

## MALTA

- 1972: 360 people arrived from Uganda. The Government signed a contract saying that they would let them stay for 3 months, then these were extended.
- They were provided with houses where they could stay and their children were sent to schools. They were given amenities, entertainment, etc.
  
- In the last 1980s/early 1990s people were coming from the Iron Gate and Iraq.
- About 3,000 people arrived and they were placed in homes around Malta. Some families took in some children.
- The majority of these refugees left to join their relatives in America.
  
- Later we started experiencing immigrants coming by boat.
- Often the boats are overcrowded and dangerous.
- Most of the people who arrive in Malta by boat hope to gain access to other parts of the European Union.
- Not all the people who arrive are refugees, MOST are only economic immigrants.
- A file is opened for each person or for each family, depending on the case. This information is sent to Rome, who then decide who can be accepted as a refugee.
- The processing time for asylum applications now averages six months.
- During this time they are detained in a special closed place from which they cannot leave.
  
- In 2000, people were coming from Sr. Leone. The number of refugees continued increasing.

- Since 2002, most refugees are coming from Africa and Middle East (especially Eritrea, Somalia).
  - Since 2002, 18,000 refugees have arrived
  - Since the beginning of the Arab Spring we have had 10s of thousands arriving.
  - It is impossible to know how many refugees we currently have, but it could be anywhere between 2,000 and 5,000.
  - This number of migrants equivalent to 800,000 migrants to the UK or 1,000,000 to Germany or Spain.
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- Each year 200/300 people a year apply for refugee status. This ration is 4.9 per 100 Maltese persons. Our ratio is the highest in Europe.
  - Poland has offered to take most of the refugees.
  - Ealier this year, the Maltese Government started panicing and organized 2 flights to repatriate migrants to Libya. But the European Court of Human Rights forced the Maltese government to cancel the flights.
  - This October, the asylum seekers saved from a capsized boat were brought to Malta, despite being rescued only 60 miles off Lampedusa – which qualified as the closest safe port. This happened even though the site of the incident was in its search and rescue area, Malta was 120 miles away.
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- Refugees can travel on holidays but they have to return to Malta to renew their permit

#### Work permit

- Given to those who have been accepted to stay in Malta
- If work permit given to him/her directly, they change jobs

- If issued on employer's name, then this permit is issued 3 months at a go and the refugee cannot change jobs from one company to another

#### Difficulties for Refugees

- Families they are leaving behind
- Bureaucratic system especially since they are kept in enclosed places
- Unsure of their future
- Employment: less pay; less good conditions.

#### Most people accept the refugees BUT

- Some people argue that they are invading our country
- Some people say that they are taking our jobs esp. construction
- (not true: doing work Maltese refuse to do: farming, refuse collecting)
- Culture

MALTA NEEDS HELP NOW FROM THE EU ABOUT THIS SITUATION...!!!