Sweden Immigration Detention Data Profile



Global Detention Project Profile



Quick Facts	
Immigration detainees (2018)	4,705
Detained asylum seekers (2012)	2,569
Detained minors (2018)	13
Immigration detention capacity (2020)	302
Persons expelled (2018)	10,750
International migrants (2019)	2,005,210
New asylum applications (2019)	36,017

NOTES ON USING THIS PROFILE

- Sources for the data provided in this report are available online at: https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/europe/sweden
- "Observation Dates" indicate the timeframe statistical data correspond to or other data were last validated. More than one statistical entry for a year indicates contrasting reports.

© Global Detention Project 2020 1/14

C-	\mathbf{r}	IC.	

Detention, expulsion, and incarceration statistics

Detention, expulsion, and incarceration statistics								
		Observatio	n Date				Ob	servation Date
	4,705	2018				Afghanistan,		2010
	4,379	2017				Georgia, Iraq, Albania, Ukraine	:	2018
	3,714	2016					-	
	3,959	2015						
	3,201	2014						
	2,893	2013						
Total number of	3,205	2012						
immigration detainee	s 2,564	2012		Top national detaine	ities of es			
by year	3,137	2011						
	1,941	2011						
	3,015	2010)					
	1,810	2010)					
	1,742	2009)					
	1,645	2008	1					
	1,735	2007	,					
	1,156	2018				2,569		2012
	675	2017	,			2,508		2011
	421	2015		Number of detained		2,409		2010
Number of persons granted alternatives t	405	2013						
immigration detention	396	2012		asylum sed	ekers			
	289	2011						
	270	2010						
	288	2009						
	13	2018			14	2013		
	78	2017			18	2012		_
	108	2016			11	2011		-
	80	2015			4	2011		-
	25 28	2014			6	2010		-
Total number of	85	2013		per of detained	1	2010		-
detained minors	50	2012	unacco	ompanied minors				4
	25	2012						
	41	2011						
	32	2011						
	21	2010						
	37	2010						

© Global Detention Project 2020 2/14

	1,720	2018		0.21	2015
	2,145	2017		0.19	2013
Number of	1,211	2016	Immigration detainees	0.13	2010
apprehensions of non- citizens	1,445	2015	as a percentage of total international migrant		
Citizens	72,835	2014	population		
	24,400	2013			
	23,205	2012			
Estimated total	302	2020	Number of dedicated	5	2018
immigration detention	502	2019	long-term immigration detention centres		
capacity	417	2018	detention centres		
Estimated capacity of	302	2020		2	2015
dedicated long-term immigration detention	357	2018	Number of criminal facilities		
centres	255	2015			
	10,750	2018		2,945	2017
	9,950	2017		2,490	2016
Number of persons	11,865	2016	Number of deportations/forced	2,545	2015
removed/returned (voluntary returns and	9,830	2015		1,945	2014
deportations)	6,630	2014	returns only		
	14,315	2013			
	16,140	2012			
Percentage of persons removed in relation to	46.4	2014		5,979	2017
total number of people placed in removal		•	Criminal prison population	5,245	2016
procedures				5,797	2013
	22.1	2016	Prison population rate	59	2017
Percentage of foreign prisoners	30.9	2015	(per 100,000 of national population)	53	2016
	31.6	2013	population)	60	2013
Demographics and imm	igration-related st	atistics			
		Observation Date			Observation Date
	10,100,000	2020		2,005,210	2019
	10,100,000	2019		1,747,700	2017
Population	9,979,000	2015	International migrants	1,639,800	2015
	9,500,000	2012		1,519,500	2013
				1,385,000	2010
International migrants	17.6	2017	Estimated number of	30,000 - 50,000	2009
International migrants as a percentage of the	16.8	2015	undocumented		•
population	15.9	2013	migrants		

© Global Detention Project 2020 3/14

	253,787	2019		23.36	2016
	233,767	2019		25.50	2010
	248,226	2018		14.66	2014
Refugees	240,962	2017	Ratio of refugees per		
Relugees	230,164	2016	1000 inhabitants		
	169,520	2015			
	142,207	2014			
	36,017	2019		25.3	2014
Total number of new asylum applications	52,674	2016	Refugee recognition rate		
	75,096	2014			
	31,819	2018			
	35,101	2017			
Stateless persons	36,036	2016			
	27,167	2015			
	20,450	2014			

DOMESTIC LAW								
LEGAL TRADITION								
Name Observation Date						n Date		
Legal tradition		Civil law						
LAWS AND REGULATIONS								
Constitutional	Yes/No	Cons	titution a	nd Article	5	Year A	Adopted	Last Year Amended
guarantees?	Yes	The Instrume	nt of Gove	rnment, art	icles 8-9	1	974	1974
LAWS AND REGULATIONS								
Core pieces of national	Name		Υe	ear Adopted		Last Year Amended		
legislation	Aliens Act (2005:716)			2005				
GROUNDS FOR ADMINISTI	RATIVE IMMIG	RATION-RELATI	ED DETEN	ITION				
			Name				0	bservation Date
Immigration-status-	Detention to establish/verify identity and nationality					2018		
related grounds	Detention to prevent absconding					2018		
		Detentio	n to effect	removal				2018
CRIMINALIZATION OF IMM	IIGRATION-RE	LATED OFFENCI	ES					
Does the country provide specific criminal penalties for	Fi	nes		Incarce	ation		Ob	servation Date
immigration-related violations?	Y	es		Yes	i		2018	

© Global Detention Project 2020 4/14

CRIMINALIZATION OF IMM	IGRATION-RELATED OFFEN	CES					
Grounds for criminal immigration-related detention/incarceration	Grounds for Incarceration	Maximum Number of Days of Incarceration			1	Observation Dat	
and maximum potential duration of incarceration	Unauthorized entry			365			2018
LENGTH OF DETENTION							
Maximum length for administrative	Number o	f Days			Observa	tion Dat	te
immigration detention in law.	365				20	018	
ENGTH OF DETENTION							
	Number o	f Days			Observa	tion Dat	te
	29			2018			
	31.5			2017			
	26.6			2016			
	18				20	015	
Average length of	5				20	013	
detention	7				20	012	
	10				20	011	
	11				20	010	
	13			2009			
	21			2008			
	17			2007			
LENGTH OF DETENTION							
Maximum length of detention for asylum-	Number o	f Days			Observa	tion Dat	te
seekers	365			2018			
PROCEDURAL STANDARD	s						
	Name		In La	w	In Practice	Ob	servation Date
Provision of basic	Right to legal cour	nsel	Yes	;	Yes		2020
procedural standards	Independent review of o	detention	Yes	i			2018
	Access to free interpretati				Yes		2015

© Global Detention Project 2020 5/14

NON-CUSTODIAL MEASURES (ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION)							
Types of non-custodial measures	Name		In Law	In Practice	Observation Date		
	Registration (deposit of docum	ents)	Yes	infrequently	2017		
	Designated non-secure housing		Yes	infrequently	2016		
	Supervised release and/or reporting		Yes	infrequently	2016		
	Release on bail		No	No	2014		
	Electronic monitoring		No	No	2014		
/ULNERABLE PERSONS							
Is the detention of	Name	ı	n Law	In Practice	Observation Date		
vulnerable persons	Accompanied minors	Pi	rovided	Yes	2018		
provided in law? Are they detained in	Unaccompanied minors	Pi	rovided	Yes	2018		
practice?	Asylum seekers	Not i	mentioned	Yes	2014		

© Global Detention Project 2020 6/14

	Update Status	Observation Date
	Responding to the Global Detention Project's Covid-19 survey, the Swedish Migration Board (Migrationsverket), which also acts as the country's European Migration Network contact, reported that no moratorium on new immigration detention orders had been established in response to the Covid-19 crisis and that such a measure was not being considered. In addition, the Migration Board said that on 23 March a decision was made to decrease the number of immigration detention spaces from 520 to 302 in order to adhere to rules set by the Public Health Agency. Certain detainees were also released from detention as returns could no longer be made due to the Covid-19 pandemic (see the 6 July and 30 April Sweden updates on this platform). However, no specific health measures were taken for those released from detention. The Migration Board also indicated that detainees are not all tested for Covid-19. A health professional decides whether a test should be made if a detainee presents symptoms. On 15 July, the Local news agency reported that since April Sweden's reception of "quota" refugees has been on hold due to the pandemic. Sweden was set to receive 5,000 refugees through the system this year, but the country had only accepted around 1,300 when the system was suspended. However, UNHCR and IOM resumed work on the quota system in June, and Sweden has now determined that it can begin to accept refugees again. The head of the Resettlement Program at the Swedish Migration Board said: "We will carry out the transfers gradually and in close dialogue with the relevant municipalities and regions. In the first stage, it will be about twenty people." Measures to protect refugees' health and reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19 have been put in place. Only those that are symptom-free and do not belong to a risk group will travel, and only to municipalities with a low spread of infection. It is expected that the first refugees will arrive in August. As previously reported on this platform (30 April), the Swedish Network of Refugee Su	2020
	Responding to the Global Detention Project's Covid-19 survey, the Swedish Parliamentary Ombudsman's office reported that Sweden had not established a moratorium on new immigration detention orders and that no such measure was under consideration. The Ombudsman's office indicated that the Swedish police released immigration detainees in cases where expulsion could not be executed in the foreseeable future. Migrants and asylum seekers released from detention must observe the rules that the Public Health Agency has issued, for instance, physical distancing, washing hands, staying home if one has symptoms of Covid-19, and no using public transport unless absolutely necessary. The Ombudsman's office also stated that immigration detainees may be tested for Covid-19 if they have symptoms of the disease. If a detainee has symptoms, they will be placed in a separate unit in isolation. In addition, there is to be limited and specially designated staff who are authorised to work in that separate unit to avoid spreading the infection to other detainees. Regarding removals, the Ombudsman's office indicated that they did not have information to which countries removals were taking place and stated that Sweden had not adopted new immigration or asylum policies in response to Covid-19.	2020
Latest Update	Responding to the Global Detention Project's Covid-19 survey, the Swedish Parliamentary Ombudsman's office reported that as far as they were aware, Sweden had not established a moratorium on new detention orders and was not contemplating such a measure. The Ombudsman stated that while some 200 detainees had been released from immigration detention, they were unable to provide information on any measures taken to prevent the spread of Covid-19 amongst released detainees or whether any "alternative to detention" (ATD) programs have been put in place. The Ombudsman's office also said that only detainees who showed symptoms of Covid-19 were being tested and that as of late May, only a minority of those showing symptoms were actually tested. Concerning removals, the Ombudsman's office reported that although they did not have official statistics, news reports from April indicated that the number of deportations had gone down sharply during March-April 2020, in comparison to the same period in 2019. Sweden has also placed a temporary ban on all non-essential travel to Sweden from all countries except the EU, Norway, Iceland and Switzerland. The travel ban has been extended until 15 June 2020. All visa applications for non-EU nationals are being rejected by the Swedish Migration Agency at this time.	2020
	Sweden's response to Covid-19 has been different to the approach taken by many neighbouring European countries. It has not imposed quarantine on its population, but rather called on its citizens to "take responsibility" and follow the recommendations of health authorities. To date, Sweden has recorded more than 21,000 cases of Covid-19 and 2,586 deaths related to the virus. Sweden places on average some 3,000 people in immigration detention every year in its five dedicated immigration detention centres, which have a total capacity of around 519. This has now been reduced to around 300 to avoid overcrowding and according to the Swedish Network of Refugee Support Groups (FARR), a certain number of detainness have been released as there are no tenable legal grounds to detain them when expulsion is not possible in the near future. Decisions to release are made on individual grounds by both the Migration Agency and the police and released asylum seekers are required to report two to three times a week to the police. However, detainess have been released without any provision of support. They are not provided with housing or a daily allowance and so they are wholly dependent on the generosity of their networks to survive. In addition, they are denied normal access to health care as they have been expelled from the benefits that asylum seekers have. However, in respect of contagious such as Covid-19, asylum seekers will be provided with the necessary care free of charge. For other health conditions, a visit to a doctor can cost up to 1000 SEK (around \$US\$ 100) and any medicines prescribed will not be sold at subsidised prices have. However, in respect of contagious such as Covid-19, asylum seekers will be possibility to leave the detention centre. but as he had nowhere to go, he chose to remain in the centre. As his condition, they are some some such as the detention centre and died while in care. NGOs in Sweden, including FARR, have called for the release of immigration detainees, but so far there has not been any ge	2020

INTERNATIONAL LAW

© Global Detention Project 2020 7/14

	Name		Ratification Year
	CRPD, Convention on the Rights of	Persons with Disabilities	2008
	CTOCSP, Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants United Nations Convention against Tra		2006
	OPCAT, Optional Protocol to the Convention again Degrading Treatment o		2005
	CTOCTP, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish and Childre		2004
	CRC, Convention on the Ri	ghts of the Child	1990
International treaties	CAT, Convention against Torture and Other Crue Punishmen		1986
	CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of All Fo	rms of Discrimination against Women	1980
	VCCR, Vienna Convention on	Consular Relations	1974
	ICERD, International Convention on the Elimination	1971	
	ICCPR, International Covenant on	1971	
	ICESCR, International Covenant on Econo	1971	
	PCRSR, Protocol to the Geneva Convention F	1967	
	CRSSP, Convention Relating to the S	1965	
	CRSR, Geneva Convention Relating	1954	
Ratio of relevant international treaties ratified		14/19	
Relevant international tro	eaties and date of ratification		
	Name		Acceptance Yea
	CRPD, Optional Protocol to o the Convention on	2008	
Individual complaints	эт э		
Individual complaints	CEDAW, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Women, 199	ne Elimination of Discrimination against	2003
Individual complaints procedure	CEDAW, Optional Protocol to the Convention on th	ne Elimination of Discrimination against 99	2003 1986
	CEDAW, Optional Protocol to the Convention on th Women, 199	ne Elimination of Discrimination against 199 122 of the Convention	
	CEDAW, Optional Protocol to the Convention on th Women, 199 CAT, declaration under article 2	ne Elimination of Discrimination against 99 22 of the Convention 14 of the Convention	1986
procedure	CEDAW, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Women, 199 CAT, declaration under article 2 ICERD, declaration under article	ne Elimination of Discrimination against 99 22 of the Convention 14 of the Convention	1986 1971
procedure	CEDAW, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Women, 1990 CAT, declaration under article of the International Control of the In	ne Elimination of Discrimination against 99 22 of the Convention 14 of the Convention	1986 1971
procedure	CEDAW, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Women, 199 CAT, declaration under article of ICERD, declaration under article ICCPR, First Optional Protocol to the International Contact and date of ratification	ne Elimination of Discrimination against 99 22 of the Convention 14 of the Convention ovenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966	1986 1971

© Global Detention Project 2020 8/14

5/7

Relevant international tre	eaties and date o	f ratification	
	Name	Recommendation Excerpt	Recommendation Year
Relevant recommendations issued by treaty bodies	Human Rights Committee	§ 33. The State party should: []; (B) Ensure that the detention of migrants and asylum seekers is a measure of last resort and for th shortest period of time, is necessary and proportionate in the light the circumstances, and that alternatives to detention are resorted in practice.	e of 2016
Regional treaties, regulat	ions, and directiv	ves	
		Name	Year of Ratification (Treaty) / Transposed (Directive) / Adoption (Regulation)
	CPCSE, Conven	2013	
Regional legal	ECHR, Convention (commo	1952	
instruments	ECHRP1, Protoc	1953	
	ECHRP7, Protoc	col 7 to the European Convention on Human Rights (amended by protocol 11)	1985
	ECPT, European C	Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Punishment	1988

CATHB, Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

2010

© Global Detention Project 2020 9/14

Regional treaties, regulations, and directives

	Name	Recommendation Excerpt	Recommendation Year	Observation Date
Recommendations issued by regional human rights mechanisms	European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)	§ 39: take measures to improve the provision of health care to foreign nationals detained at the Migration Agency Detention Centre in Märsta. In particular, steps should be taken to ensure that: all newly-arrived foreign nationals benefit from comprehensive medical screening (including screening for transmissible diseases) by a doctor or a fully qualified nurse reporting to a doctor as soon as possible after their admission; custodial staff do not seek to screen requests to consult a doctor/nurse, and detained foreign nationals can approach healthcare staff on a confidential basis; the confidentiality of medical data is respected. § 41: that the relevant legislation be amended so as to ensure that all persons held under aliens legislation (wherever they are detained) have an effective right of access to a lawyer as from the very outset of their deprivation of liberty and at all stages of the proceedings. § 72: put an end to the practice of placing persons detained under aliens legislation in penitentiary establishments and accommodate them in centres specifically created for that purpose. Pending this, the Committee recommends that steps be taken to ensure that foreign nationals transferred to the special unit at Norrtälje Prison are offered more organised activities, including work, education and sports. § 73: carry out a thorough and independent inquiry into these allegations; were the above-mentioned practice to be found to indeed exist, it should be terminated immediately. § 75: take measures to ensure that all detained foreign nationals transferred to the Prison and Probation Service establishments are fully informed of their situation, their rights, and the procedure applicable to them in a language they understand. This should be ensured by the provision of clear verbal information upon admission, to be supplemented at the earliest opportunity by a written form. The form should be available in the languages most commonly spoken by those detained under aliens legislation, and should contain information on	2015	2015
	European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)	§ 143: ensure that asylum seekers are not detained in criminal detention facilities.	2012	2012

© Global Detention Project 2020 10/14

Bilateral/Multilateral agre	eements linked	to readmissions						
	Name			Year in Force	Observation Date			
		Bulgaria		1999		2017		
		Croatia		2003	2017			
		Germany		1954	2017			
		Cyprus		2006	2017			
	Denmark			1957	2017			
	Estonia			2004	2017			
		Finland		1957	2017			
		France		1991	2017			
		Latvia		1997		2	2017	
Bilateral/multilateral		Lithuania		1997		2	2017	
	Poland			1999	2017			
agreements linked to		Romania		2002	2017			
readmission	Slovakia			2005	2017			
	Iceland			1957	2017			
	Iceland		2003		2017			
	Norway		1957		2017			
	Norway		2003		2017			
	Switzerland			2003		2	2017	
	Bosnia and Herzegovina			2005	2017			
	Kosovo			2011		2	2017	
	Montenegro			2003		2	2017	
	Russian Federation			2012	2017			
	Serbia			2003		2017		
		Viet Nam		2008		2	2017	
Non treaty-based interna	tional human r	ights mechanisms						
Visits by special	Name				Year of Visit		Observation Date	
procedures of the Human Rights Council	Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health)6	2016	
Non treaty-based interna	tional human r	ights mechanisms						
Relevant	Name Recommendation Exce		erpt	Recommendation	Year Observation Date			
recommendations by UN Special Procedures	None				2018			
Non treaty-based interna	<mark>tional human r</mark>	ights mechanisms						
Relevant	Recoi	mendation Issued		Year Issued	Observation Date			
recommendations of the		.,		2010	2017			
UN Universal Periodic		Yes		2010		-	2017	

© Global Detention Project 2020 11/14

INSTITUTIONAL INI	DICATORS											
Governing structures												
Federal or centralized	Federal or centralized governing system						Observation Date					
governing system	Centralized system							201	8			
Governing structures												
Centralized or decentralized	Centralized or decen	tralized	zed immigration authority				Observation Date					
immigration authority	Centralized immigration authority									2018		
Institutions responsible for	or immigration detention											
	Agency		Ministry Minis			nistry T	stry Typology			Observation Date		
	Swedish Migration Agency		Ministry of Justice							2018		
Custodial authority	Swedish Migration Board N		inistry of	Justice		Justi	ce			2013		
Custodial authority	Swedish Migration Board N		Ministry of Justice			Justi	Justice			2009		
	Swedish Migration Board		Ministry of Justice			Justi	ce			2005		
	Swedish Migration Board	Mi	inistry of	Justice	Justice			2004				
Institutions responsible for	or immigration detention											
	Name		Agency			Minis	Ministry C			Observation Date		
Apprehending authorities	Police Authority		Police Mi		linistry c	nistry of Justice			2015			
	Swedish Migration Board Ir		nmigration agency Minis		linistry c	istry of Justice			2015			
Institutions responsible for	or immigration detention											
	Entity Name		Entity Type				Observation Date					
	Swedish Migration Agen	су	Governmental			l	2018					
Detention Facility	Swedish Migration Boar	d		Governmental			2013					
Management	Swedish Migration Boar	d		Governmental			2009					
	Swedish Migration Boar	d		Governmental			2005					
	Swedish Migration Boar	d		Gover	nmenta	l				2004		
Institutions responsible for	or immigration detention											
	Formally designated immigra detention estate?	ition	Types of officially designated detention centre					tres	es Observation Date			
Formally designated detention estate?	Yes		Dedicated immigration detention				tion fac	on facilities 2018				
	Yes		Criminal prisons						2018			
Yes			Police stations				2018					
Institutions responsible for immigration detention												
Types of detention centre (Administrative)	eld office (Administrative) (Administrative) (Administrative)	shore ention ntre (A istrative)	Hospital Administrative)	Border guard (Administrative)	Police station (Criminal)	National penitentiary (Criminal)	Local prison (Criminal)	Juvenile detention centre (Criminal)	Informal camp (Ad hoc)	Immigration detention centre (Ad hoc)	Surge facility (Ad hoc)	Observation Date
practice Yes							Yes					2015

© Global Detention Project 2020 12/14

Detention monitoring inst	titutions											
	Institu	tion		Instit	tution 1	Observation Date						
Authorized monitoring institutions	The Swedish Equality	Ombudsman (DO)	Nati	onal Huma Ombuds		o (or 2016						
	European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) International or Regional Bodies					al Bodies (I	IRBs) 2015					
Detention monitoring inst	titutions											
Does NHRI carry out	Does NHRI carry out visits in practice?							Observation Date				
visits?							2015					
Detention monitoring institutions												
Does NHRI publicly Does NHRI publicly release reports on immigration detention?							Observation Date					
release reports on immigration detention?		Yes					2015					
Detention monitoring institutions												
Does national preventive mechanism	Does NPN	1 carry out visits ir	practice?			C	Observation Date					
(NPM) carry out visits?		Yes					2016					
Detention monitoring institutions												
Does NPM publicly release reports on	Does NPM publ	icly release report	s on immig	ration de	tention	?	Observation Date					
immigration detention?	Yes						2016					
Detention monitoring inst	titutions											
Do NGOs carry out	Do NGOs	regularly carry ou	ır visits?			Ol	Observation Date					
visits?	Yes						2018					
Detention monitoring inst	titutions											
Do international and/or regional bodies (IRB) regularly visit immigratio detention facilities?						igration-r	elated	Observation Date				
related detention facilities?	Yes						2015					
Detention monitoring inst	titutions											
Do IRBs publicly report Do IRBs publicly report their findings from detention inspections?							Observation Date					
their findings from inspections? Yes							2015					
Expenditures	Expenditures											
Estimated annual budget for detention operations	Estimated total annual budget for detention operations (in USD)	Building and maintenance	Security	Staffing	Food	Medical	Transpoi	t Observation Date				
	32,000,000	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		2013				

© Global Detention Project 2020 13/14

Expenditures				
Estimated annual budgets for particular detention-related activities	Individual detention-related activities	Estimated annual b	Observation Date	
	Staffing	23,000,0	2013	
	Medical	451,00	00	2013
Expenditures				
Estimated cost per detainees day (in USD)	Estimated cost per detainees	Observation Date		
	469	2013		

More information about immigration detention in Sweden is available at the website of the Global Detention Project $(\underline{\textbf{www.globaldetentionproject.org}})$

Global Detention Project | 1-3 rue de Varembé | T: +41 (0) 22 548 14 01 / +41 (0) 22 733 08 97 | E: admin@globaldetentionproject.org

© Global Detention Project 2020 14/14