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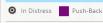






Taller Map Smaller Map

24/08: 44 travelers attacked by Greek coastguard, pushed back to Turkey



VERIFIED

25.08.2020 / 15:03 / Aegean Sea

Watch The Med Alarm Phone Investigations – 24th of August 2020

Case name: 2020 08 24-AEG702

Situation: 44 travelers attacked, beaten, rubbed, and pushed back to Turkish waters by Greek coastguard. Returned to Turkey.

Status of WTM Investigation: Concluded

Place of Incident: Aegean Sea

Summary of the Case:

On 24th of August 2020 at 03:53h CEST, the Alarm Phone received a message via Facebook saying:

"We are at sea in a rubber boat, now we are being taken back to Turkey, and there are high waves. We are now in the territorial waters near the island of Mytilene. We are in danger. We have children and here masked men are trying to send us back to Turkey. We are near the port of Skala. The boat is starting to fill up, and the waves are high. We are in danger of sinking. The boat is starting to fill up, and the waves are high. We are in danger of sinking"

At 04:00h, our shift team tried to call the travelers in distress, without success. At 04:06h, they sent another message on Facebook:

"They try to take my phone from my hand. They don't want me to tell anyone about our ordeal They beat us and they beat children and women. They took the engine of the boat and gasoline and took some people's possessions and threw them into the sea" At 04:17h, we received a GPS location from the travelers and at 04:18h, we could talk to them on the phone. There were 44 people on the boat, among them a pregnant woman and 14 children. They reported that at that moment, they were being pushed back to Turkish waters by the Greek coastguard. They had towed their boat to the coastguard's vessel and pulled them behind it. The person we talked to said it was not safe to talk on the phone: "They took our phones and hit us with an iron stick, they were masked. I hide under the stirrups. Too much blood. Everybody scary."

At o5:23h, we called the Greek coastguard and told them that we knew about the case. They said they would send a boat there. From then on, we could not get through to the travelers anymore. At o6:36h, we called the Greek coastguard for an update. They stated to have sent a vessel and not have found the boat. At 11:26h, we reached the person who had been on the boat. They reported to be back in Turkey, and everyone was finally safe.

Alarm Phone is still investigating the details of this case and will include potential updates into this report.

Twitter Chronology:

06:14h CEST - https://twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/1297749004269293569 10:19h CEST - https://twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/1297810686370885633 22:21h CEST - https://twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/1297992487571775488 22:23h CEST - https://twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/1297992907014758402

Last update: 19:04 Dec 20, 2020

Related Reports

16:10 Apr 01, 2018 / Aegean Sea Kms 31/03: 40 travellers rescued by the Greek coast guard to Lesvos

19:04 Aug 13, 2020 / Aegean Sea Kms 12/08: 45 travellers rescued to Lesvos

00:36 Nov 17, 2017 / Aegean Sea Kms 16/11: Alarm Phone alerted to boat in distress near Lesvos, with 40 persons on board, including 15 children, all rescued

11:20 Dec 14, 2012 / Thermi - Lesvos Isl. - Greece

Thermi Wreck - 21 people found dead, at least 6 missing

13:55 Dec 07, 2013 / Mytilene Kms 6 people survived, 3 missing.

