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Jul 30 · 14 tweets · [PDimitras/status/1685574906447101952](https://twitter.com/PDimitras/status/1685574906447101952)

Greece: New smear campaign against NGOs working with asylum seekers [LONG THREAD]

Greek authorities engaged in a new smear campaign against major international NGOs working on the rights of asylum seekers, one day after the HR Commissioner's action @CommissionerHR @MaryLawlorhrds

"Council of Europe: Greece must effectively investigate Pylos shipwreck; response by migration minister" (...) and three days after "EU Ombudsman asks Frontex about role in rescue operations after Greek boat tragedy" (<https://t.co/cGmsKAuWI2>).

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https://www.anna.gr/.../Council-of-Europe-Greece-must
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<https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/press-release/en/172857>

Below is a related Greek press summary by UNHCR

Hellenic Police uncovered a smuggling ring of illegal migrants with the involvement of two NGOs; How more than 4,000 irregular migrants from Türkiye were smuggled through Lesvos within 10 months

The Hellenic Police revealed late this afternoon the discovery of two organizations that constituted an organized criminal network, whose members were systematically active in facilitating the illegal entry of foreign nationals into Greek territory through Lesvos.

These organizations were found to involve 21 people, including members of an international organization and a non-governmental organisation and residents of a Closed Controlled Facility on the island of Lesvos. Also 16 other persons are included in the criminal case formed.

A criminal investigation was conducted from September 2022 to 25 July 2023, regarding the migratory flows-arrivals recorded in the area of responsibility of the Lesvos Police Directorate, during the period from 01-09-2022 to 30-04-2023.

As the investigation revealed, during this period, 139 migratory flows arrived on Lesbos, during which 4,050 third country nationals entered the island. It was found that these migratory flows were deliberate, as they showed a sequence of actions of smugglers, collaborators,

members of support groups and members of organized crime groups and common characteristics such as: smugglers provided instructions and directions to the smuggled persons in Türkiye. Newly arrived third-country nationals, upon arrival on Lesbos, would hide

in difficult terrestrial terrains, after being divided into smaller groups and then contacting NGOs, sending relevant information. This was followed by the NGOs sending emails to the authorities with the information they allegedly received from the smuggled persons

upon arrival on Lesbos, as well as posting online, on a case-by-case basis, about the arrival of the boat and the newly arrived persons on social media pages maintained by NGOs, stating that the newly arrived third-country nationals were in need of 'immediate medical assistance'.

The members of NGOs, at the same time as informing themselves about the migratory arrival, went to the areas where, according to the information, the newly arrived third-country nationals were located, under the pretext of providing them with humanitarian-medical assistance.

The preliminary examination carried out, which included the examination of witnesses, the evaluation of the data contained in 191 e-mails, the lifting of the confidentiality of telephone communications, the laboratory examination of seized evidence

and the general police investigation, revealed the participation of natural persons in two criminal organizations, their purpose and the criminal behaviour of their members.

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