



Stichting Landelijk
Ongedocumenteerden
Steunpunt

NEWSLETTER, YEAR 3 NO. 1

14 January 2013

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SHELTER CHURCH IN THE HAGUE HAS TAKEN OFF

On Saturday 12 January, a church was broken into in order to provide refuge for the inhabitants who were ejected from their tent camp on the Koekamp. The church had been empty for four years. The parish and the neighbourhood did not reach an agreement on the future use of the premises. The parish and the diocese are still discussing the residence conditions with the new inhabitants.

2. ADMISSION POLICY

State secretary: lawyers to be awarded a lower fee if they lose a case

In future, lawyers working on repeated applications for asylum will receive a lower fee if they lose their case. The proposed amendment is part of the Streamlining Admission Procedures bill, testing all the grounds for asylum in conjunction with various humanitarian reasons for residence. The aim is to prevent the 'accumulation of procedures'.

The bill is still to be handled in the Lower House (parliamentary paper 31753 no. 55, 21.12.12)

Assessing the credibility of conversions

Last year, many refugees applied for asylum on account of their conversion to Christianity. A number of asylum requests have been rejected, as the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) found the conversion implausible. The IND applies the criterion that the conversion must be inspired by a deep-rooted inner religious conviction, or that a well considered, conscious choice has been made to convert to Christianity.

Council of State: Tibetans and Uighurs at risk upon returning to China

The Council of State considers the circumstances of Tibetans upon returning to China to be too insecure and thus rules that return is not safe (Council of State 201109034/1/V2 9.1.13)

The Council of State has applied to the IND for information regarding the General Intelligence and Security Service (AIVD) annual report, which states that the Chinese authorities are spying on Uighurs. The IND has asked for the consultation with the AIVD to be postponed. Thus, for the time being, Uighurs cannot be evicted either (Council of State, 201206619/1, 10.1.13)

Court: no asylum granted to Nicaraguan domestic violence victim

The asylum seeker told the court she suffered from violence used by her husband and that the police would not help her. The court ruled that there are women's shelters in Nicaragua and that there is thus no reason to grant asylum (Amsterdam court AWB 12/11653, 14.12.12)

Council of State: Tamils from Sri Lanka can be sent back

The Council of State does not consider Tamils returning to Sri Lanka to be generally at any great risk. The information regarding abuse of deported Tamils, especially from the United Kingdom, is not found to be important enough (Council of State 201113061/1/V4 28.12.12)

Admission policy family life

The government will again amend the policy for admission of unmarried partners. The right of a family life will stretch to admitting unmarried partners as well. Other amendments introduced on 1 October 2012, especially abolishing the extended family reunification and older people policies, will be maintained.

The state secretary will assess applications for residence of unmarried partners made since 1 October 2012 on the basis of the new policy (parliamentary paper 32175 nr. 47, 21.12.12)

3. CHECK AND DEPORTATION

France ceases sanctions against support of illegal residence

On 19 December, the French Parliament abolished a legal provision that sanctions people who provide support to irregular migrants, through the adoption of a proposal on "holding migrants for the verification of the regularity of stay, and amending the offence for support to irregular stay by excluding humanitarian and non-profit based acts".

4. WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Women's eatery 26 January 18.00 hrs, Amsterdam

The women's eatery offers women with or without residence permits a chance to meet each other. As from 18.00 hrs, everyone is welcome. By 19.00 hrs, a (vegetarian) meal will be dished out (free for women without residence permits; others pay € 5,-) and at 20.00 hrs, the informative part of the evening begins, featuring a guest speaker, film or discussion - depending on the wishes and needs of the women who attend.

Address: 'de Peper', Overtoom 301, in Amsterdam (tram 1, stop J. P. Heijestraat).

Conference Illegality Regimes: Mapping the Law of Illegality 30mei-1juli VU Amsterdam

Recent years have seen the development of increasingly sophisticated legal and policy approaches to address the phenomenon of irregular immigration. Many states have moved beyond traditional means of law enforcement, such as criminalization, without necessarily abandoning them. In addition, they have begun to employ other areas of law (such as administrative law and labour law) in pursuit of controlling irregular immigration.

Among economic scholars, a debate about the (lack of) effectiveness of these policies has been growing the last couple of years. What is still absent, however, is a more rigorous analysis by legal and other social science scholars. This conference aims to explore the more systemic dimensions of these responses to irregular migration.

Info: www.illegality.org

International list of organisations who offer aid to refugees

The list consists of non-government organisations (NGOs) or not-for-profit organisations (and, in rare cases, individual lawyers) who offer pro bono legal aid and/or other services related to the needs of refugees. Some countries have no legal aid for refugees but do have NGOs that provide other services that can be valuable for refugees and might lead to legal aid.

<http://www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org/content/pro-bono-legal-aid-other-refugee-services>

The LOS foundation is the supporting organization for the assistance of migrants without residence permits. By means of this newsletter we inform you of current developments. If you have any questions about this newsletter or about the rights of migrants without residence permits, please contact LOS.