

Instructions for submitting cases of criminalisation of solidarity with migrants

Contact: communications@picum.org

Link to form: [PICUM - Monitoring cases of criminalisation of solidarity – Fill out form](#)

Please make sure to specify the source of the case (public link). If the case concerns a person you know (for example, if you are a lawyer), please also specify whether they provided informed consent for their case to be included in PICUM's case collection.

Background:

PICUM regularly monitors cases of criminalisation of solidarity with migrants in the EU since 2018. In the past years, we have been monitoring media sources across the EU to track cases of individuals accused, charged, or convicted for smuggling and related offences, as well as cases of administrative sanctions and harassment for actions in solidarity with migrants.

All our publications on this topic are [available here](#).

Since 2025, PICUM has joined the [WING project](#) and has expanded its methodology and outreach to collect cases of criminalisation of solidarity, through the help of partners in the project based in Greece, Italy, France, Hungary, Poland and Romania.

The purpose of this form and instructions is to further expand our outreach through the help of our volunteers and members, who may be aware of cases that otherwise would go undetected by our system.

The information you will provide may contribute to the next PICUM/WING annual report on criminalisation of solidarity with migrants in the EU, social media posts, research or advocacy actions.

Please follow the instructions below as closely as possible. In case of doubt, please get in touch with our team at communications@picum.org. Our team will review all submissions or reply to your questions and doubts. You do not need to answer all questions in the form in case you are unsure about the details of the case (only 6 questions are mandatory).

Scope of the monitoring:

- Cases still open in **2026** (and **2027**), **no matter when they started**.
- There is no limit to how far back the case might date if the case was still open in the year in question (for example, when judicial proceedings take several years).

What cases should be covered:

1. Judicial criminalisation

Cases in which there are **judicial (criminal) proceedings**, including arrest, detention or investigations against individuals or organisations, who are criminalised for actions aimed at defending the rights of migrants.

- Broad interpretation of “proceedings”, including formal arrests and detention without prosecution.
- This also includes **cases where the people acting in solidarity are migrants themselves**, acting to protect other people travelling with them or other individuals in danger while crossing borders. Cases included here are those for which we have sufficient information - whether from the trial or final judgment, or from testimonies and reports - that make it clear the person acted to save or assist others. See [here](#) for an example of a case that would fit into this category.
- Cases involving migrant representatives being criminalised in reason of their role, or people criminalised for protesting to ask for better conditions (for example in immigration detention) should be included.
- Cases of criminalisation of migrants, where judicial proceedings or investigations target individuals who are criminalised for crossing borders, for example by being accused of “smuggling”. See [here](#) an example of a case that would fit into this category.

2. Administrative actions

All cases in which states are imposing **finances or other administrative sanctions against individuals or NGOs** to hinder their work. This may include other administrative actions against NGOs, such as tax audits, when they are politically motivated. See [here](#) an example of a case that would fit into this category.

3. Non-judicial harassment of solidarity

All **cases which do not fall in the previous categories**, such as defamation, threats, raids in the office unjustified stop and search or informal arrest/police custody/or detention, de-legitimisation in the media and political discourse, smear campaigns or other situations in which there is no administrative or judicial action against the individual or the organisation concerned.

When applicable, you will be asked to indicate whether the case involves:

- Harassment by enforcement authorities (police, border guards etc)
- Harassment by other state actors (e.g. elected representatives)
- Harassment/intimidation by non-state actors and lack of state protection

See [here](#) an example that would fit into this category.

How to update cases already submitted:

If you come across any updates to cases you previously submitted (for example, on the outcome of a trial, or if the case has been closed), you can use the same form and select the relevant option (Update of a previous case I have already submitted) under question 3.