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NEWS LETTER, volume 1 nr 11

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Ministry counts illegal migrants

According to recent research the Wetenschappelijk Onderzoeks- en Documentatie Centrum (Dutch Centre for Scientific Examination and Documentation) there are supposed to be 100,000 illegal migrants in the Netherlands. Of these migrants:

- 33% are women
- 10% are older than 40 years
- 25% are Asian, 23% are Sub-Sahara African and 11% are North African
- 66% are asylum seeker who have exhausted all legal remedies

- 3.5% reside in Amsterdam, 3% in The Hague, 7.5% in Rotterdam and 12.5% in Utrecht.

Experiential experts challenge these figures.

The LOS foundation is the supporting organization for the assistance of migrants without residence permits. By means of this newsletter we inform you of current developments. If you have any questions about this newsletter or about the rights of migrants without residence permits, please feel free to contact LOS.

1. Basic rights

Protest march by Somali asylum seekers who have exhausted all legal remedies

On the 4th of July approximately 30 Somali asylum seekers held a protest march. They protested because they have been thrown out on the street and are no longer entitled to shelter and support.

2. Admission policy

Change of legal dues adjusted

The legal dues for applications for prolonged residence due to domestic violence, honour-related violence, abandonment or human trafficking will be raised from 331 to 350 euro and not to 950 euro as was stated earlier.

It is allowed to report marital rape during the second asylum application

As a rule, reasons for fleeing must be reported immediately during the first application. The woman in this case did not dare to report that her husband was abusing her because he, too, was to come to the Netherlands at a later stage. The court of appeal accepted this application because it was supported by a psychiatrist. The content of this woman's second asylum application must as yet be attended to.

Women in Nigeria can avoid genital mutilation

The Council of State decided that genital mutilation is no reason for asylum for Nigerian women, because they can flee to a different part of Nigeria.

Application residence for Dutch child is denied if the Dutch parent still provides care

Various applications for residence for Dutch children on the basis of the European Court's decision in the Zambrano case have been rejected. The Immigration and Naturalization Service and the courts of appeal are of the opinion that this decision does not apply if the Dutch parent still plays a part.

3. Check and Deportation

As of 11 October Visa registrations will take effect

On 11 October, the VIS, the Visa Information System of the EU, will be launched. In future people who travel with a visa will be registered on entering and leaving the EU. Because of this measure overstayers (people who stay for a longer period of time than is allowed) will be detected. The VIS will start by registering North-African visa.

Alternative for detention of aliens

According to the court of appeal an illegal man from Suriname is allowed to stay with his brother and therefore does not have to go into detention of aliens.

Return to Somalia impossible

The Council of State recognizes that return to Somalia is not possible.

4. What can be done?

Surprising Europe, The Television Magazine!

Africans in ten European countries have decided to show the reality of their lives in the TV programme Surprising Europe. Hope, chances and opportunities will be discussed, but also the culture shock, struggle for life and strange European traditions. See: www.surprisingeurope.com.

From Friday 8 July during the entire summer every week at 16.30 on Nederland 2 (HUMAN). From 8 August weekly on Al Jazeera English (4 repeats: Monday: 23.30; Tuesday: 10.30; Wednesday: 04.30; Thursday: 17.30).

De "Kleine Gids" rights of undocumented children 2011

Undocumented children have the same children's rights as any other child. This 'Kleine Gids' helps professionals assert these rights. De Kleine Gidsen , Edition 2011, € 17,50

FRA: Migrants in an irregular situation employed in domestic work: Fundamental rights challenges for the European Union and its Member States

This <u>report</u> is the result of research by the Fundamental Rights Agency about the situation of migrants in an irregular situation employed in the domestic work sector.

Report experiences with the B9 regulation

BlinN and lawyers observe that it is increasingly difficult to safely report human trafficking and that the obligatory B9 status is often withheld. We ask you to notify us of frustrating experiences when you tried to report cases of human trafficking to the authorities. Please contact:

Tess Neijzen, Leidraad Advocaten, 071-5280480, <u>theijzen@leidraadadvocaten.nl</u> Bernice Boermans, BLinN, Tel 020-5231100, <u>b.boermans@blinn.nl</u> In the meantime the minister set up an interdepartmental working group to investigate abuse of the B9 regulation.

Report experiences with the migrant workers convention

The Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW) have agreed to hold a Day of General Discussion (DGD) on Undocumented Migrant Workers on 19 September in Geneva, Switzerland. For those who are unable to attend, we encourage you to send in statements in Word document format, not more than 2 pages to <u>migrantsrightsinternational@gmail.com</u>.

Communications Procedure of the Commission on the Status of Women

UNWomen would like to remind individuals, NGOs, group or networks that they can submit communications (complaints/appeals/petitions) to the Commission on the Status of Women. The final date of submission is 1 August 2011. For further information and details of the procedure to follow please refer to the UNWomen website.