



*Refugees
welcome*

**NO ONE IS
ILLEGAL**



Greece, the sun is shining, it's warm and the streets of Thessaloniki are getting crowded with tourists.

Meanwhile the war against immigration is going on. During the last days hundreds of people were deported from the greek islands to Turkey. There are also rumors that the government is planning to evict the main camp in Idomeni and there are still more than 10,000 people living in horrible circumstances.

Since a few years there is also a physical manifestation of fortress Europe. NATO and Frontex are hunting refugees in the Mediterranean sea, and the Balkan route is cut through by barbedwire on several borders. At the same time the wall around the EU is getting bigger. Greece is building military camps and wants to deport the last people who are persisting there, cut off from the outside world, journalists, NGOs and volunteers.

Step by Step the situation is getting worse. Refugees are trying desperately to cross the border themselves.

As soon as they're close to the border they get attacked by brutal police forces.

There are a few stories of people who actually made it to the center of Europe, only to be exposed to the racist asylum system. The amount of people who are fleeing is diminishing drastically, but still there are 10.000 stuck in Greece. Millions of people are staying in their country - facing war, poverty and other terrible realities. For most of them fleeing is not an option anymore. Scared of the obvious aggression and inhumane treatment towards refugees and immigrants by european countries. *„I didn't understand the true meaning of desperation until I came to the borders of Europe.“* said Hussam Jackl (refugee of Idomeni Camp).

In whole Europe is a radical increase of right wing movements. Step by step new forms of governmental techniques are being established, which do not even try to represent the *„humanitarian values of Europe‘*.

In fact the reverse is true; the war against immigration is an open war. Every day we are confronted with it by the media, still the majority of the EU citizens are either agreeing or simply ignore it.

The mainstream press isn't getting tired of claiming that the resistance is initiated and controlled by european activists. However the refugees in the north of Greece are not remaining passive.

They are definitely aware of their desperate situation. Especially in the last weeks, there has been a rise of political protests. With the knowledge that their lives mean nothing to the majority of europe, their enunciation of protest are becoming more various and determined. In the last weeks, three people were trying to set themselves on fire, others were sewing their lips together or going on hunger strike.

There are also collective ways of protesting, such as demonstrations, occupations and blockades - right up to the attempt to cross the border

together.

It's up to us!
We shouldn't leave the people alone in this situation. We are at a turning point. At least there is an emotional solidarity in parts of the european society. We should expand from conceptual solidarity into actions and establish these in our privileged daily routine.

**REFUGEES WELCOME
Always and everywhere!**