



Last updated: March 2009

Cyprus Detention Profile

Introduction

The Republic of Cyprus receives the highest number of asylum applicants per capita of all industrialized countries, which during the period 2003-2007 numbered 39 asylum seekers per 1,000 inhabitants (UNHCR 2008). This distinction is due to a number of factors, including: Cyprus' small population (nearly 800,000); location on the external border of Europe; proximity to both the Middle East and Africa; and the island's division between the Cypriot government-controlled southern area and the Turkish controlled north, which is demarcated by a non-secure boundary called the Green Line (Council of Europe 2008). In 2007, the Republic of Cyprus was estimated to have between 10,000-60,000 undocumented foreign workers (Symfiliosi 2007); it had over 13,000 asylum seekers as of 2005 (UNHCR 2005).

According to the Cypriot non-governmental organization Symfiliosi, "There are three different categories of people detained on immigration-related 'offences': those detained for a few days until their removal is arranged; those whose removal presents various difficulties (e.g. non-disclosure of their country of origin, or their country of origin is unwilling to accept them); and third country nationals who had initially been declared 'illegal' and who subsequently applied for international protection" (Symfiliosi 2007). According to the Cypriot Ombudsman's office, people who file asylum claims after entering Cyprus illegally are subject to detention, as are immigrants who, after failing to renew a residence permit, claim asylum (Demetriadou 2009).

Cyprus maintains at least nine immigration detention centres, all but two of which are located in police stations. The seven police station facilities are located in Aradippou, Lakatamia, Larnaca, Limassol, Orokline, Paphos, and Paralimni (Demetriadou 2009; Council of Europe 2008). There are also detention facilities located inside the Larnaca International Airport and the Nicosia Central Prison (Demetriadou 2009). Although the Nicosia facility, called Block 10, is located within the prison, it is operated separately (Demetriadou 2009). All immigration detention sites are operated by the Immigration Department of the Police Force, which is a part of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order (Demetriadou 2009).

A 2008 report by the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe highlighted a number of problems that have been reported at Cypriot detention sites, including excessively long detention periods for rejected asylum seekers, the poor state of repair of many sites, inadequate training of guards, and allegations of mistreatment (Council of Europe 2008).

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Global Detention Project
Programme for the Study of Global Migration
The Graduate Institute - P.O. Box 136 - 1211 Geneva 21
Phone +41 22 908 4556 - Fax +41 22 908 4594
global.detention.project@gmail.com - www.globaldetentionproject.org

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List of Detention Sites

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Name	Status (Year)	Location	Facility Type	Security	Authority	Management	Capacity	Reported Population	Segregation
Aradippou Police Station Detention Centre	In use (2009)	Aradippou	Police Station	Secure	Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Police Force	Immigration Department of the Police Force			Gender Segregation; legal segregation.
Lakatomia Police Station Detention Centre	In use (2009)	Nicosia	Police Station	Secure	Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Police Force	Immigration Department of the Police Force	10	6 (As of April 2007)	Women only; reports of mixed legal detention
Larnaca International Airport Detention Center	In use (2009)	Larnaca International Airport	Transit Zone - Airport	Secure	Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Police Force	Immigration Department of the Police Force	16		
Larnaca Police Station Detention Centre	In use (2009)	Larnaca	Police Station	Secure	Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Police Force	Immigration Department of the Police Force	50	50 (As of December 2004)	Gender segregation; legal segregation.
Limassol Police Station Detention Centre	In use (2009)	Limassol	Police Station	Secure	Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Police Force	Immigration Department of the Police Force	53	35 (As of December 2004)	Gender segregation; legal segregation.
Nicosia Central Prison, Block 10	In use (2009)	Nicosia	Prison	Secure	Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Police Force	Immigration Department of the Police Force	76	50 (As of December 2007)	Men only; legal segregation.
Orokline Police Station Detention Centre	In use (2009)	Orokline	Police Station	Secure	Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Police Force	Immigration Department of the Police Force			Gender Segregation; legal segregation.
Pahpos Police Station Detention Centre	In use (2009)	Pahpos	Police Station	Secure	Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Police Force	Immigration Department of the Police Force			Gender Segregation; legal segregation.
Paralimni Police Station Detention Centre	In use (2009)	Paralimni	Police Station	Secure	Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Police Force	Immigration Department of the Police Force			Gender Segregation; legal segregation.

Sources

(This is only a partial list. More detailed information is available upon request.)

- Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights. 2008. Report by Thomas Hammerberg, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Following Visit to the Republic of Cyprus on 7-10 July 2008. Council of Europe. 12 December 2008.
- Demetriadou, Thekla (Officer, Office of the Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) of Cyprus). 2009. Interview by Michael Flynn. Phone conversation. 23 January 2009. Global Detention Project. Geneva, Switzerland.
- European Parliament. 2007. The conditions in centres for third country national (detention camps, open centres as well as transit centres and transit zones) with a particular focus on provisions and facilities for persons with special needs in the 25 EU member states. European Parliament, Directorate-General Internal Policies, Policy Department C, Citizens Rights and Constitutional Affairs. Contract Ref: IP/C/LIBE/IC/2006-181. December 2007.
- Symfiliosi. 2007. "Cyprus." In Civil Society Report on Administrative Detention of Asylum Seekers and Irregular Migrants in Europe: Common Position of JRS in Europe. Edited by the Jesuit Refugee Services - Europe. December 2007. <http://www.jrseurope.org/publications/Final%20Report%2010%20NMS%20Dec%2007.pdf> (accessed April 2008).

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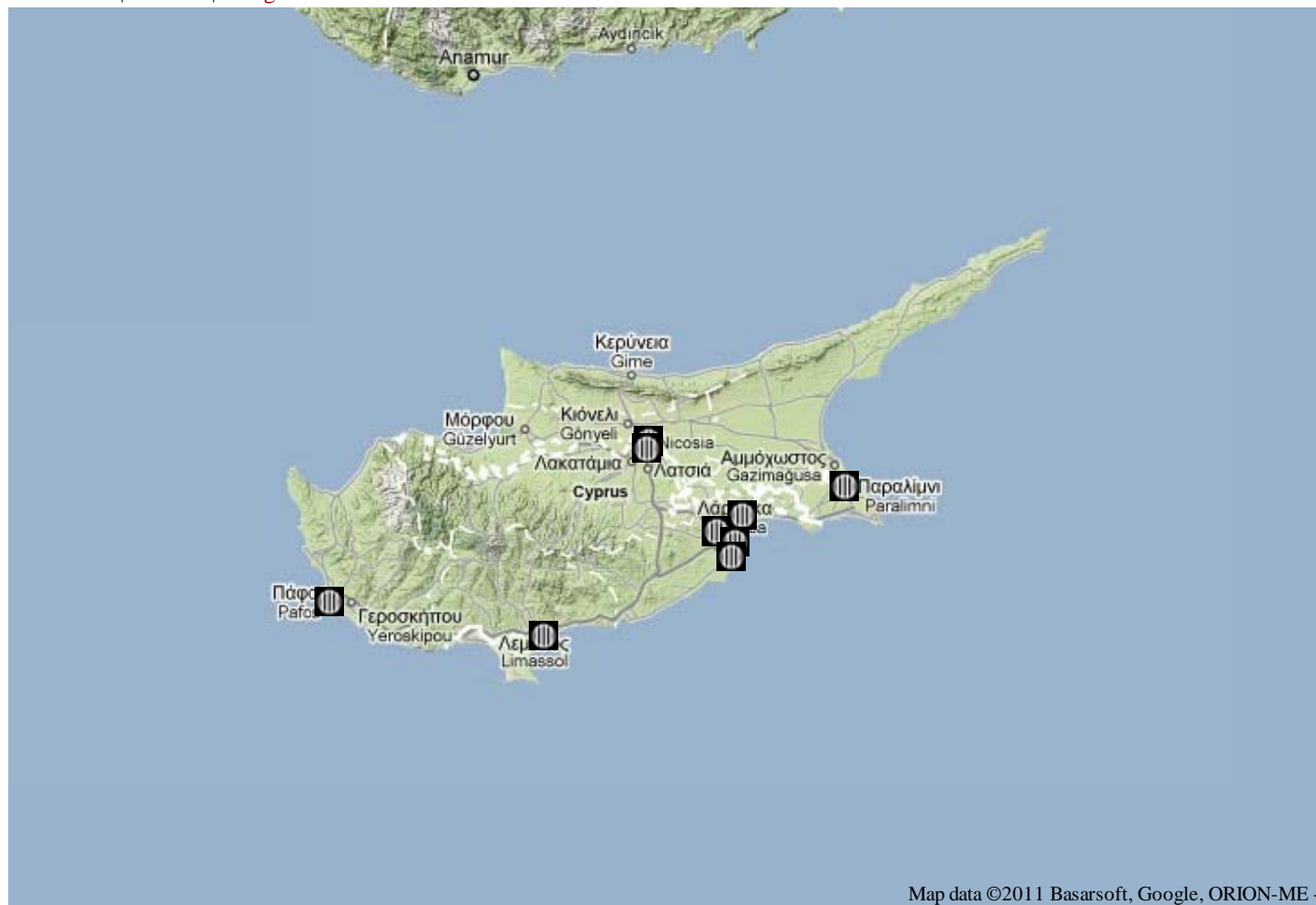
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Map of "In Use" Detention Sites

For more detailed information, see the complete [List of Detention Sites](#).

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Country View

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2. [Lakatamia Police Station Detention Centre](#)
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Government Agencies

Ministry of the Interior

<http://moi.gov.cy/>

Ministry of Justice and Public Order

<http://www.mjpo.gov.cy/>

Office of the Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman)

<http://www.ombudsman.gov.cy/>

International Organizations

International Labour Organization: Office for the European Union

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/eurpro/brussels/index.htm>

UNHCR - Country Information - Cyprus

<http://www.unhcr.org/country/cyp.html>

NGOs and Research Institutions

Cyprus Action Network

<http://www.cyprusaction.org/>

Friends of Cyprus

<http://www.friendsofcyprus.org.uk/>

Greek Refugee Council

<http://www.gcr.gr/>

KISA

<http://www.kisa.org.cy/EN/index.html>

Media

Cyprus Mail

<http://www.cyprus-mail.com/news/>

Cyprus Weekly

<http://www.cyprusweekly.com.cy/>

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