In Europe about 600,000 migrants, including children, are detained every year.

Most often journalists have no access to detention centres.
For the last ten years, the number of migrant detention centres within the European Union (EU) and at its (southern and eastern) borders has been increasing. The detention of those considered “undesirable” has become a prime tool for the “management” of immigration and asylum. On the territory of the EU only, every year, nearly 600,000 migrants are deprived not only of their freedom but also of access to legal advice and healthcare and to the right to live with their family... These human rights violations remain largely hidden: everything is done in order to keep these places and the detainees away from the public eye so as to avoid any criticism of these devices.

The “Open Access Now” Campaign, launched in 2011 by the networks Migreurop and European Alternatives, continues to advocate for unconditional access of civil society and journalists to these places.

In this context, Migreurop in partnership with the Observatoire de l’Enfermement des Etrangers (France) invites you to an international meeting on “Migrant detention in Europe and beyond: What perspectives?”, which will be held on December 6. The meeting will look at various emerging issues related to migrant detention in certain European and Mediterranean countries and will critically assess civil society mobilisations in this field, in order to encourage further and stronger links between them.

The opacity surrounding detention centres and the difficulties in accessing information about these devices for associations, researchers, relatives of detainees and citizens in general, are hindering possible contacts with detainees as well as the implementation of support actions and advocacy, claim-making and awareness-raising initiatives on this topic.

From this observation, the network Migreurop came up with the idea of establishing a database and of creating a “Dynamic map of migrant detention”, in order to promote access to information regarding administrative detention and its impact on the lives and rights of migrants for the greatest number of people.

The meeting of 6 December 2013 will be an opportunity to launch this ambitious and participatory project: the beta version of the web site closethecamps.org will be presented at the beginning of the morning session.
MIGRANT DETENTION IN EUROPE AND BEYOND: WHAT PERSPECTIVES?

9/9.30am: Welcoming and registration
9.30/9.40am: Opening session
9.40/10am: PRESENTATION OF THE “Dynamic Map of the Camps”
Olivier Clochard
(Migrinter, France / Migreurop)
10/10.15am: Questions
10.15am/12.15pm: ROUNDTABLE 1:
Recent political and legal developments related to detention: what are the new challenges?
Moderator: Laure Blondel
(Anafé, France/Migreurop)
10.15/11am: David Rohi (La Cimade, France/Migreurop),
Samira Trad (Frontiers Ruwad, Lebanon/Migreurop)
11/11.15am: Questions
11.15/11.30am: Coffee break
11.30am/12pm:
Nicanor Haon (FTDES, Tunisia/Migreurop),
Sigal Rozen (Hotline for Migrants’ Workers, Israel)
12/12.15pm: Questions
12/1.20pm: ROUNDTABLE 2:
Critical assessment of civil society mobilisations and media positioning: where did we get? Best practices and challenges.
Moderator: Brigitte Espuche
(Anafé, France/Migreurop)
12/1.05pm:
Alessandra Capodanno (Open Access/Migreurop),
Arnaud Veisse (Observatoire de l’Enfermement des Etrangers, France),
Jerome Phelps (National Detention Forum/Detention Action, United Kingdom),
Doros Poykarpou (KISA, Cyprus/Migreurop),
Sigal Rozen (Hotline for Migrants’ Workers, Israel)
1.05/1.20pm: Questions
1.20/1.30pm: Closing session
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BEFORE DECEMBER 3 2013

For more information and to register:
oaconference6dec@gmail.com - 0033 (0)1 53278781

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