

LETTER TO THE TOWN

We are people from different continents and different countries. We come from different backgrounds, cultures, ethnic groups and religions. However, we are all here...we are just refugees.

We had to leave our countries because our human rights were violated, or because we have been persecuted. To get to Europe we had to go through a lot of horrible situations: we faced death so many times getting out from our country, in deserts, mountains, streets, prisons in Libya and, finally, crossing the Mediterranean Sea.

We lost many friends, relatives, loved ones, good men and women, innocent children. We had to bleed, to starve, to endure pain and a lot of sleepless nights. We are still suffering for that: a lot of pain, nightmares, losses and sad memories. We have to live with it for some time, maybe for the rest of our lives.

However, we made it, although it wasn't easy at all. In Europe, we immediately started a journey to join our families, relatives, friends, neighbours. But we start to realize that this is a difficult task, because soon we discovered we're not allowed to move freely.

When we finally reached the Italian coast, nobody explained us the asylum laws in Europe. We were forced by the Italian authority to give our finger prints and now we can't request asylum in other countries. Now, we are stuck at the Swiss border.

Every time we try to pass, the police rejects us. The days became weeks, and the weeks are becoming months. We started to lose hope and patience, we became disappointed, worried and sometimes nervous. When we got here, we thought our nightmares were over and our pain come to an end... but is not like that. Here, on the Swiss border, we are still suffering, and we don't know for how long it will be.

We are not animals, we are human beings and we ask for respect. We have tried so many times to cross the Swiss border using trains, buses or through forests, but they collected us like beasts. During police controls they humiliate us: they undressed us by force without separating gender. They stuffed us in small rooms for more than a day, without food, water, and with no legal advice. And, in the end, they sent us to the zero point, to south of Italy, separating families and friends and make our life even more difficult.

We want to explain this violation of dignity to everybody. We want that people coming here in the future do not bear the same treatment. We wonder why trying to pass the border is a crime, but the systematic violation of our rights is daily routine.

We just ask for a chance to cross the border in a decent way, we just ask for a humanitarian corridor to pass so we can join our families, relatives, friends and good people we know.

*Women, men, girls, guys and children
from the Como San Giovanni FS station park.*