

Dear Tony Bunyan,

First of all we would like to thank you for creating more publicity on the incident of PIKPA from September 9th that concerned Frontex through Statewatch.

Concerning the statement of Ewa Moncure, Frontex's Press Officer, disputing the claims made in the final paragraph of our press release and its denial by Frontex staff and seconded national officials on Mytilene:

The incident happened on Friday 6.9.13 in PIKPA, Mytilene. w2eu-members visited the site on Saturday 7.9.13 in the morning. The refugees concerned are two Syrian families (among them many small children and one pregnant woman).* We got first informed by people who have been there in the affected main building. As they told us, they were very annoyed about the bad behaviour of two Frontex officers - they think one Swedish and another Italian. They had entered the building and went up to the first floor where the two families were hosted. (The main building has extra rooms, where the most vulnerable refugees are hosted due to better housing conditions i.e. extra bathrooms). They told the families to move out of their rooms and go out, since they wanted to open their offices there. They had to move to the wooden houses that have no extra bathrooms, they are more exposed to the weather and they are shared by more persons. At night to go to the toilets you have to walk in the dark. The refugees were afraid and followed the "orders" of the Frontex officers.

We decided to speak with the responsible Frontex officers as soon as they would appear. They came in Monday morning. A female Frontex officer came to PIKPA with her translator. When she was about to go up to the first floor to claim the rooms that had been emptied by the families already on Friday we stopped her and asked where she was going. We asked them who had given them the permit to use these rooms but they couldn't answer. Only 30 minutes later another Frontex officer came accompanied by a Greek police officer, the latter remained outside of the area belonging to PIKPA. The second officer told us the Greek police had given them the permit to use the rooms. The place though does not belong to the Greek police but to the municipality. So he left saying he had to clear this up with the Greek police.

When he left we asked the Syrian families to return to the rooms in the first floor where they stayed until they left Mytilene. The families were very grateful. Before leaving they held a very touching speech to the civil society supporting them.

The next day again another three Frontex officers appeared. We told them that they couldn't come without permit. They replied that they just came because they would care about the human rights of these people. So they were invited to help cleaning the space together with the refugees and local activists which they denied and then they left once again.

If you have any further questions on the incident please don't hesitate to ask us again.

Sincerely,

With many greeting from the "Village of all-Together" and Welcome to Europe,

w2eu