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Greek gov’t faces opposition in creating another migrant ‘hotspot’ on Lesvos, this one close to historic monastery



The Greek government’s intent to create a new and closed migrant/refugee “hotspot” on the eastern Aegean island of Lesvos, one close to the Holy Monastery of the Archangels at the Mandamado site, has generated even more heated opposition by local residents.

The news comes at the very moment when the now well-known Greek island, which lies off the coast of western Asia Minor, has witnessed numerous instances of vandalism against chapels and churches on the isle.

Tens of thousands of would-be asylum seekers and irregular migrants from various third world countries landed on or were smuggled onto the island from nearby Turkey since 2015, with more than 30,000 people from more than 70 countries – most of whom are from Muslim-majority states – still hosted in shelters on Lesvos today, primarily at the notorious Moria camp.

In statements on an Athens radio station on Tuesday, the northern Aegean governor, Costas Moutzouris, underlined that “… the islands have received more

than one million migrants over the past five years… they (island residents) want to breathe again; the rest of Greece must assume a portion of responsibility for this problem. These islands cannot continue to experience this type of pressure because they happen to be located next to Turkey.”