
'Macedonian border police detained & beat protesting refugees' - MSF

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Trends [EU refugee & migrant influx](#)

Children as young as five needed medical attention in the Idomeni camp in Greece after the Sunday clashes, during which the police used tear gas and rubber pullets to suppress a protest, MSF [reported](#).

Two young patients said they were taken into Macedonian territory along with 10 other people and beaten for an hour by police.

"The MSF clinic has been full all day. Three children were brought in with head injuries due to rubber bullets. People outside were shouting and many of them were carrying rubber bullets in their hands," said Conor Kenny, an MSF doctor in Idomeni.

Read more [Asylum seekers 'attempt to dismantle fence' at Greek Idomeni camp, get teargassed \(PHOTOS, VIDEOS\)](#)

Some of the injuries were received during a stampede that followed the police action, he said.

"A pregnant woman from Syria came into the clinic with her two children; she told me she was close to the border when tear gas was used to disperse the crowd, people started to run and she fell down," the doctor said.

MSF said its mobile teams and doctors at the camp clinic treated 300 people in the wake of the clashes, among

them 200 with respiratory problems after being subjected to teargas.

The organization says European governments are mishandling the crisis, which leads to an escalation of violence.

"What we see is the inevitable result of thousands being trapped in Greece, a country unable to respond to the humanitarian and protection needs of those in search of safety in Europe," stated Jose Hulsenk, MSF's Head of Mission in Greece.

"What people need is to be treated with dignity, not violence or unpredictable border closures and more uncertainty. This absurd humanitarian crisis created by European states' policies is becoming more unbearable by the day."

The clashes erupted after a group of some 500 asylum seekers tried to cross the barbed-wire fence on the Greek-Macedonian border and were stopped by Macedonian police. At least 15 officers were reported injured in the clashes as angry refugees pelted them with stones.

The EU is trying to deal with the biggest inflow of refugees since World War II, with over a million arriving to Europe last year alone. Greece, a country suffering from budget cuts and economic recession, is the primary destination for the refugees arriving to Europe through Turkey and has to keep them trapped as its neighbors closed borders.

Brussels has struck a bargain with Turkey for help in stemming the flow in exchange for financial and political pay-off. Skeptics say this would only result in smugglers ferrying people through Libya to Italy.
