



# One Happy Family News

May 2018

## Situation on Lesbos

### Around 8,500 people are stuck...

At the moment around 6,700 people reside in Moria, around 1,200 live in Kara Tepe. Approximately around 600 live in other accommodation facilities. This makes a total of 8,500 human beings, stuck on the island.

The majority is from Syria (34%), Afghanistan (21%) and Iraq (20%). Around 32% are children.

### New regulations

On the 17th of April it was announced that the highest Greek constitutional court classified the geographical restrictions as against the constitution. With this it was announced as well, that the new arrivals would be able to move around the country from now on. It was said directly that this would affect only the new arrivals and not the people stuck on the island sometimes since years. Soon afterwards the Asylum Offices of Greece announced that these new hopes are not going to happen at the moment. New arrivals will get the geographical restriction as well.

### Attacks on Sappho Square

On the evening of the 22nd of April peacefully protesting refugees were attacked by right wing fascists and hooligans on the main square in Mytilini. The group of refugees was squatting on the square since the 17th of April to protest against the living conditions in Moria and the geographical restriction imposed on them. After a military parade on Sunday evening, which is held every Sunday on the Square, the refugees were attacked for hours with fireworks, Bengalis, bottles and stones. Bottles, filled with gasoline, were thrown into the middle of the group of refugees, where the women and children stayed. People screamed: "Burn them alive!". The police was present during hours, trying to keep the attackers on distance but being way to reluctant. In the end of

## Quote

*„Help others, my friend!“*

Amin

## Picture of the Month



The Garden is a calm and peaceful place where many visitors like to rest. Our Garden helpers have amazing knowledge about gardening. It was also something they loved doing in their home countries. Many people flourish when they spend time in the Garden. They bring as well a lot of knowledge about different herbs and their possibilities to use, like for example healing of illnesses.

We have gardening classes about the plants and knowledge about them. Planting new vegetables and plants is as well a very liked topic. When the vegetables are ready to be harvested they are used for the kitchen. We are very proud when we are able to serve vegetables from the garden for our visitors.

the night the police arrested 120 refugees and 2 solidarity people. In the interval since the incident 17 fascists were arrested as well and the refugees have been released, with a court date on the 9th of May 2019 (!).

If you want more detailed information about the events please contact us, we gave out a press release, which we are happy to share with you.

#### Interesting Links:

- Al Jazeera on the attacks on Sappho Square: <http://bit.ly/2JGfOmF>
- UNICEF Refugee and Migrant Crisis in Europe: Humanitarian Situation Report: <http://bit.ly/2raGMMA>

Keep as well up to date with our weekly press updates on our Facebook page: <fb.me/ohflesvos>

## News from the Community Center

### Closure of the boutique

During the middle of April we decided to close the boutique. We decided this for two main reasons. Firstly, there are many other great organisations on this island that do a fantastic job at clothes distribution. Secondly, we want to focus more on being a community space.

Our dream is to set up a training centre in the old boutique space, and to teach our visitors skills which are useful in their future - e.g. to learn how to become a tailor, barber, carpenter and so on.

If you want to continue to donate clothes, we can put you in touch with other organisations that will happily accept the donations.

### #onehappybirthday

The Community Centre turned ONE! So we thought the best way to celebrate with two parties!

On the 21st April, the coordination team decided to throw a surprise party for our helpers. The helpers are the heart and soul of OHF, and the centre would not run without their enthusiasm and expertise. Our helpers work so incredibly hard each day, so we wanted to say a HUGE thank you to them for all their energy and love!

After all the helpers arrived for a “training course” we surprised them with a huge buffet of food and dessert! We spent Saturday eating, dancing, singing, playing games and sport. It was so lovely to see the helpers relax and enjoying using the space for the day. The second birthday, on the 28th of April, was for the visitors as well. This celebration was mainly planned by Rouddy, one of our helpers. It was an amazing party with a speech, a break dance show, games, special food, a concert and we ended the day by singing “Happy Birthday” in all kind of different languages and shared cake and chocolate. One Happy Family taught us many things, one is for sure as well how to celebrate.

## One Happy Family: Amin



I am part of the kitchen team at One Happy Family. We cook every day for around 800 people, this means 40 kilos of rice, 60 kilos of chicken and so on. I like spicy food a lot- Burma spicy is different than any other spicy food.

This place gave me the opportunity to help and gave me a family, I don't have family elsewhere. If I wasn't here at OHF, I would be alone. I am really happy to be able to help. If I would be president for one day I would give the poor some money, the poor can do everything. I am myself poor so I like to help the poor.

My favourite quote is “Help others, my friend!” I invented it myself but it means a lot to me. It means to be a chain – other people will help other people. So everyone is happy in the end.

I would like to say as well: Don't fight, don't make problems, Relax, and be normal. Everyone should be happy. Please take care of others and be respectful.

Thank you so much Amin for being a wonderful friend, and colleague. We love working with you!

Imprint

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