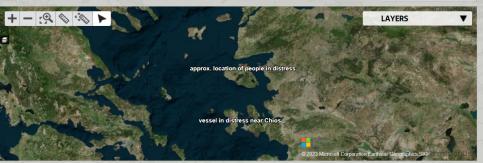
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* Taller Map * Smaller Map

Groups of refugees in distress near Chios Island/Greece and on Lesvos Island/Greece



VERIFIED

VL

04.06.2015 / 12:20 / Chios Island and Lesvos Island, Greece

Watch The Med Alarm Phone Investigation - 3rd of June 2015

Case name: 2015_06_03-AEG12

 ${\it Situation:} \ {\it People in distress near Chios Island;} \ {\it People in distress after arrival on Lesvos Island/Greece}$

Status of WTM Investigation: No final confirmation received Place of Incident: Chios Island and Lesvos Island, Greece

Summary of the Case: In the early hours of Wednesday the 3rd of June, at around 3am, our Alarm Phone shift team was contacted by a person located in Germany who informed us about a friend of his who had just arrived on the island of Lesvos/Greece as part of a group of 40 persons and needed help. Our contact person believed that they had already reached land and passed on a phone number which, however, could not be reached.

Shortly afterwards, at around 3.30am, we were contacted by someone who stated that he was amongst 40 people, including 3 women and 3 babies, on a rubber vessel near the Greek island of Chios. He said that their engine had broken and asked us to contact the Greek coastguard. Our shift team turned to the Greek coastguard and in a later phone conversation with the passengers in distress they confirmed that the coastguard had successfully reached them by phone.

At around 4.40am, the Greek coastguard stated that the vessel had reached Chios Island by themselves but, about an hour later, contacted us again to ask whether we had received a confirmation of their arrival on land as there were several vessels in distress near Chios. While the phone of our contact person on the vessel was ringing, nobody picked up.

In the early afternoon the person who alerted us to the group of refugees on Lesvos called us and stated that the group was somewhere on the island and without food and water. At around 3pm he passed on coordinates of the people on land. It seemed as if the group was close to a small village on the island.

The case of the disoriented group on the island of Lesvos is a reflection on what is currently occurring there, with thousands stranded on the island without receiving the needed support. On the 3rd of June alone, about 2000 refugees arrived on Lesvos. Many of them are lost and need to find their way to local villages and the city of Mytilene by themselves. These situations are very distressing, with many of the newly arrived suffering from hunger, thirst and sometimes injuries, and having to walk for hours while being continuously exposed to the sun.

The few newly erected tent spaces offered are already overcrowded so that many have to sleep rough. The local Greek population is openly dissuaded from supporting the refugees and threatened to be punished with fines by the local police authorities.

Donations to civil society groups supporting the refugees such as the 'Village of All Together' are desperately needed and can be made here:

1. VILLAGE OF ALL TOGETHER

Donations for PIKPA

Michael AIVALIOTIS

ETHNGRAA

IBAN: GR7901107620000076271413353

Related Reports

18:25 Dec 02, 2020 / Aegean Sea Kms 01/12: 33 travellers on Lesvos island arrived at the

11:18 Aug 21, 2015 / Kos and Lesvos Island, Greece

Vessel in distress between Turkey and Kos/Greece, Group disoriented on Lesvos Island, rescued

20:50 Jan 24, 2020 / Aegean Sea Kms 23/01: Two cases: one group stuck in Evros delta, one group arrived on Samos

11:51 May 07, 2022 / Eastern Med Kms 06/05: 23 travellers on Lesvos Island, pushed-back on life-rafts by Greek authorities

12:36 Jul 04, 2020 / Aegean Sea Kms 03/07: One boat arrived in



