Association des Ombudsmans de la Méditerranée
جمعية الأمبودسمان المتوسطيين
Asociación de Ombudsman del Mediterráneo
Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen

AOM Declaration

On the deteriorating refugees/migrants' situation in FYROM and screening based on nationality

Tirana, 11 December 2015

In light of recent disconcerting developments vis-à-vis the situation of refugees and migrants in the Western Balkans, in particular in follow up to actions undertaken by state authorities in FYROM to screen based on nationality, the Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen (AOM) expresses its concern on the deteriorating human rights situation and urges authorities to leverage all needed resources in order to guarantee the safeguarding of rights of the refugees and migrants.

Scenes of protesting refugees with nylon-sewn lips and self-inflicting harm confront us with the dismaying plight and daunting predicaments to ensure that refugees and migrants are protected against discrimination and against any incitement to discrimination.

AOM underlines that states have the obligation to ensure full observance of international and regional human rights instruments, including the UN 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the status of refugees and the European Convention on Human Rights, and urges states along the migratory routes to circumvent discrimination on any ground.

AOM expresses its full support for the Macedonian Ombudsman Institution in carrying out the vital work to promote and protect the human rights of migrants and refugees, including through a particular attention given to vulnerable categories. AOM commends the engagement of Ombudsman/National Human Rights Institutions and the civil society, in FYROM and other regional countries, to raise awareness and disseminate accurate information on the rights of refugees and migrants, especially in the current context of growing xenophobia. In this connection, AOM reaffirms the readiness to provide its support for enhancing regional and international cooperation that upholds and advances the human rights dimension of policies and actions in the context of the mixed migratory flows crisis.

Secrétariat général de l'AOM 7, rue Saint-Florentin – 75008 PARIS (France)
Tél. : + 33 (0)1 53 29 23 36 – Fax : + 33 (0)1 53 29 22 45
charlotte.clavereul@defenseurdesdroits.fr
www.ombudsman-med.org