

# Immigration Detention in North Macedonia through numbers

January-September 2019



## Macedonian Young Lawyers Association

Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA) is an independent, non-profit professional organization which provides legal aid and strategically litigates to protect human rights.

MYLA is an organization in North Macedonia that provides free legal aid and represents asylum seekers, refugees, stateless persons and other persons of concern in procedures related to asylum, legal residence and other social rights.

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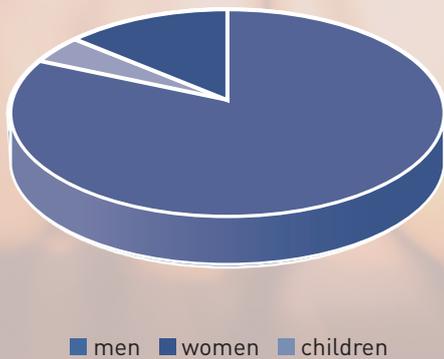


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Number of detained persons because of immigration reasons: ..... **225**  
 Number of detained children: ..... **30**  
 Average length of detention: ..... **10 days**  
 Longest detention of child: ..... **19 days**  
 Number of expelled persons: ..... **59**

Number of asylum requests submitted in the RC for Foreigners:..... **163**  
 Number of Decisions for deprivation of freedom of movement to asylum seekers:..... **2**  
 Number of persons that were prevented from illegal entry in RNM:..... **1544**

**Detained persons in the RC for Foreigners**



**Col of detained persosns**



Presence of witnesses in criminal proceedings is still the main reason for immigration detention in North Macedonia, although according to the positive legal provisions and norms this is not a ground for detention.

### Detention Conditions for Children

Children who were detained in the RC for Foreigners were accommodated in a room together with other adults with were more than 10 people in the room.

The children stated that the detained persons in the center, including them, didn't have access to fresh air outside of the center. They also noted that they weren't allowed to talk on the phone.

None of the children had a document as a detention decision, nor were they adequately informed of the reasons for detention by the police.

All of the children had timely appointed legal guardian by the Center for Social Work.

### Conclusions

- Immigration detention is still treated as a part of an administrative procedure and it is not reviewed by a judge after 12 hours.
- There is an increase of detained children.
- The detention conditions for children do not meet relevant domestic and international legislation and standards.

\* All of the presented information in this report are based on received public information, as on the statements given by previously detained children, after they were released and accommodated in the RC for Asylum Seekers or other alternative care arrangement. As of the beginning of 2019, MYLA doesn't have access to the RC for Foreigners and that is not changed until the publishment of this report.



