

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: Inquiry about the Ministerial Order of Detention in the Closed Controlled Access Centre (CCAC) in Samos

The co-signed organisations and civil society groups present in Samos wish to raise concerns about the restrictions implemented in the camp over the last two weeks, whereby camp residents who do not have a valid asylum applicant card have not been allowed to exit the camp.

This rule is impacting: (i) people who have registered at the Samos CCAC 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.

As of 30/11, there has not been a ministerial circular published regarding the decision to implement new entry and exit restrictions as of Tuesday 16th November 2021. These severe restrictions raise real concerns as they compromise the freedom of movement of approximately half of the current camp population.

This is particularly worrying given that in Kos, detention has become the standard reception practice, thus setting a dangerous precedent for the arbitrary detention of camp residents to be replicated in facilities across Greece.

Regarding the current situation and context in Samos, the detention of people claiming asylum does not seem to be grounded on any legal basis. 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.

As a consequence of the raised concerns, 11 organisations and civil society groups demand that the Ministry of Migration and Asylum:

- In the absence of a public decision from the Ministry, an immediate lift to the restrictions on entry and exit for people without a valid asylum applicant card
- Publish a statement from the Ministry giving legally grounding evidence to their recent decision to detain people without a valid asylum applicant card inside the camp.

Co-signed organisations

1. Samos Volunteers
2. I Have Rights
3. Just Action
4. Europe Must Act
5. Glocal Roots
6. Project Armonia
7. Human Rights Legal Project
8. Selfm.aid
9. Samos LGBTQI+ Group
10. Samos Advocacy Collective
11. Avocats sans Frontières France