

APRIL 2022

# THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS.



A newsletter from the communities  
living in Samos

# Who we are

We are people from different communities living in the Closed Controlled Access Centre (C.C.A.C.) in Samos, Greece. In this newsletter, we are raising our voices to whoever is concerned against the difficulties we have in the camp of Samos.

We realised the need to raise awareness of the situations we are facing in the camp, so we are sharing insights on our daily life to amplify our voices.

The people in the camp try to reduce their stress by just entertainment but it is not a long lasting solution to the fact that they faced lots of problems back at home, in their journey and now still suffering more than the problems which chased them from their homeland to here through the big black sea in search of a better life than the one they faced back at home. At first, we were very happy to have come safely to the island thinking that was the end of the dark road but has doubled even more than we never thought. We think this is not the real Europe we thought we were heading to.

ALI (name changed) who's living in the camp on Samos says:

*"Sometimes I go and participate in the interviews with some journalists thinking that one day things will change because of the many voices we have raised against the inhuman care in the camp especially against the Somali Community who are the majority in population in the Closed Controlled Access Centre of Samos.*

*Many times people are afraid of speaking or talking to others. However, we must understand their words from their eyes and listen to their hearts. Only in this way, we can help them. With empathy, we try to help them with advices, it would be better if we could all stand against inhumanity. My message is 'Empathy is seeing with eyes of another, listening with the ears of the victims in this prison and feeling with the heart of human'."*

# The Voice of the Voiceless

I am the voice of the voiceless;  
Through me the dumb shall speak;  
Till the deaf world's ear be made to hear  
The cry of the wordless weak.  
From street, from cage, and from kennel,  
from jungle and stall, the wail  
of my tortured kin proclaims the sin  
Of the mighty against the frail.

I am a ray from the centre;  
And I will feed God's spark,  
Till a great light glows in the night and shows  
The dark deeds done in the dark.  
And full on the thoughtless sleeper  
Shall flash its glaring flame,  
Till he wakens to see what crimes may be  
Cloaked under an honoured name.

The same Force formed the sparrow  
That fashioned man, the king;  
The God of the Whole gave a spark of soul  
To furred and to feathered thing.  
And I am my brother's keeper,  
And I will fight his fight,  
And speak the word for beast and bird,  
Till the world shall set things right.

Let no voice cavil at Science--  
The strong torch-bearer of God;  
For brave are his deeds, though dying creeds,  
Must fall where his feet have trod.  
However, he who would trample kindness  
and mercy into the dust--  
He has missed the trail, and his quest will fail:  
He is not the guide to trust.

*A poem talking about the  
imprisonment and the lack of  
freedom, which is like a copy of the  
situation we are in*

For love is the true religion,  
And love is the law sublime;  
And all that is wrought, where love is not,  
Will die at the touch of time.  
And Science, the great revealer,  
Must flame his torch at the Source;  
And keep it bright with that holy light,  
Or his feet shall fail on the course.

Oh, never a brute in the forest,  
And never a snake in the fen,  
Or ravening bird, starvation stirred,  
Has hunted its prey like men.  
For hunger, and fear, and passion  
Alone drive beasts to slay,  
But wonderful man, the crown of the plan,  
Tortures, and kills, for play.

He goes well fed from his table;  
He kisses his child and wife;  
Then he haunts a wood, till he orphans a brood,  
Or robs a deer of its life.  
He aims at a speck in the azure;  
Winged love, that has flown at a call;  
It reels down to die, and he lets it lie;  
His pleasure was seeing it fall.

- Abdullahi





# Life

Many were called but few were chosen.  
Nobody can translate what the Lord has spoken.  
Those who tried that are dead & probably fallen.  
I know you have regrets about what you have stolen.

You may squeeze your hair & crack yourself up.  
Or rub your skin against the wall till you scratch your self up.  
Or you just hide & bang the door, then you lock yourself up.  
When you cannot hold your tears then you cry yourself out.

That's life, it puts you in a corner, till you make mistakes.  
Making you think that to survive you got to do what it takes.  
& then you forget about God and his grace.  
The most important thing that you had to embrace.

Life is just a game of belief.  
If you believe that you'll be free, then you'll feel relief.  
There's a spirit in the way that you speak.  
Your brain is like magnet, it attracts those words & make you weak.

- A poem by Abdullahi



## Peaceful protest in the camp

"Freedom Justice  
Equality  
for all"

The Somali Committee were informed that Valerie Pecresse, one of the candidates for the presidential election in France, will come to Samos in January and visit the Closed Controlled Access Centre. We decided to organise a protest showing our sensibility and highlight the problems that we face in the camp. We wanted to share our voices and messages through the protest. We prepared placards to write small quotes and statements to share our experiences, but nothing happened like we had expected.

We expected to have the chance to speak directly to Valerie Pecresse, but she didn't give us a chance to speak with her and share our experiences. We tried our best and used the opportunity to speak with different TV, radio shows and journalists, as well as organisations working on Samos. We were happy to see our messages, experiences and voices from the protest shared on the media.

However, we were disappointed that Valerie Pecresse spoke on behalf of the people living in the camp and that she stated that camp was good for the reception of refugees. We didn't expect this as this is not the reality - the camp is like a prison. We expected her to say that we need help and to suggest the things that need to change in the camp. Our lives are really so hard in the camp, many people feel stressed about the situation and different communities have more hope than others - many Somali women received rejections to their asylum claim one week after Valerie Pecresse's visit.

- Written by Nadaara



# A letter from the Somali Committee to the European Union

## Dear European Union

### **Appreciation**

Firstly, the Somali community would like to express thanks for all the services provided including, the warm welcome, high quality housing, enough water, food, entertainment, the good relationship between the Somali community and security workers, the offices and the surrounding community we are living with.

### **Matter of Concern**

Despite all the above-mentioned positives, the Somali community would like to submit their complaints in (Zervou) the Closed Controlled Access Centre (CCAC) in Samos regarding the following issues:

1. Rejections of asylum for the Somali people.
2. Being termed as safe and good having good life in Turkey while it surely is the opposite.
3. Facing health related issues in the Closed Controlled Access Centre of Samos (CCAC).

#### **1: Rejections of asylum for the Somali people**

The Somali community in the refugee camp of Samos in Greece have many problems, regarding the results of a certain interview held by the Greece government named "Turkish interview". Most of the Somali youth are given rejects, without looking at their physical, psychological, or mental health conditions.

There are many people in the camp who have injuries from shootings and accidents, who are given rejects while the reject is only based on the "Turkey interview". Without the person being asked the problems he/she Faces in Somalia. For example there are some people who are given up to four rejects for the same question and answer about turkey.

After two rejections in Samos the Asylum Applicant card (Ausweis) is withdrawn forcing the person to remain in the camp and cannot even go out to learn in the schools, because of that we are forced to give them advice not to kill or harm themselves and many people from Somali community are facing psychological difficulties. The result contradicts to the right of every individual for and schooling and education.

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## ***2: Being termed safe and having good life in Turkey while it surely is the opposite:***

The Greece government terms that the Somali community relates as brothers to Turkey, although the reality is that the Somali community in Turkey is facing many problems:

### ***A: Killings.***

The Somali community who live in Turkey are sometimes killed in Turkey like in Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir and the government does nothing about such cases and the Somali community live in fear.

### ***B: Legal issues.***

Being given a visa permit for a short term, for example someone is given 3 months visa while in Somalia, but whenever they come to Turkey their visa or stay is only limited to a month, or even some times half a month. Most of the people did not know about this situation upfront which will not allow them to apply for the residence permit in time.

### ***C: Being treated differently from the other communities in Turkey and experiencing discrimination.***

The Somali people in Turkey are treated harshly and differently from the other communities including: controlling the people going to other regions or cities, restricting them going no where even if they have residence permit cards.

There are some Somalian persons who arrived by foot without passport or any legal document ,those people cannot get any allowance or support from Turkish authority. After their arrival some Somali people are deported back to Somalia- a country where it is unsafe for them and from which they have fled. Some people have lost their parents or close relatives in bomb blasts, or being carelessly shot by the Somali police. Unfortunately, there is no where or no one who does something about these circumstances.

There are quite a few people who have fears of going back to Somalia, because of the threatening messages they have received from the Somali militants. And if the Turkish police catch the Somali youth are being held in jail for like three to six months because they were trying to look for asylum in Greece regardless of the challenges that they had came from their country.

After taken they are put in jail subsequently fingerprints and eye pictures are taken like they are perpetrators. When working in Turkey people sometimes work for over two or three months eventually, they are being fired without wages. Somali businessmen encounter many problems, for example the government stated that in Somali shops the workers 80% must be Turkish people.



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## ***D: Health issues.***

The people who come for health problems in Turkey and their accompanying persons face many difficulties, in the hospitals and when ever they try to apply for residence permit, they are given rejections. The patients are forced to pay much money and still don't get the health services needed.

Neither the government of Somalia nor of Turkey is responsible for our visa procession so we should not be termed as having peace in Turkey. The relationship between the two governments doesn't mean we the community are not having any problems at all and that's a wrong perception the Greece government tends to believe in.

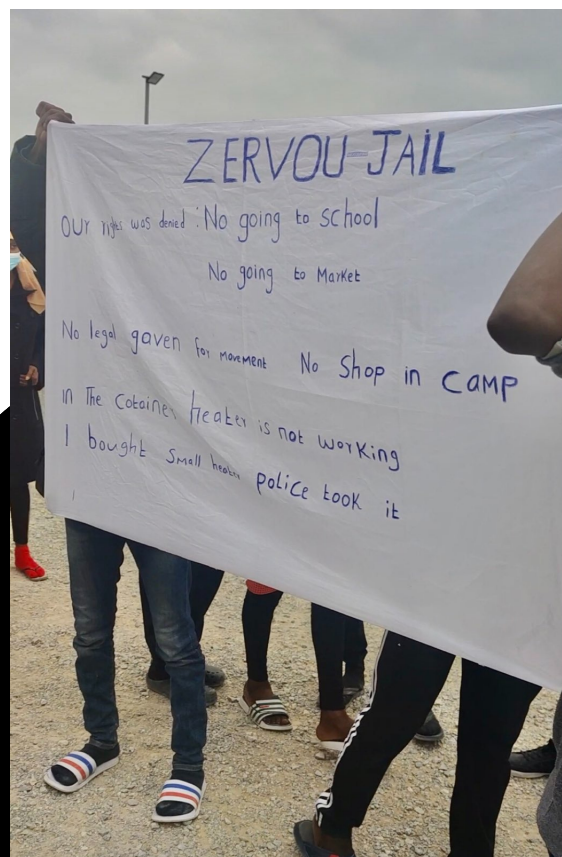
## ***3: Facing health related issues in the Closed Controlled Access Centre (Samos).***

The Somali community in the Aegean islands of Greece have many problems including physical, mental and health problems and not getting the required treatments. some people don't get sleep because of family separations, security problems faced back at home, fears related to threatening from the Somali militants, beatings, injuries from shootings, bomb blasts and accidents, long waiting results after being checked or admitted in the hospital, long waiting appointment even if they are seriously sick, unavailability of specialised doctors in the islands.

***We the Somalian people hope that this sheds more light on our situation, and are hoping for a permanent change regarding this horrific situation we are in.***

Yours sincerely,

The Somali Committee  
living in the Samos CCAC



# Fatah playlist

Najiib alfa - Dufan lama simo  
Najiib alfa - Dhagaxa luultu  
Ali zaki - Inan kale dagay  
Cheap Thrills - Sia

Abdikarim Al shal ft Najma Nashaad  
/kulen

Dayax Dalnuuqe - Biyan dhean

Sharna boy ft Deegsan Waa sax

Kiingamac ft Suldaan

Damar buugaani - Malabo

## A letter from Adham

### ***We are the Syrian refugees on the island of Samos.***

The criminal is not the one who commits the crime only, but there is a person more important than him in any crime that occurs, and he is the person or party that covers him and gives him another opportunity to commit another crime.

This is what happened in Turkey in the state Izmir in the village of (Velbahce). These Syrian youth (Mamoun al-Nabhan - Ahmed al-Ali - Muhammad al-Bish) were killed by one of the Turkish citizens in cold blood, as he burned their room while they were sleeping at four o'clock in the morning on November 16, 2021.

The details of the incident were kept secret by the Turkish authorities.

How long will the Syrians die this way, in Turkey, without the perpetrators being held accountable. The Syrians continue to go through criminal conditions, as you can see on the social media pages, and before that were the events of the Turkish state of Ankara and before that, Urfa and others, and no one is holding the perpetrators accountable because they are Turkish citizens.

Why do we pay the price for the racism of the Turkish people with our lives!!!!? We fled our country because we are not safe and there is no one to protect us from the brutality and brutality of the regime and now we meet the same fate in Turkey.

Here we are now, living on the island of Samos in Greece, in a camp very similar to the Guantanamo prison.

One of the Syrian youth was arrested in an inappropriate manner, as some policemen entered and took him from his sleep, handcuffed to Galal. He would have been deported after three days in jail, had it not been for the intervention of some lawyers. This youth along with those of other nationalities would have been deported just because they had obtained the fourth refusal for asylum.

The question is why the asylum file of Syrian refugees is accepted in Bulgaria after 3 months and we have been in Samos for two and a half years. They have given us rejections of the right to asylum and we are threatened at any moment with arrest as criminals and to be sent back to Turkey????????!!!!!!

What is the difference between these Syrians in Greece (Samos) and the Syrians in Bulgaria????!



Turkey is not a safe country for the Syrians and the whole world knows what Syrians are exposed to in terms of exploitation, racism, murder and robbery.....

Asylum offices ask us for evidence that Turkey is not a safe country for the Syrians. If we were living in safety, we would not have risked our lives and brought the death boats that you know well and suffered this journey, and the risk of death over staying in Turkey.... Is this not a sufficient reason for the world to know we are not safe in Turkey???!!!!

Perhaps I am ashamed of myself when I say that I live in this camp as a prisoner, because I am treated as a prisoner is treated in every sense of the word, and the only sin I have committed is that I am Syrian... Are you guilty because you belong to an identity that you do not have the decision to change??!!

Are these the capabilities of countries that sponsor refugees???!!!!

We want to work, we want to help the country in which we live and contribute to paying taxes so that we are not seen by citizens as if we are taking their state money...

The state can invest the skills of the refugees and employ them, not leave them in these camps to turn into broken and aggressive people from within, who are the most vulnerable to committing crimes.

We want a decent life as your children live.

We want to do something that benefits us and the world, not to spend our lives in displacement and prisons.

Unfortunately, the bullet is sometimes more merciful than the boredom we live daily. You have to understand that we are human beings like you in every sense of the word. We have dreams, goals, and capabilities, but unfortunately they are shattered before our eyes with each new day we live in these camps.

We are all exposed to being refugees, When governments win wars, the defenceless people are the only losers.

And here we are today, seeking help from you because our position today is weak, and we have nothing but this pen to explain to you a simple and brief part of what we go through daily.

# A Writing from Saleh

ربما نفعل اشياء  
صغيرة مثل مكان ترفيهي  
و الكلام المحفز أو التقدير  
تغير من نفسية الشخص  
ونعني شيء كبير  
وتوسع افاق العقل  
لذلك اعتقد الاشياء  
البسيطة لها معاني  
كبيرة

Small things, such as a place to spend your time or feeling appreciated from the people who are around you, can change your mood for the better. So, I believe that simple things can have the most meaningful impact



A painting of a woman's face, oriented upside down. She has a large, round face with brown skin. Her hair is a vibrant blue, styled in a voluminous, curly fashion. Her eyes are large and dark, with long, dark eyelashes. Her nose is a simple, dark line, and her mouth is a slight, dark curve. The background of the face is a light, textured blue. The entire painting is framed by a border of green and blue leafy shapes, painted with thick, expressive brushstrokes. The overall style is folk-art or naive painting.

# A painting from Pascaline

To contact the Somali Committee or other people from the communities in Samos, please send a message to the Samos Advocacy Collective.  
[samosadvocacycollective@gmail.com](mailto:samosadvocacycollective@gmail.com)