

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE MATTER

EVERY DAY, 365 DAYS OF THE YEAR

Dear friends and supporters,

As we look back on World Refugee Week, we witnessed a time filled with action and media attention celebrating the strength and resilience of refugees.

However, we must express our concern, because the reality faced by refugees extends far beyond a single day or week. Unfortunately, once World Refugee Day passes, the focus tends to shift to other topics, and the ongoing humanitarian crises and the abuse of human rights are often relegated to the background or considered a "normal" part of our world. This has become evident through recent events.

On June 14th, a boat carrying 750 people seeking safety sank in Greek waters, resulting in the tragic loss of over 600 lives. The lack of intervention by the Greek coastguard raises questions, yet no investigations or consequences have been pursued. The disparity in response between this incident and the subsequent disappearance of a tourist submarine carrying billionaires highlights the value we place on human life based solely on where individuals were born.

Meanwhile, the situation for asylum seekers on Samos has drastically worsened since the change in camp management. Asylum procedures are delayed, food supplies are scarce and often spoiled, tensions are rising, and the mental health of residents is deteriorating.

We continue to receive reports of illegal deportations from Greece to Türkiye, yet there have been no further investigations or consequences despite video evidence published by The New York Times.

Here at selfm.aid, we fight tirelessly every day to improve the lives of and empower people on the move. However, we are facing challenges in finding the necessary support to continue our work.

**We urgently call upon you:
Do not look away. Stand with people on the move!
Support selfm.aid now!
Refugee rights are human rights, and they matter every day.**

With gratitude and dedication
Julia Minder, founder and director of selfm.aid

URGENT CALL: SUPPORT SELFm.AID NOW

There are many ways to take action!

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Europe!
Your
borders
killed,
again!





SHIPWRECK OF PYLOS

MORE THAN 600 PEOPLE DIED

On the fateful night of June 13-14, over 750 people aboard a ship seeking safety in Europe found themselves in distress in Greek waters.

Desperate, they called for help, but their pleas went unanswered for a shocking 8 hours. Tragically, when assistance finally arrived, only 104 individuals could be rescued, leaving the rest either missing or dead.

This heartbreaking incident cannot be dismissed as an accident—it represents an act of unimaginable cruelty and can only be described as murder.

More:

[Greek shipwreck: Everything you need to know \(IRC\)](#)

[The Greek shipwreck was a horrific tragedy. Yet it didn't get the attention of the Titanic story \(the Guardian\)](#)

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE COAST GUARD

DEMANDING ANSWERS FOR THE TRAGIC INCIDENT

Recent investigations and initial interviews with survivors have shed light on alarming accusations against the Greek Coast Guard. Evidence suggests that the Coast Guard not only tied the overcrowded boat, but some even speculate that they were attempting a pushback operation, causing the tragic sinking of the ship.

Regardless of the specific circumstances, it has been confirmed that the Coast Guard was notified about the distressed and overcrowded vessel hours before its demise. Shockingly, they ignored offers of assistance from Frontex and failed to intervene to save any lives. These revelations highlight the urgent need for accountability and demand a thorough examination of the Coast Guard's actions.

More:

["Frontex: Griechenland ignorierte Hilfsangebot vor Bootsunglück" \(ORF\)](#)

["If they had left us be, we wouldn't have drowned" \(CNN\)](#)



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KANAN
ΔΕ ΔΑ

ΔΕΥ ΘΑ ΣΥΜΒΙΒΑΣΤΟΥΜΕ ΜΕ ΤΗ ΒΑ
'Η ΟΙ ΖΩΕΣ ΜΑΣ Η ΤΑ ΚΕΡΔΗ ΤΟ
ΕΡΓΑΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ



ONGOING ILLEGAL DEPORTATIONS

SYSTEMATIC HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

A recently released video by The New York Times has uncovered a shocking pattern of asylum seekers arriving on the island of Lesbos only to be swiftly arrested, kidnapped, and forcibly taken back to the open sea. This illegal practice of deportation has been documented and witnessed since 2020, yet those responsible have faced no consequences for their actions.

The video provides undeniable evidence of these unlawful deportations, shedding light on the harrowing experiences faced by vulnerable individuals seeking safety. It is deeply concerning that such actions continue to occur without any accountability, raising serious questions about the protection of human rights and the failure of authorities to address these grave violations.

More:

[Greek government under fire after video shows 'pushback' of asylum seekers \(the Guardian\).](#)

[KIDNAPPINGS AND DEPORTATIONS IN GREECE \(Fayad Mullas Blog\).](#)

KILLING MINDS

NEW REPORT ABOUT THE DEVASTATING LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE SAMOS REFUGEE CAMP

The recently released report from our partner organization "[I Have Rights](#)," has brought to light the devastating and inhumane living conditions within the Samos refugee camp. The report highlights several pressing concerns, including the camp's structural deficiencies, lack of safety measures, inadequate healthcare provisions, substandard food and water quality, and unsanitary hygiene conditions.

Testimonies from individuals within the camp paint a grim picture of their experiences: "Even in my country, I have never been in a prison like this place. Our freedom is limited. It's a place we call 'the next African prison.' Minds are destroyed. Mental and psychological illnesses are claiming lives within this camp."

Read the full report [here](#).



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UPDATE FROM THE SKILLS FACTORY

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST SIX MONTHS



At the SKILLS FACTORY on Samos, we provide an alternative to the harsh reality faced by asylum seekers. Within the walls of an old tannery, we have established a production facility where we create humanitarian aid ourselves. Our crafts departments are built upon the professional experiences and interests of the individuals, focusing on addressing their most urgent needs.

Over the past year, we have witnessed an incredible growth in demand for our project. As a result, we are working tirelessly to make our structures more sustainable without compromising our ability to adapt to new or changing needs. Our goal is to continue providing support while ensuring long-term viability.

By empowering individuals to utilize their skills and interests, we foster a sense of purpose and self-reliance. The SKILLS FACTORY serves as a beacon of hope, offering a space where asylum seekers can find solace and contribute positively to their own lives and communities.

Together, we are striving to create a more sustainable and inclusive future for those seeking asylum on Samos.

WE ARE READY FOR SUMMER

SHORTS PROJECT FROM OUR SEWING TEAM

Thanks to the skilled sewing team at the SKILLS FACTORY, Samos is now well-prepared for summer!

The collaborative efforts of the Sewing and Art teams have resulted in the creation and decoration of fashionable and comfortable shorts, which will be available at the Samos Volunteers Freeshop. These stylish garments not only promote a sense of dignity but also contribute to the overall well-being and comfort of individuals on the island.



DEPARTMENT SPONSORSHIPS

BARBER & KITCHEN WORKSHOP

We are thrilled to announce that we have secured our first two department sponsorships.

The Barber department's ongoing costs for essential materials will now be covered by a generous private individual, honoring her inspiring barber grandfather and his passion for the craft.

Additionally, thanks to the generous collaboration with [Leave No One Behind](#), the Kitchen department can continue producing much-needed nutrition for those we serve.

We are deeply grateful for these partnerships and eagerly anticipate the positive impact they will have on our future endeavors.



DONATIONS ARRIVED ON SAMOS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the numerous organizations, private businesses, and individuals who have generously contributed barber equipment, fabrics, phones, towels, and other crucial support to our departments. These donations have made a significant difference in our daily work, enabling us to better serve those in need.

We would like to extend a special thanks to: [Eddine Belaid Coiffeur](#) and [WAHL](#), [AG Cilander](#), [Universität St. Gallen](#) and [Volunteers for Humanity](#).

PHONES WITHOUT BORDER

A NEW PROJECT BY SELFm.AID IS READY

The Phone Repair Department has emerged as one of our most vital departments, particularly with the introduction of distributing donated phones in emergency situations where repairs are not possible. Recognizing the need to extend our impact beyond Samos, our department coordinator, Mohammed, has been diligently working on the new project called "Phones Without Borders," which is now ready to launch.



MEALS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

SKILLS FACTORY COOKBOOK COMING SOON!

Our dedicated cooking team works tirelessly every day to prepare fresh, nutritious, and incredibly tasty meals inspired by diverse cuisines. In collaboration with the photography team, they have taken the initiative to share their culinary expertise by creating a SKILLS FACTORY cookbook, set to be released in September 2023.

This exciting project will not only showcase the mouthwatering recipes crafted within our kitchen but also celebrate the cultural diversity and flavors that unite us all. Stay tuned for the release of our cookbook, as we invite you to embark on a culinary journey through the pages, embracing the richness and joy of global cuisine.



FAREWELL AND GRATITUDE

SALAM AND OLIVIA ARE LEAVING SAMOS

It is with a mix of gratitude and a touch of sadness that we bid farewell to our esteemed department coordinator, Salam, and his wife, Olivia. Over the past six months, their unwavering dedication and invaluable contributions have been instrumental in the success of numerous projects at the SKILLS FACTORY, fostering an empowering and creative spirit throughout.

From their impactful work to their inspiring presence, Salam and Olivia have left an indelible mark on our organization. We extend our heartfelt thanks to them for their exceptional contributions and wish them nothing but the very best on their future path. May their journey ahead be filled with continued success, fulfillment, and joy.

**YOUR SUPPORT IS CRUCIAL TO SUSTAIN OUR IMPORTANT WORK!
JOIN US NOW AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

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URGENT CALL

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT - JOIN US NOW

Your support is vital for us to continue our impactful work on the ground, and there are numerous ways you can get involved or contribute to building a better future; explore the options below and join us in making a difference.



DONATE

Make a difference today by donating to support our work; all our projects are funded solely through private donations, and every contribution, no matter the size, is immensely valuable.

Visit our [website](#) for more information on how to donate and be part of our mission.

VOLUNTEER

At the SKILLS FACTORY in Samos, we are constantly seeking enthusiastic craftsmen and craftswomen who are eager to share their passion with us and our team. Discover open positions [here](#) or contact us directly to learn more.



BECOME A MEMBER OF SELFm.AID

As a [member](#), you not only provide invaluable moral and financial support to selfm.aid, but you also have the opportunity to actively shape our work. During the annual general assembly, you have the right to vote and participate in decisions that will shape the future of the organization.

DEPARTMENT SPONSORING

Is the future of craftsmanship and our society as important to your company as it is to us? Take shared responsibility with us and become an official sponsor of one of the craftsmanship departments at the SKILLS FACTORY.

