



Monthly report: November 2020

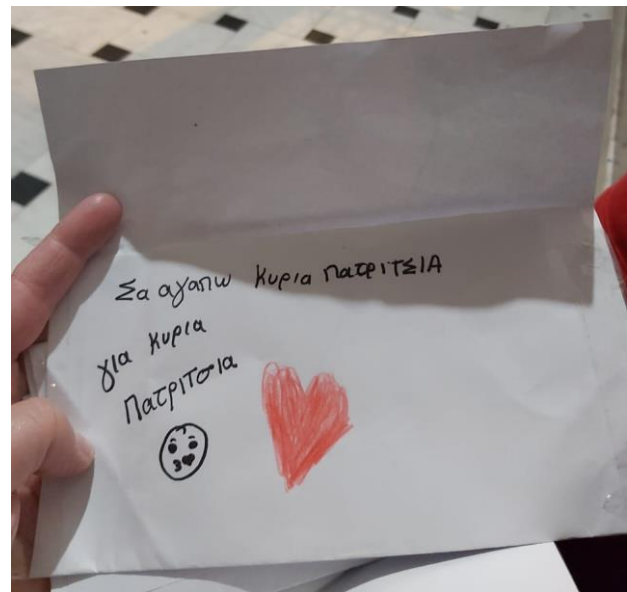
There are none so blind as those who will not see.

Politicians, to whom we give power and resources to organize our coexistence, mistake assignment for privilege, suffer from altitude sickness, cognitive maladjustments and hallucinations that end up distancing them from reality. Their logical reaction would be to try to remedy this disorder in order to bring things back into focus. Unfortunately, most of them end up being hooked on the delusions of their new state, even though they know they are just that. And like inspired prophets they try to convince us that their visions are reality.

Here's the problem, they shout; that's where the leak is, they exclaim, and propose that we face the avalanche by putting a finger on it. And they end up convincing themselves and convincing millions that they are fighting the problem, while diverting attention to useless skirmishes and stealing the causes from our eyes. And they produce a discourse full of cynical good intentions and pompous words (cooperation, legality, initiatives, pact), of misleading concepts (security, illegal, legal, irregular, convention, extradition), well-seasoned with other sharp as blades (crime, mafias, invasion, disorder, pariah). This has a name: lying. And to reach this point, the lie served and seasoned with care, has gone through a treacherous process of destruction of the truth.

They are the emperors of the new clothes, walking around the city naked qualms-free, because they have managed to make the frightened eyes of the people admire the wonderful fabrics they do not wear. Until a child, without fear or restraints, shouts that he is stark-naked and makes everyone

wake up from their narcotic sleep. He shouts the truth.



Shows of affection stimulate our conviction that we must redouble our efforts.

And the truth is the daily suffering of millions of people who are denied their rights and survive locked up like cattle in the streets and camps of Athens, on the island of Gran Canaria, in the new camp of Lesbos, in the camps of Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan; or in the Saharawi camps, or in Dadaab (Kenya); in the huge prison of Gaza, or in the thousands of detention centres spread all over the world.

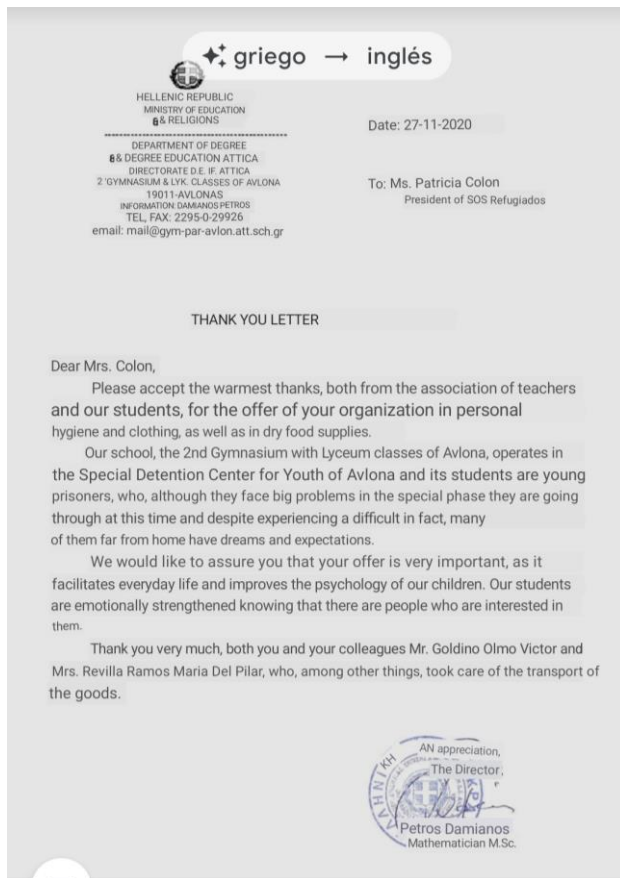
The truth is that life and future are taken away from them by political and economic decisions. Because the will of politicians is hijacked or bought by business. Civil society cannot sit back and wait for the leaders to decide to implement justice and respect for human rights. They must be forced to do so. We must mobilise from below to force those at the top to change and walk alongside us. We still



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don't hear enough of the cry of the child pointing out the shames of power.



Translation of the thank you letter sent by the director of the juvenile prison in Athens

It should make us think what is being done so badly that, for example, international agencies responsible for the care and support of migrants and refugees, with decades of experience, billion dollar budgets and with solvent professionals, prove incapable of properly managing the logistics of emergency aid and must resort to civil associations and local communities.

We are talking simply about resource management, about that first line of action consisting of providing dignified spaces and basic food and health aid for people who are held and confined while waiting for an answer to their asylum claims. It is not the employees of these international NGOs that we are pointing to, but those who are at the top. How can it be explained that, after months of camping out

under plastic sheets and tarpaulins at the gates of camps run by IOM (International Organisation for Migration) or UNHCR, hundreds of families in the Malakasa or Ritsona camps have not been provided with a roof and decent conditions? What about those who survive on the streets of Athens?

On a daily basis, between the constraints of the pandemic and those of the authorities, SOS Refugiados tries to meet these minimum needs which are ignored by official agencies. For the last four months, 130 bags of food and hygiene supplies have been taken to Malakasa camp every week, within which the same number of families remain unregistered (meaning they receive neither financial nor food aid). It is the IOM itself that asks us for support, which of course we provide. Now, apart from food, it is also blankets and warm clothes. On top of these families, another 800 people are living outside the camp without any help other than that provided by SOS Refugiados, which is unfortunately not enough. Something similar is happening in the camps of Eleonas and Ritsona.

NEWS:

In recent weeks, there has been a lot of talk among refugees about the so-called push backs or blockades of the Frontex boats and the Greek border guards to the migrants' boats, forcing them to turn around and return to Turkey (Der Spiegel, The Guardian, among others, report on these practices, which are not new).

Refugees from Lesbos continue to arrive in Athens at a slow pace. An estimated 800 deportations of refugees from countries not at war are reported from the islands. Detention camps are being built on Samos and Leros, with protests and demonstrations by locals. And in Greek detention centres, the period of detention has been extended from two to eight months.

The Greek Minister of Immigration signed several weeks ago agreements with Iraq and Afghanistan to



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deport all those who arrived after the deal with Turkey and did not get asylum.

We share this translation of the letter sent to us by the teachers of a juvenile prison in Athens, most of them refugees, where a few days ago we went for the first time to deliver hygiene supplies, clothes and food, because they are very badly supplied. We are touched by their gratitude and it reinforces our commitment. We will visit them again.

COLLECTIONS, EVENTS AND SOLIDARITY INITIATIVES:

On the 3rd of November, one of the containers of the platform coordinated by *Acción Directa Sierra Norte* and *SOS Barcelona* arrived at our warehouse. And on the 11th, another one managed by SOS with the collections from *Zambrana*, *Tres Cantos*, *Premià de Mar*, *Eva de Benicarló*, *Banco de Alimentos de Albacete*, *Tortas Inés Rosales*, *Zuleima*, *Ayuda al Pueblo Saharaui*, *Dones de Foios*, *Ayuda Refugiadxs Zaragoza*, *Plataforma Alto Aragón de Sabiñánigo*, *Cornellá*, *Léliana*, *Móstoles Sin Fronteras*, *Héctor de T&W*, *Arena Association*, *Marcos Rubio*, *Goyo Martín-Blas*, *Karaama* and *Negia*. Many thanks to all of you.



Arrival of the pallets from the containers received in November at the Athens warehouse.

Thanks to *Pampiraiki* for the donation of juice, biscuits and baby food. To *Gortex* for the 1000 jackets you sent and to *We Act for Sweden* for the food and clothing truck unloaded on the 3rd of last month. To *Belinda*, from Germany, who sent a pallet that will arrive on the 9th with blankets, nappies, food and hygiene products. And to *Negia* for the pallets of juice.



Donation of toys that will arrive in Athens in January 2021.

From Spain, this month the following donations of food, hygiene or clothes have been completed: *Sandra*, from Ferrol; *Juan* and *IES Margarita Sala*, Seville; *AHNA*, from Navarra; *Andrea Mercader*, Barcelona; *Goyo Martín-Blas*, Toledo; *LUMM*, Barcelona; *Móstoles sin Fronteras*; *Elles dones de Llíria*; *Ana* and her numerous group of friends and neighbours from Donosti. Thank you for your efforts, everyone.

Others are underway in Torà, Lleida; in Villar del Arzobispo, Valencia; in Utrera; *Ana* and her friends in Madrid; and in Ibiza and Formentera, various solidarity groups are once again giving us their time and effort. Thank you from the bottom of our heart.

Next week two new containers will leave to Athens; one from the *Plataforma Acción Directa Sierra*



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Norte y Barcelona; and the other, coordinated by our friends and regular donors *from Caudete se Mueve (Colectivo sin Fronteras, Albacete; Plataforma Almanseña de Apoyo a Refugiados, Almansa; Dandelion, Villena; Somos Anti Xenofobia y Cruz Roja, Sax; Asociación Humanista, Elda; Crida contra el Racismo. Elda and Petrer; Grupo Abril; Asociación de Ayuda a Personas Refugiadas Sirias, Elche; and Caudete se Mueve).*

In addition, the Red Cross in Almansa has donated three pallets of new toys and balls for the children, donated by the Juguetos factory. Kisses and hugs of gratitude.

FINANCIAL DONATIONS:

Thank you again to the *teamers* for your commitment to SOS Refugiados. And thanks to the dozens of private donors who have once again trusted us. Don't forget that we all form this network. Heartfelt thanks to *Comunidad de La Esperanza, Solidaritat a La Valldigna, Associacio pel desenvolupament, Asociación participa para la inclusión social, L'eliana Vol, Etxebarri con Siria.*

NOTES:

Until mid-January, Seur will stop the solidarity transport due to overload of work, but there is no reason to stop your campaigns, which we will pick up again in a few weeks with the invaluable help of Seur. Thank you.

We continue to send calendars by mail, we still have quite a few left, but there are many requests that you have already made. Thanks also to all of you because the income will come in handy. This is the link to the form where you can place your orders:

[Forms.gle/wrJZ4NuDBx2TVyGA9](https://forms.gle/wrJZ4NuDBx2TVyGA9)

On the initiative of the *Association of Ceramists of Asturias*, the *Keramós solidarity* project has been organised in which several ceramic artists will donate works to SOS REFUGIADOS to raise funds. In

our web you can see the works and the instructions to get them: <https://sosrefugiados.org/regalos/>

The 12D platform is preparing nation-wide mobilisations to protest against the new Migration and Asylum Pact. To contact them: plataforma12D@protonmail.com



Purchase of fresh food thanks to the financial donations we receive.

LINKS OF INTEREST:

1. <https://www.infograma.cat/especial-persones-refugiades>

Victor Godino, a member of SOS and the Stanbrook Brigade, has recreated the tragic journey of a young man who flees from death to the prison camps of Europe where even hope is snatched from them. It is a story that is latched to the truth and has an impressive sensitivity. Please read it.

2. <https://www.rtve.es/alacarta/videos/en-portada/jaula-lesbos/5711592>

(La cage de Lesbos, En Portada, RTVE, 11 November) Moria, symbol of Europe's broken and burned dream. One of the refugees sums up the drift of feelings towards them and the desolate perception of broken hopes: "Before we were called refugees, then migrants, then illegal migrants; and now, invaders.

Partners, friends, we are network.

A hug from the heart.