



05/08: 40 travellers pushed back to Turkey south of Lesbos



In Distress Push-Back

VERIFIED

06.08.2020 / 18:01 / Aegean Sea

Watch The Med Alarm Phone Investigations – 5th of August 2020

Case name: 2020_08_05-AEG695

Situation: 40 travellers pushed back from Greek waters south of Lesbos and brought to Turkey

Status of WTM Investigation: concluded

Place of Incident: Aegean sea

Summary of the Case:

On Wednesday the 5th of August our Alarm Phone shift team was contacted by a relative alerting us to the distress of 40 travellers, including 10 children. According to the relative, the Greek coastguard had destroyed the engine of the boat and pushed it back to Turkish waters. A few minutes later we reached the travellers who confirmed this and asked for urgent rescue. They forwarded us their current position. At 04.11h CEST we called the Turkish coastguard and forwarded the information we had. The Turkish coastguard confirmed that they would send a rescue vessel. In the meantime, we were in contact with the travellers, who were getting increasingly anxious. At 4.43h the travellers called us to inform us that the Turkish coastguard was approaching. 20 minutes later the Turkish coastguard confirmed that the rescue had been carried out, and one hour later the travellers informed us that they were back in Turkey.

Concerning the possible push-back we are still investigating to find out what happened.

Last update: 16:00 Dec 07, 2020

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