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PRESS RELEASE: Death of an administratively detained migrant

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On the tragic occasion of the incident of an Algerian detainee who died at the Petrou Ralli detention center (Tavros Pre-removal Detention Center) on 5 February 2017¹, we would like to note that last October our organization released the report FORGOTTEN² in which we presented the serious deficiencies of the system for administrative detention of irregular migrants and asylum seekers in Greece and made specific recommendations to the competent authorities.

Inter alia we had found:

- detention of seriously ill people
- lack of medical screening in admission (as provided by the law)
- inadequate healthcare

We had therefore recommended:

- abolition of the administrative detention of seriously ill people
- use of alternatives to detention for people who face health problems or who are handicapped
- implementation of a medical screening system for entrants to a Detention Center, monitoring of their health and provision of medical care as well as adequate hygiene conditions in Detention Centers.
- assignment of the organization and supervision of this system to independent authorities /entities.

We call the competent authorities of the Ministries of Public Order and Citizen Protection, Migration and Health to take immediate steps in this direction.

¹ See articles in Efimerida ton Syntakton (in Greek) <http://www.efsyn.gr/arthro/nekros-prosfygas-sta-kratitiria-tis-petroy-ralli> and <http://www.efsyn.gr/arthro/pethainontas-se-keli-tis-petroy-ralli>

² <http://aitima.gr/images/pdf/forgotten.pdf>