ActionAid and University of Bari publish report analysing data on detention and returns

ActionAid together with the University of Bari, the report "Expulsions. An Analysis of Italian Repatriation Policy, 2015-2025" published alongside the update of the related platform. We reconstructed ten years of repatriation policies through data, documents, and requests for civic access.

The data gathered from the organisation shows that between 2015 and 2025, approximately 302,000 removal orders were issued and approximately 66,000 repatriations were recorded overall, averaging approximately 22 repatriations out for every 100 return orders.

Repatriations include forced returns, departures undertaken independently by the individual and assisted voluntary returns. The timeframe between decisions and departures depends on identification, travel documents, and cooperation with the destination country.

At the same time, ActionAid reports that in 2025 there were 6,835 admissions to repatriation detention centres (CPRs), the highest figure in the series. In the same year, 1,732 repatriations were carried out from the centres, decreasing by 45% compared to 2022. the research showed that nearly two out of three forced returns were carried out without prior detention in a CPR explaining that detention alone does not resolve the obstacles related to identification, documentation, and cooperation between states.

The likelihood of repatriation varies greatly based on nationality and ties to the destination country. Between 2018-2024, the ratio of repatriations to removal orders reached 55% for Albanian nationals, while it was close to 0 for people from Syria, Afghanistan, Iran, and Iraq, among other countries.

Forced repatriations are also concentrated in just a few countries: Tunisia accounted for about half of the total in the three-year period 2022-2024. This data highlights the system's dependence on the existence of cooperation of countries of origin and transit.

Administrative detention also has a significant economic cost. Between 2018 and 2025, ActionAid estimated spending on the CPR system amounted to at least EUR 217.1 million. Between 2023-2025, the cost associated with each repatriation

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from the centers increased by 157%, while repatriations decreased.

The organisation mentioned that during our research the Ministry of the Interior provided with aggregate data on repatriations for 2025, however no details on nationalities were shared nor access to inspections report concerning some CPRs were granted.

Source(s)

- ActionAid (2 October, 2026), Più persone trattenute, meno rimpatri [More people detained, fewer repatriations], https://www.actionaid.it/persone-trattenute-meno-rimpatri/

Date of development
02.10.2026
Country
Italy
Thematic area(s)
Detention, Return
Development type
Publication

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