

The refugees at the door of Europe and what AI is doing to support them

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EU welcomes refugees in 2015

- Worst refugee “crisis” in Europe after WWII
- How E.U. has dealt with it
 - The crucial year 2015
 - *Chancellor Merkel’s stance in August, reaffirmed in September 2015: “If we had not shown a friendly face, that’s not my country”*
 - Around 1 million people arrived by the sea and crossed Greece

From “welcome” to the closing of the Balkan route in 2016

- E.U.-Turkey “deal” - *officially statement*

Key points:

- Closure of the borders: official position of the E.U.
- “Deal” with Turkey: “I (EU) give you money and waive visa for your citizens and you (Turkey) keep refugees”
- Breach of international refugee law

From “welcome” to the closing of the Balkan route in 2016



Why AI opposed furiously from the very begging to the EU-Turkey deal

Obviously because it breaches international refugee law

- Turkey becomes a “safe third country”
- Why Turkey is not a “safe third country”?
 - a. Violates the principle of *non-refoulement*
 - b. Is not bound by the Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees
 - c. Its asylum system is not in compliance with international standards
 - d. Does not provide refugees with a work permit
 - e. Does not offer to refugees minimum decent living conditions

Why Turkey is not a “safe third country”?

See Amnesty’s International Report issued in June 2016

“TURKEY: NO SAFE REFUGE

*ASYLUM-SEEKERS AND REFUGEES DENIED EFFECTIVE
PROTECTION IN TURKEY”*

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur44/3825/2016/en/>

Why Turkey is not a “safe third country”?



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- Turkey becomes a “safe third country”

But also because

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But also because

- it is/can be used by the EU as a “model” for concluding similar deals with African countries and others like Afghanistan - one already signed
- It sets the example for other countries to treat people entitled to international protection in the the same way (see Kenya...)

Why AI opposed furiously from the very begging to the EU-Turkey deal

- From around 1 million, 15.000 since the implementation of the agreement have arrived in Greece
- However, 2016: deadliest year yet according to the UNHCR

*3,740 lives had been lost so far in 2016,
just short of the 3,771 reported for the whole of 2015*

Refugees in Greece

- Implementation of the EU-Turkey deal
 - Pending case *Noori* : EU on the brink of a dangerous precedent

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2016/10/deportation-a-dangerous-precedent/>

Help prevent Forcible Return of Syrian Refugee

Tweet to the Greek Prime Minister!

Refugees in Greece

URGENT

**SYRIAN REFUGEE
AT RISK OF FORCIBLE RETURN
TO TURKEY**

Tweet @PrimeMinisterGR NOW

#EUTurkeyDeal



Refugees in Greece

- Implementation of the EU-Turkey deal
 - Case of a group of at least 8 Syrians, including four children under the age of five : Evidence points to illegal forced returns of Syrian refugees to Turkey

Refugees in Greece



Refugees in Greece: Living conditions of refugees



Living conditions of refugees: stories

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qv4z_E2ydnc

Living conditions of refugees: stories

Read their stories and send a message of support by email.

Amnesty will deliver these messages to Greece to let them know that people around the world are with them, saying “I welcome refugees”.

Refugees in Greece:

Living conditions of refugees

- Solutions: relocation program

Living conditions of refugees: relocation program



PLEDGED
66,400
IN TWO YEARS



3,734
RELOCATIONS
IN FIRST YEAR

5.6%
RELOCATED



Living conditions of refugees: Why relocation program doesn't work

- Lack of political will
- Other reasons

AI Pledge I Welcome Refugees

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/take-action/speak-out-for-refugees-rights/>

AI Greece Campaign with Oxfam

A museum without a home

An exhibition for hospitality