

Civil Society reaction to today's riot at Lyster Barracks – Press Statement

We, the undersigned non-governmental organisations, express our strong concern at yet another riot at a migrant detention centre, and reiterate our calls for a radical review of Malta's mandatory detention policy. Throughout the years, we have urged the competent authorities to assess the legal and human impact of maintaining a detention policy that has been repeatedly condemned by the European Court of Human Rights as being in violation of legally protected, fundamental human rights.



Whilst we condemn all forms of violent protest, we also note that publicly available information seems to be in contrast to statements provided by the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. This possible divergence underlines the urgent need for the Ministry to establish an independent and speedy inquiry, which should be mandated to objectively establish the course of events before, during and after the riot.



Furthermore, we would like to underline that our attempts at engaging with the Ministry on this delicate issue of national importance have so far been ignored. In a spirit of cooperation and dialogue, we once again call on the Minister to re-establish communication with us in order to work together in seeking solutions to the current state of affairs.



We also invite the Parliamentary Immigration Committee members to engage with us so that we can share our experiences and expertise in this matter.

25th February 2014



aditus foundation, Foundation for Shelter and Support to Migrants, Integra Foundation, JRS Malta, KOPIN, Malta Emigrants Commission, Migrant's Network for Equality, Organisation for Friendship in Diversity, People for Change Foundation, SOS Malta