



## APPEAL

### JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TO SHUT DOWN TEMPORARY HOLDING CENTRES FOR MIGRANTS IN EUROPE BY SIGNING THIS PETITION

**T**hese days, immigration is one of the main issues on the European Union's agenda. Soon, the European Parliament will begin debating a proposal for a directive establishing **"Common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegal staying third-country nationals"**.

The proposed directive is applicable to all third-country nationals, illegally staying in one of the Member States, and does not take into account the reasons for their irregular status. From the content of the proposal, it is clear that the Commission is taking a repressive approach to the regulation of the "phenomenon of migration" - concentrating on 'the fight against illegal immigration'.

The proposal includes many objectionable points. In particular, we would like to highlight the institutionalisation of administrative detention in temporary holding centres. **With this legislation, such detention would become extendible to a maximum of six months.**

- The conditions in migrant holding centres are very similar, sometimes even worse, than those in prisons. Following visits to holding centres, NGOs, international agencies, parliamentary delegations and journalists have denounced **the iniquity, inhumanity and degradation of these places, where human rights and fundamental freedoms are often violated and violence used against migrants.**
- **Administrative detention is legally absurd**, it provides criminal sanctions (detention) for administrative offences, such as illegal entry to national territory or the simple expiration of visas and stay permits.
- Since "temporary administrative detention" is extendible to six months - it cannot be defined as "temporary" any longer. This instrument is not able to keep illegal migration in check and it is also ineffective in the identification of migrants.

- **Holding centres are often murkily-run structures, with human rights and migrants' organisations often denied entry.** The directive proposes that visits shall be authorised by the Member States.

In the twenty-five Member States, there are 178 holding centres, while more have been built in candidate or neighbouring countries.

With a view to the parliamentary discussion, due to start in few months, **we would like to lead - together with the organisations working on this issue - a European campaign for the shutting down of all migrant holding centres located in Europe.**

*To build the campaign together or simply join (either organisations or individuals), please fill out the details below and send them to us.*

The signatures collected will be conveyed to EU governments and the European Commission with a view to showing that individuals and civil society are sending a strong signal demanding the closure of temporary holding centres throughout Europe.



Gauche Unitaire Européenne/Gauche Verte Nordique  
European United Left/Nordic Green Left

[www.no-fortress-europe.eu](http://www.no-fortress-europe.eu)

**Send to: Edoardo Boggio Marzet (Group GUE/NGL)  
Rue Wiertz 43 - PHS 5C77 - Bruxelles 1047(Belgium) European Parliament**

NAME	COUNTRY	PROFESSION or ORGANISATION	SIGNATURE



