

Public Statement about 19 Dead migrants in Turkey-Greece Border

To the attention of the public,

Left migrants to die is a violation of a fundamental rights.

On 2 February 2022, 12 of the migrants who were pushed back by Greece froze to death in Pasakoy village Mandakoru in the Ipsala district of Edirne. According to the statement made today (03.02.2022) by the Governorship of Edirne, the number of migrants who froze to death rose to 19. Greece's inhumane policies, which cause deaths against migrants, especially in recent years, have been the property of national and international public opinion. Unfortunately, the last example of this happened in Edirne.

Borders are not places where migrants are left to die, they should not be. As it is included in many international treaties, we would like to remind that human mobility is a fundamental right, and its prevention is a clear violation of rights.

We would like to remind you of the items in question:

- 13th article of the universal declaration of human right “(1) everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state, (2) everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country”, while 14. the article states that “everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution”.
- The first article of the European Convention on Human Rights states “The High Contracting Parties shall secure to everyone within their jurisdiction the rights and freedoms defined in Section I of this Convention.”, 3rd Article “No one shall be subjected to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”.
- In reference to the definition of refugees on the 31st article of the Geneva Convention, even in illegal border crossing should not be penalized as follows: “The Contracting States shall not impose penalties, on account of their illegal entry or presence, on refugees who, coming directly from a territory where their life or freedom was threatened in the sense of Article 1, enter or are present in their territory without authorization.”
- In the 33rd article of the Geneva Convention, the principle of non-refoulement is clearly stated and it is forbidden to return refugees and asylum seekers in places where there is a danger of persecution
- According to the first article of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European “Human dignity is inviolable. It must be respected and protected. Human dignity is inviolable. It must be respected and protected.” In the 2nd article “(1) everyone has the right to life, (2) No one shall be condemned to the death penalty, or executed” and in the 4th article “No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”
- The Article 7 of the Schengen Borders Code states "Border guards shall, in the performance of their duties, fully respect human dignity. While carrying out border checks, border guards

shall not discriminate against persons on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation,".

With the walls it has built on its borders, the floating sea barriers, the deafening sound systems used against migrants, the outdated gas bombs, plastic, and real bullets, and the push-back practices she has now made routine, Greece, especially with the policies it has implemented on the Turkish border in recent years, clearly violates all articles mentioned above. In addition, obligations regarding international protection, both basic, secondary, and complementary, are not fulfilled, and migrants, including those fleeing persecution, are sent back with a generalized practice before their situation is considered. Also, the demands of each migrant must be taken separately and subjected to evaluation individually.

Unfortunately, borders have become new places of persecution and death for migrants, as seen in different borders of the world, especially in Turkey-Greece, Spain-Morocco, Poland-Belarus. In addition to the strict border policies of the states, migrants who mostly flee from persecution and leave their places of residence in the hope of a better life have to cope with freezing temperatures, especially in winter.

In this respect, we call on all states dealing with migrants on their borders, especially Greece, to stick to the above-mentioned international texts, to produce policies in line with basic human rights, and to abandon all practices that will lead to the death of migrants.

Respectfully announced to the public.

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