

Distinguished Members of the Press,

We, as International Refugee Rights Association, are present in border gates and check points of Turkey in order to observe and evaluate the recent situations in the region. Our committee in the region right now will be sharing their preliminary report of these observations and evaluations regarding Pazarkule and Ipsala border gates as well as Yeni Karpuzlu and Enez Villages where crossing border through the river occurs.

According to the official reports Turkey has lifted the hold of refugees who want to cross to Europe. The inflow number of refugees increased right after. The given reason from the officials is that Turkey has been carrying the burden for protection of Syrian refugees who have been subject to atrocities and genocide in which the world turned silent. Addition to the refugees within Turkey, there are 2,5 million people trapped in Idlib awaits for the aids from Turkey. In the meanwhile Turkey has been hosting more than 4 million refugees. The recent events showed that Turkey is no longer capable of dealing with the situation alone by herself.

It is understandable given circumstances that all of the burden Turkey has along with the rise of xenophobia, Turkey does not want to be the possible target country for any more refugees including those from Idlib. For these reasons Turkey opens its borders to allow refugee flow to Europe for unspecified time.

Upon this permission, Refugees headed towards the border gates. Approximately 50 thousand immigrants from Syria, Iran, Afghanistan, Somalia Sudan, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, and Turkmenistan have reached border gates so far. Besides that, the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas are filled with immigrant boats.

As you can see now, thousands of refugees, including children, women, and the elders, are hoping the gates will be opened to them by spending their days directly on wet grounds and in unhealthy conditions.

Despite these bad conditions, refugees are waiting here and putting their lives in danger and it should make all people think. According to the observations and interviews we have made the biggest cause of refugees who want to migrate to Europe is the inability to ensure the refugee status that provides international protection rights and not having economic well-being in Turkey so that they see no future in Turkey.

However, these people, including women and children who want to cross to Europe, are being tried to be prevented by gas, smoke and sound bombs, and plastic bullets by countries across the border.

As the International Refugee Rights Association and as a non-governmental organization, we would like to emphasize once again that refugees should never be victims of any political tensions. Because, it should not be forgotten that every refugee is a person and as all people on the earth, every person has the basic needs such as living, sheltering, traveling, and getting education without the risk of life and property.

It is said in the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms that, "The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, color, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status".

Again, article 33 of the 1951 Geneva Convention contains these expressions that, "No Contracting State shall expel or return a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion".

In the light of these articles, it is unacceptable for Europe to remain silent to the refugee drama, especially Greece, the first place where refugees come, by closing the doors and exposing these people, including women and children, to gas, fog and sound bombs and plastic bullets.

As of today, Turkey's sea and land borders to refugees from wanting to move to Europe, we believe that Europe now needs to take responsibility aside from a humanitarian perspective, leaving aside political, economic, religious and even legal perspectives.

In this sense, we invite all states and international organizations to reconsider their refugee policies and find permanent and effective solutions in the sense that at least in such a period when universal human rights are assured, the minimum right to life is provided to all people urgently. In this regard, we state that European countries should open doors as soon as possible.

We also recommend that thousands of volunteers, activists, institutions and organizations in many countries of Europe be invited to campaign for aid and solidarity, and more importantly, the general attitude of societies to help refugees and put pressure on the European Parliament and the governments of countries.

Nevertheless, war, torture, inhuman treatment, etc. Therefore, we strongly recommend that the United Nations, the European Union and the relevant states cooperate to end the crises and to end the factors that cause refugee, in order to find a political solution to the crises in other countries, especially in Syria, which give birth to refugees.

Finally, as a rights-based association, we invite all charities across the world to meet minimum conditions such as housing, food, health and safety, and to create the necessary humanitarian conditions for both borderline legal and humanitarian aid.

For this purpose, the International Refugee Rights Association, which is a non-governmental organization and a refugee rights advocate, which has set out with the motto "A Person is a World", has brought information and understanding about the world refugees and refugees, to reveal the problems experienced in this field and to find solutions. will continue to work without interruption,

We announce to all the public with respect.