

Statement on Mediterranean migrant's crisis and human rights

First:

We are facing a deep human rights issue and crisis. The main causes of this extreme violent phenomenon causing so many deaths are, on the one hand, the unequal distribution of resources at a global level and, on the other hand, the political instability in several regions of the world. Most of us, ombudsmen in democratic systems, live in the wealthy part of the planet and migrants try to flee from poverty to what they believe is a better social and peaceful situation, risking their lives and putting themselves in hands of bands making business with human beings' trade.

Second:

Ombudsmen should ask their respective governments and administrations at all levels, at both sides of the Mediterranean sea, and specially throughout Europe, to clarify their responsibilities in this phenomenon and to develop public policies to contribute to its solving. This could be considered a big issue of maladministration.

Third:

The UE Commission, as European government, should increase its means and efforts to fight against this situation with more personnel, funding and responsibilities. The UE should monitor this situation in both sides of the Mediterranean sea, helping state governments with immediate and daily action.

Fourth:

We should stand in favour of a deep political and pedagogic effort to involve all of our population in this fight to strengthen human rights through a clear explanation on what is happening, which are our collective responsibilities and what should our goals be and also our position before our governments.

Fifth:

All international Ombudsman associations, specially the IOI, AOM and ENOC, should stand together in order to contribute to those goals. We suggest that an international event be put in place to reinforce this position.