

Athens, 18/09/2011

**TO:** Prime Minister's Office

**NOTIFICATION OF:**

Minister's Office, Ministry of Citizen Protection

Minister's Office, Ministry of Interior Decentralization and E-Government

Minister's Office, Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity

General Secretariat for Human Rights, Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights

**Dear Sir,**

Because of the last incidents, we decided to send this letter in order to inform you as far as the race motivated attacks against refugees and immigrants by extreme racial groups are concerned.

Specifically, on a daily basis, in the area of **St. Panteleimonas** and **Attiki Square**, where many Afghans and other applicants for political asylum are located, numerous violent occurrences take place towards immigrants. In the majority of those cases, the victims had to be admitted to the hospital. We are aware of the fact that those actions do not represent Greek society thereby they offend their strong belief on democracy and hospitality. That is why we profoundly believe the issue should be restrained before it takes extensive effects.

In particular, a series of such events has occurred from the beginning of the past month until now. We indicate below specific occurrences, which point the large extent of the problem. August 16<sup>th</sup> at 21:30, in the area of the railway station Larissis, **Abdul Rahim**, an Afghan applicant for political asylum has been attacked by members of a conservative political group. September 10<sup>th</sup> 15-year-old **Mortaza Hosaini** was admitted to the hospital bleeding, after he had undergone a violent attack in St. Panteleimonas. September 9<sup>th</sup> 17-year-old **Sayeed Gholam Husain**, had been brutally injured while he was waiting to cross the road in front of the church of St. Panteleimonas. **September 9<sup>th</sup>** a gang had entered the local bus and attacked all foreign passengers. **27-year-old Mohtar Alizanda**, who was one of them, confirms the fact. Even though the former events were denounced to the police, there is no official reaction yet. However, the attacks become more serious day by day and increase dramatically.

**September 16<sup>th</sup>** while the **Minister of Immigrations of Afghanistan** was meeting the Minister of Citizen Protection, three Afghans seeking political asylum were being the target of a murder attempt in front of their house on 31 Pergamou Str., Agios Panteleimonas. As a result, one of them, **24 year old Rahim Ali** was hospitalized after being stabbed on his chest. Fortunately, although he is still in the hospital his health is no longer under risk. At the same time, **17-year-old Golam Reza** was heavily injured and transferred to the KAT hospital. That day, the Afghan Minister of Immigration and the Deputy President of the Afghan Community in Greece met the Greek Minister and they talked about the extent of the problem, focusing especially on the unbearable position of the Afghan asylum seekers and migrants. For the first time that day, Greek Police detained three of the perpetrators. It is crucial to mention, that in many cases the victims do not report attacks to the police.

One of the most fatal results of the race-motivated attacks is that they divide us as human beings when we need unity and solidarity the most. In the middle of the financial crisis, immigrants are able to contribute up to a level, promoting Greece abroad and taking part in the financial activity of the country. Racism can become a serious threat to the coexistence of cultures and social progress. Considering the serious consequences of the situation we ask the immediate intervention of the authorities in order to suppress those violent actions and reinstate justice.

We thank you in advance for your efforts on empowering the function of democratic institutions and supporting social coherence. As conscious citizens of this country we are willing to contribute to your work in any way possible.

Sincerely,

**The President of the Afghan Community in Greece**

**Y. Mohammadi**

Signed also by:

**Greek Forum of Immigrants**

**NPO Asante**

**African Union**

**Kenyan Community**