

Spanish Immigration: From Frying Pan to Fire?

Every day, hundreds of Africans flood across the Spanish borders on both sides of the mouth of the Mediterranean Sea. Driven by fear, starvation and persecution, these illegal immigrants flee in droves from their home land by any means possible to try and find a life of freedom. But with recent illegal immigration laws in Spain being increasingly tightened, are these immigrants just going from bad to worse? And who is really on the right side of the moral fence?

The North African Spanish governed colony of Ceuta, the southern province of Cadiz on the Spanish mainland and even the Canary Islands off the Western coast of Africa have been popular points of immigration for over 2 years. Since the beginning of the year, the influx of illegal immigrants has already greatly surpassed that of 2005. Predominantly black Africans, these immigrants will fight through desert, over strictly guarded barbed wire fencing at the borders, across the rough mouth of the Mediterranean Sea on commandeered freight vessels or even rickety wooden boats, risking all to escape the poverty and political unrest in their own country. Many don't make it that far, either being caught by the border guards or dying as a result of the risks they take. But for the ones that do make it to Spanish territory, a struggle to attain their dream of freedom awaits them. Immigrants find themselves fugitives in their supposedly new free home, often resulting in them being arrested and deported back to their own country.

On the other side of the coin are the legal residents of Spain, who obviously suffer from the increased population looking for employment and housing. This creates uproar amongst the Spanish as they find themselves struggling for work and living space. As taxpayers in their own country, are the Spanish residents right in their feelings of anger towards illegal immigrants? Should the Spanish government accept these immigrants in an effort to help them escape political persecution as an act of humanity? If not Spain, where can these immigrants turn in their efforts to find the freedom they seek?