

Second Semester International University of Rabat-UIR
Master's Degree in Democratic Governance
Democracy and Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa
2015/2016

Migrants, refugees and Asylum Seekers in Morocco

Access to refugee status; access to social and civil rights

Internship Report

EIUC GC DE.MA

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Table of content

1	<i>Introduction</i>	1
2	<i>Terminology</i>	2
2.1	<i>Definition of migrants, refugee and asylum seeker</i>	2
2.2	<i>Who is a migrant</i>	2
2.3	<i>Who is an asylum seeker</i>	2
2.4	<i>Who is a refugee</i>	2
2.5	<i>Well founded fear</i>	2
3	<i>Legal frame work</i>	3
3.1	<i>The preamble, the constitution of Morocco concerning refugee related issues</i>	3
3.2.1	<i>The conventions and treaties Morocco has signed concerning refugees and migrants</i>	3
3.2.1.1	<i>The 1951 convention relating to the status of refugees</i>	3
3.2.1.2	<i>The aim of the protocol relating to the status of refugee</i>	4
3.2.2	<i>Regional Instruments</i>	4
3.2.2.1	<i>Organization of African Unity convention</i>	4
3.2.2.2	<i>The Cartagena Declaration on refugees</i>	4
4	<i>The establishment of the 1951 convention and its protocol</i>	4
4.1	<i>Why are they important</i>	5
4.2	<i>The impact of access to refuge and social rights</i>	5
5.1	<i>What the Moroccan government is doing</i>	5
5.2	<i>Fears faced by the migrants</i>	5
6	<i>The process of application for refugee and asylum seeker</i>	7
6.1	<i>National procedures for claiming asylum</i>	7
6.2	<i>Refugee status determination by UNHCR</i>	8
7	<i>The right to appeal and effective remedy</i>	8
8	<i>Main tasks with Clinic Hijra</i>	8
8.1	<i>Write blogs</i>	8
8.2	<i>Moot Court</i>	9
8.3	<i>Meeting on the behalf of the clinic</i>	9
8.4	<i>Receiving beneficiaries</i>	9
8.5.1	<i>Writing appeals</i>	10
8.5.2	<i>Mr X's appeal</i>	10
9	<i>Recommendations</i>	10
9.1	<i>Recommendations for Clinic Hijra</i>	11
10	<i>Self-assessment</i>	11
11	<i>Conclusion</i>	11

1- Introduction

This narrative report serves two purposes: to discuss my internship with Clinic Hijra in Morocco (second semester), and to reflect on how the knowledge acquired from the Master program courses (first semester) influenced my professional activities and life during my internship.

The internship started on the 2nd of May 2016 till the 2nd of July 2016. After the introductory week on the projects implemented by CH, I started being involved and implement my work and academic experiences I have gained previously to receive applicants for the clinic. The report shows my work with the clinic as an intern and also shows the work of Clinic Hijra helping migrants and asylum seekers to regulate their residence.

During the 2 months internship I have spent with Clinic Hijra I was assigned to 5 main tasks. Write a blog in Arabic about refugee situations in general to be published on the website of the Clinic. Help organize the second phase of a moot court event, write appeals for asylum seekers who received a rejection for their application from UNHCR, receiving applicants and meeting with partners. On the website of Clinic Hijra all activities are well described in French. I will write in details about these tasks later on in the report and, focus on the “ the right to appeal” and access to social rights.

Morocco has long been considered a country of immigration and transit, the country has gradually become a final destination for migrants and now counts among the countries of immigration.. Currently the government is developing a new legal framework in three different areas: the entry and stay of foreigners, asylum and trafficking in human beings. With regard to future changes in migration policy in Morocco, clinic Hijra, provides lawyers (and law students and students in general) yearly trainings on asylum and the rights of foreigners to be able to face new challenges that the new laws will bring.

Legal Clinic Hijra (hijraclinique.ma) is an active association in the area of migration which took office in September 2015 with a group of students and research experts. The Clinic offers students a unique opportunity to benefit from experience in the field of migration. It also gives a chance for students to provide legal and social assistance to migrants by phone or by receiving beneficiaries to answer their questions, and make up their records. Clinic Hijra as mentioned before was established on September 2015 by a group of students and research experts and started by the funds of the International Organization of Migration and now its self-funded.

When I first met Mr. Younous Arbaoui the director and president of Clinic Hijra. He introduced me to the work of the Clinic and took me for a tour to the offices where Clinic Hijra operates. The offices hours of the clinic usually take place in the building of Tabdoul, which is one of the clinic partners.

Tabadoul is an association aiming at promoting contemporary artists and cultural exchange between Tangier, Morocco, Europe and the rest of the world. It means “exchange” in Arabic. Tabadoul is located in a former Spanish dressing factory from early 20th century, and was renovated in 2013 to become what it is now: It is a structure serving the arts, notably contemporary creation. It is an “infinite” space that can be made available for conferences, lectures, debates, themed evenings, concerts, exhibitions and other events. Tabadoul also organises diverse training workshops for all ages: circus, plastic arts, music, cinema, singing, theatre, dance, martial arts, recycling and even “art of living” workshop Tabadoul also organises, in collaboration with Wiggle Service, collects for recyclable materials, in order to educate to ecological, sustainable practices.

The goal is to be a place where artists, public and partners can exchange their knowledge and share their aesthetic experiences, a place to play, learn and meet.