



ΛΕΣΒΟΣ



LESVOS



We are a group of people of whom some live in Greece and

some others come from and (usually) live in different Euro-

pean countries. We support refugees in the places we live

and elsewhere as activists, because for us all human beings

are equal. We believe in the freedom of movement as every-

body's right and a world without borders. In order to sup-

port you we would like to give you some useful information

about your rights in Greece and the overall situation here.

We don't ask for money, we don't take money and we don't

ask for any reward. We just wish you a safe journey to a bet-

ter place and tell you from our side:

WELCOME TO EUROPE!

If you need any further information not provided in this fly-

er or if you have more specialised / personalised guestions

please ask us directly or contact us via mail:

CONTACT@W2EU.INFO

W2EU INFO@YAHOO.COM

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WHAT IS THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE AEGEAN

NEW GOVERNMENT: In February 2015 Greece elected a new government which is much more friendly to refugees and migrants than the governments before. The implementation of the announced new migration policies which should introduce some improvements has turned out for the moment to be difficult, as there is not enough funding and as the deeper state structures are more or less the same like before (i.e. civil servants and officers have not changed).

What has improved is that the detention duration of persons lacking documents has been reduced from 18 months and more, to maximal six months (and under specific conditions for another 1-3 months). Additionally, the government also announced to fight against the illegal pushbacks ("immediate deportations" upon arrest on Greek territory) of refugees at the sea and land borders to Turkey. Push-backs have in fact gone down at the sea bor-

der for some months now, while they seemingly continue at the land border.

ATTENTION: If you have been pushed back from Greek territory (sea or land) to Turkey, specifically in the period after February 2015, it is important to report this incident(s) to an independent organisation as this might help in halting these kinds of human rights violations in the future. You can directly contact us also for that purpose via email:

CONTACT@W2EU.INFO or you can contact organizations named below in the contact list. It will not change what happened to you but it might improve conditions for the ones following. It is also important to report this during your asylum application as well as all other human rights violations that occurred to you in your home country and during your journey out. A push-back took place when you reached Greek territory, clearly crossing the border line, and the Greek authorities sent you directly back to Turkey - most of the times without registering your name, age and nationality, without hearing

◆ GENERAL INFORMATION

your claim for asylum / protection and your wish to stay in Greece. At sea this usually happens directly while refugee boats are in Greek waters. On the land border it might happen that you are kept for a few hours or a few days before being illegally returned.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS: You should know that numbers of refugees arriving in Greece are currently (May 2015) six times higher than last year. The government is not able to respond to the growing numbers of refugees arriving. There are no adequate places where you will be hosted until registration is completed. There is not sufficient staff paid to offer medical and legal support and to do registration procedures. Upon arrest you will be transferred to provisional detention facilities, such as fenced areas inside the port, container rooms, police stations or tent camps. On the islands Lesvos (Mytilene), Samos and Chios there are detention centres ("camps"), where the ones arriving are transferred to after

first arrest and held until their registration is completed. These detention centres are currently all overcrowded. Usually the completion of registration doesn't last more than one month, but things can change if the number of arrivals continues to increase in summer. All the other islands in the Aegean have no special places where refugees are held for registration. Therefore, you might stay in very different places, for different periods of time and under very different conditions depending on the place of arrival. There is also a big problem with transportation, as most people are left to walk from the place where they arrived to the capital city of the island.

SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT: On

the islands of the Aegean you might sometimes encounter people who are not nice to you, but there are many activists and volunteers who will try to help you and who are friendly people, who live there or stay there as tourists. On some islands there are even self-orga-

nised solidarity groups who try to help arrange provisory accommodation, food, clothes, information provision, or transport people with their private cars or otherwise. Be aware that many of these people are helping on a daily basis by investing their time, energy and often also their monev to help many hundreds or even thousands of people who arrived and will be arriving this year on the Greek islands. They even might risk conflicts with the authorities in order to support you. Try to be co-operative and patient with all people trying to help you. Please understand that help is limited to the persons who are available and their time. We understand that you might want to leave the place you arrived as fast as possible, but you will be soon enough in Athens anyways. So try to be supportive, too and help out in organising, fair distribution of any goods and food provided, cleaning the areas you are temporarily staying at and be respectful to each other. Please don't use any drugs or alcohol in order to avoid any form of pointless aggressions, conflicts and

fights, especially in any place of self-organised housing and solidarity. Sexist and racist behaviours are not welcomed as well as any form of exploitation of others, for example by persons involved in selling overpriced ferry-tickets and SIM-cards.

WHAT HAPPENS UPON MY ARREST AT THE SEA OR LAND BORDER?

Upon arrest you will be brought to a coastguard, borderguard or police station for a first registration of your name, family name, age and nationality. In some cases the European Border Police Frontex might make an additional estimation of your nationality and age in an interview that is usually conducted by a borderguard from another EU-member state in English, together with a translator. If they don't believe that you say the truth about your nationality, they might ask you different questions about your stated home country (flag, geography, culture, history, politics, etc.). Sometimes they also conduct more detailed interviews in

order to learn something about smuggling networks. After the first registration in certain places of arrival you will be brought to a detention centre (if you arrived in Evros, Lesvos, Samos or Chios) and there you might be registered a second time (by the First Reception Service (FRS)).

WHY AM I IN PRISON / CLOSED CAMP / "FIRST RECEPTION CENTRE"?

You are detained for having entered the country without papers – which, according to the law is illegal. You are detained with the aim to be deported back to your country of origin.

ATTENTION: But most of the nationalities cannot be deported or sent back to Turkey. Iranians, Iraqis and Turks are in danger of being deported back to Turkey directly from the detention centres along the Greek-Turkish border. Some other nationalities, such as Nigerians, Santo Dominicans,

Georgians, can be deported back to their countries of origin from Athens. Also persons who can prove that they were asylum seekers or recognized refugees in Turkey are in danger of deportation to Turkey, if they present documents! The only ones who cannot be deported for sure are the ones who seek asylum. If you are not released from the detention centre / first reception centre and you are brought to a prison in Athens and if the police transfers you to your country's embassy, you might be in risk of deportation.

ATTENTION: Greece does not deport refugees from Afghanistan, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea and Palestine as well as people from other war torn countries. There have been only some very few reported cases of deportation to these countries. Currently people arrested at the Greek-Turkish borders are usually only detained until registration procedures are completed.

FOR HOW LONG AM I GOING TO BE DETAINED?

ACCORDING TO THE LAW, you can be detained from a few hours up to six months. Your detention can be extended twice, for a maximum of 12 months in total. If that happens then the competent authorities will issue a new detention decision. Nowadays, if someone is detained, he/she is in practice normally released after 6 months.

If you are an asylum seeker, according to the law, you can be detained for three reasons:

- as long as it is necessary for the determination of your nationality,
- if you are considered a public threat according to the police and
- for the prompt and effective completion of the asylum procedure.

If you apply for asylum during your detention, your detention cannot last more than 6 months in total (under 3, see above). If you are detained for reason 1 and 2 then the duration of your detention cannot exceed the 12 months. It can be extended only after a new individually justified detention decision issued by the competent authorities.

IN PRACTICE the detention duration upon first arrest varies a lot, according to the place you arrive and different factors that cannot be better described than mere good or bad luck. An important factor one cannot influence though is how full the camp you arrive is and how many people arrive after your arrival. Usually upon arrival people are currently only held until registration procedures have been completed. This can currently last up to one month on average. If you are from Syria you will be released very soon anyway as you should normally not be detained at all after your registration and identification as Syrian. If you are detained upon second arrest on the mainland nowadays, you will be normally released after 6 months.

- attention: In the First Reception Centre (FRC) Fylakio (and any other FRC that might open in Lesvos or elsewhere) you should not stay longer than 25 days, but it is possible that you will be transferred after that period to a detention centre.
- ATTENTION: Please ask the people supporting you upon arrival about the detention duration at that actual moment and place as practices change all the time. And remember that no one can tell you for sure what will happen the next day but you can only get an orientation based on the experience of the near past.
- ATTENTION: If you are an unaccompanied minor, you should not be detained but you might still be held longer than the others (see section on unaccompanied minors).

WHAT IS WRITTEN ON THE WHITE PAPER THAT POLICE GAVE ME?

The "white paper" is an official note issued by the police upon release from detention in which you are told to leave Greece and go back to your country, within a period of a few days up to 30 days. This paper is neither a travel document nor a residence permit. It just protects you from being arrested for the period specifically mentioned in it (on the right bottom side), from the day it was issued (date on the upper right side). Once it expires, you are at risk of being arrested and detained again. This time detention will most probably last up to six months (and under specific conditions an additional 1-3 months).

ATTENTION: IF you are from Syria you will be given a "Suspension of the deportation" note. This document is usually issued for 6 months instead of 30 days and can be renewed.

ATTENTION: Make a copy of your paper as soon as possible and keep it somewhere safe, in case you lose the original.

CAN I RENEW THE WHITE PAPER?

No. This order cannot be renewed. BUT if they arrest you after the expiration of that paper and they release you again after an undefined period of time, you will most probably receive the same paper again with a new expiration date. If you are a Syrian refugee, you can renew the six months "Suspension of the Removal" paper. You have to go to the "Aliens Police Directorate" in Athens (Petrou Ralli/ Allodapon) and ask for its renewal.

CAN I APPLY FOR ASYLUM IN ANOTHER EU-COUNTRY AND NOT IN GREECE?

According to the European law, you have to apply for asylum in the first European country that

you entered. In practice, Greece is the first European country where you are being registered and fingerprinted upon arrival. If you manage to reach another European country and apply for asylum, that country can send you back to Greece, as your fingerprints are kept in a common European database, called "Eurodac" if you are an adult (over 18 years old). This happens because of a European law called "Dublin Regulation." BUT: Since January 2011, most European countries have stopped temporarily sending refugees back to Greece, because they understood that the situation here is not good. If you have more questions check http://w2fu.info.

ATTENTION: If you have family members legally residing in another European country, you have the right to ask for a family reunification, under the Dublin Regulation. You have to ask for help for the procedure and the necessary documentation that must be submitted from a Greek organisation, which can explain

to you the procedure, the chances and the time frame.

attention: If you are a Syrian refugee, some European countries have opened a special family reunification procedure through their embassies. But this can only happen from third countries (such as Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan) and not from Greecel 144

- I have the right to be informed about my rights and the asylum procedure in my own language
- I have the right to make phone calls
- ▶ Unaccompanied minors are usually detained until an available place is found in a reception centre for unaccompanied minors

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS WHILE I AM IN PRISON?

- I can lodge an asylum application
- I have the right to spend one hour per day outside
- I have the right to talk to a lawyer
- I have the right to ask for medical treatment
- If I am a minor or a woman I should be detained separately and not in mixed detention cells

HOW DO I APPEAL BEFORE THE COURT TO BE RELEASED SOONER?

ATTENTION: This procedure is currently not needed upon arrival as all refugees are released after registration. Yet, you might need to know this possibility in case you get arrested again later. In order to appeal before the court against your detention, asking for your release, you need to have a lawyer. NGO lawyers don't ask and don't take money for this or for any other procedure. Private lawyers will ask for mo-

ney, for the court expenses. If you hire a private lawyer, make sure, you get proof/the receipts that the lawyer submitted an application.

ATTENTION! No lawyer or other third person can apply for asylum in your place. Don't pay money to anyone to do this for you. You personally have to lodge an asylum application before the competent authorities.

Everybody can appeal before the court to be released sooner - persons who apply for asylum and also the ones who don't. If you have a relative or a friend who legally lives in Greece, you will need his address in order to prove that you have a place to stay upon release. Your friend or relative has to sign a specific document called "ipefthini dilosi" (Solemn Declaration) where he states that he is willing to offer vou accommodation and submit that to the Court, along with his house/rent contract. The lawyer will have to submit these papers to the court, asking for your release. For this application, it is

important to say why you cannot stay longer in prison. Important reasons are, among others: if you are sick, if you are a torture victim, if you have mental or psychological problems, if you have already applied for asylum, if you have a family in another European country. Remember to say these things to your lawyer. In case your detention is prolonged, according to the law, there must be a review of your detention and a justified new decision issued by the authorities.

WHO IS A POLITICAL REFUGEE?

A political refugee is a person who has left his country, because he was afraid that his life was in danger for the following reasons:

- because of his religion or of his ethnic group
- because of his nationality
- because of his social group, his gender or sexual orientation identity (homosexual)

- because of his political views
- because in his country or in his region, there's a war and/or generalized violence.

WHO IS A PERSON IN NEED OF SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION?

A person eligible for subsidiary protection is a third-country national or a stateless person who does not qualify as a refugee but for whom substantial grounds exist for believing that, if returned to his / her country of origin, or in the case of a stateless person, to his or her country of former habitual residence, he would face a real risk of suffering serious harm, i.e.

- the death penalty or execution; or
- torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the country of origin; or

serious and individual threat to a civilian's life or person by reason of indiscriminate violence in situations of international or internal armed conflict.

■ ATTENTION If you have left
■ your country in order to find
a job or a better life, you cannot be classified as a refugee
and you cannot receive subsidiary protection according to
international law.

WHEN CAN I APPLY FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM?

There is not a deadline for presenting an asylum application. Nevertheless, according to the Greek law, if you haven't applied for asylum shortly after your arrival or your release, it can be considered as not really wanting to do so. It is known though, also to the Greek authorities, that access to the asylum procedure is not always easy and sometimes you have

to wait for days or for months until you get access to the Asylum Office.

WHERE CAN I MAKE THIS APPLICATION?

You have to personally lodge an asylum application before the competent authority, which is the Asylum Office (in Athens, Lesvos Island, Rhodes Island, South and North Evros Region, in Amygdaleza detention camp, in Thessaloniki and in Patras). There is no such office in Chios, but occasionally the Lesvos employees visit the island and offer the possibility to apply there. If you are detained or in a First Reception Center, the detention authorities (police) and sometimes also the First Reception authorities will register your will to seek international protection and refer you to the competent examination authority.

WHICH IS THE PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM?

Once you manage to have access to an Asylum Office, an employee will register your personal data and ask you some questions about your origin, the journey vou undertook, the reasons for leaving your country etc. A white card, which is called "International protection seeker's card" will be issued, with your personal details, the day of its issuance and the day of its expiration (a few years ago it used to be a pink card). On that card, also the day of your interview before the competent committee is written. The "white card" according to the Greek law, is valid for 6 months, until the completion of your asylum procedure (if the procedure takes longer it will be renewed). Sometimes it is issued also for shorter periods.

ATTENTION: Be aware that if you don't present yourself on the day, fixed for your interview, to the asylum office where you put your claim, the asylum pro-

cedure is concluded. You have to have valid reasons for not presenting yourself (example: a paper from a public hospital that you were sick or if the police stopped you in order to check the validity of the document and you couldn't be on time at the fixed appointment with the authorities). Example: If you apply for asylum on the island of Lesvos, you should renew your card there, you should be interviewed there etc. Only a change of address. which you report to the Asylum Service would change the local responsibilities.

ATTENTION: When you are given the "white card" and you know the day of your interview, you should go to one of the Greek NGOs working with asylum seekers (see below) where you can be properly and timely prepared for your interview.

ATTENTION: For those coming from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Georgia, or Egypt, the decision should be issued within 45 days, and for the other nationalities within four months, according to a decision published by the Head of the Asylum Office.

ATTENTION: If your asylum claim is rejected in first instance, you have the right to appeal against the rejection. Make sure you refer promptly to an NGO in order to get help. According to the law, if your asylum claim is examined with the normal procedure, you have 30 days to appeal against the rejection. If it is examined with the accelerated procedure (which means that your asylum is considered unfounded). you have 15 DAYS to appeal against the rejection. If you are in prison or detained in a detention center, you have 10 DAYS to appeal against the rejection. If you are in a First Reception Center, the deadline is 3 DAYS. The appeals procedure for the ones who applied before the Asylum Service is generally only possible in written form. Ask an NGO for support to formulate it!!!

also rejected (second instance rejection), you can only appeal before the Appeal Administrative Court and also request a suspension of your removal, which is a long and expensive procedure. Most probably you'll have to hire a private lawyer, as Greek NGOs do not have the money or can only partially cover court expenses.

ATTENTION: The application before the Appeal Administrative Court does not automatically stop the removal decision, issued with the second instance rejection. In order to do so, your lawyer or the NGO has to ask for the suspension of your removal, pending the examination of your case by the court.

ATTENTION: Be aware that in case you change your address or your mobile phone after you have asked for asylum, you have to immediately inform the aut-

horities and give them your new address and/or mobile phone number, so that they can find you.

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS IF I APPLY FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM?

Unfortunately the "white card" does not practically correspond to any right. It means that while you are in the asylum procedure you cannot be deported until the completion of the administrative procedure and until you get a negative answer.

You have the right to have access

to medical care and treatment at Greek public hospitals.
Due to the financial crisis, the Prefecture does not easily issue a work permit. In case you have found a job, make sure you get help from an NGO for the issuance of a work permit. Keep in mind that working without a proper work permit is illegal, according to the Greek law.
In case you are a torture victim or you have suffered from other forms of violence, you have to

tell this to the authorities or the NGO, so that you are timely referred to "Metadrasis", a specialized NGO which can confirm that you are a torture victim by issuing a certificate which is important for your asylum claim.

APPLICATION IS IT CERTAIN THAT I WILL BE RECOGNIZED AS A REFUGEE?

No, it is not. During the asylum procedure, the committee has to examine your personal situation and the individual reasons why you left your country of origin, as well as the general situation in your own country. Be careful on what you say, try to be as clear and as precise as you can. Everyone understands that, when you arrive in a country, you need to find a job in order to survive. But during your asylum examination, the priority is to explain why your life was in danger at home and why you had to escape. Be prepared to say everything important as you might not get asked everything. ₩

WHEN DO I HAVE THE CHANCE OF BEING RECOGNIZED AS A REFUGEE?

You have the chance to be granted international protection if your fear of persecution (because of your political views, your religion, your race, your nationality etc.) can be proven and if in your country (or in the region you come from) there is a general situation of instability due to conflicts.

TO LEGALLY LEAVE GREECE AND GO TO ANOTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRY?

As an asylum seeker, awaiting your interview or the decision, you cannot travel because you do not have a travel document. If you are recognized as a political refugee, you can apply for

a TDV, a travel document and travel in all countries except from your country of origin. If you have been issued subsidiary protection, you can apply for a TDV in case you cannot get a passport by your own embassy (you need to explain the reasons for that, e.g. if your country of origin does not have an embassy in Greece). You can travel in all countries including your country of origin. In both cases, you can stay abroad for a maximum period up to three months

ATTENTION: Currently, some European countries ask for a visa, even for those who are recognized as political refugees in another country. Also countries outside of Europe might ask for a visa.

attention: In some very exceptional cases, when you have a very serious health problem, which cannot be treated in Greece, you can apply for a travel document, even while you are still in the asylum procedure. Keep in mind though that this is extremely difficult and you need to bring evidence documenting the sickness.

ATTENTION: Keep in mind that if you try to leave from Greece with a forged or false passport and you are arrested, you might be brought to the Court, sentenced and detained. If you have close family members in another European country, you can apply for a FAMILY REUNIFICATION UNDER THE DUBLIN REGULA-TION. This application is also made before the Asylum Service. You should seek the help of an NGO, in order to find out whether you can take advantage of this regulation. Anyhow, you can also directly go to the asylum service from the moment your relative has registered himself/herself in the EU member-state he/she resides. You need also documents that prove your relation to the person that legally resides in another European country and probably a DNA test will also be needed.

ATTENTION: Keep in mind that before applying for asylum in

Greece you need to know if your parents/underage brothers/sisters are in another European country and mention this to the competent authorities. If you ask for asylum, you have only three months to state that you want to apply for family reunification!

IF I HAVE LEFT MY COUNTRY SO AS TO FIND A JOB, CAN I OBTAIN A "GREEN CARD" WHEN I AM RELEASED?

It's very difficult to obtain a residence permit as a migrant. For further information, please go to the "Group of Lawyers for the Rights of Migrants and Refugees" or ask at "Diktyo" (see below).

WHAT HAPPENS IF I GIVE FALSE INFORMATION TO THE POLICE?

In the past it was very common that mistakes were made by the police officers due to the massive influx of refugees and the deficiencies of the Greek system. Nowadays, before applying for asylum, there's a "screening procedure" and there are few chances that mistakes such as the registration of a wrong nationality occur. In case there have been mistakes, you can ask the authorities to correct them, if you have valid documents/certificates that can prove who you are. During the detention in identification centres in Lesvos and Samos, as well as in the FRC. you might change your registered data more easily before your release. 🔣





WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE ARE FAULTS ABOUT MY AGE, NAME OR NATIONALITY ON MY DEPORTATION ORDER?

Make sure that you declare them correctly (spelling mistakes or others) during the registration of your asylum claim before the "Asylum Office". The "white paper" (removal order) is not a proper identity document, so if you apply for asylum, you can carefully examine it and state to the person registering your claim, what the correct data is.

THAN 18, WHAT HAPPENS TO ME?

A minor is a child from 0-17 years. An unaccompanied minor is a child up to 17 years who is travelling alone – meaning not accompanied by his/her mother or father. Upon arrival you will usually be first registered by the coastguard. You have to declare your name and age. If the authorities doubt your age, according

to the law, they can use medical methods to determine if you are younger than 18 or older. In such a case, you should be informed in a language you understand. about the possibility to assess the age with a medical examination, the method that will be used, the possible consequences of the result or of your refusal to undertake a medical examination. If from the medical examination it doesn't result with certainty that someone is an adult, he/she has to be treated as a minor. If you were registered by the First Reception Services (in the FRC Fylakio and sometimes in Lesvos and Samos detention centres). you can appeal against any form of age-assessment before the First Reception Service. You can also appeal before the administrative court against it with the help of a lawyer. If you have documents, proving your young age such as your original passport or birth certificates, validated by your countries' ministry or embassy, you can hand them to the authorities, the First Reception Service or (in case you apply for asylum or for family reunification) to the Asylum Service.

ATTENTION: MINORS SHOULD NOT BE DETAINED! Only in exceptional cases they can be detailed according to the law. However, in practice, minors are routinely detained in Greece. If you are a registered unaccompanied minor, you might be detained until a place is found in a reception centre for unaccompanied minors, where you will be referred. This means practically that you might stay longer in detention than your adult or accompanied friends. Currently, minors stay up to one month in detention after arrival, awaiting an accommodation place in an open care centre. This period might decrease or increase according to how many minors are waiting for a place in open

ATTENTION: Minors who are not accompanied have to be taken care of by the Greek authorities. If you are a documented unaccompanied minor THE

reception centres like you, and

according to how many minors

arrive in Greece.

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR IS YOUR TEMPORARY GUARDIAN.

He/she is responsible for you in place of your family which is currently not with you. In fact, unfortunately most minors never have personal contact to their guardians, and the guardians rarely know each child they are responsible for.

• NOT BE DEPORTED and only under very strict examination of their best interest they can do the voluntary return.

ATTENTION: The reception centre for unaccompanied minors, where you will be transferred, is not a detention centre!!! You will be free there.

ATTENTION: If you have close family members in another EU-country, such as father and mother, elder brother or sister, first degree uncle or aunt, you can ask for family reunification. In order not to delay the long lasting procedures, report as soon as you arrive in Greece

that you want to be reunited with your relative. Even if unaccompanied minors usually stay longer in detention, it is worth as you will be able to travel with documents and safely to your relatives.

ATTENTION: The documents of unaccompanied minors are valid until concluding the 18th year of age. BUT as soon as you leave the open care centre, where you are assigned, the organisation running the place has to report you as missing. Practically, this means for you, that during a police control you might get arrested and the authorities might detain you again until they find a place in an open care centre where they can send you. Unaccompanied minors arrested this way are usually held in Amygdaleza special holding centre for minors in Athens, 🔣

WHAT IF I HAVE ALREADY FINGERPRINTS IN A EUROPEAN COUNTRY WHEN I ARRIVE IN GREECE?

If you have already given fingerprints in another European country before arriving in Greece and if your fingerprints are found. then Greece will make a request to this other EU-country to see if they take you back or not. You should think before if you want to be sent to that country or not. IF not, and IF Greek authorities inform you that they will request you to go back, you should ask advice of a lawyer to help you stay (see: Bulgaria case below). If you want to be sent back because you have your old «first» fingerprints in – for example – the UK or some other better country. vou can inform the authorities yourself about your fingerprints there and provide them with proofs. Yet it depends on the way you left the country (deported, why deported, voluntary return...) and on other factors if they will take you back or not. Ask a lawyer about your individual case to be sure.

In general, if you have left Greece / or another European country (by deportation or voluntarily) and if your fingerprints are found, you will most probably have to explain additionally to your old reason of escape from your home, new reasons of persecution that occurred after your return. You are allowed to make a new claim for asylum if there are new grounds for it, as your old claim closes after a certain period of time, when you do not appear to be in the country.

ATTENTION SPECIAL CASE: PEOPLE WHO FIRST ENTERED THE EU VIA BULGARIA

You are in THESSALONIKI OR NEARBY AND YOU ARRIVED IN GREECE VIA BULGARIA. IF you aim to apply for asylum in Greece, you should know that your fingerprints from Bulgaria are very likely to be found. If they are found, Greece will ask Bulgaria to take you back as it was your first country of entry in Europe. Usually Bulgaria accepts these requests and takes the persons back there. If

this happens, the decision will be handed to you and you will be asked if you want to return to Bulgaria or not.

If you do not want to return to Bulgaria, you have to clearly express that to the Greek authorities. You have to explain exactly the reason why you do not want to return; explain in detail what happened to you during detention, after detention and if you have been a victim of violence of any form by the authorities in Bulgaria or a victim of racist violence by Bulgarian citizens. Remember that during all of your asylum procedure no one is allowed to give the information you share to third persons. When the Greek authorities take a decision to return you to Bulgaria, you can appeal against it within 15 days. You have to ask an NGO (like GCR or Ecumenical Refugee Council) for support.

If your appeal is rejected, they will hand you an invitation to present yourself to the responsible authorities, in order that they explain to you the procedure of return and in order to receive your ticket. If you think that your life is in danger in case you return to Bulgaria, you can appeal against the rejection of your appeal within 60 days.

GENERAL ADVICE:

- Always be sure to whom you talk (for whom does he/she work) and keep names documented. If you consult a lawyer always ask for a business card (or hand written contact details).
- Be sure to check the data the authorities are writing down during registration to be sure that everything is written correctly.
- Don't sign anything you don't understand. Ask for translation in your language.
- Report any severe health problem, mental problem, pregnancy immediately to the doctors, the authorities, organisations or persons helping you. Inform them about any medicine you need to take if you have any

- chronic problems. Don't wait to be asked.
- Keep copies of all relevant documents (printed and in your email account): For example any proofs for your asylum case, the "white paper" (official note) you receive from the Greek authorities upon release or your asylum seekers card, anything you receive from a doctor or hospital etc.
- If you have been hospitalized for psychological reasons or severe health problems or injuries that resulted from any form of attack or by any kind of accident during the border crossing, ask the doctors/hospitals for a paper that documents at least that you were examined or even better an attest on what you suffered from.
- Try to be well informed and updated by seeking advise from organisations and activists who are there to help you.

- Don't trust people only because they come from the same country like you.
 Everybody is in a difficult situation and not all people turn out to be nice and trustworthy.
- HOW DO I TRAVEL TO ATHENS AND WHAT DO THE TICKETS COST:

CHECK MAP ON PAGE 20/21.

- ▶ LESVOS/MYTILENE: The boat takes 9-12 hours (with one stop in Chios Island after three hours) and the ticket costs in summer 42 Euro for a simple ticket if you are an adult or child (11-18 years old), 21 Euro for a child (5-10 year old), and it is free for children younger than 5 years. There are ships almost every day.
- ▶ KOS: The boats depart in this period at ① 19:45 or ② 20:30 every day, except on Saturday and tickets cost 51 Euro for adults. Children under 11 years pay half price. The

- boat stops, depending on the route it takes, in Leros and Patmos or Kalimnos Island before reaching Piraeus, Athens.
- ▶ LEROS: There are currently ships going to Piraeus, Athens every Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday at ②22:30. The tickets for adults cost 38 Euro and 19,50 Euro for children under 10 years.
- ▶ CHIOS: The ferry to Piraeus, Athens leaves daily at ②23:00 or ②9:50 in the morning and goes directly. Only Saturdays there are no boats. It takes about six hours. The tickets for adults cost 38 Euro with Hellenic Seaways and 39 Euro with Blue Star. Children under 10 years pay half price.
- ▶ SAMOS: The ferry from the city Vathi to Piraeus, Athens leaves Wednesdays at ②9:45, Thursdays at ③19:00, Fridays at ③19:00 and Sundays at ④9:45. The tickets cost 38 45 Euro, depending on the ship company. Children under 12 years pay half price.

- ▶ CRETE: Ferries to Piraeus, Athens go from the city of Chania every day at ② 21:00 (36 Euro and 18 Euro for children under 16 years) and from the city of Heraklion there are every day two ships: at ③ 21:30 Minoan Lines (43 Euro for adults and 20 Euro for children) and at ④ 21:00 Anek Lines (36 Euro for adults and 18 Euro for children under 16 years)
- ▶ AGATHONISI: Usually the police hold refugees for short periods until the transfer to Samos Island (see Samos).
- **EVROS:** If you want to go to Athens you have to either take the train (which is the cheapest solution) or the bus from Alexandroupoli. The train takes around 14 hours to arrive in Athens and you might need to change once in Thessaloniki. The tickets cost between 33 and 55 Euro in the second class, depending which train you take. There are two trains a day to Athens. The bus ticket costs 68 Euro. There are 5 busses a day going to Athens. The bus station is not far from the railway station. Ask for the KTEL (bus) station.
- ATTENTION The timetables of the ferry departures might change in different periods and so do the prices! Ask for actual travel dates in a travel agency or at the ticket sales in the port of departure. Anyhow prices might increase or decrease, according to season, by up to 15 Euro and not much more. Buy your ticket yourself and don't trust people who want to sell you tickets for double or triple prices.
- ATTENTION Usually tickets are sold only to persons who have valid documents. When you have a "white paper" from the police (which you receive after registration), you can buy your own ticket in a travel agency and leave the island.



From Pireaus port you can take the train to Athens centre (Omonia or Victoria). The ticket costs 1,40 Euro. Usually newcomers ask people they know for information and instructions.

ATTENTION: If you don't have a ticket and they control you, you'll have to pay a fine, up to 60 times the price of the ticket. Make sure that the staff who fines you, really belongs to the public transport company. As there have been incidents in the past, with fake fines. If you get a fine, always tell this to an NGO immediately, so they explain to you what you have to do. If you don't pay the fine within the period prescribed, the amount of money you have to pay will be multiplied.

a lot of registered incidents of racist attacks against migrants and refugees. Beware that there are some parts of the city of Athens were you should avoid hanging around. In case you are a victim of a racist attack, you have to immediately refer this to the Greek NGOs and in case you're inju-

GEOGRAPHY OF
ATHENS: PLACES
PEOPLE USUALLY GO TO
IN THE FIRST DAY OF
ARRIVAL IN ATHENS IN
ORDER TO MEET OTHER
PEOPLE FROM THEIR
COUNTRIES

VICTORIA SQUARE (the train arrives there directly from the port of Piraeus where your ship will stop if you come from the island). Mostly Afghans hang around here but also people from other countries. It is just 1 minute from Aharnon Street. It's a relaxed place usually, but as everywhere else too there are also on this square frequent controls by the police who look for people without papers or with invalid papers. If your 30-days paper is still valid they can only bring you to the police station for a control. They will not keep you in prison.

- ▶ AHARNON STREET (get of the green metro line in Omonia, Victoria, Aghios Nikolaos or Kato Patisia). It is a long street with shops and coffee bars owned by migrants of different nationalities. There are informal hotels around. Ask people from your countries about more infos. There is also the meeting place of Somali people at Aharnon 42. Attention: Avoid sitting at Aghios Panteleimonas Church Square as it used to be a hang out for fascists.
- ▶ OMONIA SQUARE (get of at Omonia Square by the metro). This is one of the most central squares in Athens. Around you will find many cheap shops (often Chinese), call-centres, hotels, the big bazaar and some unofficial mosqs and churches... but it is not a nice place to live or to sit or go in the night as there is also drug dealing and a lot of police. It is 5 minutes walking distance from the beginning of Aharnon Street.
- ▶ PATISSION STREET / AMERIKIS SQUARE / KOLITASOU SQUARE (get off the metro in Victoria and ask your way to Patission Street.

It's one-minute distance From there walk another 10-15 minutes to Amerikis square (in the opposite direction of Omonia) and another 10 minutes from Amerikis to Koliatsou.) Around Amerikis and Koliatsou square are all Sudanese, Eritrean, Ethiopian meeting places and not only. Many African people live in the area. But also people from many other countries live around Find Sahah Café in Patission Street between Amerikis and Koliatsou Squares if vou are from Sudan, Eritrea or Ethiopia. There are also many shared flats around these places.

- ▶ ALEXANDER PARK (REAL NAME: PAIDION TOU AREOS) is 5 minutes walking distance from Victoria Square (metro station green line). It is a huge park where many migrants (and Greeks) hang around during day.
- around these areas where many migrants live or own shops that fascists sometimes attack people. Don't get scared just be careful, especially when it gets dark.

Some Travel Agrencies in Mytilene where You can buy a ticket for the ship

- Samiotis
- Kounturioti str. 43, Prokymaia, Mytilinis
- 22510-42.574-5-6

▶ Zoumboulis

- Kounturioti str. 69, Prokymaia, Mytilinis
- 22510-37.755
- THE FOLLOWING
 ORGANIZATIONS ARE IN
 ATHENS AND OFFER
 SERVICES FREE OF CHARGE!
 DO NOT BE AFRAID TO GO
 AND ASK FOR INFORMATION
 EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE A
 RESIDENCE PERMIT.

Legal Services

1. Greek Council for Refugees GCR is a Greek Non Governmental Organization that supports refugees in Greece. Free

- of charge legal counselling & social assistance
- every morning from Monday to Friday before 9 am for an appointment
- Solomou 25, Exarheia (near Omonia)
- 210-38.00.990
- www.gcr.gr

2. Ecumenical Refugee Programme

Legal assistance to refugees

- Iridanou 20, first floor (close to train station Megaro Mousikis)
- 1 210-72.95.926
- Mondays 11 16 hrs
 Wed. to Fri. 10 14 hrs

3. Aitimia

Legal & social support

- Tripou 4-6, corner to
 Gennaiou Kolokotroni,
 (near Singrou Fix metro
 station, yellow bus 5 or 15
 to Paidiki Chara)
- 10 − 13 hrs, Tue. and Wed.
- 210-92.41.677
- aitima@freemail.gr www.aitima.gr/en

- 4. Arsis Legal aid and social counselling for young people
- Derigni 28-30, (around the corner at Victoria Square)
- 10-82.59.880
- info@arsis.gr

5. Group of Lawyers for the rights of Migrants and refugees

Legal counselling in matters relating to legal status. For people who have or don't have papers.

- loulianou 11 & Rethymnou str, Exarheia (near Alexander park)
- Mon. & Wed. 17 −19 h
- www.omadadikigorwnenglish. blogspot.com

Medical service, even if You are undocumented in Greece

6. Doctors of the World

- Sapfous Str. 12 (near Omonia)
- 210-32.13.485
- info@mdmgreece.gr www.mdmgreece.gr/en

7. Praksis

- Peoniou Street 5 & Aharnon Str. (near by Victoria Square)
 - 210-82.13.704 / 210-88.22.066
- Monday to Friday 9 − 17 hrs
- info@praksis.gr www.praksis.gr

8. Babel Day Care Center

Psychological & psychiatric support for migrants and refugees with interpreters

- daily from 9 am to 5 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays it remains open until 8 pm.
- loannou Drosopoulou 72 (near Platia Amerikis)
- 210.86.16.280, 210–86.16.102 210-86.16.266
- babel@ syneirmos.gr

Free Greek language courses

9.

DIKTIO - Social Support to Immigrants and Refugees

Information on legal/ social needs (Mo-Fri from 17 – 20 hrs), free courses of Greek language (Mo – Fr 18 – 20 hrs) and computer. For people who have or don't have papers.

- Tsamadou 13, Exarheia
- 210-38.13.928
- 1 http://migrant.diktio.org

10. Metadrasi

- Thesprotias 8, close to the railway station Larisis
- 210.52.01.792, 210.52.01.794 210.51.26.456

11. PYXIDA / Multicultural Centre for the Integration of Refugees

- Solomou 25, Exarheia (near Omonia)
- 210-38.00.990

12. Kyriakatiko Sxoleio Metanason

- Argous Street 145, Kolonos (central Athens)
- Weekends: 210-5130373 Mo. to Fr.: 210-8842151, 210-3306286, 694-5237837
- hyriakatiko@yahoo.gr

Food, Clothes, Infomation

13. Red Cross

Sector of Social Care

- Lykavittou 1, Athens
- 210-36.39.538
- swd@redcross.gr

14. Caritas

- Kapodistriou 52, Athens, near Vathis Square
 - **1** 210-52.47.879
- caritashellas@ caritas.gr http://www.caritas.gr

If you lost family members and want to trace them

15. Red Cross

Sector of Tracing People

- 3rd September Street 21, Athens
- 210-52.42.194 210-52.30.043
- tracingstaff@redcross.gr

If you look for people from your community

16. Afghans United Association

- Arahovis 45-47, Exarhia,
- ① 0030-21.11.83.08.10 6947.39.78.64 6944.61.47.20 6947.01.54.66
- afg.u.gr@gmail.com

17. Afghan Community in Greece

- Chalkokondyli Str. 16, Athens
- afghansingreece@gmail.com Representative: Muhammadi Yonous
- 210-88.14.9006948.40.89.28
- myonous@gmail.com or gionas1973@yahoo.com www.afghangr.com

18. Egyptian-Greek Union

- ① Midou 6995.17.25.13
- 19. Ethiopian Community
- Imbrou 16
- 0 6944.71.17.81

20. Workers Union of Bangladeshi Immigrants in Greece

Representative: Elias Ahmed

- Agias Filotheis 5B, Athens
- 210-33.18.812 210-82-22-509 6938.67.65.23
- sramikjote@yahoo.com & eliaselisa@yahoo.com

21. Union of Palestinian Workers in Greece/Athens

- 3rd of September Str. 48B,
- ① 210-82.21.124 6937.53.74.61 6932.47.14.39
- nalwoun@yahoo.gr

23. Somali Community

Representative: Elias Ali Hassan

- Kaningos 27, Athens
 - 6994.31.67.08; 210-52.40.060, Abdalla Yousef 6999.48.84.41
- scomgr@gmail.com

22. Greek-Pakistani Association Representative: Anwar Igbal

- Kosma Aitolou 2, Athens
- 0 6944.95.18.03
- annou1970@yahoo.co.uk

24. Sudanese Refugee Association

- Astipalias 2, at the corner to Patission street 224 (near Amerikis Square), 11256 Athens
- 0211.18.39.13

25. Kurdish Syrian Educational Association

- Promitheos 71/ Aharnon, Athens
- 210-22.83.746

26. United African Women Organisation in Greece

Representatives: Lauretta Macauley; Hawa Sankoh

- Kosma Aitolou 2, Athens
- ① 210-36.17.065 210-88.30.381
- africanwomen@yahoo.com www.africanwomen.gr

Contacts for reporting pushbacks or other human rights violations you experienced in Greece or at the Greek borders You can report human rights violations in any country you are. Human rights violations might be a push back from Greece to Turkey, but also any form of violence by the authorities, inhuman and degrading detention etc.It might make sense to register the human rights violations you experienced with big and known organisation, such as the following in order to have some evidence for your asylum case. The following organisations are a selection of independent institutions (There are also many other organisations you can refer to in Athens. See contact list above!). Your data (name) will not be published if you don't want it to. There are also possibilities to report human rights violations that were done by the Greeks to a national court with the help of a lawyer. Please seek legal advise

for this in order to get detailed information on procedures, possibilities and limitations. If you lose your case before a Greek court and you have tried all legal national remedies without success, your lawyer can go to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) against the Greek state. You can go before this Court also if you have reached another EUcountry, but there are deadlines. Please seek legal advise soon enough.

27. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

- Tagiapiera Street 12, 115 25 Athens
- 0030-210.67.26.462/3
- great@unhcr.org

28. PRO ASYL (Germany)

- Postfach 16 06 24 60069 Frankfurt/M.
-) +49 (0)69.24.23.14.20
- Mo to Fr: 10 12 hrs and 14 – 16 hrs
- proasyl@proasyl.de

29. Amnesty International Greece (Athens, Greece)

- Sina Street 30 106 72 Athens, Greece
- Mo to Fr 10 15 hrs
- 210.36.00.628Fax: 210.36.38.016
- athens@amnesty.org.gr

30. Multeci Der (Izmir, Turkey)

- Anafartalar Cad. Salepçio lu Vakıf hanı No: 96/511
- E Kemeraltı 35250, ZM R
- 0232.483.54.21/ 0549.483.54.22
- bilgi@multeci.org.tr

IF YOU HAVE RELATIVES AND FRIENDS WHO ARE GOING THE DANGEROUS WAY WITH THE BOATS THIS NUMBER

CAN BE USEFUL FOR THEM:



WATCH THE MED ALARM PHONE + 334 86 51 71 61

ALARMPHONE

WWW.WATCHTHEMED.NET

THIS IS NOT A RESCUE NUMBER! But an ALARM NUMBER to support rescue!

DISTRESS AT SEA

- Call coast guard for rescue.
- Call our Alarm Phone.
 We inform & watch the coast guard.
- If you are not quickly rescued, we inform media & politics to make pressure.

(DANGER OF) PUSHBACK

- Call our Alarm Phone.
- We try to intervene, we witness & document.
 - We inform media & politics to make pressure.

If possible, call in English or French | wtm-alarm-phoneoi@antira.info

KAAHMEPA
KALIMERA
Good morning

KAΛΗΣΠΕΡΑ

KALISPERA

Good evening

KAAHNYXTA

KALINIKTA

Good night

ME ΛENE **ME LENE**My name is ...

ΠΩΣ ΣΑΣ ΛΕΝΕ?

What is your name?

XAIPΩ ΠΟΛΥ HERO POLI

Nice to meet you

TI KANETE TI KANETE?
How are you?

EIMAI ΚΑΛ *IME KALA*

I am fine

ПЛОІО *PLIO*Ship

ΕΓΩ ΕΙΜΑΙ *EGO IME*

ΕΣΥ ΕΙΣΑΙ *ESI ISE*

You are

AYTOΣ / AYTH / AYTO EINAI

AFTOS /AFTI/ AFTO INE

He / She / It is

EMΕΙΣ ΕΙΜΑΣΤΕ

EMIS IMASTE

We are

ΕΣΕΙΣ ΕΙΣΑΣΤΕ ESIS ISASTE You are

AYTOI / AYTES AYTA / EINAI AFTI / AFTES / AFTA / INE They are

EΓΩ ΘΕΛΩ EGO THELO I'm sick

EIΣ**I**THPIO **ISITIRIO Ticket**

TPAINO TRENO
Train

ΛΕΩΦΟΡΕΙΟ **LEOFORIO Bus** ____

ΠΟΣΟ KANEI? **POSO KANI? How much does it**

ΣΤΑΣΗ STASI

Station

cost? ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΟ

EFHARISTOThank you

ΠΑΡΑΚΑΛΩ PARAKALO
Please

NEPO *NERO* Water

ΦΑΓΗΤΟ *FAGITO*Food

ΦΑΡΜΑΚΕΙΟ FARMAKIO Pharmacy

NOΣOKOMEIO NOSOKOMIO Hospital

ΓΙΑΤΡΟΣ **GIATROS**

Doctor

AΣΤΥΝΟΜΙΑ ASTINOMIA Police ΘΕΛΩ ΕΙΣΙΤΗΡΙΟ THELO ISITIRIO I want a ticket

ΘΕΛΩ ΦΑΓΗΤΟ

THELO FAGITO

I want food

ΘΕΛΩ NEPO

THELO NERO

I want water

ΘΕΛΩ ΓΙΑΤΡΟ

THELO YIATRO

I want a doctor

ΘΕΛΩ ΒΟΗΘΕΙΑ

THELO VOITHIA

I want help

ΘΕΛΩ ΔΟΥΛΕΙΑ

THELO DOULIA

I need job

ΘΕΛΩ NA ΠΑΩ ΣΤΟ $\hline \textit{THELO NA PAO STO}$ I want to go to ...

ENTAEEI $ENTAKSI \rightarrow 0.K$

ΔΕΝ ΚΑΤΑΛΑ-BAINΩ DEN KATALAVENO I don't understand ΔΕΝ ΜΙΛΩ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚ**Α DEN MILO ELINIKA I don't speak Greek**

NAI / OXI *NE / OHI* Yes / No

ΠΟΥ EINAI?
POU EINAI?
Where is....?

ΣΗΜΕΡΑ / ΑΥΡΙΟ
SIMERA / AVRIO
Today / Tomorrow

MHTEPA/ΠΑΤΕΡΑΣ

MITERA/PATERAS

Mother/Father

ΑΔΕΛΦΟΣ/ΑΔΕΛΦ \mathbf{H}

ADELFI / ADELFOS Brother / Sister

ΓΥΝΑΙΚΑ/ ΑΝΔΡΑΣ GINEKA / ANDRAS Woman / Man

ΟΙΚΟΓΕΝΕΙΑ IKOGENIA Family ΠΡΟΣΦΥΓΑΣ **PROSFIGAS Refugee**

ΑΛΛΟΔΑΠΟΣ **ALODAPOS Foreigner**

AITH Σ H ETISI Application

ΠΡΟΣΦΥΓΗ
PROSFIGI
Appeal

EIMΑΙ ΑΡΡΩΣΤΟΣ IMEAROSTOS I am sick

TO ΕΙΣΙΤΗΡΙΟΣΟΥ
TO ISITIRIO SOU
Your ticket

ΔΙΑΒΑΤΗΡΙΟ DIAVATIRIO Passport

TAYTOTHTA

TAFTOTITA

Identification card

ΕΙΜΑΙ ΑΠΟ

TO IPAK

IME APO TO IRAK

I am from Irag

3

