

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL APPEAL TO THE SEVILLE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

WAR ON 'ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION' PUTS HUMAN RIGHTS AT RISK

To the Heads of State and Government of the European Union

Dear EU leaders,

As you meet around your summit table, Amnesty International sends you an urgent appeal to consider carefully the human rights implications of the decisions you take, in particular on the question of fighting "illegal immigration". Amnesty International is increasingly concerned about the rhetoric being used in the current debate across Europe on how to control EU borders, and fears that in an attempt to stem the tide of anti-immigrant populism that is sweeping Europe, you may act in haste, without proper regard for the effects of your decisions on the EU's existing human rights policies and international commitments. Amnesty International calls on you to restore the human rights balance.

- **Amnesty International** appeals to the Seville Council to express an explicit and unambiguous commitment to the right to asylum in the EU, as enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights, as an essential commitment to human rights protection.
- **Amnesty International** calls for a human rights impact assessment, based on relevant human rights standards, of every decision taken to combat 'illegal immigration' and of their cumulative effect, in order to help prevent negative effects on the EU's key human rights obligations.
- **Amnesty International** calls on the EU to match the efforts at immigration control with a more effective focus in its Common Foreign and Security Policy to improve the human rights situation in countries of origin.
- **Amnesty International** calls for a comprehensive EU strategy to combat all forms of racism and discrimination.