

**Second Trial Observation Mission in Cyprus:
As Doros Polycarpou's prosecution continues, international attention and support
intensify**

On the occasion of the first hearing of the trial against Doros Polycarpou, Executive Director of KISA, scheduled on 12 December 2011, in Larnaca, Cyprus, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (**EMHRN**), The Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (**PICUM**), The European Network Against Racism (**ENAR**), **Migreurop**, **Frontline Defenders**, The European Anti-Poverty Network (**EAPN**), The European Association for Human Rights (**AEDH**) and the Institute for Race Relations (**IRR**) have sent a second trial observation mission. Several meetings had been arranged with the competent Cypriot authorities to express our on-going concern regarding the criminalisation of Mr Polycarpou, accused of rioting during the Rainbow Festival 2010 in Larnaca, accusations which the delegation believes are unfounded.

The delegation profoundly regrets that the hearing was postponed for unclear reasons. It is also regrettable that several meetings with the responsible authorities were cancelled at the last minute, which questions the willingness of the authorities to cooperate on this issue.

More than a year after the tragic events of the 13th Rainbow Festival in Larnaca, we are deeply concerned that no independent investigation has been requested in relation to the alleged failure of the police to protect the participants of the festival. Additionally, Mr Polycarpou's case has been highlighted by the international community, including the World Organisation Against Torture and the Council of Europe, as being a matter of serious concern. These concerns seemed to have had very little impact on the proceedings.

“We urge the Cypriot authorities to take a firm position in safeguarding the rights of human rights defenders, especially in the prospect of Cyprus taking on the EU presidency next year. We are determined to mobilise as much support as possible to ensure that an independent investigation is carried out and the charges are dropped” said Marie Lavrentiadou (EMHRN), who participated in the mission.

Ms Marie Lavrentiadou – EMHRN, marie.lavrentiadou@wanadoo.fr

Mr Nicola Flamigni – PICUM, nicola.flamigni@picum.org

Ms Marie Martin – Migreurop, marie.mm.martin@hotmail.fr

Ms Celina Kin Armbrust – ENAR, Celina@enar-eu.org



PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

Michele LeVoy

Michele LeVoy, Director



European Network Against Racism
Réseau européen contre le racisme
Europäisches Netz gegen R...

[Signature]

Michaël Privot, Director



EURO-MEDITERRANEAN HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK
RÉSEAU EURO-MÉDITERRANÉEN DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
الشبكة الأوروبية - المتوسطية لحقوق الإنسان

[Signature]

Marc Schade-Poulsen,

Director



[Signature]

Olivier Clochard, Chair



Marie Lawror

Marie Lawror, Executive Director



EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK

Fintan Farrell

Fintan Farrell, Director



[Signature]

Pierre Barge, Chair



Liz Fekete

Liz Fekete, Executive Director