

Press Release

In the recent months the number of violent attacks against migrants in the city of Patras have reached alarming proportions. Denouncements of beatings, particularly in the areas inside and around the new port, reach the members of the Refugee and Migrant Rights Advocacy Movement daily. According to those denouncements the ones responsible for the beatings are port police officers, police officers and civil police. A significant number of the victims are minors. Some descriptions are gruesome, as the one of a 12 year old Afghan boy stating that men inside the port area dressed in uniforms were holding him so as to be attacked from a dog. Scars from the dog bite are still visible in his hand.

On Tuesday 11-10 the solidarity group, together with representatives from the Afghan association of Patras and some of the victims, held a protest before the commanding officers of the port police and security. The authorities reacted with a general denial of responsibilities, while they promised further investigation. The beating incidents were attributed to drivers or guards working for private security companies.

Regardless of who is being the perpetrator, unfortunately the victims remain the same. Today, the violence, physical or psychological, that refugees are exposed to is daily. It is perhaps a precursor of the violence that we will all face as our society becomes more and more authoritarian and callous. The relentless chase of those people will have more tragic effects, such as one more refugee on intensive care - as it happened a few days ago. We call all persons in charge to assume their responsibilities before it is too late.

KINISI YPERASPISIS DIKAIOMATWN PROSFUGWN KAI METANASTWN/TRIWN
(Refugee and Migrant Rights Advocacy Movement Patras)