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

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

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

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

https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/resultados-busqueda-resoluciones/?palabra_clave=estudio++asilo+espana-la-proteccion-internacional-los-recursos-del-sistema-acogida#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

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

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-proteccion/

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/niños-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


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


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
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 Sofia’
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]

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

[English translation]
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]

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...
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…

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 …

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 …

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 …
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]


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]


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 Zaatarí refugee camp on 21 October …
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]

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/