



Katsikas, (*Habibi.Works*) 26 January 2022



Camila Eshar, 39 Lingrahar/Langhar, Afghanistan

I have four children, two boys and two girls. They are 9, 6, 5 and two.

Life here in the camp is very bad. My children are also very unhappy. They need to go off-site to play.

There is Covid here, but we are afraid we will not be allowed to go outside because of the wall.

Today, they brought a lot of iron for the wall.

We are very scared because after that we won't be able to see outside of the camp, and we will need permission to go outside at all. At the moment, we don't need this. No-one asks where we are going, or why. Why would they want to? But with a wall they can make us write down when we want to go outside, and stop us if they want to. And they can check us when we come back in.

Nobody who does not live here will be allowed inside. We won't be allowed visitors. It's very bad. It's like a jail. We are all so sad and afraid.

I live with my mother.

I had a good life in Afghanistan but we had problems with Da'esh.

My children were not safe, so we had to leave. Also, when I explained why we had to leave, I had problems with my husband. He wanted to take my children away from me. The boys, he wanted to take. He said 'you can go with the daughters'. So, we had to run.

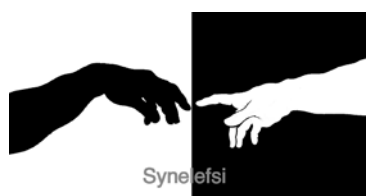
He didn't live with us.

We left in August 2019.

We went by car and then bus, to Pakistan, then we went to Iran, and then Turkey.

From Iran to Turkey, I walked 20 hours with my children, and lots of other people. We spent 20 days crossing Turkey and then we went to Lesbos.

We lived for one year and four months in Lesbos. For five months in a hotel there, after we had been in Moria, and we came to Ioannina eight months ago.





I don't remember the last two years so well. It has been so hard and so strange. So many changes. I think about so many things.

It was a very hard journey. I was alone. With my children, but alone, caring for them. They were so young and little. When I was in Moria, I was pregnant. It was a very bad situation. I couldn't do anything for myself and my children.

When I moved from the island camp to a hotel, nobody could help me to look after the children. It was very hard for me. Here in the camp I can't do anything. I really want to come to **Habibi.Works** to help the people but I often can't come because the children need me. They need someone, because they are children.

When one of them is sick, I become sick because I go to hospital. My mind and soul fill with worry. So it's quite hard.

They accepted me for asylum. After that, they have given me no money or food, so I have had to borrow from my wider family.

They accepted me four months ago, and I now have documents. Three days ago, I had my appointment for a biometric card. But my daughter had a problem with the documents because of her age. There was a mistake, and we have to resend all the documents to the Thessaloniki police office, and we are now waiting for that.

I don't know how long we will have to stay here, maybe three or four months. I wish we can leave before the wall is finished. I do not want to be here to see that.

For me, the camp is terrible because I'm alone. My oldest son is always scared because one of the vents in the container is broken and when the wind blows it makes a bad noise.

The children are very scared of many things here. They are also scared to go outside.

I don't know anyone in the camp. Only one family. They always help me, which is nice. They have moved me into four different containers, and whenever I am moved, this family helps me. Once, my boy had a bike accident and was hurt, and they helped me then. Another time, he cut his head open, and they helped with plasters and we washed him and made him better.

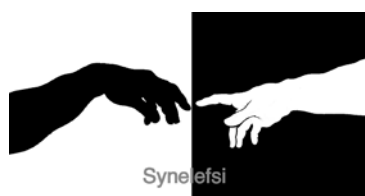
There is Covid in the camp. My smallest son and I have asthma, and my mother is sick, so we can't go outside often.

They said they would build the wall six months ago. Maybe five months.

The last meeting we had with the camp manager, anyway. She told us about the wall, and about cameras that they will put up in the camp. Also, they said that after the wall, we can't go outside from 7pm to 7am. But some people work at night. They worry about their work. Others who work in Arta have to leave before 7am and come back after 7pm.



Lots of people have had negative decisions and they are very scared about the situation. Some families are just desperate to leave here.





We will have to ask permission to go outside, and we won't even be able to see outside the camp. For now, there's the iron and they are working. After they finish maybe people will wait a little to see what they will do. I really worry about it. A wall is a wall. We can't see and can't go outside. Nobody has told us why they are building a wall, just said it was a government plan.

I spoke with the manager. Lots of women in the camp who don't live with husbands, alone with children. I told the manager about them to see if she can find them jobs. She said she can't help but we can search by ourselves.

There is the chicken farm but it's night work and we won't be allowed to leave the camp at night.

Children go to school here, but they don't like it.

My son doesn't understand. No-one plays with him. I told him to make friends with other children, but he said when he speaks to them, they said 'oxi'.

My son doesn't want to speak with me because he wants to try to protect me. But he is very scared. He tells me he doesn't like the camp. In his sleep, he cries out often. He talks and says 'no!' 'don't go there' 'don't do that'. I worry about him very much. We need to be in a better place. We are alone here.

I want to go to another country when I can. Because in Greece we can't do anything for ourselves, or our children.

I never planned to stay in this area. I have cousins in another country, so I wouldn't be alone there. I just want to get out of here. Before the wall.

