

PRESS RELEASE

With this protest - denunciation we would like to express our strong indignation about the way municipality, prefecture, police and coast guard authorities face the refugee issue in our city. With an excellent coordination and through an irresponsible and dangerous way all the responsible authorities try constantly to “solve” the problem throughout repressive police measures with violence and intimidation. Police arbitrariness, as reported by many refugees, (proofs are stamped on their bodies, for anyone who is more skeptic!) is unprecedented. Continuous hunting wherever and whenever they decide to put some “order”. Minors, 9-12 years old (Yes, indeed!), are cruelly beaten by police officers and other executive instruments of “law and order”.

The cities’ authorities are to a great extent ethically and practically responsible for the way that the issue is still been treated. We would like to ask the mayor if he personally and his advisors are pleased about the progress of the issue. Is this what he meant by humanitarian aid? Or does he think that the open letter he sent to the Minister of Citizens Protection - the only thing he did - asking him to proceed on a solution of the problem is fair enough? He can find evidence for the tragedy of the matter by looking at the hunted migrants and refugees around us. What he and his colleagues have to do is to approach the issue in a human way and to realize what is just self-evident in order to really help - if they will as they state at every opportunity. We demand from the authorities to declare in public whether they approve or not the everyday violence that the refugees and migrants have to face and to protest together with us against those who resort to this. No more empty words! These people are suffering every day next to us.

The prefecture despite all promises to look at the issue plays the deaf and blind, leaving all responsibilities to the central government, whose only “solution” is the usual daily persecution. Asylum seekers, minors, people sick and tired are daily targeted.

- * **We call any responsible persons to stop the violent operations against those impoverished and exhausted people.**
- * **We request from the prefecture and the municipality to assume their responsibilities without equivocation and procrastination.**

**MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES ARE NOT THE PROBLEM;
THEY ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE PROBLEMS!**

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