

Patras, 22/12/2011

## **Press Release**

During a police raid in an informal shelter of Afghan refugees nearby Rio (Patras) on December 20, 2011 in the morning a 16-year-old boy was severely injured. Now he is being hospitalised and under intensive care in the St. Andreas Hospital. According to accounts of his friends who witnessed the incident, he panicked during the police raid and while trying to flee he fell from very high hitting his head on the floor. The police although witnessing his fall left him behind without any help. Despite repeated emergency calls of the refugees the ambulance arrived with a great delay, which will hopefully not have any consequences for the health of the young refugee.

For this sad incident and all the others that occurred before in our town the responsibilities are clear. There is the responsibility of the Greek state, which is keeping with its repressive migration policy thousands of refugees from war torn conflict zones trapped in its territory insisting narrow-mindedly not to provide them with their rights as they were defined by the Geneva Convention of 1951. There is the responsibility of the local authorities, the municipality and the prefecture, who are conspicuous by their absence in this huge social issue of the city indirectly recognizing the forces of repression, the police and the coast guards, as the responsible for managing a humanitarian crisis. Lastly, of course, there is the responsibility of the police and the coast guard themselves who with their daily violent aggressions injure the refugees physically and mentally and who hide behind their “non-existence of proofs” argument.

No one was born illegal and no one is illegal. It is our all responsibility to struggle for the refugees’ right on human dignity and the right to live.

**Solidarity movement for migrants and refugees in Patras**

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