



9th December 2021

To:

Notis Mitarachis, Minister of Migration and Asylum
Manos Logothetis, General Secretariat for Reception of Asylum Seekers
Ylva Johansson, EU Commissioner for Home Affairs
Stanley Nooitmeer, EU representative on Samos

Subject: Follow Up Inquiry about the Ministerial Order of Detention in the Closed Controlled Access Centre (C.C.A.C.) in Samos

Last week, 12 organisations and civil society groups sent a letter raising concerns about the restrictions implemented in the C.C.A.C. in Samos. We have now entered the **third week** in which camp residents who do not have a valid asylum applicant card have not been allowed to exit the camp.

As of 9th December 2021, there has still been no ministerial circular published regarding the decision to implement new entry and exit restrictions since Tuesday 16th November 2021. The lengthening of time in which these restrictions are arbitrarily detaining people in the C.C.A.C. is increasingly concerning and constitutes a violation of human rights and freedom of movement.

This rule is impacting: (i) people who have registered at the Samos C.C.A.C. for the first time and are yet to receive a valid asylum applicant card, hence are detained for an unspecified period often due to long administrative procedures; (ii) people who have received negative decisions to their asylum claim.

We have received many messages testifying that the implemented entry/exit restrictions are severely impacting people's mental health.

"I'm not feeling well today at all, I'm worried that we will be imprisoned here."

"(...) we no longer feel anything and we no longer have the energy to bear it, where is the European Union in all this?"

The 16 co-signed organisations and civil society groups request the Ministry of Migration and Asylum:

- To immediately lift the restrictions on entry and exit for people without a valid asylum applicant card in the absence of a public decision from the Ministry.

To the organisations signing this letter, there is a collective understanding that people have and are continuing to be detained for no legitimate nor legally standing reason. De facto arbitrary detention is being imposed on people on the move in other locations, for instance in Kos, raising increasing concerns about the future replication of similar measures across Greece.

This arbitrary detention of those claiming asylum must be addressed and stopped by the competent authorities immediately.

Co-signed organisations

1. Avocats sans Frontières France
2. Changemakers Lab
3. ECHO100PLUS
4. Europe Must Act
5. Glocal Roots
6. Human Rights Legal Project
7. I Have Rights
8. Just Action
9. Lesvos Solidarity
10. Refugee Legal Support
11. Project Armonia
12. Samos Advocacy Collective
13. Samos LGBTQI+ Group
14. Samos Volunteers
15. Selfm.aid
16. Still I Rise