

## STATEMENT

### **SOS Racisme demands a thorough and effective official investigation into the death of a person in the CIE in Zona Franca, Barcelona**

Yesterday, some media outlets gave the news of the death of an Armenian in the *Centro de Internamiento de Extranjeros* [CIE, centre for the detention of foreigners] that is in the *Zona Franca* area in Barcelona. According to the information that was published, this person committed suicide on Tuesday morning by hanging himself using his shoelaces when he was apparently held on his own in a cell known as the isolation cell.

Sadly, once again a person's death in the CIE shows us a reality that comprises the violation of rights in our city. This is why, **once again for SOS Racisme, we demand the closure of this kind of centre.**

Faced by the opacity with which the CIE in Zona Franca functions, the precedents of violence, ill-treatment and death that people who were denied their freedom there have reported, as well as the difficulties we face both to enter this place and to carry out our work in defence of human rights, **we at SOS Racisme demand the Spanish state's competent authorities to undertake an adequately thorough and effective investigation into the events that occurred in the CIE in Zona Franca.** It must at least comply with the terms that the European Court of Human Rights (*in the case Argimiro Isasa vs. Spain*) indicated must be observed in cases involving people who are under the direct custody of the police or other comparable state services. The nationality, condition as a migrant or criminal record that the person who died in the CIE in Zona Franca allegedly possessed must not be an obstacle nor a justification to fail to investigate the events that happened there in a thorough and effective manner, nor should they be used to criminalise the people who are denied their freedom there.

For the umpteenth time, we criticise the precarious conditions in which people who are detained in CIEs survive. There, not even the guarantees and rights that are in force in prisons exist, although the people who are there are not denied their freedom due to their having committed a crime, but for an administrative offence. There is not even a Regulation to regulate their operation yet.

SOS Racisme has been criticising these irregularities and this contempt for human rights for years, without this having any consequence whatsoever for those responsible, to date:

- At SOS Racisme, we will pay close attention to how these investigations are undertaken.
- At SOS Racisme, we demand, yet again, to be allowed to carry out our activities for the defence of human rights within the CIE in Zona Franca.
- At SOS Racisme, we insist that there is a need to put an end to CIEs and to the constant violations of human rights that they represent through their mere existence.

Barcelona, 4 December 2013.