



PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

## PICUM Newsletter January 2009

*Finalized on 26 January 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.

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

- Two young migrants died on 11 November as a result of ill health after arriving on the Canary Island of El Hierro. One of the two arrived with 122 other men on 10 November, many of them suffering from hypothermia and dehydration. He was hospitalised along with five others in a serious condition and died the following day. The second youth had been in critical condition since his arrival on the island on 6 November. (Migration News Sheet, December 2008, p. 11)
- The Algerian authorities of the locality of Tanroufat reported on 12 November that they had found the bodies of six sub-Saharan migrants in an advanced state of decomposition in the south-eastern

Sahara region of Adrar. Two of the bodies were those of women but the absence of any documents made it impossible to identify them. The finding took place less than a week after 80 sub-Saharan migrants were located by the Algerian police in approximately the same region. The group told the Algerian police that they had been abandoned without water or food by members of a trafficking network who were supposed to take them to southern Europe. (Migration News Sheet, December 2008, p. 9)

- Four undocumented migrants died on 6 December when their boat capsized off the north-western coast of Turkey the Anatolia news agency reported. The rubber dinghy carrying 27 migrants, most of them Palestinians, sank off the village of Ayvalik. Twenty-three of them were rescued and assisted by coastguards but three men and one woman were pulled from the water dead.  
[http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcqi/w\\_articles\\_world\\_2\\_08/12/2008\\_102832](http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcqi/w_articles_world_2_08/12/2008_102832)
- An infant died in an attempt by a group of 19 men, three women and three children to cross the sea between Turkey and the Greek island of Samos. The Greek coastguard managed to rescue 24 people from the water after the dinghy in which they were travelling sank. (Avriani, 8 December 2008, 6 December)
- Three bodies, believed to be of undocumented migrants, washed ashore in north-western Turkey, Anatolia reported on 21 December. The dead men are believed to be either Somalis or Mauritians, who were among 12 people aboard a rubber dinghy which sank in bad weather in the Aegean Sea on 18 December. Two passengers managed to swim ashore to the town of Ayvacik in Canakkale province, three were rescued by the coast guard and four remain unaccounted for.  
[http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcqi/w\\_articles\\_world\\_2\\_22/12/2008\\_103228](http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcqi/w_articles_world_2_22/12/2008_103228)
- The Moroccan police killed a sub-Saharan immigrant on 1 January who tried to cross the fences to reach the Spanish enclave of Melilla. The immigrants heard gunfire from all sides, but continued while they saw some of their companions fall. "It was really a massacre" said one witness. More than twenty people injured as a result of attack. Fourteen of the group were arrested by the Gendarmeria and will be deported to the desert on the border between Morocco and Algeria.  
<http://archives.rezo.net/migreurop.mbox/200901.mbox/%3C879179.82488.qm@web23102.mail.ird.yahoo.com%3E>

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

### **UN**

- On 15 December 2008 Rwanda ratified the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (MWC). Rwanda is the 40th nation to ratify the convention. The MWC, which is the principal United Nations human rights convention on the rights of migrant workers and their family members, has now been ratified by 40 of the 192 UN member countries. <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/ratification/13.htm>
- The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has issued a document entitled "A Europe Without Barriers," containing its recommendations to the Czech Republic, which will take up the rotating Presidency of the European Union for a six-month period on 1 January 2009. UNHCR remains seriously concerned that current laws and practice within the European Union mean that persons in need of international protection are not necessarily able to find it throughout the Union. In the document, UNHCR urges the Czech Presidency to ensure the outcome of negotiations among the EU member states are consistent with international refugee law and human rights law.  
<http://www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/49477daf2.pdf>

## France

- The Réseau d'Education Sans Frontières (Movement Education Without Borders, RESF) kicked off their national campaign on undocumented youth. RESF report that although these youngsters have the same aspirations and the same future dreams as other youth, at 18 years of age, they find themselves undocumented and threatened with expulsion. To change what it terms as an unjust policy, RESF held two theatre and debate initiatives in Orleans on 16 and 17 January. For regular updates on this initiative, please visit <http://www.educationsansfrontieres.org/>
- The 1,300 undocumented workers who have occupied the Bourse de Paris for more than seven months have decided to direct their requests for regularization directly to the Council of State. On December 5 they organized a demonstration in front of the Council of State in the Palais Royal. After some hours of demonstration, two delegates of the workers were received by the Secretary General of the Council of State, to whom they addressed their requests. [http://bourse.occupee.free.fr/com/cp\\_csp75\\_10\\_12\\_08.pdf](http://bourse.occupee.free.fr/com/cp_csp75_10_12_08.pdf)
- After the success of testing at nightclub entrances, anti-discrimination testing in housing will start in France. The principle is the same: to reveal discriminatory practices which overseas French citizens suffer when trying to access to housing and bring the perpetrators, whether owners or estate agencies, to court. This is the aim of the Convention signed on 1 December by Christine Boutin, Minister for Housing, and Patrick Karam, inter-ministerial delegate for equal opportunities for overseas French citizens, together with anti-discrimination organisations. The Agency for Equal Opportunities (ACSE), SOS Racisme, the 'Maison des Potes' and leading organisations of overseas French citizens will participate in this action. <http://www.lefigaro.fr/immobilier/2008/12/01/05002-20081201ARTFIG00256-un-grand-testing-immobilier-contre-les-discriminations-.php>

## Spain

- The Premier of the region of Madrid, Esperanza Aguirre, issued a complaint to the Minister of Interior Alfredo Pérez Rubalcaba on 6 November, regarding how irregular migrants (including asylum-seekers unsuccessful in the first instance) benefit from free legal aid without any verification whatsoever of their financial means, a condition imposed on Spanish nationals and legally residing foreigners in Spain. Aguirre claimed that the regional government of Madrid was having to pay some €50 million per year to cover legal aid provided to immigrants and that this amount was increasing and requested the Central Government to contribute to such expenses. (Migration News Sheet, December 2008, p. 18)

## Italy

- Italy has committed itself to helping Malta to establish agreements to repatriate irregular immigrants in their country of origin, using theist available diplomatic channels. The announcement was made by the president of the Senates foreign affairs committee, Lamberto Dini, in an interview with the Maltese newspaper 'The Times'. Following the approval of the immigration treaty by the 27 European partners, he advised that Malta and Italy remained committed to putting pressure on all European institutions to put this treaty into action. <http://www.ansamed.info/en/malta/news/ME01.@AM48615.html>
- The working conditions of many poor African migrants in rural areas of southern Italy are "appalling", report the international medical charity MSF (Medecins Sans Frontieres). The charity, which calls the workforce an invisible and vulnerable army, says migrants live in dilapidated

buildings lacking the most basic hygiene. Thousands of Africans, many of them without papers, seek jobs as fruit pickers in the Calabria region. MSF says they are paid about €20 (£19; \$29) for 12 hours' work daily. They live in disused houses, hangars or abandoned factories, with no running water, electricity or heat, often surrounded by rubbish that attracts rats and packs of stray dogs, reports Antonio Virgilio, MSF's head of mission in Calabria. The organisation has distributed sleeping bags and hygiene kits to migrant workers in the region.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7790571.stm>

## UK

- In a decision made public on 4 November, a High Court judge, Lord Justice Sir Martin Moore-Bick, quashed a ruling handed down by an immigration tribunal last year ordering the expulsion of an undocumented Pakistani migrant, 28-year old Ahsan Sabri, on account of his conviction for reckless driving which resulted in the death of a 30-year old writer, Sophie Warne, in June 2004. The High Court judge accepted that Mr. Sabri's expulsion would amount to a violation of his right to family life, since he has been married to a British woman since 2007 and the couple have a daughter. (Migration News Sheet, December 2008, p. 7)
- The Security Industry Authority (SIA) revealed on 14 November that it had again issued three-year licences to foreigners without first verifying whether they had a work permit with the same period of validity. About a year ago, it was disclosed that this Authority had issued security clearance to some 6,600 foreigners who were not in possession of the required work permit. This enabled immigrants without valid work permits to work in government offices. (Migration News Sheet, December 2008, p. 11)
- London's Conservative mayor Boris Johnson has called for an "earned amnesty" for thousands of irregular immigrants living in London, claiming that the notion that they will one day be deported from the UK is implausible. He believes that an estimated 400,000 people should have chance to "earn" citizenship and contribute fully to society. Johnson is to commission a study into the feasibility of granting an amnesty for people living irregularly in the city. The results are expected in February 2009. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/nov/22/illegal-immigrant-amnesty-london/print#history-byline>

## Belgium

- In an interview published in the "Metro" newspaper on 24 November the immigration Minister Annemie Turtelboom clarified her position on irregular migrants in Belgium having been denounced by human rights organisations as being intransigent and callous. Pointing out that irregular migrants demanding residence permits were not asylum-seekers, she said that they were well aware of their situation by choosing to stay in Belgium irregularly. Those who do not make a distinction between an irregular migrant and an asylum-seeker are harming the latter, claimed Turtelboom. The Minister has still not issued instructions in order to implement an amnesty for irregular migrants. (Migration News Sheet, December 2008, p. 9)
- A large crowd of between 2000 and 4500 persons (civil society organisations and others) demonstrated in Antwerp on 14 December 2008 to demand the Belgian government adhere to its promises concerning undocumented migrants. According to the organisation 'Belofte maakt schuld', which is a platform of 148 organisations based in Antwerp, the Belgian government has been promising clear and objective criteria for regularisation for three years, whilst no definite circular on the issue has yet been established. As a result, many immigrants in Belgium are wrongly subject to long waiting procedures to obtain a residence permit. Source: Nieuwsblad, 15 December 2008

- More than 250 persons gathered on 24 December 2008 in front of the detention centre for undocumented migrants in Vottem, near Liege for a 'Christmas of resistance and solidarity'. They demanded the regularisation of undocumented migrants residing there. Three members of Parliament and two members of the CRACPE group (Collectif de Résistance Aux Centres Pour Etrangers) entered the building to hand over phone cards and to speak with the imprisoned. The other demonstrators lit candles to symbol shedding light what they termed the 'scandalous side' of Belgian asylum and immigration politics: the closed centres and the forced returns. Source: Nieuwsblad, 24 December 2008
- Almost 500 undocumented migrants held a manifestation in Ixelles/Elsene, Brussels, to demand implementation of the government's immigration policy. Gerardo Cornejo, spokesman for the Union pour la Défense des Sans-Papiers (UDEP) stated that if a clear answer was not received by 22 January, there was a risk that the protestors would take harder actions, such as a hunger strike. As the regulation dossier was blocked during the last months, Prime Minister Van Rompuy has promised to take care of a solution soon. Metro, Flemish edition, 8 January, p.2.

### Netherlands

- The Health Care Insurance Board (CVZ - College voor Zorgverzekeringen) published a list of the Care Institutions contracted to provide "non-direct accessible" necessary health care to undocumented migrants. For direct care, the CVZ does not work with contracted institutions. 80% of the costs for this care will be compensated. The 1 January 2009 marks the starting date of the new health care system for undocumented migrants (see newsletters July and November '08). More information on [www.cvz.nl](http://www.cvz.nl) or [www.lampion.info](http://www.lampion.info)
- The Pardon regulation, providing a residence permit for around 27.500 ex-asylum seekers, ended definitively on 1 January 2009. Several emergency reception centers (noodopvang) have to close because of the lack of funding. In these reception centres, ex-asylumseekers without accommodation were housed. The closure of these reception centres was part of the agreement of the Pardon regulation. Source: Stichting LOS newsletter 5-26

### Poland

- The recently published Social Watch Annual Report 2008 '*Rights is the answer*' contains a section devoted to the situation of civil and human rights in Poland entitled "Human rights implementation – mystification or truth?" In the report, the international NGO watchdog Social Watch discusses the Poland's alleged secret detention centers, in addition to naming the country's shortcomings in such areas as the provision of sexual and reproductive rights, racial and gender equality and mobility access for the disabled.  
Source: Social Watch Report 2008 *Rights is the answer*, pp. 172-173,  
<http://www.socialwatch.org/en/informeImpreso/pdfs/SocialWatch-Report-2008-eng.pdf>.

### Switzerland

- The Swiss Socialists announced a legislative initiative on 3 November which aims to improve the daily lives of rejected asylum-seekers who are no longer entitled to social welfare assistance. As destitute persons, they may only receive emergency aid, which consists of accommodation, clothing and meals. In reducing assistance to the very strict minimum necessary for survival, the current policy seeks to compel them to leave Switzerland as soon as possible. (Migration News Sheet, December 2008, p. 19)

- In a ruling handed down on 4 November and made public two weeks later, the Supreme Administrative Court (TF) upheld the conviction of a foreigner living in Switzerland without authorisation who was sanctioned twice for the same offence, the second time because he was still in the country. The TF ruled that there was nothing to prevent courts from punishing a person for irregular stay several times as long as he or she continued to ignore the obligation to leave the country. His lawyer lodged an appeal, arguing that a person cannot be punished twice for the same offence as this would be contrary to both Swiss and international law. (Migration News Sheet, December 2008, p. 11)
- One hundred and fifty undocumented migrants had occupied the Prediger Kirche church in Zurich since 19 December. A rally was held simultaneously in Lausanne. Supported by migrant organizations, these migrants and failed asylum seekers claimed the right to stay and work in dignity on Swiss soil. The Zurich authorities have never applied for a collective regularization, while a large proportion of 90 000 irregular immigrants reside and are unofficially employed in this canton. On 3 January all migrants left the Prediger church and were welcomed by the St Jakob am Stauffacher church, also in Zurich. This action was one of the requirements State Councillor Hans Hollenstein had posed in order to organize a meeting between him and the migrants.  
<http://www.lecourrier.ch/index.php?name=NewsPaper&file=article&sid=441225> and  
<http://www.24heures.ch/actu/suisse/cantons-depassees-demandes-asile-2009-01-04>

## USA

- The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), in the 12-month period which ended 30 September 2008, deported a record number of undocumented migrants. 349,041 individuals were forcibly removed from the US throughout the year, which marks an increase from 288,663 deportees in 2007 and 116,460 removals in 2002. Although ICE claims that this policy reflects their commitment to the American people to ... [secure the] borders and [strengthen the] nation's immigration system, critics state that deportations through raids, arrests, and detentions discriminately target migrant workers and tear apart their families.  
<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/americas/story/760558.html>

## **3. European Policy Developments**

### **European Commission**

- On 3 December, the Commission published its 'Asylum Package' Proposals to amend three of the existing legislative instruments of the Common European Asylum System: the Dublin Regulation which determines the Member State responsible for an asylum application, the Directive on Reception Conditions for asylum-seekers; and the Eurodac Regulation, a database containing the fingerprints of asylum seekers which supports the operation of the Dublin Regulation. Commission Vice-President Jacques Barrot, the Commissioner responsible for Freedom, Security and Justice, stated their aim was to put asylum seekers at the heart of a 'human and fair procedure'. He claimed that the amending proposal of the Reception Condition Directive sought to ensure that detention was used only in exceptional cases by providing legal safeguards to ensure that it was not used arbitrarily, guaranteeing children were not detained unless it is in their 'own interest' and ensuring that unaccompanied minors are never detained. Moreover, the Vice-President stated these amendments would facilitate access to the labor market and ensure that further restrictions applied by Member States do not hinder actual access to employment. The Commission proposals will only become EU law after its negotiation and formal adoption by the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament within the framework of the co-decision procedure. The Commission expects that the negotiations will take approximately two years. Source: Ecre Weekly Bulletin, 5

December 2008 [www.ecre.org](http://www.ecre.org) and <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1875&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

- The European Commission recommended on 17 November that the Council open negotiations on agreements to facilitate the issuance of short-stay visas and on readmission between the European Community and Cape Verde. Vice President Jacques Barrot, the Commissioner responsible for Justice, Freedom and Security, claimed that the Commission proposals constituted a balanced approach by simplify travel conditions to and within the EU for citizens of Cape Verde, whilst ensuring the return on those who irregularly stay in the EU to their home country. (Migration News Sheet, December 2008, p. 2)

### **Council of Europe**

- Thomas Hammarberg, Council of Europe commissioner for human rights, flew to Alexandroupolis, in Greece, to inspect the Feres border post, the Fylakio holding facility for irregular migrants and the nearby minefields at Kastanies reporting that the conditions were absolutely 'condemnable' and 'in violation of international standards'. At Feres, inmates are locked up 24 hours a day in overcrowded rooms, while at Fylakio inmates lack legal assistance and adequate healthcare. The Commissioner said he is planning to issue a report, while he also commented that the matter has not been given sufficient political priority in Greece. He agreed however with the argument that Europe should be displaying greater solidarity with Greece. Source: Athens Plus, 24 December 2008

### **Committee of the Regions**

- Speaking during a plenary session of the Committee of the Regions (CoR), in November, José Barroso, President of the European Commission, said he would like to involve regions and municipalities more closely in measures relating to migration policy, as requested by a CoR opinion on a common immigration policy drafted by Werner Jostmeier (EPP/DE), chairman of the North Rhine-Westphalian *Landtag's* executive committee. Jostmeier stressed that an effective EU migration policy would only be possible if local and regional authorities were more closely involved and stakeholders given the resources they need. The EU fund for integration of migrants is part of a more general programme, 'Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows', which provides €825 million for the period 2007-2013. €768 million is to be distributed among member states in proportion to their respective numbers of legal resident immigrants. €57 million will be invested in cross-border Community action. <http://www.euractiv.com/en/socialeurope/barroso-ease-access-eu-migrant-integration-fund/article-177601>

## **4. Undocumented Children**

- At the end of a meeting of a mixed Moroccan-Spanish working group on migration on 11 November, the Spanish immigration Minister Consuelo Rumi, informed that the two sides had decided to implement an action plan to curb the arriving of unaccompanied Moroccan children in Spain. While the number of such children has fallen in the last few years but both sides agreed that action had to be taken to further reduce the flow in view of the risks and dangers of making the perilous journey by sea to Spain that are much greater than for adults. (Migration News Sheet, December 2008, p. 28)
- Bhatt Murphy, a UK firm of solicitors, is representing six young refugees who arrived in the UK as unaccompanied minors, but were nonetheless treated as adults and held in detention. At least three

of them were detained alongside adults for up to two weeks. Each one is suing the Home Office for false imprisonment and breaches of human rights as a result of the actions of the Immigration Service. (Migration News Sheet, December 2008, p. 19)

- European Roma organizations said at a conference held on 12-13 November in Prague that the Czech government has failed to prevent the segregation of Roma children into primary schools intended for children with mental disabilities. The charge, backed by research conducted earlier this year, comes exactly one year after the European Court of Human Rights ruled in the “Ostrava case” that such a practice represents unlawful discrimination under European law. According to research conducted by the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) and the Roma Education Fund (ERF), Roma children represented more than a half of the student population in 14 out of 19 of those special schools visited by the researchers.  
<http://aktualne.centrum.cz/czechnews/clanek.phtml?id=622046>
- On 20 November 2008, on the occasion of International Day of the Rights of the Child, several organizations who had recently founded the association “For the rights of children without legal status”, have officially launched the Swiss campaign ‘No child is illegal’. The association aims to educate the public about the situation of children without residence permits and aims to improve their situation. <http://www.sans-papiers.ch/site/index.php?id=189>
- On 2 December, a child of twelve years old committed suicide in the center for migrant minors ‘Picon’. The circumstances surrounding the death are not entirely clear; the only detail that has been released is that the child was detained in the center for about 15 days. The center, run by the Foundation ‘O Belen, was already denounced two years ago for mistreating children. In less than two months four children have denounced the abuse and violations of human rights they have suffered there. <http://melillafronterasur.blogspot.com/2008/12/un-nio-de-12-aos-se-suicida-en-un-centro.html>
- On December 10, near Venice, an Afghan child fell from the truck under which he was travelling toward Italy from Patras in Greece and died. He was 11 years old. He was the seventh victim to die in the Italian Adriatic ports during 2008. Fortunately the intervention of UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) and CIR (Italian Council for Refugees) compelled the authorities to allow them to apply for asylum thus preventing their return to Patras, as happened to 10 Afghans returned to Ancona the previous day. Meanwhile a network of Italian associations has been created in Venice in order to monitor the situation of the Adriatic ports.  
<http://www.meltingpot.org/articolo13723.html>
- On December 22, Human Rights Watch (HRW) published a 111-page report “Left to Survive: Systematic Failure to Protect Unaccompanied Migrant Children in Greece”. The report documents the abuses of unaccompanied migrant children at the hands of Greek officials, including coast guards, regular police and port police officers, and denounces the fact that unaccompanied children are at risk of incidents of torture, such as mock executions, and inhuman or degrading treatment, including routine kicking and beatings. Some 1,000 migrant children without parents or caregivers have entered Greece in 2008, and Human Rights Watch levels harsh criticism at the Greek authorities accusing the European Union member state of flouting its most basic obligations when it comes to meeting the rights of these children, many of whom come from war-torn countries, including Afghanistan, Somalia, and Iraq, with special protection needs. The report issues recommendations to the government of Greece and the European Union, stressing that the EU



should press Greece to take appropriate action.

[http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/greece1208web\\_0.pdf](http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/greece1208web_0.pdf)

- ALL I WANT IS TO LAND! is the final report from Utanpapper.nu, a helpline for undocumented children. This project was operated by Save the Children Sweden for two years. The report contains advice on how to support undocumented children, voluntarily or professionally. There is also a chapter about children in migration, and which consequences could follow if migrating children are always presented as victims. The report stresses that undocumented children are often victims of war, repression and migration policy, they are also individuals with rights, hope and dreams for the future. The report now can be downloaded in English: <http://www.utanpapper.nu/land>

## **5. Upcoming Events**

- The organization Fédération Entraide Protestante will hold an event 'Mobilisations Collectives & Cercles de Silence' (Collective Mobilisations and Circles of Science) on 24 January in Paris. In the morning, there will be presentations on undocumented workers and migrants in detention, while during the afternoon an introduction and reflection about protest actions will be held. For more information, see <http://www.fep.asso.fr/>.
- The organizations 'Confédération Paysanne', the 'Sindicato de Obreros del Campo de Andalucia' and 'Amorce' will hold a seminar and photo exhibition on the topic 'Précarité de la main d'oeuvre saisonnière et agriculture industrielle' (The lack of job insecurity of season workers and workers in industrial agriculture) in Brussels on 28 January. The agricultural sector employs many (undocumented) migrant workers. During the seminar there will be discussions about the rights of these workers and the effectiveness of European policy in this sector. For more information, email Nicolas Duntze on [duntzenico.la@orange.fr](mailto:duntzenico.la@orange.fr).
- The event 'The pathways and experiences of undocumented migrants' held in the Graduate Centre of the London Metropolitan University will take place on 4 February 2009. It will be the Final Conference marking the successful completion of the University's project on Undocumented Worker Transitions. For the full agenda and to book a place please visit [www.undocumentedmigrants.eu](http://www.undocumentedmigrants.eu) and go to the section on Conference.
- The University of Utrecht and the Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings are organizing the academic conference *Human trafficking, turning our attention to labour exploitation* on 13 February 2009 in Utrecht, the Netherlands. The conference aims for an interdisciplinary debate on human trafficking, with an emphasis on labour exploitation. It is possible to register by sending an email to [kennispunt.rebo@uu.nl](mailto:kennispunt.rebo@uu.nl) (Please provide: name, organization and position). Because of the limited number of seats we recommend you register as soon as possible. Participation is free of charge.

## **6. Publications**

- With the United States now officially in a recession and the economic pain being shared in countries around the world, immigration flows – both regular and irregular and both to and from the United States - are being affected by tighter labour markets. With this objective, the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) held a breakfast briefing for the release of a new report, *Immigration and the Current Economic Crisis*, which examines the evidence on how immigrants fare and behave during recessions as far back as the Great Depression of the 1920's. More information on <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/>

- The International Catholic Migration Commission's (ICMC) recently released publication, entitled 'Dignity Across Borders', providing a gaps analysis regarding migrants and their families in today's societies and presenting 35 concrete recommendations for addressing the identified gaps. This publication is based on a consultation on migration with ICMC members throughout Asia, held in Manila in August 2008 and organised by ICMC, in cooperation with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines. You can download the report on <http://www.icmc.net/e/index.htm>
- The study *Migration and Irregular Work in Austria. A Case Study of the Structure and Dynamics of Irregular Foreign Employment in Europe at the Beginning of the 21st Century* by Michael Jandl (et al) derives many of its insights from systematic in-depth interviews with migrants themselves. It catalogues how over the past few years, particularly in the context of progressive EU-enlargement in Europe, new manifestations of "irregular migrant work" has evolved. Moreover, the authors convincingly argue that irregular migrant work is based on both supply and demand, and is therefore unlikely to fade away in the foreseeable future. [http://www.aup.nl/do.php?a=show\\_visitor\\_book&isbn=9789089640536&l=2](http://www.aup.nl/do.php?a=show_visitor_book&isbn=9789089640536&l=2)
- In the book *Illegal Migration and Gender in a Global and Historical Perspective*, Marlou Schrover (et al) combines irregular migration and the role of gender in irregular migration and views the migration scholarship through the lens of a gender perspective, investigating definitions of citizenship and the differences in mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion for men and women, producing a comprehensive account of irregular migration in Germany, the Netherlands, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, Mexico, Malaysia, the Horn of Africa and the Middle East over the nineteenth- and the twentieth centuries. You can order the book on [http://www.aup.nl/do.php?a=show\\_visitor\\_book&isbn=9789089640475](http://www.aup.nl/do.php?a=show_visitor_book&isbn=9789089640475)
- People are becoming increasingly mobile within and across borders to meet the social and economic challenges of globalisation with the search for employment at the heart of most 21<sup>st</sup> century movements, according to the World Migration Report 2008 launched on 2 December by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The report, focusing on the theme of 'Managing Labour Mobility in the Evolving Global Economy', argues that demands for increased efficiency in production as a response to fierce global competition has meant that workers, independent of their geographical location, are increasingly living in an inter-connected world of work, resulting in greater labour mobility. <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/newsArticleEU/cache/offonce?entryId=20343>
- Thomas Hammarberg, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, has issued a report following his visit to the Republic of Cyprus on 7-10 July 2008. In the course of the visit, the Commissioner held discussions with State authorities and non-governmental organizations on a number of human rights issues, focusing on asylum, detention of migrants and trafficking in human beings. The report concludes that encouraging steps have been undertaken, but more efforts are needed to handle migration issues and combat trafficking in human beings. Commissioner Hammarberg is concerned about migrants awaiting deportation and the conditions and length of detention of rejected asylum-seekers. <https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1385749&Site=CommDH&BackColorInternet=FEC65B&BackColorIntranet=FEC65B&BackColorLogged=FFC679>
- In a new report, "Kids Abroad", the organization Terre des Hommes reviews a wide range of initiatives to support children who leave home without being accompanied by any other family member, discussing the situation in Western and South Eastern Europe and also in West Africa, Central America, South Asia and South East Asia. The study criticises the way that children travelling alone are treated in some countries, but focuses primarily on what can be done within the

limitations of the law to assist such children and enable them to exercise their human rights. It notes that in countries where immigration policy (and detaining irregular immigrants) is a government priority, it is difficult for Terre des Hommes or other organisations to give separated children the support that child rights organisations know to be appropriate (and to which the children are often entitled), for fear that they will be accused of infringing the law.

<http://www.terredeshommes.org/index.php?page=res.pre&lang=en#kidsabroad>

## **7. Miscellaneous**

- Figures from a recent report issued by Eurostat reveal that 40% of the 3 million foreign immigrants who settled in a country of the EU27 in 2006 were citizens of the European Union. The largest foreign immigrant groups in the EU27 were citizens of Poland (290,000 people), Romania (230,000 people), Morocco (140,000 people) and the UK (100,000 people).  
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=STAT/08/162&type=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>
- “Cities of Migration” is a new international initiative capturing innovative and inspiring integration practices from cities around the world. Under the themes of Work, Live, Learn, Connect and Plan, Cities of Migration will profile good ideas in integration. Each story includes contact information, a searchable e-library with resources for further reading and city-level information to help users adapt these practices locally. Officially launching in March 2009, the initiative will begin by hosting a series of open monthly seminars on innovation in integration. <http://citiesofmigration.ca/>
- A new play about undocumented migrants, developed and produced by the Ice and Fire theatre company, was premiered in London's Soho Theatre in November to a full house. 'The Illegals' aims to challenge negative images of undocumented migrants by presenting a set of true stories, told by actors. The play features seven characters, based on interviews with undocumented migrants. It will be available for showings across the country on request. For more information visit <http://www.iceandfire.co.uk/afhr/productions.html#Illegals>
- Today, almost 175 million people are thought to be living outside their countries of origin. 86 million of them are migrant workers. And the number is growing. [www.gurn.info](http://www.gurn.info), the website of the Global Union Research Network clarifies the link between labour, trade unions and migration. Several conventions and trade union approaches are presented.
- To avoid that arrests and expulsions of undocumented migrants become invisible in our collective memory, the project 'Disparitions' have created an online information system and telephone number +32(0)954640852 to challenge the dehumanized representation of undocumented migrants living in France by cataloguing and retelling their accounts of arrests, detention and deportation. Source: <http://www.disparitions.eu/>

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