



Giuliani subpoenaed for documents; Trump attacks US Democrats

## Outcry as Pakistan appoints new envoy to UN



LESBOS ISLAND: A migrant sleeps outside at the Moria camp on the island of Lesbos following a fire at the refugee camp which houses some 13,000 people. — AFP

# Migrants protest conditions on Greek isle

## ‘Moria is hell, a jungle, a cemetery’

**MORIA:** Around a thousand migrants staged a fresh protest yesterday in Europe’s largest migrant camp on the Greek island of Lesbos, two days after a deadly fire at the vastly overcrowded facility. A procession made up mainly of women and children, with some elderly people, left Moria camp walking towards the port of Mytilene, with demonstrators shouting slogans.

But police road-block stopped them half-way to Mytilene. The protesters carried placards in English reading “Moria is hell” and “Freedom”, and carried a stretcher covered by a shroud probably to represent the woman killed in Sunday’s fire at the camp. The fire, which sparked riots the same evening, injured another 17 people, who are being treated in hospital.

“Moria is like a jungle, a cemetery,” said one protester, Fazel Ahmad, from Afghanistan. “I thought I was coming to a country that respects human rights, but what is happening in Moria has nothing to do with human rights,” he said. The region’s chief of police Eleftherios Douroudous tried to calm the angry crowd. “You will be moved to other camps with better conditions in a month,” he told them. “Unaccompanied minors will also be moved to suitable conditions within in October. I understand the difficulties,” he added, appealing to them to be patient.

### ‘De facto detention camps’

At the same time, a delegation from Oxfam France was visiting a makeshift camp that has sprung up outside Moria, where tents and improvised shelters have spilled over into the olive groves. “It’s worse than I imagined,” Cecile Dufлот, the head of Oxfam France, told AFP as she waited to enter the camp. “We are in Greece, a European Union country. More than 40 percent of those living here are children. We need to ensure that the situation changes.”

People needed to wake up to the burden that Greece and its islands were carrying, she said, adding: “We cannot be satisfied with what are de facto detention camps.” Moria was designed for 3,000 people but currently houses 13,000 after a surge of arrivals in recent weeks from Turkey. Greece announced on Monday it wanted to send back 10,000 migrants to Turkey by the end of 2020 after an emergency cabinet meeting following the fire at the camp. These returns are provided for in a 2016 agreement between Turkey and the European Union.

The conservative government of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis has already announced more naval patrols in the Aegean, closed centers for migrants refused asylum, and plans to overhaul the asylum system. Greece hosts some 70,000 mostly Syrian



ATTICA: A woman holds a baby as refugees and migrants take part in a demonstration against their living conditions at the Moria camp on the island of Lesbos yesterday. — AFP

refugees and migrants who have fled since 2015, crossing over from neighboring Turkey. There are more than 26,000 people in the five migrant camps scattered

across the Aegean islands, which have a capacity to welcome only 6,300 or so, according to the latest government figures.— Agencies

## In US capital, teen honors victims of gun violence

**WASHINGTON:** The row of trendy restaurants surrounding an office of the Shakespeare Theater Company in Washington reflects the refined tastes of a gentrifying capital. But down an alley, a mural depicts a very different drama playing out almost daily elsewhere in the same city. There on the wall are the faces of five African-American teens shot dead, including Lauryn Renford’s boyfriend, 16-year-old Zaire Kelly. Renford, 17, was the driving force behind the mural, a recently inaugurated memorial to the slain youths. “I think there’s something very special about these five on the wall,” says Renford, who sees their stories as representing other victims too.

In a country where mass shootings dominate the headlines, the mural is a reminder of more common, everyday gun crime, the victims often African-Americans, their deaths too frequently overlooked except by grieving friends and family. Kelly was attacked in an apparent robbery attempt on his way home from studies. Jamahri Sydnor,

17, was shot while driving, the victim of an “unintended killing” according to DC Witness, a website that tracks Washington homicide cases.

Steve Slaughter, 14, and Taiyana Thompson, 16, are also pictured along with Paris Brown, 19. All were killed in 2017 and 2018. Brown and Kelly, as well as Renford, were students at Thurgood Marshall Academy in Ward 8, one of two districts east of the Anacostia River where poverty is disproportionately clustered. “I realized that families and even just general residents of DC should have a place to grieve the people that we’ve lost and always honor their legacies, and work to preserve those that are left,” Renford says.

Dozens of evenly-spaced red roses symbolize others lost to gun violence but whose youthful faces aren’t pictured on the wall. That could include Maurice Scott, 15, shot dead in May, or Steffen Braithwaite, 16, gunned down the day before AFP interviewed Renford. They are among at least 131 homicide victims this year in the city of about 700,000 residents, up from 118 at the same time last year. Nearby Baltimore, with a slightly smaller population, has recorded around 255 homicides in 2019.

### ‘I hear gunshots’

In contrast, 64 people have been gunned down nationwide since January in mass shootings where four or more people were killed, according to a Washington Post database. Most of Washington’s gun crime

occurs in Ward 8 and adjacent Ward 7, police data show, but the mural is in a more peaceful neighborhood.

There, it helps broaden awareness among better-off residents who “don’t necessarily know much about the violence” elsewhere in the city, says Renford, a first-year undergraduate hoping to study public health. Karen Lee, a Thurgood Marshall teacher who guided Renford in creating the mural, says she is “really proud” of her. “People are having to deal every day with violence, with shootings,” says Lee, who is white and lives in the academy’s neighborhood. “I hear gunshots and I wonder if I’m going to wake up in the morning and find out that I’ve lost another student.”

In a Washington with more and more condominiums and sleek restaurants, but a declining African-American population, Renford says making the city safer should be a task for everyone and not just a “black and brown conversation.” She joined two other Thurgood Marshall students to found an activist group, Pathways 2 Power, because they want “a seat at the decision-making table” on issues surrounding gun violence.

### Poverty, inequity

The group helped her raise the roughly \$12,000 needed for the mural painted by local artist Martin Swift on donated wall space. Renford sees many roots for the violence, including poverty, gentrification, localized “beefs,” and “not valuing the lives of people around you... not even your own



WASHINGTON: Lauryn Renford, 17, looks at a mural by Martin Swift depicting teenage gun violence victims including Zaire Kelly (2nd left). Renford’s boyfriend who was shot dead in 2017, in Washington DC. — AFP

life.” Lee highlights the need to address the inequities between Washington’s wealthier neighborhoods and those where people struggle.

Armed police officers wait at the front steps of Thurgood Marshall while students in tan pants and burgundy shirts file into Martin Luther King Junior Avenue Southeast, where cars pass playing rap music. Across the street is Bethlehem

Baptist Church, the “Black Workers and Wellness Center,” and a parking lot advertising the “Stop the Violence Jam” and other music shows. Back in the alley, two elderly white women accompany a white man walking unsteadily with a cane. In front of the mural, one of the women stops and seems to call to the others. All of them look Paris, Jamahri, Steve, Taiyana and Zaire are looking back. — Agencies