

Immigrant- Workers, our brothers and sisters

This is an announcement about the racist attack on brother immigrants from Bangladesh, workers who had just finished their work, early in the morning on Saturday, June 19th, in the north-side square of Agia Paraskevi, we have one thing to say:

Racist cowards, don't even think about it.

Dear colleague,

You work in Greece – with legal papers or not – you are from another country, you have different skin color and you speak a different language. To us, those don't matter. You are our brother and sister, there is nothing that separates us. We are workers too, and we are all united against our employers. We are all forced to work everyday to survive and we sell our working hands to our employers, who become richer every day.

We acknowledge that you are in a very difficult situation because Greece is not a hospitable country, especially if you have different skin color, if you are poor and you do not have legal papers or passport. You are invisible, the world treats you as if you do not exist and you don't even have a name in the eyes of public services, like hospitals and state insurance. As for the employers, you are simply a pair of working hands that can be easily exploited, without giving you any insurance. We, as your colleague workers, have the same interests and we want to make sure that all of us are working with wages that allow us to live, not just to survive. We don't believe that your different language, or color in your skin, is something that should set us apart. As workers against employers, we have common things to fight for.

You know that racism has many faces. The Greek state doesn't recognize your rights, it doesn't give you passport or may not give you legal papers. The employers don't pay our legal days-off nor your insurance, which you need in order to take the green card. They don't even pay the minimum wage. Europe and the Greek state closes its borders and kills immigrants there, our brothers and sisters in Moria and Kara Tepe are imprisoned for years, and cowards police officers and racists attack you, when you are alone. All this is here. And we will fight it together. With all the strength we have, all of us together we will protect ourselves and respond to any kind of situation. We are here to share our power with our colleagues, with immigrant-worker brothers and sisters, and to support our common interests against our employers and racist attacks.

As workers, we understand that in life we only have each other to support ourselves. Our community is the only thing that protects us, at and outside of work. We claim our rights and we win our insurance, our wages and our days-off, only if we all stand together. From job to job, from 10hour to 11 or 12hour shifts, without a day-off or insurance, we claim our rights, only when we stand next to each other. This is what employers, the men who exploit us, are afraid of. If we don't get separated and let the fear win, the racist attacks against immigrant-workers and generally against the poor of this society, along with the abuse of the employers, will all end.

We understand that some of us may be afraid to tell what is happening in our job, in the bus going home, in our street. As a workers' assembly, Nomads, we are here for every one of you and us. When we don't have any money, when they attack us, when they fire us

from our jobs, when they arrest us, we are all here, together brothers and sisters, to fight and win. And, this way, we always win a lot more than just our rights.

Keep the road clean from racists.

Nomads, workers assembly in North-Eastern suburbs of Athens *