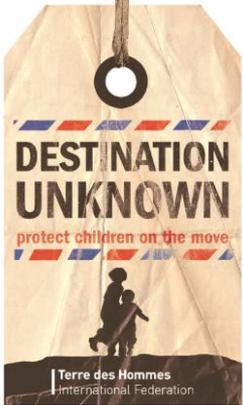


Press release

Thessaloniki, November 19, 2015

The borders are closing

Eidomeni in despair



The last few months hundreds of thousand refugees, among of them thousands families with children and infants have been taken away from the countries of Asia and Africa. The refugees cross the Aegean Sea trying to reach the Greek islands in order to cross the borders to Eidomeni (Greek-fYRoM border line) and continue their trip to the countries of the central and northern Europe, for a safe shelter as a destination.

These refugees crossed many borders in Europe, until they face the Hungarian fence for the first time and many others later.

The journey of these people never stopped and despite the continuous obstacles and the difficulties the refugees continued to find ways to reach their final destination.

This situation has changed quickly at Wednesday night. During the nighttime of November 18 the authorities started gradually to intercept the route of the refugees, firstly at the borders of Slovenia, and then of Croatia, Serbia, fYRoM and finally of Greece asking the documents that they got from the Greek authorities to the islands when they registered. After the check they allowed the transit only those who had Syrian, Afghan and Iraqis origin.

However hundreds of people who weren't allowed to transit they spend the whole night inside and outside the camp at Eidomeni, without knowing if the borders will ever open for them and when.

Today (November 19) this morning the situation for thousand of war victims who accumulated in the area got worse, because all the borders completely closed for all the refugees without any exceptions. There has been no updating from the authority and no one knows if the borders will ever open again for anyone or for everyone.

The basic infrastructure about feeding, water, personal hygiene and the distribution of clothes which were created with the assistance of international and local humanitarian organizations, citizens and local government, weren't enough for the reception thousands of people who deluge the area in a daily basis. Until there is a solution given to this crisis that has been created due to the closing of the borders , it is very necessary and urgent to create infrastructure for the residence and overnight for this population which will be located to the border area either it's cold outside or raining. The responsible services and authorities have to take the relative responsibility.

We invite the Greek and the other European governments to open the borders again. Europe which has been involved directly and indirectly to the conflicts that take place

in the countries of Asia, is now obliged more than ever to get mobilized and show the face of humanity and solidarity and embrace those who have been chased from the war invasions and civil wars and they have no place to go.

We invite all the citizens to contribute to assist in any way they can to this unprecedented humanitarian crisis and show their solidarity to the refugees.

Destination Unknown Campaign

With Destination Unknown, a campaign to protect children on the move, Terre des Hommes protects children on the move, including unaccompanied minors, through field projects on the reception, protection, psychosocial and legal support of children in Italy (Sicily, FARO project), Malta (in association with KOPIN), Greece (in association with ARSIS), Cyprus (in association with Hope for Children Cyprus) as well as in Central and South-East Europe.

Destination Unknown campaign was launched in 2012 to raise awareness about violation of the rights of unaccompanied minors-children on the move-who are fleeing war, poverty and violence. According to the most recent data, children on age 4 the move who cross border are nearly 35 million worldwide (source: UN).

The Campaign aims at enhancing adequate policy for effective protection and to provide concrete actions for these children, particularly those vulnerable to abuse, violence, exploitation and discrimination.

