

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



ATHENS INTERVENTION TEAM OF ARSIS - ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOCIAL SUPPORT OF YOUTH IN THE FIELD OF DETENTION IN AMYGDALAZA AND TAVROS PRE-REMOVAL DETENTION CENTRES



YOUTH SUPPORT
CENTER - Youth Land

ARSIS - Association
for the Social Support
of Youth



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From 1 January 2017 until the end of the year, a team of "ARSIS – Association for the Social Support of Youth" implemented an intervention programme supported by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in the Tavros and Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centres.

Specifically, the above ARSIS team, composed by 1 social worker, 2 lawyers, 1 psychologist and interpreters, carried out, throughout 2017, regular visits on a weekly basis (2-3 times a week) to the Tavros and Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centres, aiming, on the one hand, to provide legal and psychosocial support to unaccompanied minors, adults young detainees and other vulnerable cases, especially, to families that are being detained, and, on the other hand, monitor and perform a systematic recording of the situation and conditions of detention.

1 The Athens intervention group in the field of detention of ARSIS attempts a holistic approach and support of the detainees by providing legal assistance and psychosocial support, both during detention and thereafter. The introduction of a mobile school in Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre and creating an animation and empowerment group in Tavros Pre-Removal Detention Centre are, also, important tools to support and exploit the possibilities of detainees and, in particular, of children in detention.

During the period from January to December 2017, as part of visiting the above detention centres, the ARSIS team recorded and provided assistance to 255 detainees (249 cases) and more specifically:

- **To 166 unaccompanied minors** (aged 12-17 years). Out of them, 142 were detained in the juvenile section in Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre, 18 had declared that they were minors but were registered as adults and detained with adults in the Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre, and another 6 respectively were detained in Tavros Pre-Removal Detention Centre in the adults' section.

- **To 53 young men** (aged up to 22 years, including particularly vulnerable patient cases). Out of them, 17 were detained in Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre and 36 were detained in the adults' section of Tavros Pre-Removal Detention Centre.

- **To 26 young women** (particularly vulnerable cases, most of them victims of exploitation and abuse, mentally ill), and

- **To 5 single-parent families/11 people** (3 new mothers and 1 father with minor children, aged 1 to 9 years).

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At the same time, members of the ARSIS team recorded in those Detention Centres an extremely problematic situation with regard to the enforcement process but also the continuation of detention under unacceptable conditions and for long periods, even for particularly vulnerable persons and unaccompanied minors, sick, mentally ill, victims of abuse, torture, trafficking victims, families with young children, etc. In addition, it was found that the authorities issue and execute decisions of return to Hotspots and/or Pre-Removal Detention Centres on the islands against particularly vulnerable citizens of third countries, unaccompanied minors and women with serious health problems.

The big number of detainees combined with increased detention period in unacceptable conditions exacerbates the already aggravated psychological condition of minors and lead to tensions and acts of despair (abstention from meals, self-injuries revolts, arsons etc). During the reporting period, several incidents have been recorded by ARSIS team indicating the escalation of the tensions: on September 19, 2017, two minors were self-injured (scribbled) on their left hand; on 12 September 2017 the minors detainees abstained from all meals complaining about increased detention and detention conditions; on August 23, a juvenile self-injured with a blade in his left hand and transferred to hospital while the previous day a minor had swallowed shampoo. On September 1st 2017 and November 27, 2017 fires were put in juvenile section; three unaccompanied and two minors respectively, were accused of arson and accusations for serious damages

2 The members of ARSIS recorded, during the reporting period, complaints by detainees for degrading behaviour against them coming from police officers.

In late November/1st December 2017, members of the team of ARSIS recorded a complain regarding violence (beating, undressing) coming from police officers against two unaccompanied minors, who were thereafter accused of an arson incident in the juvenile section. Those minors complained to members of ARSIS intervention team, who, then, informed in writing about this complain the Office of the Public Prosecutor for Minors, who forwarded it to the competent Public Prosecutor for Criminal Prosecution. The later ordered the opening of an official investigation.

Detention conditions in the above Pre-Removal Detention Centres throughout the reporting period present serious problems and deficiencies resulting in the systematic violation of fundamental rights of third-country nationals in administrative detention and constitute, often, inhuman and degrading treatment.

1. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

During the reporting period, the members of the ARSIS team recorded and provided assistance to 166 unaccompanied minors, of whom 142 were detained in the juvenile section of Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre (aged 12-17 years), 18 in the adults' section of Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre, as they had been registered as adults, and 6 respectively (registered as adults) in the adults' section of Tavros Pre-Removal Detention Centre (aged 15, 16 and 17 years).

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All of the above unaccompanied minors received information, legal assistance and psychosocial support from members of the ARSIS team

We indicatively report the following cases:

- The case of an unaccompanied minor seeking asylum from Afghanistan, who was detained with adults and for whom objections to detention were raised; he was thereafter moved to the juvenile section in Amygdaleza and then to the safe zone in Schisto.
- The case of an unaccompanied minor from Pakistan, who was submitted to age assessment test and transferred to the adults' section. Objections were raised against his detention, his minority was established, then assistance was provided for the submission of a request for family reunification, he was transferred to the juvenile section in Amygdaleza and then to the safe zone in Thiva. Eventually, he left for Italy under family reunification procedure.
- The case of an unaccompanied minor from Afghanistan, which was a case designated as psychiatric incident, for whom it had been ordered, under Public Prosecutor's order from Chios, to be compulsory hospitalised. He was identified by the team members in Amygdaleza and, after written intervention to all competent authorities, placed to a hospice, instead of being returned to Chios, as scheduled.
- 3 • The case of an unaccompanied minor from Pakistan, who was submitted to age assessment test and transferred to the adult's section. He was offered assistance in the registration of his asylum request; his minority was established; he was registered as a minor and then moved to the juvenile section in Amygdaleza before being transferred to a hospice.
- The case of two unaccompanied minors from Cameroon, who, although their minority was established by court authority, they received administrative treatment as adults, due to incorrect initial registration. They were returned to Chios - despite our written intervention - and then, following our intervention treated as unaccompanied minors and were later placed to a hospice in Athens.
- The cases of 14 children, who received information and assistance concerning family reunification rights; there was communication with parents and relatives; documents were gathered in support of the request for family reunification; assistance was provided for the registration with the Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre; assistance was provided on the conduct of the procedure]

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The cases broken down are as follows:

Report of January-December 2017

Unaccompanied Minors

Nationality	Persons
PAKISTAN	95
CAMEROON	2
AFGHANISTAN	11
ALBANIA	6
ALGERIA	22
SERBIA	2
SYRIA	14
MOROCCO	4
BANGLADESH	4
IRAQ	4
MYANMAR	1
EGYPT	1

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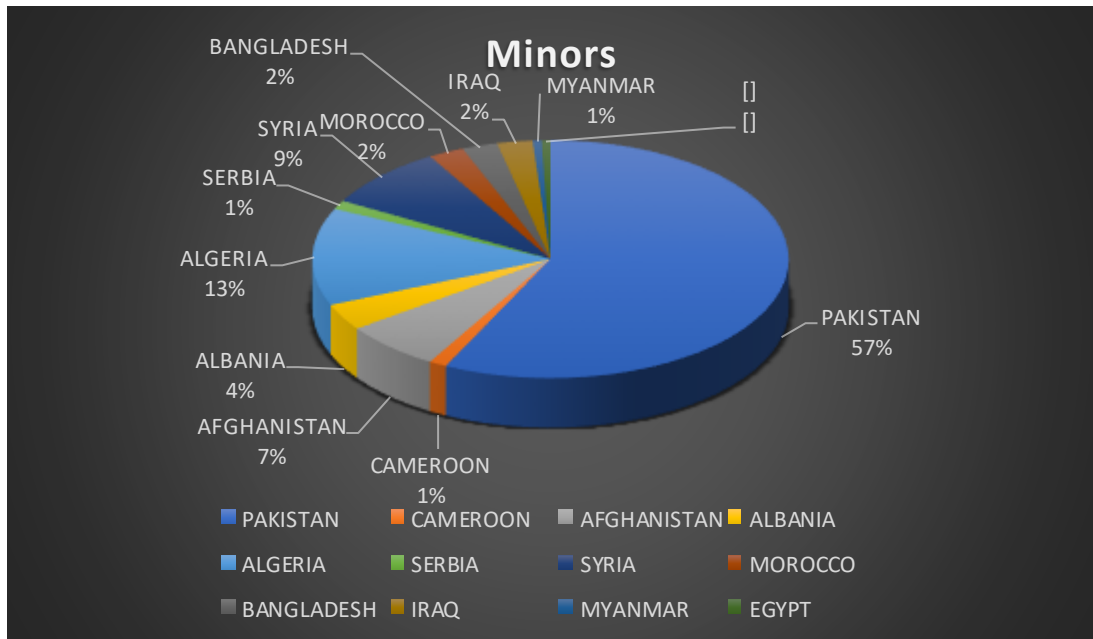
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AMYGDALAZA PRE-REMOVAL DETENTION CENTRE juvenile section

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Nationality	Persons
PAKISTAN	85
CAMEROON	2
AFGHANISTAN	8
ALBANIA	6
ALGERIA	14
SERBIA	2
SYRIA	13
MOROCCO	4
BANGLADESH	3
IRAQ	4
MYANMAR	1

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Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre adults section (minors registered as adults)

Nationality	Persons
PAKISTAN	9
ALGERIA	5
EGYPT	1
AFGHANISTAN	2
BANGLADESH	1

Tavros Pre-Removal Detention Centre, adults section (minors registered as adults)

Nationality	Persons
ALGERIA	3
AFGHANISTAN	1
SYRIA	1
PAKISTAN	1

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The number of the detained unaccompanied minors who were recorded and received assistance from ARSIS ranged from 5 to 42 people per month.

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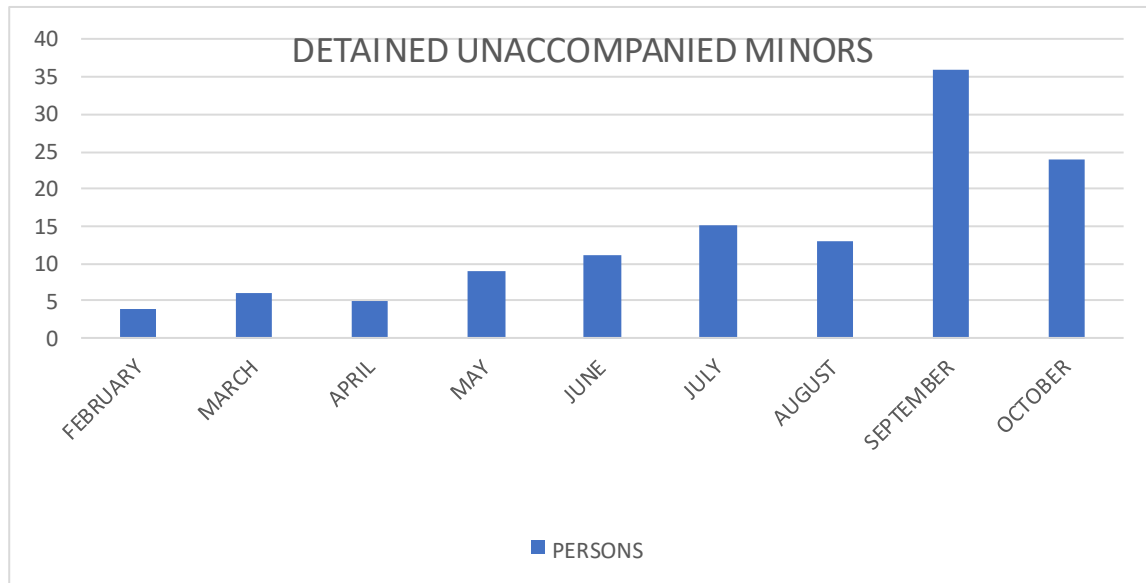
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MINORS DETAINEE



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In 2017, the duration of detention of the above minors before being placed to accommodation structures ranged from a few days to two months until September 2017, while, after October, it even exceeded, in some cases, two months. It was found that some (seven (7) registered by ARSIS) minors were held for very long periods of time in the Corinth Pre-Removal Detention Centres and in detention centres of regional police departments, before being transferred to the Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre. Indicatively, an unaccompanied minor, being a Pakistani national, was held in the Corinth Pre-Removal Detention Centre for 6 months and 13 days before being transferred to the Police Department of Loutraki, where was detained for 24 days and, finally, being transferred to the juvenile section of Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre, where he was submitted to a age assessment test.

The duration of detention and the number of unaccompanied minors shows an upward trend in the second half of 2017, which rises alarmingly from July 2017. We would like to recall that, in December 2016, the Amygdaleza Juvenile Detention Centre and, in January 2017, safe zones were created inside the open Hotspots to directly place unaccompanied minors instead of being placed in custody. However, meanwhile, the juvenile section was set up inside the Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre, i.e. a detention centre intended for minors. The above change in the administrative practice is also reflected in the monthly data of ARSIS, as, in January 2017, the unaccompanied minors, either administrative detainees in view of return procedures or under "protective custody", were transferred to Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre, where they stayed for a few days, before being placed mainly to safe zones inside the open Hotspots. From February 2017, detention time and the number of unaccompanied minors in custody began again to grow.

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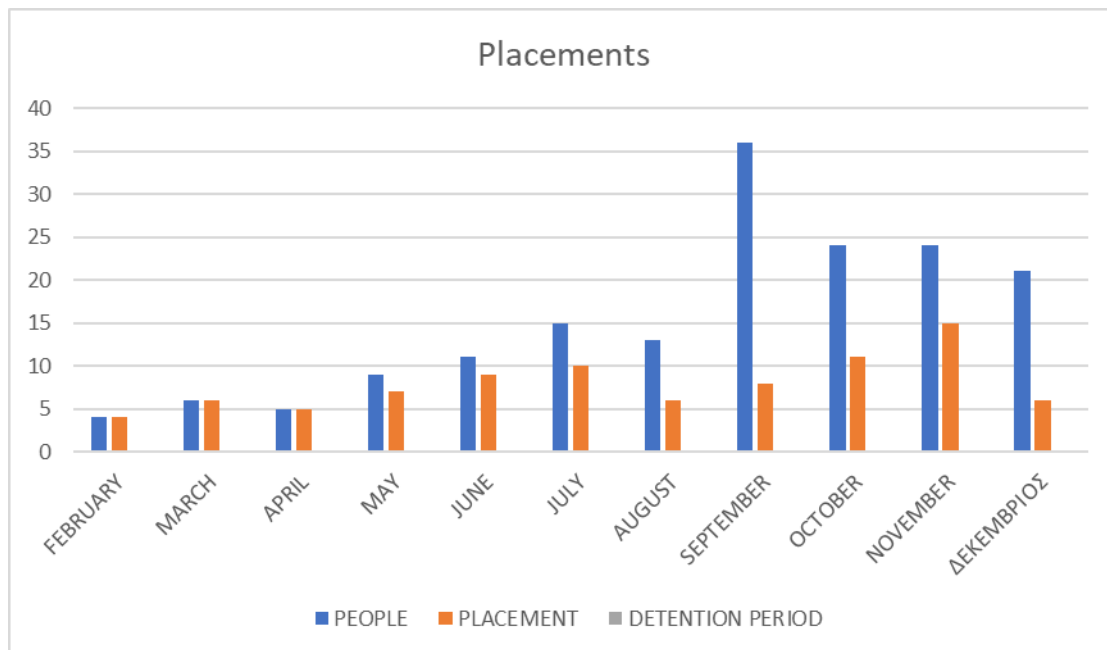
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MONTH	PERSONS	PLACEMENT	DETENTION PERIOD
FEBRUARY	4	4	15-20 days
MARCH	6	6	15-20 days
APRIL	5	5	15-20 days
MAY	9	7	1 month +
JUNE	11	9	1-1.5 months
JULY	15	10	1-1.5 months
AUGUST	13	6	1-1.5 months
SEPTEMBER	36	8	2 months
OCTOBER	24	11	2 months
NOVEMBER	24	15	2 weeks – 2.5 months
DECEMBER	21	6	2 months



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Detention of unaccompanied minors constitutes an illegal administrative practice: most of them, instead of being submitted to reception and identification processes and then be accommodated in suitable structures for minors, were arrested, while return and relevant detention decisions are issued resulting to their automatic registration in the National List of Unwanted Aliens [eighty-three (83) minors recorded by ARSIS) without taking into account their vulnerability as minors (aged 13-17 years, coming from Pakistan, Algeria, Afghanistan, Cameroon, Bangladesh, Serbia and Albania). In addition, there are also unaccompanied minors in detention who have already been registered by the Greek authorities and have residence documents, according to a systematic practice of the arrest authorities that detain minors on the grounds of "protective custody".

No guardian has been appointed for the above minors, nor does the Government provide any psychosocial support, legal assistance or information while there is no interpreter. Moreover, some (four -4- registered by ARSIS) of the above persons have been submitted to so-called "age assessment test" activated by a non-competent agency, i.e. by the Greek police, beyond any legal framework, guarantee or procedure.

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2. DETENTION OF FAMILIES

In the sector of Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre, which is designated for the detention of families - it was originally formed to serve the needs of "voluntary return"- are now detained, in particular in the second half of 2017, families to be forcibly "returned" to the islands. The ARSIS team recorded and provided assistance to 5 single parent families (4 new mothers and 1 father with minor children, aged one to nine years), citizens of Iran, Syria, Iraq and Guinea, being asylum seekers in Greece. Return decisions or decisions to return to the Hotspots and/or Pre-Removal Detention Centres on the islands had been issued against them. Family children were toddlers and preschoolers held in totally inadequate and inhumane conditions. There are also people originated from countries(Syria, Iraq) for which there is provision for immediate protection against refoulement. We indicatively report a father with a minor child from Iraq, who was informed by members of the ARSIS team, and received assistance to register his asylum request; a written intervention has been submitted to the authorities; a shelter has been also requested and he was released.

Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre, family section

Nationality	Persons
IRAN	4 (2 children)
GUINEA	3 (2 children)
IRAQ	2 (1 child)
SYRIA	2 (1 child)

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3. DETENTION OF YOUNG MEN

During the period January-December 2017, as part of the visits to the Amygdaleza and Tavros Pre-Removal Detention Centres, the ARSIS team recorded and provided assistance to **53 young men** (up to age 22, including particularly vulnerable patient cases). Out of them, 17 were detained in the Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre and 36 were detained in the adults' section of Tavros Pre-Removal Detention Centre. Return and detention decisions had been issued against them and, later, many of them lodged an asylum request.

The time, since the asylum request was lodged, exceeds one month. Detention time of adult men far exceeds six months and, often, eight months, while we found variations in the duration of detention based on nationality. Specifically, the time of detention of adults coming from Morocco and Algeria exceeds the time of detention of adults from other nationalities (e.g. Pakistan, Afghanistan).

Adult Detainees (young men)

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Nationality	Persons
PAKISTAN	10
ALGERIA	12
EGYPT	6
SYRIA	13
LEBANON	1
AFGHANISTAN	4
MOROCCO	3
TUNISIA	1
PALESTINE	2
IRAN	1

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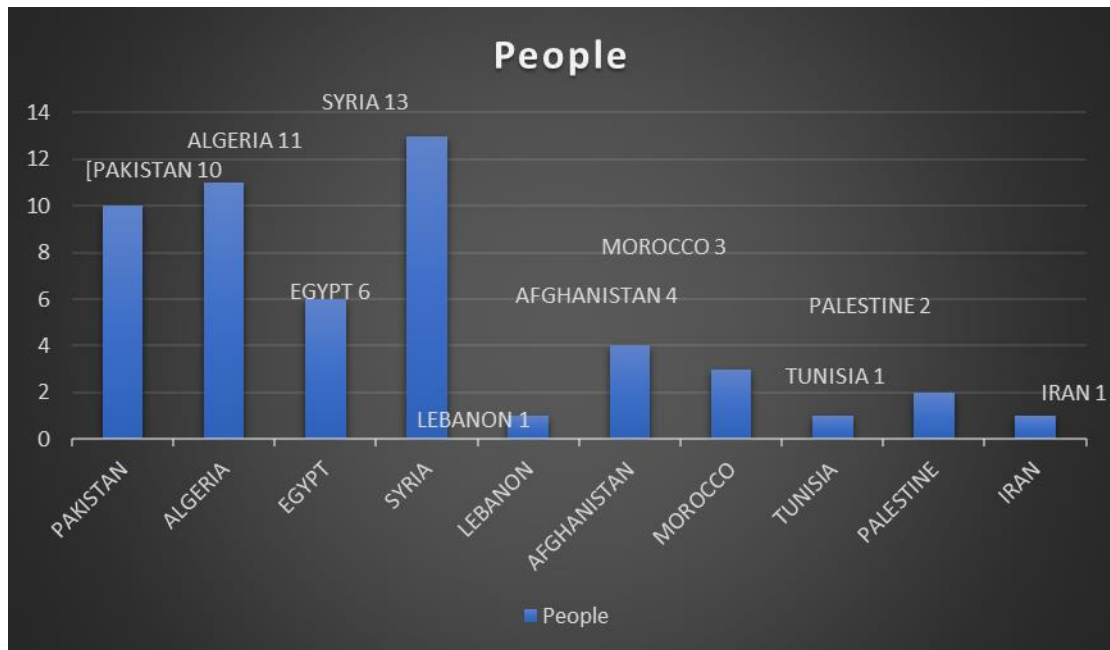
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- **AMYGDALAZA PRE-REMOVAL DETENTION CENTRE**

In the adult men's section of Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre, the ARSIS team recorded and provided assistance to 17 young men citizens of Pakistan, Algeria, Egypt, Syria, Afghanistan, Morocco.

The cases are broken down as follows:

-Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre, adults section (men)

Nationality	Persons
PAKISTAN	7
ALGERIA	3
EGYPT	2
SYRIA	3
AFGHANISTAN	1
MOROCCO	1

- **TAVROS PRE-REMOVAL DETENTION CENTRE**

In the adult men's section of Tavros Pre-Removal Detention Centre, the ARSIS team recorded and provided assistance to 36 young men citizens Pakistan, Syria, Algeria, Afghanistan, Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon, Tunisia, Palestine, Iran. Return and detention decisions had been issued against them and, later, many of them submitted an asylum request. The time, since the asylum request was lodged, exceeds one month.

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We found minors, who were registered as adults, and especially vulnerable adults, with very serious health problems (hepatitis, HIV carriers, neurological disorders and people with a disability) who have been held for long periods of time.

Examples include:

- The case of an Afghan citizen, who was arrested and detained for a period of about 2 months despite the ineffective detention, in view of the return procedures, in the past for 15 months, for whom objections to the detention were raised.
- The case of a Pakistani citizen with an artificial limb, who was being held after the decision rejecting his asylum request at second instance. An application for cancellation and suspension has been filed.
- The case of an Afghan citizen, who received assistance for the registration of his asylum request and was released.
- The case of an asylum-seeker Afghan citizen, who received assistance/representation during an interview for his asylum, was released and recognised as a refugee.
- The case of an Algerian citizen, being a cancer/renal patient, who received assistance/representation to lodge/accelerate a subsequent asylum and a removal of detention request. He was released and granted an Asylum Seeker's Card.
- In the Tavros Pre-Removal Detention Centre, we also found an unaccompanied minor, who, although listed as a minor, was apparently illegally detained in the adult section, for whom a written intervention/objection was made; he was later moved to the juvenile section in Amygdaleza and then to safe zone in Schisto.]

- In detail:

Tavros Pre-Removal Detention Centre, adults section (men)

Nationality	Persons
ALGERIA	9
SYRIA	10
LEBANON	1
TUNISIA	1
PALESTINE	2
MOROCCO	2
EGYPT	4
AFGHANISTAN	3

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IRAN	1
PAKISTAN	3

4. DETENTION OF ADULT WOMEN IN TAVROS PRE-REMOVAL DETENTION CENTRE

A large number of women is being held in Tavros Pre-Removal Detention Centre for long periods (up to 4 months). Among them, several women are victims of abuse, suffer from serious psychological problems and are under treatment. Return and detention decisions have been issued against them and, later, many of them lodged an asylum request. The time, for the asylum request to be registered, exceeds one month.

During the reference period, the ARSIS team recorded and provided assistance to 26 young women from Syria, Georgia, Algeria, Albania, Nigeria, the Philippines, Bulgaria, Morocco, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Iran, Democratic Republic Congo.

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Tavros Pre-Removal Detention Centre, adult section (women)

Adults (women)

Nationality	Persons
SYRIA	6
GEORGIA	6
ALGERIA	1
ALBANIA	1
NIGERIA	2
PHILIPPINES	1
BULGARIA	1
MOROCCO	2
UKRAINE	2
ETHIOPIA	1
IRAN	1

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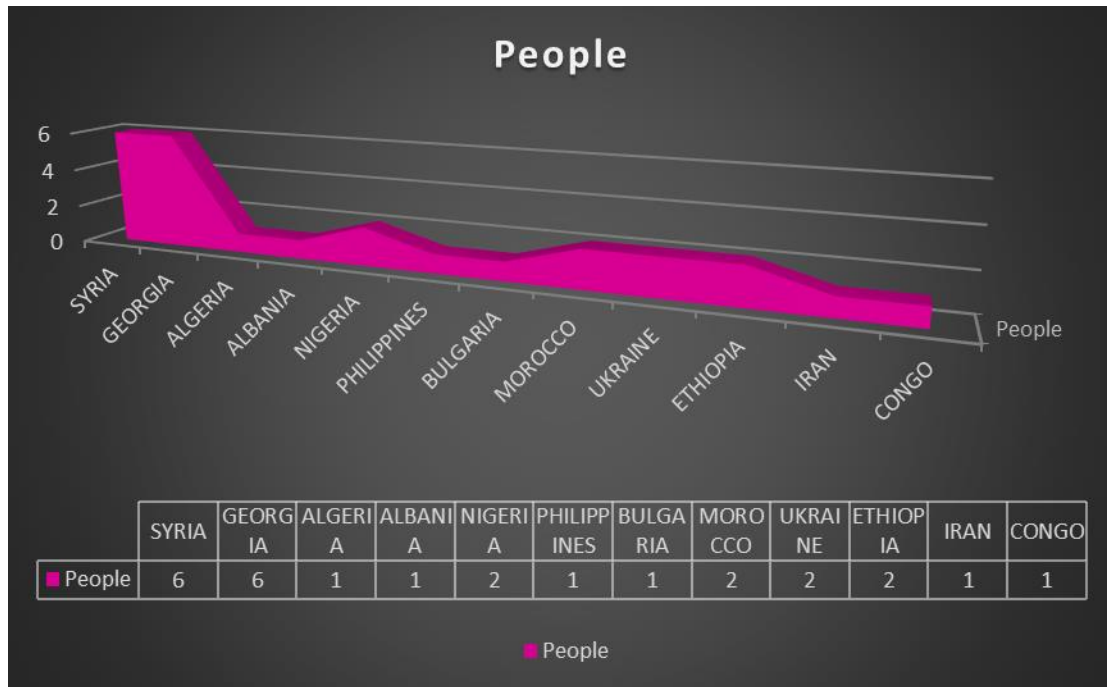
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Those women received information, legal assistance and psychosocial support from the members of the Athens team of ARSIS–Association for the Social Support of Youth.

[We indicatively report the following:

- The case of Moroccan citizen, mother of a one-year old child, who had been diagnosed as positive to the HIV virus and whose asylum process had been interrupted. Objections to detention were submitted, a guesthouse was found and she was released.
- The case of a Ukrainian citizen under psychiatric monitoring, who received information and assistance for the registration of her asylum request and then she was released.
- The case of a Syrian citizen, who received assistance before the court authorities to take her child, who had been placed in a guesthouse by way of a Public Prosecutor's order, and request asylum. She was released and resumed custody of her child.
- The case of a Syrian citizen, for whom an application for having the geographical restriction (Samos) lifted was lodged. She was released and is now hosted in Lavrio with her husband.]
- The case of a Moroccan citizen suffering from tuberculosis, requesting asylum, for whom an application for having the geographical restriction (Chios) lifted was lodged. She was released]

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DETENTION CONDITIONS

Detention conditions in the above Pre-Removal Detention Centres of Amygdaleza and Tavros throughout the reference period present serious irregularities and deficiencies resulting in the systematic violation of fundamental rights of administrative detainees, being third-country citizens, and are often inhuman and degrading treatment.

These shortcomings and violations are presented mainly in the following areas.

A. Juvenile detainees

Minors are held in the 8th wing of Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre. According to the international, EU and national legal framework, in principle, minors should not be detained, while the prescribed specific guarantees should be met, which are intended to provide fuller protection to the vulnerable social group of unaccompanied minors.

The detention regime for unaccompanied minors is particularly problematic. First, their detention is illegal as, instead of being submitted to reception and identification procedures and then accommodated in structures suitable for their age, they get arrested and are subject to return procedures. In other words, a return decision is issued against them without taking into account their vulnerability as minors, and then are placed in custody (in line with the fixed constant practice of the arrest authorities that detain minors on the grounds of "protective custody"). In addition, many minors are submitted to the so-called "age assessment test" activated by a non-competent agency, i.e. by the Greek police, beyond any legal framework, guarantee or procedure.

Guardianship: No guardian has been appointed for the above minors, while the Public Prosecutor, acting as interim guardian of unaccompanied minors, cannot, ipso facto, exercise the duties in question or have a substantial connection with them.

Health care: Shortcomings are also observed in the provision of health care to juvenile detainees. There is a doctor and a nurse [Monday to Friday (the doctor between 10.00 and 13.00 and the nurse between 9.00 and 13.00), serving the needs of all detainees in the Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre. A psychiatrist and a dentist visit the Centre once and twice a week, respectively. Access to medical services is, nevertheless, problematic as there is no interpreter and visiting the doctor depends on the discretion and availability of guards. Examples include an incident of an unaccompanied minor found by the ARSIS team, who had been diagnosed with tuberculosis and was held in the same container along with other minors. A minor with scabies was held in the same container.

Interpreter/Information/Psychosocial support/Legal assistance: Unaccompanied minors held in Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre are deprived of any psychosocial support and legal assistance from public services. No interpretation and information services are available either, resulting in the absence of any protective framework for juvenile detainees, as required by law and international standards.¹

¹ See Council of Europe, European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), CPT/Inf(99)12-part, "Minors deprived of their liberty", available at <https://rm.coe.int/16806ee498>





As to the detention areas, there are six containers used for minors. They have air conditioners installed, which were fully connected to a power unit in October 2017. Many children, during the reference period, slept on mattresses without sheets and covered themselves with woollen blankets (especially in July and August). Cases of illness from skin diseases (scabies) have been recorded, especially during the summer months, obviously, from the dirty mattresses. The related report was sent by the ARSIS intervention team to the Office of the Ombudsman-Circle of the Rights of the Child.

The areas used by minors are dirty, as, for a long time, there was no cleaning crew. The cleaning crew started work in November.

There is not even one table in the detention area for minors, while there are only a few chairs.

Personal hygiene/Nutrition: Upon entering the Centre, minors do not always receive personal hygiene items (soap, shower gel, towel, toothpaste, toothbrush). Meals are of low nutritional value. There is a lack of vegetables and fruit on the menu, while several times, when provided, they are of a very poor quality.

Contact: Moreover, juvenile detainees encounter difficulties in their communication with their relatives and friends. Although there is a card phone, many minors do not have money to buy a phone card, resulting in completely being deprived of their right to communicate.

Activities/Entertainment: No recreational activity is available to minors. Board games, books or Internet access are not available. Arsis has offered a basketball hoop which, however, has yet to be mounted, as no "safe" place for mounting it has been found.

B. ADULT DETAINEES

• Detention areas:

- In Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre, Section A and B are used for third-country adult men nationals. The detention area consists of containers, with two room each with a capacity of 4 persons each, and 2 toilets. Each room has a window with natural light and artificial light (bulb). However, rooms are not equipped with chairs and tables. With regard to the heating/cooling, not all air conditioning units are working in the rooms. There is no food court, place of worship or entertainment area.

- A separate area in Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre is intended for detention of families. The detention area consists of containers, each of which has 2 rooms with a capacity of 4 persons each, and 2 toilets. The facilities are looked after, compared with the other sections in Amygdaleza (they feature wardrobes, outdoor stalls, games for children), however the conditions in other respects are similar with those of other detainees. There is also a playground, which is, however, outside the section, therefore most of the times it is not used, as parents and, therefore, kids do not have access.

- In Tavros Pre-Removal Detention Centre: - it is still serving as a Pre-Removal Detention Centre, despite the obvious unsuitability of the site (building with cells without natural light,

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without adequate forecourt).² Detention sites are on the second and third floors and consist of cells. Most cells are indoor without natural lighting. Detention facilities are crowded with unacceptable sanitary conditions which has a direct impact on the health and psychological state of the detainees. Toilets and showers are insufficient for the people who need to be covered and often show damage. Adult men are held on the second floor, while women and men with serious medical problems are held on the third floor. Moreover, the detention sites for women have only bars and no windows. Due to the intense cold, some of the women use blankets to protect themselves from cold because of the missing windows. Hence, the blankets that were provided, were not enough for all adult women detainees.

Hygiene and cleanliness of the area

There is a major problem with cleanliness in **Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre**, as, for a long time, there was no cleaning crew. The cleaning crew started work in November.³ That fact created problems to both the detainees and the security personnel. The detainees themselves took care of the cleanliness of the site, with a few cleaning products provided to them. There was a major problem, all these months, with garbage collection, resulting in health risks to both detainees and staff.

There was no cleaning crew until November in Tavros Pre-Removal Detention Centre either, resulting in the detainees being forced to clean themselves, with minimal means.

As regards the bedding to be provided to detainees, it is noted that there is a complete lack of bed linen, pillows and pillowcases. Detainees are forced to sleep on the mattresses that are never disinfected and are a source of germs and infections. Woollen blankets are provided (despite the high temperatures of the season), which in the Tavros Pre-Removal Detention Centre are not washed but simply stacked in an to be used by the next detainees. In Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre, where there are laundries, an effort is made to wash all blankets with the assistance of detainees.

- **Health care:**

Serious inadequacies and shortcomings are recorded in detainees' access to medical services in both Centres.

- **In Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre:** There is a doctor and a nurse [Monday to Friday (the doctor from 10.00 to 13.00 and the nurse from 9.00 to 13.00), serving the needs of all detainees in Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre. A psychiatrist and a dentist

² See also the recommendation of CPT to the Greek State for using P. Ralli only for short-term detention, CPT Report on its visit to Greece from 4 to 16 April 2013, p. 82, available at <https://rm.coe.int/1680696620>

³ Pursuant to Article 11 of JMD No 8038/23/22-17 4 "detention sites shall be cleaned by private cleaning crew on a daily basis, under the supervision of the detention centre's guards".





visit the Centre once and twice a week, respectively. Such staff and the hours during which they are present at the detention facilities are not sufficient to cover the needs of detainees. Moreover, access to medical services is problematic, as there is no interpreter, and visiting the doctor depends on the discretion and availability of guards.

- In Tavros Pre-Removal Detention Centre:

There is a paediatrician (!) and a nurse [Monday to Friday (the doctor from 10.00 to 13.00 and the nurse from 9.00 to 14.00)]. A psychiatrist is visiting the Centre once a week. However, such staff and the hours during which they are present at the detention facilities are not sufficient to cover the needs of detainees. We indicatively mention the case of a Moroccan citizen who, despite being disabled (on a wheelchair) and a case requiring psychiatric monitoring, remains in detention for more than a month in the Tavros Pre-Removal Detention Centre in completely inappropriate conditions. When he entered the Centre, he did not have any medical examination or psychological assessment, no detainee undergoes a medical examination at the time of entry but visits the doctor only after repeated requests. In this case, the above detainee was given the opportunity to undergo a psychiatric assessment only after the intervention by the ARSIS team.

At both Centres, there are special difficulties and problems recorded in the detainees' transfer to hospitals, even after they have been referred to by the doctor either for a diagnosis or for treatment, resulting in serious implications for the health of detainees. They are admitted in hospitals in only extremely severe cases, often with a great delay (cardiac arrest, attempted suicide, etc.).

In addition, it is noted that there is no medical examination of detainees upon entering the Detention Centres, while they visit the doctor only if they ask for it themselves and are heard and escorted - intervention by ARSIS is frequent and necessary to this end. Consequently, there is no early detection of vulnerable detainees, who require specific treatment. It should be noted that many times, when the detainee enters the Centre after hospitalisation, medical staff does not receive the medical record of the patient and are not updated for the specific detainee, who may need special medical care.

Lastly, there is a significant problem in the availability of medicines from the Hellenic Centre for Disease Control & Prevention, which is due - according to the medical staff - to serious shortcomings.

• **Interpreter/Information/Psychosocial support/Legal assistance:**

In both Centres, there is a complete lack of psychosocial support from a public body, as there are no social workers and psychologists, despite the express statutory provision on providing psychosocial care and assistance to detainees. And this occurs in a population that has largely symptoms of mental/psychiatric difficulties (increased anxiety, withdrawal, depression).

In both the Amygdaleza and Tavros Pre-Removal Detention Centres there is complete lack of interpretation services, thereby hindering the contact of detainees with both the medical staff and security personnel.

The detainees are unaware of their legal status and residency status in detention centres. They are not provided with information about their rights, the content of their documents served to them and the administrative or judicial appeals available to them. They are not

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informed of the rules of operation of the Centre, the organisations providing free legal assistance, the international organisations to which they may appeal.

- **Personal hygiene/Nutrition.**

Upon entering the two Pre-Removal Detention Centres, detainees do not always receive personal hygiene items (soap, shower gel, towel, toothpaste, toothbrush, toilet paper) despite the relevant statutory provision.⁴ Detainees wash their clothes themselves with any soap they have, despite the washers in Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre. The only exception is for women detainees, who use washers in Tavros Pre-Removal Detention Centre. The meals provided at both centres are of low nutritional value and are far from the eating habits of detainees, based on their cultural and religious identity. There is a lack of vegetables on the menu, while fruits are given only periodically and according to the offer, while several times, when provided, are of very poor quality.

In addition, there is no care for detainees who must have specific nutrition, due to health problems.

In Amygdaleza, detainees cover their necessities, by paying the respective price, from a "mini market", as they call it: a small truck comes to the Pre-Removal Detention Centre and supplies them with cigarettes, paper, croissants and coffee.

In Tavros Pre-Removal Detention Centre, detainees cover their necessities by paying the respective price every Thursday.

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- **Yarding/Outdoor Exercise**

- **In Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre**, detainees can exercise throughout the day at an area enclosed by containers. Despite that possibility, there are no shades resulting in the exercise becoming impossible during very hot or rainy days.

- **In Tavros Pre-Removal Detention Centre**, there is no provision on daily exercise, but only on some days, in the morning or afternoon, while according to reports detainees have no exercise at all over the weekend. The exercise lasts between 15 and 30 minutes depending on the availability/mood of police shift. Morning exercise starts in the morning when most detainees are sleeping, so more than half of them miss morning exercise. The can have exercise time is only during the afternoon.

- **Clothing and footwear**

There are shortcomings in the clothing and footwear in both Centres. Many detainees reported to us that they have only the clothes they wore on the day of their arrest. Some bodies of the Civil Society offer clothing and shoes, but of course they are not enough to meet the needs of all detainees.

- **Contact**

⁴ See Article 11 of JMD on the establishment and operation of the Pre-Removal Detention Centres.

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Moreover, difficulties are encountered by detainees in communicating with their relatives and friends. Although there is a card phone, many detainees do not have money to buy a phone card, resulting in completely being deprived of their right to communicate.

• **Activities/Entertainment**

There is a complete lack of recreational, sports and other activities at both Detention Centres. The law explicitly stipulates the provision of entertainment (board games, debates, etc.), the function of a lending library with books in foreign languages, and the ability to read newspapers.⁵ In Amygdaleza Pre-Removal Detention Centre, two volleyball nets have been fitted, where detainees can play.

In conclusion, from the above findings of the Athens team of "ARSIS", which in 2017 implemented an intervention programme in the Amygdaleza and Tavros Pre-Removal Detention Centres, it may be seen that detention conditions in both Centres are unacceptable and constitute inhuman and degrading treatment.

ARSIS continues its interventions before all relevant public bodies for the termination of the unacceptable practice of detention of unaccompanied minors and their prompt accommodation in appropriate protective structures, as well as for the termination of the practice of detention of vulnerable persons (such as families, patients, disabled persons, victims of trafficking, single women, etc.) and for being accommodated in appropriate structures in the mainland.

ARSIS also continues its interventions for the compliance with legality as regards the administrative detention of adults, which is systematically violated both with respect to the enforcement process and continuation of the measure of detention, and the conditions of detention, which, according to our findings, are often inhumane and degrading treatment. Legality imposes detention as an exception, even during the return process and only where the ability to impose alternative measures has been exhausted, which should at last be implemented.

⁵ See Article 13 of the JMD on the establishment and operation of the Pre-Removal Detention Centre.

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ESTIA, the Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation programme, is implemented with the support of UNHCR and with funding by European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO).

This document covers humanitarian aid activities implemented with the financial assistance of the European Union. The views expressed herein should not be taken, in any way, to reflect the official opinion of the European Union, and the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains



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