

## Dalal's testimony

14 July 2019

Dalal is from Aleppo, in Syria. She left the country with her family after their neighbours' home was bombed, and they realized they would die if they stayed. After living in Turkey for some time, Dalal decided to cross the Aegean Sea with her family to Greece as she was unable to access basic services and healthcare for her sick mother, badly injured husband, amputated brother-in-law, and her new-born son. After spending time on Chios island, they were finally moved to safe accommodation in Athens due to Dalal's mother's condition. After receiving refugee status, however, the family were told they must vacate the premise.

On June 2, 2020, after multiple threats of eviction, Dalal's mother, Hadla, who was an MSF patient with severe medical conditions including diabetes and cardiovascular disease, was taken to Schisto camp in the outskirts of Athens by her family, where one of her sons was sharing a container with 12 other people. On June 4, two days later, Hadla suffered a cardiac arrest and died. She was 59 years old.

Hadla was a patient at the MSF Day Care Centre in Athens, however as she was too sick to travel, her daughter would come to the clinic in order to collect her medicine. There are at least 30 other MSF patients with serious medical conditions who are facing eviction.

*"On the 29<sup>th</sup> May we were told that we must leave the apartment, and two days later they came and asked for the key and told us to leave to the street. I told them that my mother is terribly ill, I showed them the medical files but they told us that they cannot do anything about it, and that the decision had come from the ministry.*

*We had already been cut off from cash assistance for two months. It was like they were telling us to go to the streets and kill ourselves. At that time, my mother was in a terrible state, she couldn't even stand on her own, she had to use a wheelchair and was unable to go to the bathroom alone. She had already suffered multiple heart attacks, and she was also having allergies due to her respiratory issues. She was in an extremely vulnerable state.*

*We didn't know what to do, we didn't want to leave the house as we were so afraid for my mother, but at the same time we were constantly worried that the police would come to kick us out on the streets. In the end we decided, in order to protect my mother, to take her to Schisto refugee camp, where my brother was staying in a container. I took her myself to the camp to stay with my brother but when we got there, my mother was getting worse and worse. That night she was vomiting, and she couldn't speak. The next day she had a cardiac arrest, and she passed away there in the container.*

*We are still in the apartment, but they continue to call us and tell us to leave. We have nothing, nowhere to go."*