

Nota informativa

Viernes, 29 de diciembre de 2006

www.cear.es



A las secciones de Sociedad, Nacional e Internacional

After a week since they were deported in the middle of the night, hundreds of people continue to be in a terrible humanitarian situation in the Morocco-Algerian border

CEAR urges the Spanish Government to assume its co-responsibility in the protection of refugees in Morocco

If Morocco continues expelling refugees fleeing from violence in their countries, the Spanish government must propose their resettlement in Spain, especially in case of people who are in situation of severe vulnerability, such as women and children.

One week after the Moroccan government expelled in the middle of the night and in a violent manner hundred of sub-Saharan African migrants, among which there are at least 79 asylum seekers and convention refugees, their terrible situation remains unsolved. According to testimonies collected by CEAR, many of these persons are hiding in the forest fearing to be captured, while others are at the Oujda University Campus, bordering Moroccan town with Algeria, without any attention whatsoever. Small children, numerous in the group are suffering the cold in the area, and several have got sick. CEAR's collaborators have collected testimonies from five women (two Nigerians, one Congolese, one Angolan and one from Ghana) who claim to have been raped by Moroccan policemen during deportation.

Among the expelled persons, as CEAR has been denouncing during the last days, there are asylum seekers and refugees who have in their hands documents proving their right to protection and therefore could have not been expelled from Morocco. According to testimonies that CEAR is collecting in the area, there are at least 65 Congolese and 35 Ivorian. These countries suffer armed conflicts and their nationals could be under severe risk should they have to return to them. The leader of Ivorian refugees has denounced that during the expulsions, border Moroccan authorities frequently destroy their legal documents and steal mobile phones and personal belongings. He alerts, also, that "refugee rights in Morocco are not recognized, despite the fact that Morocco has signed the Geneva Convention of 1951, according to which, the country is compelled to comply with international asylum law".

The Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado (CEAR) denounces that despite the appeals undertook since several days to institutions and authorities, the situation of those hundreds of persons totally unprotected and against whom illegal actions have been committed, remains unsolved.

Nota informativa

Viernes, 29 de diciembre de 2006

www.cear.es



A las secciones de Sociedad, Nacional e Internacional

CEAR reiterates its petition to the European governments, among them the Spanish one, to take immediate measures to guarantee the protection of those sub-Saharan citizens.

These measures must include a strong and immediate request to the Moroccan government to respect the rights of migrants and refugees, along with the undertaking of resettlement in the European Union of asylum seekers and refugees who are unprotected. The Spanish government has signed with the Moroccan one several migration and co-operation agreements which imply co-responsibility and should oblige Spain to force the real compliance with the right of refugees in Morocco. This last country has signed the Geneva Convention and does not provide any basic assistance to asylum seekers and refugees. On the contrary, Morocco persecutes and illegally deports them.

For more information and contacts with persons who are in the border area:

Media Department CEAR-Headquarters

eugenia.garcia@cear.es

+34 91 555 42 69 (ext. 208) - + 34 695481176