

#1

## RUMOUR:

"The Greeks don't allow people to return voluntarily because they want to keep the voluntary return money for themselves, and also to keep receiving money in the name of refugees."

ANSWER

The Greek authorities are not preventing anyone from returning voluntarily to his or her country and they do not receive financial aid for handling voluntary returns of refugees. IOM (the International Organization for Migration) has an Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Program (AVRR). The AVRR program aims to assist 1,000 'third country nationals' to return voluntarily to their country of origin by 31 May 2016. Applications for the program have recently increased. By May 3 of this year, IOM had registered 2,597 migrants who wished to return to their country of origin.

For more information:  
<http://greece.iom.int/node/25>

#2

## RUMOUR:

"Organisations will come to people to register them for relocation when they are all moved to camps."

ANSWER

The Asylum Service, EASO and UNHCR have announced that they will visit sites on mainland Greece where refugees are living, to assist with everyone's registration. During this process you will be able to ask for asylum in Greece and find out if you are eligible for options such as relocation and family reunification. Everyone will be allowed to pre-register in this process which is set to begin in June. If you don't live in a camp you will be able to pre-register in Athens and Thessaloniki, at locations that have not been announced yet. The Government has warned people not to move between sites unless the authorities tell you to move, otherwise the pre-registration process may be stopped. In the meantime you can continue to register through Skype.

For more information:  
<https://newsthatmoves.org/en/pre-registration-for-asylum-seekers-in-greece/>

#3

## RUMOUR:

"Iraqis who made it to Finland last year when the border was open are being sent back to Iraq now because Baghdad is considered a safe place."

ANSWER

There is no reported information about Finland sending refugees back to Iraq because of Baghdad being considered a safe place. In February 2016 many refugees from Iraq who were staying in Finland decided to voluntarily return to Iraq because of the very low winter temperatures in Finland. The Finnish authorities chartered flights for these refugees to go back to Iraq.

For more information:  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-finland-idUSKCN0VL0UE>

All of the rumours are collected among refugees passing through Europe. By identifying misinformation and hearsay and responding to it with relevant, factual information NewsThatMoves aims to keep the refugee population at the forefront of our communication response.

#4

## RUMOUR:

"The reason Greece kept us here and closed the border is to make money. Why else would they hold us here?"

ANSWER

Greece did not close the northern border with FYROM (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). It was closed in March by FYROM. Greece is not deliberately holding refugees in its territory. Greece has received limited financial aid from the EU for hosting the refugee population. The latest tranche of funding from the EU was given to Greek and international NGOs that operate in Greece.

For more information:  
[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-16-1447\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-1447_en.htm)

#5

## RUMOUR:

"Unaccompanied minors will be moved to houses, 30 in each house, and there will be a Greek person who will take care of them."

ANSWER

Unaccompanied minors must be identified as unaccompanied minors before they are moved anywhere. Solidarity Now (a Greek NGO), and other NGOs identify unaccompanied minors in Piraeus port and refer them to the official authority that takes care of them in Greece: the National Center of Social Solidarity (EKKA), under the Ministry of Labour, centre. There is a long waiting list as there are only around 500 places for unaccompanied minors in the Labour, centre that is run by EKKA. Unaccompanied minors in Greece are under the guardianship of the General Prosecutor. If you have been identified as an unaccompanied minor you must wait to be transferred to the center.

For more information:  
<http://www.ekka.org.gr/EKKA!show.action?lang=en>



Things can change quickly.

Check [newsthatmoves.org](http://newsthatmoves.org) for news about your journey.



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Also on [Facebook.com/newsthatmoves](https://www.facebook.com/newsthatmoves)