

October 3, 2012

## Press Release

On Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, the police made a giant raid in Patras – a real pogrom against the probably most destitute part of our society: refugees and migrants. Following faithfully the governmental orders the police invaded several houses, arrested dozens of homeless people from the streets, raided whole regions thereby violating the basic right to human dignity and resulting - for anyone who may still be thinking logically – in a fiasco. One third of the arrested had valid documents and had to be released, while minors who have been arrested are also planned to be released soon. (Among the arrested were asylum seekers and minors, people in need of international protection and not of a merciless hunt.)

This pogrom was realized in a moment when the government in an admirable cooperation with the Troika vowed to put in misery the whole of Greek society. The government of poverty and unemployment invents in the face of refugees and migrants the allegedly responsible for the crisis in an attempt to distract people from the real culprits, and wasting large amounts in police raids while wages and pensions are cut and social welfare disappears. At the same time it shows in the most eloquent way the repression, which it reserves for those who are struggling and resisting its authoritarianism.

Adopting the hunt of migrants in the official governmental policy, the government constitutes the fourth governmental partner of the neo-Nazi party Golden Dawn, indicating that the criminal-racist attacks will not only go unpunished but will be encouraged as a supplement to the work of the government. When the official state acts racist, it's no wonder that the whole society is led to fascism.

We must realize that the treatment of refugees and migrants is not something unknown to us, it is an image of our near future. Faced with the policies of poverty and political repression, the interests of all, natives and immigrants, are common. The only way is solidarity among us and the common fight against those who deny us our freedom and dignity.

The Movement for the Defense of the Rights of Refugees and Migrants hold today a protest at the Police Headquarters of Achaia, where it was threatened by police officers of the guard. Also we invite the people of Patras to a protest rally against the government pogroms on Thursday at 6 pm at George Square.

***Movement for the Defense of the Rights of Refugees and Migrants in Patras***