

Thousands stranded as Greece becomes 'warehouse'

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Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Greece is fast becoming the “warehouse of human beings” that its government has vowed not to allow.

Hastily setup camps for refugees and other migrants are full. Thousands of people wait through the night, shivering in the cold at the Greek-Macedonian border, in the country's main port of Piraeus, in squares dotted around Athens, or on dozens of buses parked up and down Greece's main north-south highway.

On Thursday, hundreds of frustrated migrants abandoned their stranded buses or left refugee camps, setting off on a desperate trek to reach a border they know is quickly shutting down to them.

About 20,000 migrants were

Police keep rallies separated

Slovenian police stepped in Saturday to keep apart two rallies — one that supports migrants and the other that does not want them in the Alpine nation.

The two groups gathered several blocks away from each other in the capital, Ljubljana, but hundreds of right-wing protesters later marched toward about

1,000 liberals favoring open-door policies toward the migrants. The two groups shouted at each other but there were no other incidents.

Nearly half a million migrants hoping to reach wealthy EU countries have passed through Slovenia since October.

— Associated Press

in Greece on Thursday, Defense Minister Panos Kammenos said. Of those, Macedonia allowed just 100 people to cross over.

By late Friday, not a single migrant had crossed into Macedonia that day, while 4,900 people waited nearby in heavy rain, according to Greek police.

Thousands more were heading north — about 40 busloads of people were waiting along

Greece's main highway, while refugee camps in northern Greece and near Athens were full.

Greece and the migrants are caught between an increasingly fractious Europe, where several countries are reluctant to accept more asylum-seekers, and Turkey, which has appeared unwilling or unable to staunch the torrent of people leaving in barely seaworthy smuggling boats for Greek islands.



PETROS GIANNAKOURIS — Associated Press

Stranded refugees and migrants protest in the northern Greek border station of Idomeni at the Macedonian border's wire fence Saturday. More than 5,000 people are waiting to be admitted at or near the border crossing.