

Interassociative press release (by ASSFAM, Forum Réfugiés-Cosi, France terre d'asile, La Cimade, Ordre de Malte France)
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Detention centres: associations demand the modification of the immigration bill

The four joint report by the five associations which are present in the *centres de rétention administrative* (CRAs, administrative detention centres) note the persistence of serious violations of detainees' fundamental rights.

In 2013, over 45,000 people were denied their freedom. The number of forced returns also rose, reaching a figure of 44,458 people, compared with 36,652 in 2012. The number of people sent back using the mechanism of assisted returns, in turn, has considerably decreased. The year 2013 also saw an increase in the number of detained children, mainly in Mayotte, where 3,512 minors were detained in comparison with 2,575 in 2012.

This report reveals some absurd practices that do not serve their declared political goals. Over 60% of these people experience forced returns from the mainland in member states of the European Union. The record figure for the detention of European citizens, most of whom are Romanians, was beaten in 2013. Around half of the returns were concentrated in overseas territories, basically involving citizens from bordering countries.

This policy is enacted at the expense of an effective access to justice for the removed people who are denied the oversight of a judge from the judicial circuit, for 54% of those on the mainland and 99% in overseas territories. Without the judge examining the procedure, the administration can thus act without the risk of being punished. However, when they have the possibility of defending their rights, 27% of the people who are detained are freed by a judge, a figure that shows the unlawfulness of a large part of the procedures.

When reading the bills concerning asylum and migrants' law that will be discussed soon in the Assemblée [the lower house of parliament], there are no measures envisaged to change tack. Heard during the consultations organised by the interior ministry in 2013, our associations have seen that our proposals were not maintained. The bill on the law for foreigners does not mark a break with a removals policy that is based on large-scale detention and carried out at the expense of rights. Our analyses, testimonies and fact-finding activities in the field call, once again, for a change of policy and effective respect for the fundamental rights of people placed in detention.

[translated by Statewatch]

Full-text of the report (pdf in French):

Centres et Locaux de Rétention Administrative. Rapport 2013

http://cimade-production.s3.amazonaws.com/publications/documents/95/original/RAPPORT_RETENTION_2013.pdf?1416308482