



## 18/02: Illegal push-back of 37 travellers by Hellenic Coastguard



In Distress  Interception  Push-Back

VERIFIED

19.02.2022 / 19:06 / Eastern Med

### Watch The Med Alarm Phone Investigations – 18th of February 2022

Case name: 2022\_02\_18-AEG860

Situation: 37 travellers almost arrived to Chios, attacked and pushed-back in life-rafts by Hellenic Coastguard

Status of WTM Investigation: Concluded

Place of Incident: Eastern Med

#### Summary of the Case:

Just after midnight on the 18th of February, Alarm Phone received a call by a concerned relative, alerting us to a group of 3 women, 10 children and 24 men in distress who had departed from Turkey, and were in Greek waters, close to Chios. At the time of the alert, the caller related that the boat was sinking. We directly alerted the Hellenic Coastguard at 00:20 CET and relayed the information and GPS position. We tried to call the people on the boat but it didn't connect. 3 hours later we received a message asking for help from the people on the boat and a new location in Turkish waters. It turns out that the Hellenic Coastguard came to find their boat, and instead of making a rescue, they attacked and illegally forced the travellers into life-rafts and pushed them back towards Turkey.

At 03:28 CET we called the Turkish Coastguard and gave the new co-ordinates. Then at 07:49 CET they confirmed that they rescued the 37 traveller in two life-rafts off the coast of Cesme, Izmir Province.

**STOP THESE ILLEGAL PUSH-BACKS AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS FROM THE HELLENIC COASTGUARD!**

### Related Reports

09:09 Jan 29, 2019 / Aegean Sea Kms  
[01/28: AEG 28 ppl with 10 kids rescued by Greek Coastguard near Chios](#)

23:03 Jun 22, 2019 / Aegean Sea Kms  
[21/06: 53 travellers rescued to Oinousses island, Greece](#)

17:52 Apr 03, 2017 / Aegean Sea Kms  
[02/04: 23 travellers stranded on Inousses, brought to Chios](#)

12:12 Sep 09, 2019 / Aegean Kms  
[08/09: 30 people stranded on Oinousses, rescued to Greece](#)

09:49 Dec 25, 2018 / Aegean Kms  
[24/12: 14 people \(including 8 women and 1 child\) stranded on Oinousses, Greece](#)

