

“Let our families reunite now!”

Call for refugee protest on Tuesday, September 19th at 11 o'clock in front of the offices of the Greek Asylum Service / Dublin Offices near Katekhaki metro station

We, the Syrian families from different camps in Greece (i.e. Elaionas, Koutsochero, Ritsona and Skaramangas), who have our beloved relatives in Germany are inviting all refugees who are separated from their relatives and everybody else who wants to join our struggle for justice and human rights, to a peaceful protest on Tuesday September 19th at 11 o'clock in front of the offices of the Greek Asylum Service / Dublin Offices near Katekhaki metro station.

After repeated protests we made during July and August 2017 in front of the German Embassy, the EU's offices in central Athens, the travel agency “Himalaya”, as well as the Greek Asylum Service, more and more of us refugee families are uniting to demand our immediate transfer to Germany.

Therefore, we want to express for one more time our strong concern and disagreement about the informal agreement between the German and the Greek government, which in practice limited radically the transfers of persons accepted through family reunification to 70 per month.

Refugees receiving tickets nowadays in order to fly in October and later have received their decisions from Germany from January 2017 and onwards. At the same time, more than 4,600 have received a positive answer from Germany since the beginning of the year of which until mid-August only 221 had left Greece. This results in more than 4,300 persons awaiting their tickets to go to Germany in Greece - of which more than half are children. The vast majority of us come from war torn Syria, but there are also many refugees from Afghanistan and Iraq waiting to join their relatives as well as from other countries.

There are families, who have been accepted to go to Germany more than six months ago.
There are families, who were told they would travel to Germany maybe sometime in 2018.
There are families, who wait already since more than 1 ½ years under very difficult conditions in Greece.
There are grandparents, fathers, mothers and children waiting to re-join each other after years of separation.
There are elderly, sick, disabled, newborns, victims of torture and other forms of violence or exploitation as well as many other vulnerable persons, who are in urgent need of their families.
There are families who have suffered from this separation so much, that their ties broke forever.

We have escaped war.
We need our families and a life in peace.

“Don't separate us but respect our fundamental right on family life!”

We now demand again from the German and the Greek government to:

- Secure that everybody who has his/ her approval to travel from the receiving state should travel within the legally provided deadline of six months. Persons who are waiting already for longer periods than this should travel within the next 30 days.
- Tickets should be paid according to law by the sending state, which is in this case Greece.

Refugees from different camps and places in Greece