

REFUGEES

I. The Blog of the Office of the Ombudsman of Spain. Articles

27/07/2016. Immediate protection for foreign minors in Europe

More than 337,000 foreign minors sought international protection in Europe last year.

[Document in Spanish](#)

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/dpblog/migraciones/proteccion-inmediata-de-menores-extranjeros-en-europa/>

15/06/2016. The arrival of refugees

When nations become closed territories, proud of their exclusive goodness, of their being, of their existence, and everything alien and different...

[Document in Spanish](#)

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/dpblog/migraciones/la-llegada-de-refugiados/>

04/05/2016. 88,300 unaccompanied minors sought asylum in Europe in 2015

Eurostat has just published the figures for unaccompanied foreign minors who requested international protection in Europe 2015.

[Document in Spanish](#)

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/dpblog/menores/88-300-menores-no-acompanados-solicitan-asilo-en-europa-en-2015/>

05/04/2016. Refugees and immigrants

For some time, with a greater or lesser degree of intensity, migratory movements have reached the borders of the EU comprising people in situations of misery who...

[Document in Spanish](#)

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/dpblog/migraciones/refugiados-e-inmigrantes/>

II. Latest steps taken, recommendations and suggestions made

19/07/2016. **Case study: “Asylum in Spain: international protection and the resources of the reception system”**).

[Document in Spanish](#)

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/informe-monografico/asilo-espana-la-proteccion-internacional-los-recursos-del-sistema-acogida/>

19/07/2016. **Recommendations on asylum** in Spain contained in the case study.

[Document in Spanish](#)

https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/resultados-busqueda-resoluciones/?palabra_clave=estudio++asilo+espa%C3%B1a&select_order_direction=DESC&select_administracion=#s_documentos

24/06/2016. Recommendation- Protocol for preventing and responding to **gender-based sexual violence** at the Temporary Stay Centre for Immigrants (CETI) in Melilla
Document in Spanish

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/resoluciones/elaborar-con-caracter-urgente-un-protocolo-para-la-prevencion-y-la-respuesta-a-la-violencia-sexual-y-por-motivos-de-genero-para-su-implantacion-en-el-ceti-de-melilla/>

31/05/2016. Suggestion- To issue the **visas** requested at the Spanish consular representation in Lebanon to a **Syrian family**

Document in Spanish

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/resoluciones/sugerencia-para-que-se-adopten-las-medidas-necesarias-y-se-expidan-los-visados-a-una-familia-cuando-esta-acuda-a-la-embajada-en-libano-dadas-las-circunstancias-que-concurren/>

31/05/2016. Suggestion – **Transfer to Spain, for humanitarian reasons**, of an asylum seeker, to receive medical treatment

Document in Spanish

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/resoluciones/impartir-instrucciones-urgentes-para-el-traslado-por-razones-humanitarias-a-espana-de-un-solicitante-de-asilo-enfermo-que-se-encuentra-en-grecia-y-pueda-recibir-el-tratamiento-medico-que-necesita/>

13/05/2016. Suggestion - **Registration** as a resident at the Temporary Stay Centre for Immigrants (CETI) in Ceuta

Document in Spanish

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/resoluciones/no-empadronan-a-residente-en-el-ceti-de-ceuta-sin-observarse-el-procedimiento/>

16/03/2016. Suggestion - Presentation to the Asylum and Refuge Commission of the **international protection dossier of an Iraqi national and her children**

Document in Spanish

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/resoluciones/sugerencia-al-secretario-general-tecnico-del-ministerio-del-interior-para-que-se-impartan-las-instrucciones-que-procedan-y-se-eleve-a-la-siguiente-comision-de-asilo-y-refugio-el-expediente-de-protecci/>

01/03/2016. Relevant action, before the Under Secretariat for Home Affairs, on the **European programme for re-settling refugees**

Document in Spanish

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/actuacion-de-oficio/programa-europeo-de-reasentamiento-de-refugiados/>

22/02/2016. Recommendation – Specific attention paid to unaccompanied foreign **minors, seeking international protection**, in Melilla

Document in Spanish

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/resoluciones/menores-extranjeros-no-acompanados-solicitantes-de-asilo-en-melilla/>

30/11/2015. Recommendation – Action protocol to facilitate **access to Spain by relatives of citizens who are beneficiaries of international protection**

[Document in Spanish](#)

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/resoluciones/recomendacion-a-la-direccion-general-de-espanoles-en-el-exterior-y-de-asuntos-consulares-y-migratorios-para-que-se-elabore-con-caracter-urgente-y-en-coordinacion-con-el-ministerio-del-interior-un-pr/>

15/10/2015. Recommendation - Reinforcement of staff assigned to processing requests for asylum at **Beni Enzar Border Post (Melilla)**

[Document in Spanish](#)

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/resoluciones/reforzar-el-personal-destinado-a-la-tramitacion-de-las-solicitudes-de-asilo-en-el-puesto-fronterizo-de-beni-enzar/>

09/10/2015. Recommendation – Design of a **specific programme of education for minors** at the Temporary Stay Centre for Immigrants (**CETI**) in Melilla

[Document in Spanish](#)

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/resoluciones/disenar-un-programa-educativo-especifico-para-los-menores-que-se-encuentran-en-el-centro-de-estancia-temporal-ceti-de-melilla/>

09/10/2015. Recommendation – **Transfer to the Peninsula of families with minors and physically-disabled persons** who are at the Temporary Stay Centre for Immigrants (**CETI**) in Melilla

[Document in Spanish](#)

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/resoluciones/propuestas-de-mejora-en-el-centro-de-estancia-temporal-para-inmigrantes-ceti-de-melilla-2/>

07/10/2015. Recommendation- Social-work care services for asylum seekers at **Beni Enzar border post (Melilla)**

[Document in Spanish](#)

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/resoluciones/recomendacion-a-la-secretaria-general-de-inmigracion-y-emigracion-para-adoptar-las-medidas-que-procedan-para-prestar-un-servicio-de-asistencia-social-a-los-solicitantes-de-asilo-en-el-puesto-fronteriz/>

I. Press releases / News

12/09/2016 – Truce in Syria

It has been attempted before, but failed. A great deal of hope is pinned on this new attempt; it's the only hope there is for the millions of terrified people living in the country and for the millions who have left ...

[Document in Spanish](#)

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/noticias/tregua-en-siria/>

10/09/2016 – Immigrants at Ceuta border fence

In view of the fact that a number of people who have come via Morocco are at Ceuta border fence, the Office of the Ombudsman stresses that neither Spanish nor International law allow people to be sent back automatically ...

[Document in Spanish](#)

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/noticias/inmigrantes-en-la-valla-de-ceuta/>

02/09/2016 – The frigate ‘Reina Sofía’

EU agreements and decisions on taking in refugees are not proving easy. The common policy on asylum clashes with the criteria of a number of countries, in addition to the difficulty of coordinating vigilance and action at borders ...

[Document in Spanish](#)

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/noticias/el-defensor-del-pueblo-aplaude-la-labor-humanitaria-de-la-fragata-reina-sofia/>

19/08/2016 News item – Humanitarian aid for Aleppo

If the war in Syria cannot be stopped, taking humanitarian aid there is the very least gesture the West can make. UN special envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura calls for a pause in the attacks ...

[Document in Spanish](#)

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/noticias/ayuda-humanitaria-para-alepo/>

[\[English translation\]](#)

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/en/news/humanitarian-aid-for-aleppo-syria/>

20/07/2016 – Case study on asylum in Spain: the Office of the Ombudsman proposes measures for taking in refugees and helping them to integrate

The Office of the Ombudsman presented the report “Asylum in Spain: international protection and the resources of the reception system”, analysing the situation of the Spanish asylum system ...

[Document in Spanish](#)

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/noticias/estudio-sobre-el-asilo-en-espana-el-defensor-del-pueblo-propone-medidas-para-acogida-e-integracion-de-refugiados/>

[\[English translation\]](#)

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/en/news/study-on-asylum-in-spain-the-office-of-the-ombudsman-proposes-measures-for-the-intake-and-integration-of-refugees/>

**24/05/2016 – UNHCR : 24th Manuel Broseta (Valencia) Award for Co-existence.
Speech by the Ombudsman**

We know that nations evolve and prosper on the basis of the initiatives and contributions of members of the public. I'm not referring, on this occasion, to their production capacity; I'm talking about knowledge, lore and their exemplary, honest conduct, too...

[Document in Spanish](#)

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/noticias/acnur-agencia-dela-onu-para-refugiados-premio-de-convivencia-manuel-broseta/>

03/05/2016 – The Ombudsman talks about refugees at “Fórum Europa” (Madrid)

The number of people who, in the last few years, have been fleeing from countries at war, from persecution based on beliefs or for the sake of survival is the highest number since the Second World War...

[Document in Spanish](#)

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/otras-publicaciones/la-defensora-habla-sobre-refugiados-en-la-tribuna-de-nueva-economia-forum/>

11/03/2016 – The collective return of refugees should be rejected by defenders of human rights

The European Union should present a joint, coordinated response that guarantees humanitarian reception, relocation and bring about their integration in the receiving society...

[Document in Spanish](#)

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/noticias/la-devolucion-masiva-de-refugiados-debe-ser-rechazada-por-los-defensores-de-los-derechos-humanos/>

[\[English translation\]](#)

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/en/news/the-collective-return-of-refugees-should-be-rejected-by-defenders-of-human-rights/>

09/03/2016. A lecture given by the Ombudsman at the 9th Meeting of the Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen (AOM), Malta, on “The role of the Ombudsman in protecting human rights in times of political and economic crisis, terrorism and irregular migration”

A little while ago, the economic prospects for Spain were very gloomy and worrying, but data for 2015 show that the Spanish people have managed to overcome a serious economic crisis; Spain's is the economy displaying the most growth in the E.U. and unemployment figures, which were very bad, have dropped, although the marks left by the crisis are still visible...

Document in Spanish

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/otras-publicaciones/el-papel-del-ombudsman-para-proteger-los-derechos-humanos-en-epocas-de-crisis-economica-y-politica-terrorismo-e-inmigracion-irregular/>

02/03/2016 – Refugees: yesterday and today

A year has gone by since Europe displayed, through the words of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, its most hospitable and understanding face to people fleeing from war who wanted to reach Europe, by any means possible...

Document in Spanish

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/noticias/refugiados-ayer-y-hoy/>

23/02/2016 – Refugees on the way to Serbia

The transit centre for refugees in Tabanovce, in the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, is the waiting point for refugees wanting to cross into Serbia and make their way to other European countries ...

Document in Spanish

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/noticias/refugiados-en-transito/>

[English translation]

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/en/news/refugees-on-the-path-from-serbia/>

18/02/2016 – Support by the Ombudsman for the work done by the UNHCR in defence of Syrian refugees

The Ombudsman, Soledad Becerril, has held an interview in Geneva with the Assistant High Commissioner at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Volker Türk, expressing her support to him for the work carried out by the organisation in defence of Syrian refugees ...

Document in Spanish

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/noticias/apoyo-de-la-defensora-del-pueblo-a-la-labor-del-acnur-en-defensa-de-los-refugiados-sirios/>

[English translation]

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/en/news/the-defensora-del-pueblo-meets-with-the-assistant-high-commissioner-for-protection-unhcr-volker-turk/>

12/02/2016 – NATO can help

Germany's and Turkey's proposal for NATO to help in the refugee crisis is very interesting. This crisis, the large number of people who are fleeing in search of safer places is a real humanitarian catastrophe. It also has security-related aspects ...

Document in Spanish

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/noticias/la-otan-puede-ayudar/>

02/02/2016 – Confiscation of property?

It must be hard to dissuade people who want to leave a country because they feel persecuted, unsafe or threatened, not to attempt it. People who flee from Syria, from Eritrea or from places even further away know that they will have to cross six or seven borders before they reach one of the EU countries ...

Document in Spanish

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/noticias/confiscacion-de-bienes/>

[English translation]

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/en/news/confiscating-possesions/>

20/01/2016 – Refugees and the Schengen Agreement

Two decades ago, the fact that Europe would witness a movement of displaced persons exceeding that of the Second World War was unthinkable. Some analysts had foreseen that emigration would be the great problem at the end of the 20th century ...

Document in Spanish

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/noticias/refugiados-y-el-acuerdo-schengen/>

[English translation]

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/en/news/refugees-and-the-schengen-agreement/>

22/12/2015 – Syrian refugees and the United Nations Security Council

The Arab Springs were not what was promised. In Syria, the war between the established regime, resistant to any opening up, and opposition groups began in 2011. Then added to the war came the so-called Islamic State, occupying territory and spreading terror ...

Document in Spanish

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/noticias/refugiados-sirios-y-consejo-de-seguridad-de-las-naciones-unidas/>

18/12/2015 – The Office of the Ombudsman considers that Europe should give a joint, coordinated response to the refugee crisis

On International Migrants Day, the Office of the Ombudsman considers that Europe should give a joint, coordinated response to the refugee crisis ...

Document in Spanish

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/noticias/el-defensor-del-pueblo-considera-que-europa-debe-dar-una-respuesta-comun-y-coordinada-a-la-crisis-de-refugiados/>

04/11/2015: Refugee camp in Jordan

First-hand account by the Ombudsman who visited Zaatari refugee camp on 21 October ...

Document in Spanish

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/noticias/campo-de-refugiados-en-jordania/>

[English translation]

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/en/news/the-spanish-ombudsman-visits-zaatari-refugee-camp-in-jordan/>

IV. Declarations

8/09/2016. **Tirana Declaration**. Signed in the frame of the High Level Conference “Challenges for Ombudsman institutions with respect to migratory flows”

Document in Spanish

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/otras-publicaciones/declaracion-de-tirana/>

[Document in English]

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/09/TIRANA-DECLARATION.pdf>

10/03/2016. **Declaration by the Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen (AOM)** on migration. La Valeta (Republic of Malta)

Document in Spanish

<https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/otras-publicaciones/declaracion-de-malta-sobre-migraciones-10-de-marzo-de-2016/>