

GLOBAL DETENTION PROJECT: COVID-19 SURVEY

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State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan

May we cite you as the source of this information? *

Yes

What country do you work in? *

If you work in multiple countries, please list them below.

The Republic of Azerbaijan

Is there a moratorium on new immigration detention orders because of the Covid-19 pandemic?

If not, is such a measure under consideration?

The placement of foreigners and stateless persons irregularly staying within the country, in detention centers for illegal migrants has been suspended since the date of application of the special quarantine regime in the country (March 24, 2020).

Have people been released from immigration detention because of the Covid-19 pandemic?

Please describe any decisions about who is to be released.

Since 24.03.2020, foreigners and stateless persons have not been placed in the detention center for illegal migrants. Urgent assessments are conducted to identify those who may be included in the risk group within the previously placed persons in the detention center, and medical examination of foreigners are carried out and their health is monitored. Taking into account the requirements for preventing the pandemic, the daily outdoor walks of the persons detained in the Center are provided in accordance

with the rules of internal discipline. At the same time, sufficient facilities and supplies are provided (free of charge) to all who stay in detention center in order to allow detainees to follow personal hygiene rules.

For migrants and / or asylum seekers released from detention, what measures are being taken to prevent spreading of the infection and to ensure appropriate care? If you are employing “alternatives to detention” (ATD) programs to release detainees, please indicate in which cases they are being used and whether these ATD programs include measures to prevent the spreading of Covid-19.

All foreigners placed in and leaving the centers are undergoing a medical examination. At the same time, the sanitary-epidemiological requirements applied in respect to the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan are also applied to foreigners who have left the Center, as well as asylum seekers during their stay in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Are immigration detainees tested for Covid-19?

Please describe any measures that are being taken to test and protect detainees.

Foreigners placed in and leaving the centers are undergoing medical examination and the information is recorded in their medical records. At the same time, detainees who are in need of medical care are provided outside of the detention facility, whenever possible. Taking into account the special quarantine regime applied by Task Force under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the protection of social distance at the centers, regular examination of persons placed there, as well as in general compliance with sanitary norms and rules, hygiene standards are strictly monitored.

Have deportations/removals been halted because of the pandemic?

To which countries are removals still taking place?

The administrative expulsion of foreigners and stateless persons irregularly staying of application of the special quarantine regime in the country (March 24, 2020).

Broadly, has the country adopted new immigration and/or asylum policies as well as border controls in response to the Covid-19 crisis?

Please briefly describe any changes.

Taking into account restriction applied on entry and exit at the state border until August 1, 2020, the requirement to apply for extension of temporary staying period in the country by foreigners who are in the country and cannot leave the country for obvious reasons, has been eliminated. Permits of foreigners, whose stay in the country expires,

have been extended without their applications. These foreigners will be required to leave the territory of the country or to apply for temporary residence permit, if there are appropriate grounds, shortly after restrictions applied on movement at the state border are lifted. In order to protect the health and safety of foreigners and stateless persons during the quarantine period, to ensure their comfort, to minimize the reasons for leaving home, a number of services provided by the State Migration Service were only rendered online. Optimization of the reception of documents and simplification of the permit procedure during this period. The Service had taken necessary measures to expand the use of e-services and improve their quality before the pandemic. Today, the Service has further accelerated this work. As a result of the work done, the number of foreigners using e-services has increased during the special quarantine regime. The State Migration Service also continued awareness-raising activities. All necessary information was shared with foreigners through the Service's website, Facebook and Twitter social accounts, as well as through the Call Center "(012) 919". The Chief of the State Migration Service holds a video reception of citizens.