

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3446/09
by Jean-Claude Martinez (NI)
to the Commission

Subject: Administrative detention centres in Spain and migrant workers

Several Spanish NGOs and trade unions have made observations, published documents and protested about the seven administrative detention centres in Spain, notably in Madrid, Valencia and Barcelona.

After being arrested outside schools whilst accompanying their children for example, Latin American migrant workers in particular can find themselves detained for up to forty or even sixty days without legal aid or assistance from civil society organisations, in conditions so untransparent that the term '*Spanish Guantanamo*' has been used to describe them.

During public hearings in the Spanish Congress of Deputies, the idea of having arrest quotas as a type of administrative police performance 'indicator' was put forward.

Following such periods of 'quasi-criminal' detention, a Latin American worker may be 'released' with a document which indicates his or her status as 'non-deportable'. This, in retrospect, adds incoherence to the discriminatory, persecutory and already totally ineffectual nature of these measures in dealing with the fundamental causes of immigration and the world economic crisis.

Will the Commission provide information on these practices denounced by NGOs, an explanation by the Spanish authorities regarding the degree of compatibility between their quasi criminal law procedures and the rule of law in Spain, and some bold thinking on how to tackle the causes of the economic crisis in the European Union, with a view to changing the conditions which allow the above practices to take place?