



## 05/03: 31 people, including ten woman and nine children, drifting and attacked North of Lesvos, pushed back to Turkish waters and intercepted by Turkish authorities

In Distress Push-Back

VERIFIED

06.03.2021 / 08:35 / Aegean Sea

### Watch The Med Alarm Phone Investigations – March 5th 2021

Case name: 20210305-AEG749

Situation: 31 people attacked North of Lesvos and intercepted to Ayvacik District/Canakkale Province, Turkey

Status of WTM Investigation: Concluded

Place of Incident: Aegean Sea

#### Summary of Case

In the early morning of March 5th Alarm Phone was alerted to a boat with broken engine, drifting, to the North of Lesvos. We received a GPS position and forwarded all details to authorities at 04:21 CET, which was followed up by a phone call to MRCC Piraeus. People on the boat called us at 04:26 CET, relating that a rubber boat which they had previously seen shining a light towards them off the coast of Lesvos, had started pulling them back towards Turkey with a rope. According to the people on the boat there were not enough live vests for all passengers. We could hear a lot of panic on the boat. At 04:55 CET the boat called us again, asking us to stop the towing of their boat towards Turkey. People sounded very afraid. We updated authorities on the boat's position highlighting the need for urgent assistance. When following the e-mail up with a call to MRCC Piraeus the operator denied all knowledge of this distress case. At 05:30 CET the boat in distress called us again, and related that their motor and petrol had been stolen by the rubber boat towing them which had then left the scene. People on the boat had already called the Turkish coast guard.

In the morning of March 6th we called authorities in Turkey. The operator confirmed that four boats had been returned to Turkey from the area that morning, including a boat carrying 28 and 38 people near the location of the boat which called us. We sent an e-mail to Turkish authorities at 09:25 CET with all details available to us. Teg confirmed the return of 31 people who had called us in distress, including ten women and nine children, to Ayvacik District/Canakkale Province without any missing people.

The travellers themselves also confirmed later on to be back in Turkey.

Last update: 23:01 Jun 01, 2021

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[34 people in distress off the coast of Lesvos/Greece - all rescued](#)

12:36 Jul 04, 2020 / Aegean Sea Kms

[03/07: One boat arrived in Lesvos](#)

19:50 Jan 25, 2016 / Aegean Sea Kms

[24/01: Alarm Phone alerted to boat in distress between Turkey and Lesvos/Greece](#)

22:47 Mar 06, 2021 / Aegean Sea Kms

[05/03: 28 people, including 1 woman and a baby stranded in the North of Lesvos. Kagia Beach in Skala Sikamineas, illegally pushed back by Greek authorities](#)

23:32 Apr 04, 2021 / Aegean Sea Kms

[03/04: 25 people on their way to Lesvos were attacked and brought back to Turkey](#)

