

WINTER IS COMING

When I say: „Winter is coming“ I am not quoting from the famous TV-series Game of Thrones. It is the voice of 300 refugees and asylum seekers crying out loud for help.

I want you to keep one thing in your mind. We are not all strong young men here. We are all people who escaped war and conflict, dictatorships as well as hunger and poverty. There are also women, children and elderly living among us. There are victims of torture and sick people. And there are people who received asylum in Greece.

The place we live is called Camp Derveni. It is located in northern Greece in an industrial area near Thessaloniki. The living conditions here are harsh. We are living inside an abandoned warehouse. Inside the warehouse are tents. In total there are five buildings made of iron (the roof and the walls). In each of them there are around 20 tents and one tent accommodates four people.

The worst part is new people (refugees) are coming in every single day, which makes it even harder than it already is. The place is getting over-crowded instead of being closed.

In summer the scorching heat of the sun mixed with the humidity made things even worse as we don't have any air conditioning system. I can't lie, we have a small fan for each tent, but it is useless. Some times temperatures go above 40 degrees. It is testing our sanity. And now it is time to get ready for another suffering: „winter“.

In the beginning of this year five people died in Moria camp on Lesbos Island and the cause of their death was directly connected to the cold and the miserable living conditions. Right after that heart-breaking tragedy reporters from every media outlets all over the world came to cover the story. That put the administration of the camp and the Ministry under pressure. What followed was by far the best thing for the refugees of Moria. The Ministry bought some ISO boxes. I don't know how people are living nowadays in Moria, probably things became worse again after the world forgot again, but in that particular time, I witnessed suddenly big changes in the camp.

Now it is time to put the people who are in charge under pressure once again. Before it will be once more too late. Before we lose more lives. We need all kind of support to put us out of this predicament.

To be honest, sometimes I feel like I am some kind of spare part or component. Don't blame me. I live in a warehouse. Other times I get this crazy idea that it is an experiment going on and we are the lab rats for evil people who are behind this and who try to see what we are made of.

WE ARE HUMAN BEINGS.

I come from a third world country and even for me when I came here it took me by surprise. This is much worse than I ever expected. I bet most people don't know that this camp still exists. I beg you to spread the message and to show solidarity to close this god-forsaken place once and for all.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all the friends some of which traveled thousands of miles and invested their time and money to help the cause and stand in solidarity with us. Thank you!

A refugee living in Derveni