

NEWSLETTER, year 2 no. 10

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CONTENTS	PAGE	
1. BASIC RIGHTS 2. ADMISSION POLICY 3. CHECK AND DEPORTATION 4. WHAT CAN BE DONE?	2	
		3

IRAQIS, SOMALIS AND IRANIANS INTO ACTION AGAINST ASYLUM POLICY

On Tuesday 8 May, a group of 65 Iraqis set up a camp at Ter Apel. Part of the group had been evicted from alien detention, since there was no longer any prospect of deportation. Others had been evicted from the Freedom Restriction Centre. They are asking for reception and conferral of refugee status. In the course of last week, a number of Somalis joined in; they find themselves in the same situation. Meanwhile, two Iranians arrived as well.

The minister opines that the asylum seekers have been given a fair trial, that they can return independently, and that he is not obliged to provide shelter for those who do not wish to return. For frequent updates of the information (in Dutch) go to www.vluchtelingenopstraat.blogspot.com or https://stil2.wordpress.com

1. BASIC RIGHTS

<u>Médecins du Monde (Doctors of the World): 29% of migrants without residence permit lacks medical</u> care

A survey in 5 European cities reveals that an average of 46% of the migrants without residence permits has no access to medical care. In Amsterdam, this amounted to 29%. Many problems in Amsterdam may be solved by means of giving information to care professionals. They often do not know that they can have their costs reimbursed by the Healthcare Insurance Board (CVZ). (Source: *Medisch Contact*, 20 April 2012)

Court: youths without residence permits are entitled to work placements

The court has found that work placements constitute an integral part of education. Thus, they must be accessible to young people without residence permits. Student trainees do not displace legal employees and the work placement does not result in additional 'rooting' (Court of The Hague, 403618/HA ZA 11/2443, 2.5.12).

2. ADMISSION POLICY

IND: entry ban is lifted when authorization for temporary stay is granted

Migrants who do not return after a return order, receive an entry ban. Residence following an entry ban is punishable, and by law it is also impossible to be granted a residence permit. Nevertheless, the IND has conceded in a letter that the entry ban will be lifted when the migrant applies for an authorization for temporary stay from his or her country of origin, which is granted (letter by IND dated 1.5.12)

Council of State: pronouncement of undesirability lifted, as father must have contact with daughter. This case concerns a father who primarily has telephone contact with his daughter. According to youth care, the contact with her father is very important to the daughter. The contact is now being impeded due to the pronouncement of undesirability of the father. The court found that the Pronouncement of undesirability is not in the interest of the child. The Council of State concurs, the Pronouncement of undesirability is lifted (Council of State 201101008/1/V1, 1.5.12)

3. CHECK AND RETURN

Three Reception Centres (AZCs) are turned into Family Locations

Three AZCs have been or will be turned into family locations. As from May 1st, the Den Helder reception centre is a family location, Emmen and Amersfoort are to follow.

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Court: no prospect on deportation to Sierra Leone

Since the Sierra Leone embassy does not issue laissez-Passers if people do not return voluntarily, there is no longer any 'prospect of deportation' and Sierra Leoneans must be released from alien detention (Court of Utrecht AWB 12/11232 25.4.12)

4. WHAT CAN BE DONE?

The Netherlands takes exam before the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva

On 31 May, the Netherlands is to uphold its human rights report before the UN Human Rights Committee. In the report, the Netherlands also writes a feature on the criminalization of illegal residence. According to the government, the criminalization is intended to discourage illegal residence. Aid workers will not be punished, the government claims, while medical care and education are still accessible.

Non-government organizations (NGOs) wrote a shadow report and on 31 May, the National Human Rights Institute organizes a 'side-event' Read all the reports on:

http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRNLStakeholdersInfoS13.aspx

<u>Demonstration Refugees are People!</u> (Vluchtelingen zijn mensen!) 19 May 13.00 hrs Maastricht We call the inhabitants of Limburg, its citizens and its organizations to support us in our fight for a just and humane refugee policy.

Further information and entry (in Dutch only): http://www.samenkanhetanders.nl/

Symposium on Return of human trafficking victims, 12 H=June 13-17.00 hrs, Amersfoort
In an era in which reports of human trafficking are quickly dropped and other residence permits are only granted with great reluctance, return to countries of origin loom up more prominently for victims of human trafficking. How do we deal with this as aid workers and as organizations?

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