



21 March 2015

To:

The Catalan Penitentiary Administration

The European Prison Observatory (EPO), directed by Mauro Palma, President of the European Council for Penological Co-operation (and former President of the European Committee for the prevention of torture and Inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment), is writing to denounce the decision of the Catalan Penitentiary Administration to deny Iñaki Rivera, Director of the Observatory of the Penal System and Human Rights (University of Barcelona), access to prisons in Catalunya.

The Catalan Penitentiary Administration has denied entry to Mr Rivera without written notice or explanation, leaving Mr. Rivera in an extra-legal limbo and depriving the prisoner who he was intending to visit his legal rights. This request for a visit has been made by a prisoner who is seriously ill due to a hunger strike which he has been on for several months.

The European Prison Observatory urge the Catalan Penitentiary Administration to end this situation immediately and to comply with current legislation on prisons and to allow Mr Rivera to visit the prisoner. If the Administration wishes to deny entry, it must write a formal refusal to explain the denial of visiting rights as required by law.

Asso. Antigone (Italy)

Università degli Studi di Torino (Italy)

Observatoire international des prisons - section française (France)

Special Account of Democritus University of Thrace Department of Social Administration (EL DUTH) (Greece)

Latvijas Cilvēktiesību centrs (Latvia)

Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Poland)

University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL) (Portugal)

Centre for Crime and Justice Studies (England)

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