



TV

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## DEAD END: AFGHAN MIGRANTS IN GREECE

### VIDEO

AKHTAR IN GREEK SHANTYTOWN

AKHTAR ON CAMERA

REFUGEES IN SHANTYTOWN

### AUDIO

#### NARRATION

Eighteen-year-old, Akhtar Azimi fled Afghanistan six months ago, after being threatened by the Taliban. Leaving his widowed mother and younger brothers, he came to Europe alone, seeking safety. (12")

AKHTAR AZIMI: (English) **M**

*"And now I feel like ... it's a wrong number! (laughs) We have come to a wrong place!"*  
(5.5")

#### NARRATION

Akhtar and some 1,600 Afghan boys and men, find themselves living in squalor in a cardboard shanty-town in Greece's western port-city, Patras. Living amongst piles of rubbish and mud, they have just four overflowing latrines, and a few standpipes for washing. Akhtar never imagined he would live like this in Europe. (22")

AKHTAR ON CAMERA

AKHTAR AZIMI: (English) **M**

*“It’s like living five people inside one tent – it’s smelling, everything is dirty. I feel like nobody considers me a human being here in Greece.”*

(7.5)

MAP

NARRATION

Because of its position on the edge of Europe, Greece is the entry-point not only for Afghans but for hundreds of thousands of migrants and refugees fleeing wars and poverty in other parts of Asia and Africa. They come by boat – or any way they can. (18”)

MIGRANTS IN CROWDED BOAT

MIGRANTS ARRIVE AT PORT,  
ESCORTED BY POLICE

European law is clear – all asylum-seekers **MUST** apply in the *first* country they come into. But the Greek authorities grant asylum to fewer people than any other country in Europe – less than one percent are accepted in Greece, compared to 45 percent in Spain and 19 percent in Italy, the other two Mediterranean countries on the frontline for immigration. (25”)

BRIGADIER KOUSOUTIS ON  
CAMERA

BRIGADIER KOUSOUTIS: (English) **M**

*“Greece is a small country and we cannot afford to take care of all these people.”* (5”)

REFUGEES WITH POLICE

NARRATION

Brigadier Kousoutis is Chief of the Aliens Police responsible for policing illegal migrants. He says the country is being saddled with Europe’s migration problem. (12”)

CHRISTOS KARAPIPERIS ON  
CAMERA

KARAPIPERIS: (Greek) **M**

*“The situation in which these people, these refugees, find themselves here is tragic.” (5”)*

KARAPIPERIS IN SHANTYTOWN  
WITH REFUGEES

NARRATION

But Christos Karapiperis from the Greek Red Cross, who sees the hopelessness of the Afghan’s situation daily, feels the Greek authorities are not living up to their obligations to help them.

KARAPIPERIS: (Greek) **M**

*“They cannot return to their countries – they don’t have the right to do so. And they don’t have the right to continue their journey into the rest of Europe. Here in Greece, their rights are not recognised and they are considered illegal. Therefore, they are trapped in a situation which has completely no way out.” (17.5”)*

REFUGEES IN SHANTYTOWN

NARRATION

The failure of the asylum system in Greece prevents many from applying, says Ketty Kehayioylou (KE-HAY-OGLOO), from the United Nations Refugee Agency. (8”)

KETTY KEHAYIOYLOU SPEAKS TO  
REFUGEES

KETTY KEHAYIOYLOU: (English) **F**

*“People are not offered interpretation services; they’re not offered legal aid. Therefore, they cannot really articulate their problems. They don’t get proper examination of their claims, and the right to asylum is often denied in this country, in practice.” (16”)*

KETTY KEHAYIOYLOU ON CAMERA

NARRATION

MIGRANTS SLIP THROUGH FENCE /  
FERRY BOAT / TRUCKS

In desperation, many try to leave the country illegally to seek asylum in another European country. Here, in Patras, the Greek port-city, ferries leave daily for Italy. And these trucks boarding the ferries offer a chance of escape. (16”)

AKHTAR ON CAMERA

AKHTAR AZIMI: (English) **M**

*“We wait for the driver to go somewhere and we try underneath the truck. In between the wheels, that’s more dangerous. This is one tyre and this is the other tyre – we keep slipping underneath it – there is some wires, we keep catching like this on the wires and keep quiet.”* (20”)

TRUCKS

NARRATION

One wrong move and boys have been crushed to death as one of the rear wheels is lifted.

REFUGEES ATTEMPT TO BOARD  
MOVING TRUCK

Others risk their lives attempting to board moving trucks in broad daylight. (10.5”)

KARAPIPERIS: (English) **M**

*“As things are now, they have no future whatsoever in Greece. I think their future is in another country or in a changed Greece...”* (7)

REFUGEES PRAY ON MATS

NARRATION

But Akhtar and the many other desperate migrants from Afghanistan and elsewhere can’t wait. Until then, they are trapped in a dead

REFUGEES RUN AFTER MOVING  
TRUCK

end. Caught in a limbo-land of illegality, they are unable to *stay* in Greece, and unable to *leave*. So they continue to risk their lives for what is probably an empty hope... (22.5”)

SHIP ON HORIZON

AKHTAR AZIMI: (English) **M**

*“You have chances if you get out of here, but if you’re here, you don’t have a chance.*

*Whenever the ship leaves, I look at the ship and say, if I was there ... inside that ship...”*

(15”)

UN LOGO

This report was produced by Gill Fickling for the United Nations.