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Interviews by w2eu

Happy birthday City Plaza!

On April 22, 2017 we celebrate together one year of solidarity with our CP-family.

City Plaza today is everywhere:

In Greece, Italy, Spain, France, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Austria, Serbia, Sweden ... !

It is not just a building, but a home defined by its people. From here solidarity is spread like seeds we carry in our small luggage to continue the struggle for equal rights everywhere we'll go.

This booklet is dedicated to the ones who are still on their journey, as well as to the ones that are struggling to arrive.

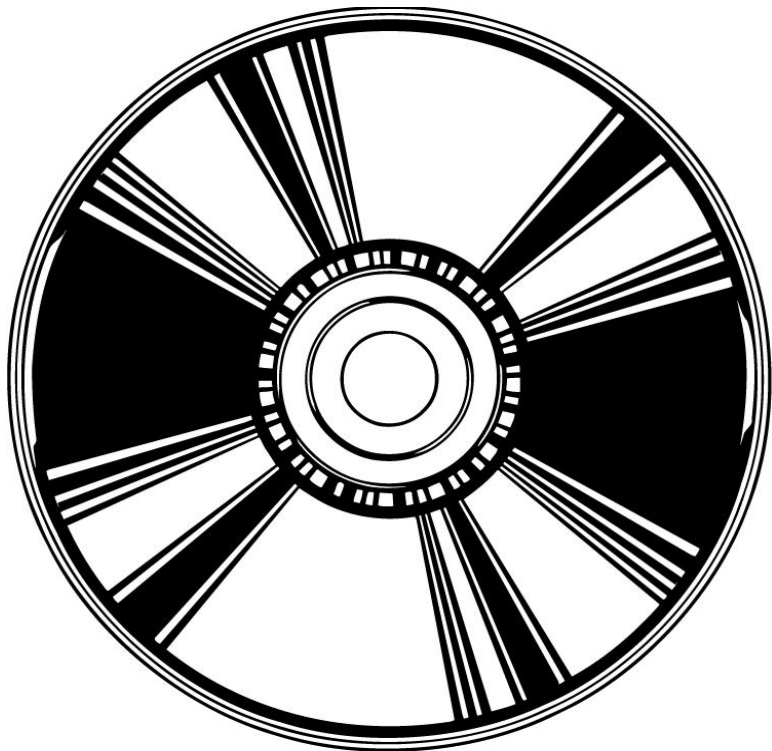
It is dedicated also to the ones we lost on this road but who will be in our hearts forever!

We will stand together and we shall never give up!

OPEN HOUSES! SMASH BORDERS!

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT FOR ALL!





# CELEBRATING ONE YEAR CITY PLAZA

*Playlist of ex-residents who all dedicated a song to their old new home:*

1. Chris de Burgh: Borderline.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-ZJgnLrQYQ>

2. Shahin Najafi: Ruya

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnbGhcDMR4k&feature=youtu.be>

3. Josh Groban: You raise me up.

<https://youtu.be/aJxrX42WcjQ>

4. Sipan Xelat: Beritan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPqKODyMylQ>

5. Babis Stokas: Exo enan kafene

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IEbGLXLVeA>

6. Bashir Wafa & Brothers: Hamsada

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmNBuYolNHM&feature=youtu.be>

7. Lakis Chalkias: I Farbika

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4F4\\_t1B\\_S4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4F4_t1B_S4)

8. Rag'n'Bone Man: Human

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3wKzyIN1yk>

9. Fayrouz - Sahr El Layaly

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArqUnCjLwfm>

10. Elissa: Helwa Ya Baladi

<https://youtu.be/sY0zWAintIc>



## ***Patata – Berlin / Germany***

*What is the first thing you remember of City Plaza?*

I remember everything about Plaza and I really mean everything.

*How do you feel now that you 'arrived'?*

I feel missing the place that I love more than anything.

*What is your message to all people who are now since 1 year in Plaza – solidarians and refugees?*

People who work there since one year must be tired because they are doing more than what a normal human would do.

*What do you want to say to the ex workers of Plaza?*

I want to say thanks for everything and to everyone who support Plaza.

*Anything you want to say to the many people stuck in Greece since more than one year?*

I hope everyone will find his way. I really feel sorry for them.

*City Plaza should stay forever because...*

It must be open forever because there are people who need a nice place to stay.

*What is your birthday wish for Plaza?*

I don't know what to say but I love City Plaza and that is enough.

*What is the first thing you would do if you go back to Plaza?*

If I go back the first thing I will do is hug Olga, Christina, Rabee, Nasim and kiss Rabee.

I dedicate all Kurdish music to the birthday of CP!

### ***Subhia – Stuttgart / Germany***

*What is the first thing you remember of City Plaza?*

Our last day in City Plaza we have been very happy and very sad in the same time. Very happy because we will come to Germany. Very sad because we had to leave our “family”. It was also a happy moment, because everybody came to say goodbye and there was a party for us. All of the people were sad because we leave and maybe we would not see each other for a very long time.

*What is your message to all people who are now since 1 year in Plaza – solidarians and refugees?*

I want to thank to everyone who made this house possible. And I want to ask to everyone to support – City Plaza must continue. There are a lot of refugees in Greece who need it.



***Bissam (7 years old), grand-daughter of Subhia – Stuttgart / Germany***

*What do you remember from City Plaza?*

City Plaza? Can we go there tomorrow?

***Morteza – Berlin / Germany***

*What is the first thing you remember of City Plaza?*

I miss you City Plaza, I miss it a lot.

I will never forget my friends, the people and the atmosphere. I found many friends there. From Afghanistan, from Africa, from Syria or Pakistan. We learned that we can live together, no matter who comes from which country. We can learn together and we can find solutions for our problems. If something difficult happened we have been sad together. If something new happened we have been happy together and started to party.

*How do you feel now that you arrived?*

The place where I am now is good. Let's see what comes next.

*What do you want to say to the ex workers of Plaza?*

I love them.

*What do you wish to all those stuck in Greece for more than one year?*

I hope first of all that they should be healthy. I wish they all arrive at their destination. I wish that days of war shall end, so that me and you shall never be forced to reach out for help.

*What is your message to all people who are now since 1 year in Plaza – solidarians and refugees?*

I am missing my friends and all the people living there. And I think I want to thank all these people who worked there for free and helped us so much. I hope I can return to Athens, to City Plaza when I get my papers finally. Not illegal any more, legally. For a little bit of City Plaza. And maybe for an Alpha beer. ;)

And I want to tell to all still there: Always keep your smile, be patient and respect each other.

*If I ever go back to City Plaza the first thing I want to do is...*  
...to hug Haido.

*What is your birthday wish for City Plaza?*

To reactivate the elevator especially for all friends in the 7<sup>th</sup> floor.

Shahin Najafi: Ruya

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnbGhcDMR4k&feature=youtu.be>

## ***Jwan (Charlie Chaplin) – Berlin / Germany***

*What is the first thing you remember of City Plaza?*

When I remember City Plaza I remember many things. It was my home. I was not a foreigner there, but feeling respected. We all had respect for each other.

I always checked if someone is sad or does not feel good and then I went there and I tried to make fun and make them laugh again. Because for me City Plaza should be a happy place and people should laugh after crying. City Plaza is not hotel. It is home.

## ***Ghafar - Switzerland***

*What is the first thing you remember of City Plaza?*

The bad food.

*How do you feel now that you arrived?*

I have a good feeling. I have peace now and I can think about my future.

*What is your message to all people who are now since 1 year in Plaza – solidarians and refugees?*

I hope everybody arrives where they want to be and near to their beloved.

*About the ex-workers of Plaza?*

I just can say thank you and I want to thank all people who support all of us and my family until now.

*City Plaza should stay forever because...*

... because it was the only place where one could have a life. In the camps we could not stay.

*Your birthday wishes for Plaza?*

I hope 'the feet will stay on the ground' – City Plaza forever.

*What would you do first if you would return to Plaza?*

I wish I will have money to be able and help the ones in need.

***Dania and her son – Stuttgart / Germany***

*What is the first thing you remember of City Plaza?*

First we checked the place if we can stay there. In the beginning we were scared because we had kids with us. The hotel was still new. We took our rooms, brought all our stuff. We were helping each other to open the hotel. We were helping each other to be strong. We passed the language borders and we could understand each other somehow. We were one hand together in happiness and sadness - from preparing the food until cleaning, cleaning

all the building. It was not easy and we understood each other because we needed to.

We had a lot of happy moments in Plaza, we had a lot of parties. We spent many nights together, laughed together. The most beautiful day was when we did the 'open day', food for everyone, and everyone had to be in the dining room. We took a collective picture, all the friends in one picture. This picture became a good memory. It was a special day in City Plaza. After we did the meal we did a party also. We were putting different kinds of music to satisfy everyone's wish on this special day.

*You have arrived now: how does it feel?*

There is a future for the kids here: education, living, home, everything. The most important thing is to provide the things the kids need. And we decided to start from zero to learn the language and to work and build our family. I wish I learn the language in short time and then I want to work in my diploma, in my speciality. I couldn't work in Syria. I finished my studies and then I got married. I have a baby, so I could not work.

*If I ever go back to City Plaza the first thing I want to do is...*

When I used to see volunteers from different countries coming to Plaza I was asking myself why they came, why they are helping the refugees. It was strange for me. Just like that they came to help, to play with the kids and laugh with them. I felt that they feel happy and satisfied when they help refugees, when they help humans. We never felt that there is

difference between us, we all are the same. I wish one day I can help the people living in Plaza. If I have the possibility to, I will go back and help.

*What is your favourite song you want to dedicate to City Plaza?*

Fairouz: Sahar El Layaly (سهر الليالي)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAuM7Pr1twI>

***Mohammed and mom – Stuttgart / Germany***

*What is the first thing you remember of City Plaza?*

I miss the simple details from the morning, the early morning until 11 or 12 o'clock, every day was not the same. We have many new things happening every day, many new people, many languages, and the most amazing the best thing is that each one of us speaks another language. In City Plaza there are 11 or 12 languages and the most amazing thing is that the people in City Plaza could understand each other, maybe only a little bit, but they have lived together, it's becoming one year now.

Actually the idea of City Plaza I had before I came there was horrible. I couldn't imagine myself living together with 400 people but when I lived there it was becoming a really, really, really nice idea, when I met some new people from Spain, from Italy, from Holland and Germany. When I started learning English and started speaking with them and we started to

tell our opinion about everything, started to discuss about everything, to be my family – I really miss City Plaza.

The first thing I remember about Plaza is to have the ability to solve any problem even if it is one of the most big we have seen.

*How do you feel now that you arrived?*

I feel so glad and happy, because successfully I did what I wanted to do.

*What is your message to all people who are now since 1 year in Plaza – solidarians and refugees?*

I would say that I am really thankful for everyone who helped in Plaza, and I hope I could see everyone another time!

*About the ex-workers of Plaza?*

You are really good people and I want to say to you: You should have the patience and you will get what ever you want!

*Anything you want to say to the many people stuck in Greece since more than one year?*

I wish for them to be lucky and to go wherever they wish.

*City Plaza should stay forever because...*

... it is a very simple way to show the whole earth real humanity.

*Your birthday wishes for Plaza?*

Perfect luck! All be well!

*What would you do first when coming back to Plaza?*

I would do what I used to!

To do the simple details of Plaza!

*Your song dedicated to Plaza?*

Josh Groban: You raise me up

<https://youtu.be/aJxrX42WcjQ>

***Nidal – Stendal / Germany***

*What is the first thing you remember of City Plaza?*

The first thing I remember is how good I was feeling there. City Plaza is my home in Europe. I arrived now in Germany but my home in Europe it is still City Plaza.

I hope that I will soon get papers and as soon as it is possible I can go back in solidarity with others who are now there. I am in contact with many people who lived in City Plaza and who are now in different other countries. We are still in contact and we are still the people of City Plaza.



*You have arrived now: how does it feel?*

Everywhere there are good and bad parts of life. In Germany the life consists mainly of paperwork, letters and a huge bureaucracy. I am here but I still have not found home.

*What is your message to all people who are now since 1 year in Plaza – solidarians and refugees?*

To the Greek friends: also one year of talking would never be enough if I want to thank you for what you have done. You have proved that all you are doing is dedicated to the human being as itself.

To the refugees: to be stuck for one year is really hard. It needs patience and unity to finally reach our goals.

*What do you want to say to the ex-workers of City Plaza who have supported the refugee squat from the beginning while the former hotel owner still owes them money?*

I want just to say: thank you! I wish in the end also you will win your fight and you will get your rights.

*City Plaza should stay forever, because...?*

...we need it for our struggle. ... because we need it for humanity.

For us the Kurdish every family has the “big house” the house where all children will return and figure out things together. For us City Plaza is the big house.

*What is your birthday wish for City Plaza?*

City Plaza forever!

*If I ever go back to City Plaza the first thing I want to do is...*

I will go straight to my room. ;)

*What is your favourite song you want to dedicate to City Plaza?*

Beritan. It was our favourite Kurdish song in City Plaza and it is known now by everyone there.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPqKODyMyIQ>

***Rabyee – Dijon / France***

*What is the first thing you remember of City Plaza?*

It is the best experience I've ever had in my life.

*You have arrived now: how does it feel?*

I arrived since four months to France. I do count every single day since then: How many days I need to have a right to travel again? I want to visit home again and home is City Plaza.

*What is your message to all people who are now since 1 year in Plaza – solidarians and refugees?*

All the people who have been for one year in Plaza are the best people –

solidarians and refugees, and I'll not lose any chance to be with them again. It's my honor.

*What do you want to say to the ex-workers of City Plaza who have supported the refugee squat from the beginning while the former hotel owner still owes them money?*

I want to tell them it was my pleasure and honor to meet all of them. Nothing will be forgotten in history.

*What do you wish to the people stuck in Greece since one year?*

I wish for all of them to have the chance to be wherever they want to be. And I'll be there with them soooooon.

*City Plaza should stay forever, because...?*

... it's become like a symbol. It's a great idea. There should be everywhere City Plazas to show people what solidarity means.

*What is your birthday wish for City Plaza?*

I wish for Plaza to go into history and to be a place for many kinds of solutions.

*What is the first thing to do when returning to Plaza one day?*

I want to get myself involved in many things, work hard and shine again as usual.

*My song dedicated to City Plaza is:*

Bob Marley: Everything's gonna be alright!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OD3F7J2PeYU>

*Ezat – Hamburg / Germany*

*What's the first thing you remember of City Plaza?*

Alliance, living together and helping to people who need to help.

*You have "arrived" now. How does it feel?*

Here it was my dream and I'm so exhausted.

*What is your message to all people who are now since 1 year in Plaza - solidarians and refugee?*

Stay strong! Believe in the beautiful life and try to make your life!

*What do you want to say to the ex-workers of CP who have supported the refugee squat from the very beginning?*

They are so kind and I want to say thank you for all things they did for us.

*What would you wish to all refugees still stuck in Greece?*

I wish one day I and they can turn back to their country and live with out fear.

*City Plaza should stay forever, because..... ?*

Because there we showed to all the world that we can live together and help all humans.

*What is your birthday wish for City Plaza?*

Enough and many kind hearts and full luck for them.

*If I ever go back to CP the first thing I want to do is...*

Helping and do what I can for all people.

*What is your favorite song you want to dedicate to City Plaza?*

Chris de Burgh: Borderline

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-ZJgnLrQYQ>

***Mustafa (and Salah) – Bordeaux / France***

***May their mother always be in our hearts!***

*What's the first thing you remember of City Plaza?*

The first thing I remember is the face of my mother .... She said every time Plaza is my home.

*You have "arrived" now. How does it feel?*

Here every thing is ok but I miss to plaza and I am sad because I am far away.

*What is your message to all people who are now since 1 year in Plaza - solidarians and refugees?*

Stay together! We have to fight for City Plaza our big family!

*What do you want to say to the ex-workers of CP who have supported the refugee squat from the very beginning?*

They are very nice people and they try to do the best for refugees. All bosses should go to hell.

*What would you wish to all refugees still stuck in Greece?*

I wish they travel to where they want and do what they want.

*City Plaza should stay forever, because..... ?*

Some time I think how it would be if we live for a long time in CP? How would it be after 10 years? I think it would be very nice! Yes, CP has to stay forever. It is a new small world that has many beautiful colors of life and tenderness.

*What is your birthday wish for City Plaza?*

I wish the best for CP and I wish the old woman Olga should get married. Hehe. And she should have many children. And I wish every country had a City Plaza.

*What is the first thing you would do if you go back to Plaza?*

The first thing is, I will be crying and crying. I have many memories... I want to return back to be a volunteer. It's my mothers house.

I love this song. My song for City Plaza:

Rag'n'Bone Man: Human

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3wKzyIN1yk>

### ***Nour - Stuttgart / Germany***

*What is the first thing you remember of City Plaza?*

I remember my friends from the different nationalities, cultures and countries.

I remember the feeling of safety after I have spent 4 months of feeling torment in the camps.

*What is your message to all people who are now since 1 year in Plaza – solidarians and refugees?*

I felt the security like if I was with my family and in my homeland. I really thank everyone who has helped us there. Please love each other and try to keep cooperation and assistance between each other to be able to live in peace and happiness.

*What would you wish to all refugees still stuck in Greece?*

I wish for every refugee to get his dream and have a good life with the whole of his/ her family.

*City Plaza should stay forever, because...?*

City Plaza should keep going to help everyone who needs support.

*What is your birthday wish for City Plaza?*

Hopefully, the people stay helping and support Plaza, and I hope that the people will strengthen mutual understanding and mutual trust and coexist in peace and amity.

*What is your favourite song you want to dedicate to City Plaza?*

Elissa: Helwa Ya Baladi

<https://youtu.be/sY0zWAintIc>

***Mohammed - Berlin / Germany***

*What's the first thing you remember of City Plaza?*

From City Plaza I remember everything. Especially I remember the first day. When I entered City Plaza and I saw volunteers who wanted to help the refugees. And they build a security group for City Plaza. I felt really good and in peace. I remember also the goodbye parties and the birthday parties.



*What is your message to all people who are now since 1 year in Plaza - solidarians and refugee?*

My message to people who spend their time to help refugees and solve their problems, who feel their problems and protect them in City Plaza: Thanks so much that you are fighting for the refugee rights and for organizing the demonstrations. The refugees will be happy when they see people like you helping them. And for sure they will think strong when they have people like you by their side.

To the refugees: I wish they shall have patience. I wish they shall spend their time in a useful way. And to be part of the City Plaza daily works and help each other. And always be careful. Solidarity will win!

*What do you want to say to the ex-workers of CP?*

Thank you to the people who are still waiting for their money and yet they are supporting refugees in CP. Thank you for your solidarity. We got the possibility to stay in City Plaza under dignified and human conditions instead of 400 refugees living in the tents of the camps or on the streets. It's all because we have your support. You made it possible to create a home for the homeless (refugees). Thank you! You showed us humanity.

*What would you wish to all refugees still stuck in Greece?*

I wish for all people who are stuck in Greece to soon arrive to their destination and be together with their families!

*City Plaza should stay forever, because...?*

It should stay forever but people should be free to move. If City Plaza stays forever it means refugees remain stuck in Greece also. In general, it is my only wish in Greece we have City Plazas forever, because I lived in City Plaza for a long time and I had never thought it wasn't my home. I feel it is like a home for me and I hope City Plaza stays open forever, but no one should be stuck in Greece because of the borders.

*What is your birthday wish for City Plaza?*

I wish it should stay forever.

*If I ever go back to CP the first thing I want to do is...*

I will take a cold shower in room 701 and then sleep on the balcony in the sun.

*What is your favorite song you want to dedicate to City Plaza?*

I have a song it's for me the best song. It's about emigration of Greek people to Germany and I hope the city plaza refugees take the positive things from this song: That Greek people were also refugees once and now they are not anymore. So maybe one day we will not be any more refugees and we can live in our own country.

Lakis Chalkias: I Fabrika

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4F4\\_tl8\\_S4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4F4_tl8_S4)



CITY PLAZA FOREVER

