

	Quick Facts	
	Immigration detainees (2019)	Not Available
	Detained minors (2017)	Not Available
	International migrants (2019)	16,101
	New asylum applications (2016)	7

NOTES ON USING THIS PROFILE

- Sources for the data provided in this report are available online at: <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/africa/eritrea>
- "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.

STATISTICS

Detention, expulsion, and incarceration statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Total number of immigration detainees by year	Not Available	2019	Total number of detained minors	Not Available	2017

Demographics and immigration-related statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Population	3,500,000	2020	International migrants	16,101	2019
	5,228,000	2015		15,900	2015
				15,800	2013
International migrants as a percentage of the population	0.3	2015	Refugees	199	2019
	0.2	2013		2,252	2018
				2,392	2017
				2,342	2016
				2,549	2015
				2,898	2014
Ratio of refugees per 1000 inhabitants	0.44	2016	Total number of new asylum applications	7	2016
	0.57	2014			
	0.5	2013			

DOMESTIC LAW

LEGAL TRADITION

	Name	Observation Date
Legal tradition	Civil law	2017
	Customary law	2017
	Muslim law	2017

COVID-19 UPDATES

	Update Status	Observation Date
Latest Update	<p>Although Eritrea long hosted a small population of Somali refugees (roughly 2,000 as of early 2019), in mid-2019 the government closed its only refugee camp, Umkulu, spurring most of the refugees to flee across the border into neighbouring Ethiopia. By the end of 2019, UNHCR reported that there were only 650 refugees remaining in the country. The move to shut the camp came after many years of growing concerns about the treatment of foreigners in the country, including past concerns about possible clandestine detention of migrants. However, there appears to be no public information available about the current status of refugees and migrants in the country, nor about any efforts to safeguard them during the Covid-19 pandemic. On 3 April, UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Eritrea called on the government to “immediately and unconditionally release those detained without legal basis, including all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, and to adopt urgent measures to reduce the number of people in detention to prevent the spread of COVID-19.” In addition, Human Rights Concern Eritrea, a local NGO, urged the government to release the 10,000 prisoners of conscience that are detained throughout the country’s 350 facilities. The organisation stated that in Eritrean prisons, there may be 100-400 people in a single cell. Containers are also reportedly used to hold some 30 detainees at the same time. Prison visits were suspended on 2 April. However, according to Amnesty International, sanitary measures were not implemented. Conditions in prisons have been described as inhumane due to the “overcrowding and the general lack of adequate sanitation, healthcare and food.” In Adi Abeyito prison, which is meant to accommodate 800 people, there have been reports of the populations exceeding 2,500. Amnesty International also noted that there are many unofficial detention centres across the country about which there is little or no information available.</p>	2020

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

	Name	Ratification Year
International treaties	CTOCTP, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	2014
	CAT, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	2014
	CTOCTP, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	2014
	ICCPR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	2002
	ICERD, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	2001
	ICESCR, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	2001
	VCCR, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations	1997
	CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	1995
	CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child	1994
Ratio of relevant international treaties ratified	9/19	

Regional treaties, regulations, and directives

Regional legal instruments	Name	Year of Ratification (Treaty) / Transposed (Directive) / Adoption (Regulation)
	ACHPR, African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights	1999
ACRWC, African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child	1999	

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms

Relevant recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review	Recomendation Issued	Year Issued	Observation Date
	No	2014	2017
	No	2010	2017

INSTITUTIONAL INDICATORS

More information about immigration detention in Eritrea is available at the website of the Global Detention Project (www.globaldetentionproject.org)