



## 30/11: Nine travelers arrived on Lesbos, beat up by Greek police, probable push-back to Turkey

In Distress ■ Push-Back

VERIFIED

01.12.2020 / 18:18 / Aegean Sea

### Watch The Med Alarm Phone Investigations – 30th of November 2020

Case name: 2020\_11\_30-AEG729

*Situation:* Nine travelers (two women, seven men) arrived on Lesbos and hid in the forest. Police arrived and beat them up, contact broke off, probable push-back.

*Status of WTM Investigation:* Unconfirmed

*Place of Incident:* Aegean Sea/Lesvos

*Summary of the Case:* On the 30th of November 2020 the Alarm Phone was called by a group of 9 travelers, among them 2 young women and 7 young men. They had arrived on Lesbos and were hiding in the bushes. They sent us some names from the group, but could not send their current GPS location, because of network problems. At 16:20h, we sent an e-mail to the local authorities and to the UNHCR office, informing them about the travellers requesting asylum. The next time we could talk to the travellers, was at 17:07h. They had moved and were still hiding in a forest. At 18:25h, they sent us a GPS location. At 18:38h, we sent it to the authorities via e-mail. At 18:50h, we received a voice message from the travelers, reporting that they had informed the UNHCR by themselves, and afterwards the police had arrived and beat them up.

Shortly after this, we received a message saying they were being pushed back by the Greek police. From then on, we could not get in touch with the group of travelers anymore. We tried to receive information about his case from the Turkish coastguard, but without success. The next morning (01st of December), the travelers were still not reachable. At 08:40h, our shift team talked to the UNHRC Athens about the case and our fear that they had been pushed back from Greece. We passed them again the identities of the travelers. At 09:08h, we called the Turkish coastguard again, but did not find out anything about the case. We never succeeded to talk to the travelers anymore.

We are still investigating the detailed developments and will include potential updates into this report.

### Twitter Chronology:

30.11.

17:02h: [https://twitter.com/alarm\\_phone/status/1333441172174491650](https://twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/1333441172174491650)

02.12.

19:45h: [https://twitter.com/alarm\\_phone/status/1334209245747752962](https://twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/1334209245747752962)

### Related Reports

22:41 Mar 03, 2016 / Aegean Sea Kms

[02/03: 6 groups in distress near Greek islands of Lesbos and Pasa](#)

18:39 Dec 10, 2019 / Aegean Sea Kms

[09/12: Five people in distress close to Lesbos, rescued by Greek Coastguard](#)

14:47 May 29, 2020 / Aegean Sea Kms

[28/05: 50 travelers reportedly pushed back to Turkey from Greece waters](#)

16:37 May 24, 2019 / Aegean Kms

[23/05: boat carrying 35 people close to Lesbos, rescued to Greece](#)

18:09 Nov 20, 2016 / Aegean Sea Kms

[19/11 Alarm Phone alerted to vessel in distress in the Aegean Sea, rescued to Greece](#)

