg. The increased visibility of undocumented migrants in the Social Inclusion Social Protection Strategy was a key goal of PICUM's 2005-2007 project on 'Access to Health Care for Undocumented Migrants' and PICUM's reporting templates are available in seven languages on its website [www.picum.org](http://www.picum.org). Joint report by the European Commission and the Council of the

[National Reports on Strategies for Social Protection and Social Inclusion](#) submitted by the Member States available online at: [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/spsi/joint\\_reports\\_en.htm#2009](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/joint_reports_en.htm#2009).

## European Parliament

- The European Parliament adopted an own-initiative report on 10 March 2009 drafted by Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert (ALDE) dealing with a new block of measures on border management envisaged by the Commission. In a communication from February 2008, the European Commission revealed its intention of taking further steps to reach a 'truly integrated border management' in the European Union. Within this framework, three tools are envisaged: combination of an entry/exit system for all third country nationals (TCNs), a registered traveller status for 'low risk' travellers and an Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA). Whilst recognizing the need for stronger border controls, the European Parliament criticized the lack of a comprehensive master plan setting out the overall objectives of the EU's border management strategy. The Parliament expressed its concern that the proposed entry/exit system would not put an end to the 'overstay' phenomenon of third country nationals. Regarding the registered travel programme for TCNs, the Parliament criticised the use of the words 'low-risk' and 'bona fide' travellers for its implication that a huge number of travellers are considered as 'high-risk' or 'mala fide' and therefore recommend the term 'frequent travellers'. The Parliament also questions whether the proposed ESTA system was absolutely necessary, asking for a thorough explanation of the rationale behind it. Source: Ecre Weekly Bulletin, 13 March 2009 [www.ecre.org](http://www.ecre.org)
- The Erika III package, aimed at protecting Europe's coasts from maritime disasters and improving passenger and crew safety, was adopted by the European Parliament. The new rules provide for a range of measures including an independent authority to be set up in each member state with the power to launch rescue operations and decide where to take ships in distress. Under the directive on Vessel Traffic Monitoring, member states must designate a competent independent authority with the power to take decisions in the event of an accident or potentially dangerous situation. This should prevent precious time being lost in trying to reach agreement on matters such as where to take a ship in distress. The "competent authority" will take decisions on its own initiative, with the aim of protecting human lives, the coast and the maritime environment, as well as ensuring safety at sea and minimizing economic damage. The authority may: restrict the movement of the ship or direct it to follow a specific course; give official notice to the master of the ship to put an end to the threat on the environment or maritime safety; send an evaluation team aboard to assess the damage; deploy rescue workers; and organize the towing of the ship. Parliament's leading MEP on this directive was Dirk Sterckx (ALDE, BE). This Directive will enter into force in 2011. Source: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress\\_page/062-51397-068-03-11-910-20090310IPR51396-09-03-2009-2009-true/default\\_es.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/062-51397-068-03-11-910-20090310IPR51396-09-03-2009-2009-true/default_es.htm)

## Council of Europe

- Thomas Hammarberg, the Council of Europe's High Commissioner for Human Rights, presented his report on the human rights situation in the Netherlands on 11 March. The report is based on a visit carried out in September 2008. In his report the Commissioner has paid particularly close attention to the treatment of asylum seekers, children's rights and integration. Citing PICUM's 2007 report on Access to Health Care for Undocumented Migrants, he outlined the entitlement of irregular migrants to health care while they are in the Netherlands and welcomed the legislative reform adopted by Parliament in January 2009 to secure the financing of care for undocumented migrants. The Commissioner expressed his grave concern regarding plans to process more asylum applications through an enhanced accelerated procedure highlighting that a fast-track procedure is clearly unsuitable for vulnerable groups such as victims of violence and unaccompanied children and

therefore he urged the Dutch authorities to limit these procedure to clear-cut cases. The Commissioner called upon Dutch authorities to provide further alternatives to detention, keeping families united, and not to detain children, except in extraordinary circumstances precisely defined in law in accordance with the standards of the European Convention on Human Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Source: Ecre Weekly Bulletin, 13 March 2009 [www.ecre.org](http://www.ecre.org). Full report: <https://wcd.coe.int/com.instranet.InstraServlet?command=com.instranet.CmdBlobGet&InstranetImage=1172590&SecMode=1&DocId=1375982&Usage=2>

#### **4. Undocumented Children**

- *Judging Mohammed: Juvenile Delinquency, Immigration, and Exclusion at the Paris Palace of Justice* is a new book by Susan J. Terrio which explores the treatment of disadvantaged children of immigrant and foreign ancestry in France. These vulnerable children increasingly represent the majority of formal suspects and are portrayed as a threat to public safety and as the embodiment of the assault on 'French values'. The book includes a specific analysis of unaccompanied and undocumented minors who are disproportionately arrested and subject to prosecution for non-violent offenses at the Paris juvenile court, thus illustrating the processes whereby public authorities distinguish between the 'criminal vagrant' and the 'victimized child'. Source: <http://www.sup.org/book.cgi?id=12364>
- Save the Children Italy released a report on the living conditions of immigrant children in Italy, a group which constitutes almost eight thousand unaccompanied minors. Those arriving in Italy came mainly from Morocco, Egypt, Albania, Palestine, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Nigeria, Somalia and Iraq. The figures showed a 90.4% majority of males with 77% between 16 and 17 years of age. Save the Children in Rome have launched a project to promote and support immigrant children in a situation of marginalisation and exploitation. <http://sdpnoticias.com/sdp/contenido/2009/02/19/335001>
- 'Does Every Child Matter?' a report released by the UK's Refugee and Migrant Justice charity claims that Government guidelines on the treatment of children in the asylum process are being "routinely flouted" by UK Border Agency staff. Often denied access to lawyers, the report states that young people are regularly locked up and left to face a "culture of disbelief" among immigration officials. Highlighting genuine gaps in the government's code, the report shows that even where good provisions exist, they are routinely flouted. This report was published just two months after the UK Border Agency published its first Code of Practice for keeping children safe from harm. This is the first ever comprehensive review of children's experiences since the introduction of the Code. The Border Agency, which is part of the Home Office, said it rejected the 'vast majority' of the report's findings. [http://refugee-migrant-justice.org.uk/downloads/RMJ\\_Doeseverychild\\_Report2.pdf](http://refugee-migrant-justice.org.uk/downloads/RMJ_Doeseverychild_Report2.pdf)
- The European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) has released a new report on 'Developing indicators for the protection, respect and promotion of the rights of the child in the European Union' which proposes a comprehensive series of indicators to measure child rights across the EU. Indicators have been developed in the areas of family environment and alternative care; protection from exploitation and violence; education, citizenship and cultural activities; and adequate standard of living. The report is available on <http://fra.europa.eu>

#### **5. Undocumented Women**

- Women's Link Worldwide has released a set of fact sheets to present the findings of its project 'Migrant Women's Rights: An Invisible Reality'. The organisation interviewed 138 women from Sub-

Saharan Africa living in Morocco and Spain to expose violations of these women's human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights, and the multiple forms of violence migrant women face. These fact sheets are available for download in Spanish from their website:  
[http://www.womenslinkworldwide.org/pub\\_migrantwomen.html](http://www.womenslinkworldwide.org/pub_migrantwomen.html)

- The British Refugee Council has released two reports as part of its three-year Vulnerable Women's Project, an initiative working with vulnerable women who have claimed asylum in the UK. Highlighting evidence of rape and sexual violence among these women and the particularly vulnerable situation of those who become undocumented, the project has uncovered some disturbing evidence about their situation in their countries of origin and the lack of protection they receive in the UK. This research shows that those women who do manage to flee persecution and seek asylum in the UK are often faced with further hardships, such as destitution, as the asylum system fails to recognise their needs. Many women that the Refugee Council has worked with who have experienced severe forms of sexual violence have had their asylum claims refused. As a result of their undocumented status and enforced destitution, women become even more vulnerable, resulting in some experiencing further sexual violence in the UK, whether through prostitution or simply lacking a place of safety. The Refugee Council have released a Literature Review and Good Practice Guide which are now available for free download at:  
[http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/position/2009/vulnerable\\_women/](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/position/2009/vulnerable_women/)
- The organisations Medact and Maternity Action have prepared a set of information sheets on maternity rights for migrant women residing in an irregular situation in the UK. Separate information sheets have been developed to cover the rights and benefits of those who have been unsuccessful in the asylum process, refugees and asylum seekers. The factsheet may be downloaded at:  
[http://medact.org/content/reaching\\_out/maternityrightsundocumentedmigrantfeb09.pdf](http://medact.org/content/reaching_out/maternityrightsundocumentedmigrantfeb09.pdf)
- 'The HIV Vulnerabilities of Migrant Women from Asia to the Arab States,' a research report released by UNDP, sheds light on the complex relationship between migration and HIV vulnerability, with a special focus on the situation of Asian domestic workers in the Gulf States, many of whom are undocumented. Through in-depth and focus group discussions, the study discloses the vulnerabilities that Asian migrant women encounter throughout the migration cycle: often leaving for overseas work under unsafe conditions, living in very difficult circumstances, frequently targets of sexual exploitation and violence before they depart, during their transit and stay in host countries and on return to their countries of origin. With little or no access to health services and social protection, these factors combine to make Asian women migrants highly vulnerable to HIV. The report highlights several good practices in countries of origin and destination. Report is available online at: [http://www2.undprcc.lk/resource\\_centre/pub\\_pdfs/P1105.pdf](http://www2.undprcc.lk/resource_centre/pub_pdfs/P1105.pdf)
- The National Employment Law Project (NELP) has released two new versions of its "Rights Begin at Home" guidebooks for domestic workers and their advocates' for the states of California and Illinois. The guides aim to help workers, advocates and organizers defend domestic workers' rights within the context of existing labour laws and to identify gaps in legal protections to better inform legislative advocacy campaigns. The guides also include helpful information on local community and governmental resources. <http://www.nelp.org/site/publications/>
- The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has released its Global Report on Trafficking in Persons. Based on data gathered from 155 countries, the report offers the first global assessment of the scope of human trafficking and what is being done to fight it. According to the report, the most common form of human trafficking (79%) is sexual exploitation and its victims are predominantly women and girls. In 30% of the countries which provided information on the gender

of traffickers, women make up the largest proportion of traffickers and in some parts of the world, women trafficking women is the norm. The report includes an overview of trafficking patterns; legal steps taken in response; and country-specific information on reported cases of trafficking in persons, victims, and prosecutions. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html>

- The International House of Women in Rome, a meeting point and political rallying centre for Italian and migrant women, has released a statement against racism and sexism which has been ratified by several organisations. The joint declaration denounces Italy's current policies and legislation towards exploited and excluded migrants which fosters precariousness and feeds new forms of popular racism resulting in increased episodes of inhumanity and violence. The International House of Women seek to establish a cultural observatory of racism in Italy to chronicle media coverage, a legislative observatory to monitor recent decrees and bills, a geopolitical observatory to trace the effect of current conflicts upon the migration of women and finally, conduct an analysis of the living and working conditions of immigrant women in Italy with specific emphasis on their right to access health care. Blog and ongoing updates available at: <http://www.celestissima.org/italie-la-maison-internationale-des-femmes/>
- Migrant-hosting communities worldwide were reminded of the need to provide accessible, acceptable and affordable maternal and child health services for all migrants, irrespective of their legal status, in order to lessen the vulnerability of women to migration, in a statement released by the IOM - International Organization for Migration on 6 March 2009. The vulnerability of migrant women has been exacerbated to unacceptable levels by the lack of access to appropriate maternal and child health services which, despite its life-threatening and tragic implications, is often thought of preventative care. The IOM refer to recent evidence that women in an undocumented situation are at an increased risk of violence and sexual assault, are more likely to experience unwanted pregnancies due to a lack of access to family planning services, education and the result of sexual violence. The fear of deportation was also identified as a major barrier preventing irregular migrants from seeking care as their priority is to stay hidden in society. Source: <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/media/news-releases/newsArticleEU/cache/offonce?entryId=23934>

## **6. Upcoming Events**

- "Care and Migration", international conference with specific emphasis on irregular female migration, will take place on 23-24 April 2009 at the University of Frankfurt/Main, Germany. The conference will mainly examine the impact of the "reproductive crisis" in receiving countries while also shedding a light on its impact on sending countries. The conference will explore relevant issues including new conditions of domestic and care work, the impact of the financial crisis on social reproduction, the debate on paid care and citizenship as well as transnational care relations. Also, policy problems, particularly those pertaining "irregularity in the German context" will be discussed. <http://www.cgc.uni-frankfurt.de/care/>

## **7. Publications**

- "Sans papiers mais pas sans voix" (Without papers but not without a voice) is the title of the French NGO GISTI's most recent edition of its magazine 'Plein Droit'. Various articles examine labor rights of undocumented workers in France as well as the criminalization of undocumented migrants and those who provide them assistance. <http://www.gisti.org/spip.php?article1405>



*Status: een podium voor mensen zonder papieren* (Status: A Stage for People Without Papers), a book by Marietje Bohmer, was inspired by the theatre project "Status" produced by the Mamre project and the Rotterdams Wijktheater. Through the play, undocumented people were given the opportunity to share their experiences with other uprooted and interested people. The book describes the impact of the play on the producers, the actors, and the visitors to the performance. It has been translated from Dutch to English and can be ordered from the Mamre Foundation: [info@mamre.nl](mailto:info@mamre.nl).

- The Institute for Public Policy Research (ippr) has recently published a report entitled "The Economic Impacts of Migration on the UK Labour Market", as part of its Economics of Migration project. The project aims to shape thinking around the conceptualisation of the economic impacts of immigration, provide new evidence about the extent and nature of those impacts in the UK, and offer new insights as to how policy might best address migration to maximize economic benefit. <http://www.ippr.org.uk/research/teams/?id=85&tid=85>.
- *Enfermés dehors - Enquêtes sur le confinement des étrangers* (Enclosed Outside - Investigations on the confinement of aliens), coordinated by Carolina Kobelinsky and Chowra Makaremi, was released in March 2009. It presents a series of investigations - from observation missions and investigations over several years - and theoretical reflections on the removal of foreign populations in France but also elsewhere in Europe. <http://www.reseau-terra.eu/article877.html>.

## **8. PICUM News**

- The methods used by NGOs, trade unions and activists in Europe and in the United States to strengthen the position of undocumented migrant workers and defend their rights, as outlined in PICUM's publication *Ten Ways to Protect Undocumented Migrant Workers* (2005), have been highlighted in a textbox in the new report *World Migration 2008: Managing Labour Mobility in the Evolving Global Economy* by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). PICUM's textbox is featured in Chapter 11 of the report, "Formulation and Management of Foreign Employment Policies in Countries of Destination," pp. 314-316. The various chapters of the IOM report are available in pdf format at: <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/offonce/pid/1674?entryId=20275>.

PICUM staff and board members have recently spoken at the following events:

- **Federal Working Group on Health and Irregular Migration**, German Institute for Human Rights, Berlin, 4 March 2009. PICUM's Project Officer Martina Fava made a presentation on the EU "Clandestino" project, and provided the participants, mainly NGOs, GPs and academics, with an overview of PICUM's aims and activities.
- A report of the meeting entitled "**Zugang zur Gesundheitsversorgung von Menschen ohne Aufenthaltsstatus in Deutschland: Möglichkeiten, Grenzen und Lösungsansätze**" ("**Access to health care for people without residence status in Germany: possibilities, limitations and approaches**") is now available. The event took place on 19 November 2008 in Munich, Germany and was organized by Doctors of the World, Café 104, and IPPNW. It was attended by PICUM member Margret Spohn. [http://www.aerztewelt.org/Publikationen/Fachtag\\_MedVersorgungMenschenOhnePapiere\\_19Nov08.pdf](http://www.aerztewelt.org/Publikationen/Fachtag_MedVersorgungMenschenOhnePapiere_19Nov08.pdf).

## **9. Miscellaneous**

- Two Finish journalists have announced their initiative to make the first European photojournalism book about undocumented migrants. Seeking to increase awareness among Europeans about the daily life and struggles faced by undocumented migrants in their countries, the journalists will travel around Europe to meet those without papers and collect their stories for a photojournalism book that will be published in 2010. Those interested in sharing their experiences of living in an irregular situation and having their daily life and experiences documented or those interested in more information on this initiative are invited to contact Katja Tähjä [ktahja@gmail.com](mailto:ktahja@gmail.com) and Kaisa Viitanen [kaisaxviitanen@gmail.com](mailto:kaisaxviitanen@gmail.com).
- The Espace-Accueil aux étrangers in Marseilles, France held an photo exhibit of the work of Vera Schope from 9 March to 3 April 2009. The exhibit, which is called: '«Je suis la frontière» Entre Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, et El Paso, Texas, USA' ( I am the border: Between Ciudad Juarez Mexico and El Paso, Tezas USA), was part of an event organised by the students École Nationale Supérieure de la Photographie in which they not only had a photographic exposition but also held writing workshops around the notion of border. <http://www.millebords.org/spip.php?article10511>.
- The Centre for Transcultural Research and Media Practice of the University of Sussex, UK held a Public Seminar Series entitled: 'Negotiated Identities, Histories and Public Cultures' during the month of March. A seminar entitled: 'Border Country': Strategies of Representation, given by Melanie Friend on 25 March 2009, offers insight into the experiences of immigration detainees, particularly through the use of the voice as an emotional force acting as a counterpoint to the formal images of the institutions. <http://www.ctmp.ie/>

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