





30/06: One boat pushed back to Turkey

In Distress Push-Back

VERIFIED

01.07.2020 / 12:27 / Aegean Sea

Watch The Med Alarm Phone Investigations – 30th June 2020

Case name: 2020_06_30-AEG683

Situation: 9 travellers were pushed-back to Turkey by the Greek coastguard.

Status of WTM Investigation: Concluded

Place of Incident: Aegean Sea

Summary of the Case: In the morning of Tuesday the 30th of June we were alerted to a boat in distress carrying 9 travellers, including 5 children. The boat was in Greek Search and Rescue (SAR) zone, it was very small and in danger of capsizing. At 09:25h we alerted the Greek coastguard in Piraeus by phone and then sent an email. At 11:14h a relative of the travellers told us that the boat was still at sea waiting for a rescue. We were also told that the boat had been pulled by the Greek coastguard to the Turkish SAR zone. The boat was in bad conditions and some people were reportedly injured. At 12:00h we received a GPS position which showed that the travellers were in Turkish waters. At 12:25h our shift team spoke to the Greek coastguard in Piraeus who told us that they have one asset and the Turkish coastguard has two assets close to the boat. Further, they told us that they had gone to the position we had sent them (in Greek SAR) but the boat was not there and had probably drifted in Turkish waters because of the weather. According to the officer as the boat was in Turkish territorial waters, the Turkish coastguard had responsibility. At 12:31h we sent an email with all the information we had to both Greek and Turkish coastguards. When one minute later we called the Turkish coastguard they told us that they had just rescued the boat, they confirmed this information at 12:41h via email. At 13:21h the travelers themselves confirmed that they had been brought back to Turkey.

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

Last update: 18:29 Oct 28, 2020

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[18/07: 56 travellers in distress rescued to Lesbos](#)

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[25/12: 40 travellers brought back to Turkey](#)

09:58 Mar 17, 2018 / Aegean Sea Kms
[16/03: 55 people in distress east of Lesbos, rescued to Greece](#)

18:33 Jun 18, 2020 / Aegean Sea Kms
[17/06: 67 pushbacked to Turkey by HCG and then 'rescued' by the TCG](#)

19:25 Dec 14, 2015 / Aegean Sea Kms
[13/12: Alarm Phone in contact with two boats close to Lesbos, both arrived safely](#)

