



We need bridges that connect, not the walls that separate

Eine Mauer soll um das Geflüchtetenlager Ritsona gebaut werden, und den Ort endgültig zu dem machen, was er bereits ist: ein Gefängnis, dessen Insassen kriminalisiert und abgeschnitten von der Welt aller menschlichen Grundrechte beraubt sind. Doch warum regt sich kein Widerstand? Mit ihren *Letters to the world from Ritsona* bringt Parwana Amiri die Stimmen Geflüchteter aus dem griechischen Lager in alle Welt. Dies ist Brief Nummer 20. (Die deutsche Übersetzung findet ihr unter www.hinterland-magazin.de)

A few days ago, I woke up as usual and got ready to go to my class. As I walked along, I noticed some bulldozers and many workers working by the back gate, constructing something. They had already laid down some long, red metal rods. When I asked them about them, they told me that they were going to build a wall all around the camp. They also told me that wall would be 3 meters high and the project would finish in a month.

The Ritsona camp has been an open structure for years. It should not, under any circumstance, become a closed structure. This assertion is not based on a theoretical and idle consideration of the concept of detention. It is based on the paramount concept of social integration as a policy and aspiration for immigrants and refugees. A closed camp not only makes the goal of integration with the local society impossible, it also violates the most basic human rights of the inhabitants of the camp and deprives them of that minimum freedom of movement they have had. The people of Ritsona have not committed any crime for which they need to be kept apart from the rest of the world around them. The people of Ritsona need to be seen and acknowledged in their humanity and the rights that derive from their humanity.

Silence reigns in the camp. The only preoccupation of all the people relates to their interviews and the process of their asylum applications. Very few of them, if any, know about the construction of the wall. No announcement has been made in this regard. What they might be aware of is that the minister of immigration, Mitarachi, has declared that only the camps on the Greek islands will become closed structures.

The money spent on the construction of walls could be used, instead, to make a better life for those living in the camps, a life that safeguards the integrity and dignity of the people. It could be used to cover their medical needs, their educational needs, their psychological needs. There is no justification for walls that imprison and stigmatise those who, leaving behind threatening existences, sought refuge in this country.

These walls should never become a reality. We should not become prisoners with no offence or crime. We should all come together and, united, stand up against it.

Give us your support. Give us your solidarity. Don't allow them to cut us off. Don't accept this indignity of exclusion, of violation of rights, of injustice.<

Parwana Amiri, *eine junge afghanische Frau, verbrachte Monate im völlig überfüllten Flüchtlingslager Moria, bevor sie mit ihrer Familie in das kleinere Lager Ritsona aufs Festland ziehen konnte, weil ihr Vater schwer erkrankte. Sie veröffentlicht Geschichten über Menschen, die in den Lagern in Moria und Ritsona leben müssen, unter anderem in den Büchern „Der Olivenbaum und die alte Frau“ sowie „My pen won't break, but borders“. Weitere Texte findet ihr hier:*

<http://birdsofimmigrants.jobspace.net/>