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Press release

Greek Ombudsman launches investigation of complaint about illegal pushback of Frontex interpreter from Greece to Turkey, after receiving the complaint from the EU agency

The Greek Ombudsman, the Constitutional independent authority for the protection of fundamental rights, is launching an investigation of the complaint he has received from FRONTEX Complaint Mechanism regarding an interpreter of the agency who claims to have suffered abuse by the Greek authorities before being illegally pushed back to Turkey together with other third country nationals, in the area of river Evros (alleged incident to have taken place on September 3-4, 2021). This is the second individual complaint about pushbacks the FRONTEX Complaint Mechanism has forwarded to the Greek Ombudsman in 2021, among other complaints about violations of fundamental rights by national agents, in operations involving FRONTEX.

The Ombudsman has received the complaint by FRONTEX on the basis of Regulation 2019/1896/EU article 111 par.4¹ and investigates the incident under his mandate of the National Mechanism for the Investigation of Arbitrary Incidents². The Ombudsman expects from the competent branches of the police to take prompt action on the complaint and to continue their full cooperation with the independent authority investigating the case.

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¹ See Special report on “Return of third country nationals” pp 29-30

https://www.synigoros.gr/resources/docs/ekthesi_epistrofes-2020_english_site.pdf

² See Special report by the National Mechanism for the Investigation of Arbitrary Incidents

https://www.synigoros.gr/resources/docs/report-2020_en_web.pdf