

Interview mit einem Bewohner des Vathy-Camp auf Samos

Q: How is the situation in the camp at the moment?

A: The situation is really awful in the camp. I'm here since almost three years. I got my second rejection on the first of January 2021. It was really terrible for me. Really. Because here in Greece they not consider migrants and refugees like people, because they don't like us here. They don't really like us here in this area, mostly in Samos. Maybe in Athens – I don't know. But here in Samos it's awful. And the local people, in the camp, with the administration of the camp, all these people are not really good. The police officers, they are really treating us like animals. In the camp, you know, we are many people. Where we are sleeping, we are sleeping with rats, with big ones. Can you imagine somebody sleeping like that, a human being. We are sleeping there, the rat is passing. It's really not good for us. And the food that they are giving us here, maybe a cat can eat the food, or a dog can eat the food. But treating us like that... They are thinking, that we are animals, but we are human beings, the same blood, it is the same thing. But now the problem in the camp is that – there are many things going on in the camp, many things, really bad things. We have many people that died.

When somebody is falling sick, they cannot bring him in the hospital because the hospital is no more accepting people. When they are calling an emergency car they'll say "we are coming". And they need like one hour, 2 hours. And the person will die there. And when the person has died, they are coming very fast. They just pick the corpse and they just go.

Last time I was there to bury one Ghanaian that died. I have pictures, everything. Proof for that. Can you imagine that I'm here since three years, they gave me my second rejection in January, on the 1th of January in 2021. But I'm here since November 2018. Can you imagine?

Q: No, I can't imagine.

A: I have stayed that many years, and after that, they give you a rejection, because they don't want you to stay. But you know, I cannot blame them.

Q: Why?

A: The people that I'm blaming is France, Germany, Italy. Because France, mostly France they are causing war in my country. That's why we're here. For example, me – I was working, I was having my car-washing company. But then with the civile war – you can see, how they are killing people. We are leaving. You go, like all the others who leave, or they will kill you, that's how it is in my country.

Q: Which is your country?

A: Kamerun.

In the European Union – I thought the EU is supposed to have Human Rights. The economy is supposed to be really good. But I'm not seeing it in Greece. For me I advise the EU to remove Greece from the European Union, because that is not the country. They are not respecting human rights, they are not respecting anybody. They are doing what they want.

Q: Yeah, it's horrible, really horrible. And how is it like with Covid and the camp?

A: That is another case. How people can say they want to fight covid, but everyone in the camp is supposed to stand in the queue. Everyone. I will just give a small example, when we are sharing food in the morning, they say, they are fighting covid, but the people are just standing in the queue, they are talking, they are touching, they are laughing, they are doing this, doing that – but they are saying, that we are fighting covid – no. Even to go and take your decision in the asylum – there is a queue. Even to take a shower – there is a queue.

That's why, in the camp, they are saying, there's no Corona virus in the camp, because if there was Corona virus in the camp, it would be in all the camp. everybody in the camp would be sick. Everyone is so close to each other. So with – Covid in two days, I'll tell you, in two days we're going to have at least, I mean, at least, even the 70 percent of the camp will be sick.

Q: And how about the lockdown?

A: Yeah, that's another issue. When they say lockdown, they don't want to see us in the town. They are taking it as a good reason to block us in the camp, to not go there. Can you imagine somebody that is sick, you cannot bring him to the hospital, because they say that "no, they are no more accepting people in the hospital, stay here". But we are sick. We need to see a doctor. The doctor of the camp is working until 1 o'clock, 2 o'clock. After it's closed. After that, when you do nothing, you die there. They don't care. If something happens, they don't care. That's the problem. They tell you "go back to your country." I say, my god, they are asking me to go back to my country. I ask: you guys are having a battle in my country, you guys are living more than me in my country. Nobody is disturbing you in my country. They are taking him like, like a king in my country. But yeah, see how they are treating me.

You think, because I'm black or because you are white and I'm black, no. I believe we should end up more educated.

This for me, this is really my big dream in my life: Because I wanted to do my career in banking. I said no. I will abandon the career. I will now do my career in humanitarian work. I made a big dream in my life. What I want to do now is to work with UN, so that many things can change, because of the past, I know, what they need and what is going on in every camp. I'm praying to God every day. With God it's possible. I knew that I would make it. Because of passing through it, I know what people need in the camp, what is going on in the camp. Even people who are working there, they don't know. Because when they are working, they are just coming to work, they are going back to their home, they have no idea. They are not discussing with people. I know what people need. I know what's supposed to change. This is my big dream in my life.