



Detainees held without access to urgent medical care demand immediate release amidst reports of suicide attempts in pre-removal detention centre

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“We asked for urgent medical care and the police said ‘we can’t help you.’ They closed the door on us.”
- anonymous detainee at Corinth pre-removal detention centre who requires urgent surgery

- **People with serious medical conditions and psychological vulnerabilities at [Corinth PRDC](#) are being systematically detained without access to urgent medical care for months on end. The group reports that their mental states are deteriorating and some detainees have attempted suicide**

In recent days a member organisation of [Border Violence Monitoring Network \(BVMN\)](#) has received harrowing messages from people being detained for several months in Corinth pre-removal centre close to Athens. With no prospect of release and no access to medical care, the group are facing deterioration of their mental health with reports of some detainees attempting suicide.

The group report being kept in dirty insect-fested cells leading to skin conditions, without access to basic items such as soap and clothes and being served spoiled food.

Torture survivors among detainees

Among the group detained are survivors of torture who arrived in Greece after traumatic experiences of detention in Libya. One person stated: *“I arrived in Greece and was immediately imprisoned.”* According to [research](#) published by Mobile Info Team in 2023, there is only one psychologist present at Corinth pre-removal centre, with reports from detainees that accessing psychosocial support is extremely difficult.

Alexandra Bogos, BVMN Legal Advocacy Coordinator, said:

“This is part of a wider crisis in Greece’s immigration detention system in which we see the systematic detention of people undergoing asylum procedures and of undocumented people from countries where it is basically impossible to deport them to - making their detention legally unfounded. What is more, people are detained in conditions which exacerbate their vulnerabilities or create new health problems, while being denied access to healthcare. Greece has to implement alternatives to detention which allow people to live in dignified and human rights respecting conditions.”

Continued failure to improve detention conditions

Corinth PRDC was opened in 2012 and has consistently received damning reports on living conditions and human rights standards, including from [European torture-monitoring bodies](#). Deaths in Corinth linked to medical neglect and suicide were reported in [2013](#), [2021](#), and [2023](#). Solidarity with Migrants also [reported](#) the suicide of an Egyptian man earlier this month. In 2015, the CPT [highlighted](#) serious concerns about conditions in the centre, including the administration of medical care by untrained detention officers. BVMN has also recently issued a [report](#) documenting widespread violence and lack of access to basic rights within Greece’s detention centres.



Over a decade of protests

[Protests](#) including [hunger strikes](#) have occurred consistently at Corinth over the years, often in response to poor living conditions and prolonged detention periods. The latest, reported in March 2024 by [Efsyn](#) and [Solidarity with Migrants](#), highlighted the ongoing poor living conditions and reports of abusive treatment by detention staff.

IMAGES

Left: Outdoor exercise area at Corinth Pre-Removal Detention Centre (source: anonymous respondent)

Right: Room where detainees are held in Corinth Pre-Removal Detention Centre (source: anonymous respondent)



Border Violence Monitoring Network is a coalition of organisations formed in 2016 and working to document illegal pushbacks, collective expulsions and police violence along the EU's external borders in the Western Balkans and Greece.