

LESVOS SITUATION REPORT

Quarterly Developments and Updates

October - December 2024



LEGAL
CENTRE
LESVOS

TABLE OF CONTENT

Executive Summary	3
Overall Situation and Statistics	4
Increase of arrivals by sea	4
Pushback and border violence trends	4
Detention of unaccompanied children inside Lesvos CCAC	6
Administrative Detention of Asylum Seekers in Mytilene Police Station	6
Denial of medical care as Hippocrates program initiates	7
Persistent lack of interpretation and delays	8
Syrians stranded in the asylum procedure	8
Continued construction of Vastria CCAC	9
Overview of the Legal Centre Lesvos' work	11
Notable Cases	12
Defense of migrants' rights in Lesvos and beyond	13
Litigation And Criminal Defense	15
European Court: Developments and Interventions in Ongoing Pushback Litigation	15
Justice for the state crime of Pylos	15
The Legal Centre Lesvos calls on	17

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the last quarter of 2024, Greek islands experienced a significant increase in arrivals, with 19,009 people reaching Greece by sea between October and December, including more than 3,500 on Lesbos, according to [UNHCR](#) data. In parallel, Greece's unlawful practice of push-backs continued, with 3,413 migrants forcibly and clandestinely returned in the Aegean sea during the same period, according to the [Turkish Coast Guard](#). These life-threatening border policies, which were recently recognized by the [European Court of Human Rights](#) as part of a systematic state practice, led in this three month period to the deaths of at least 36 migrants. As exposed in our **recent joint submissions to the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants**, these policies are not only a root cause behind migrant disappearances during border crossings, they also constitute – through direct and indirect actions that endanger, abandon or fail to protect migrants – per se forms of enforced disappearance.

A recent condemnation of the Greek state for imposing inhumane and degrading treatment to migrants in the former hotspot camp of Samos, should serve as additional evidence that **violations of fundamental rights are inevitable when concentrating people in camps**. Instead, the current CCAC camp in Lesbos continues to host migrants in dire and unacceptable living conditions, worsened with the low temperatures and the increasing number of residents. Dozens of unaccompanied children continued to be unfairly detained in precarious conditions inside the former COVID-19 “quarantine” area of the camp, due to the insufficient numbers of places in specialised shelters on the island. Many – including people with disabilities – are still forced to sleep in shared flimsy Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) during the winter season. In parallel, despite ongoing legal challenges, serious environmental and foreseeable human rights concerns, **the construction of the new massive EU-funded Closed Controlled Access Centre (CCAC) in the Vastria forest continues**.

The continued interruption of interpretation services provided by the Greek state since May 2024 created **severe obstacles for asylum seekers across Greece, delaying their interviews and limiting access to essential services** such as healthcare. For Syrians, the Greek asylum service's decision to suspend until further notice the processing of asylum cases has left many in administrative limbo, exposing them to uncertainty and fear of forced return to unsafe conditions.

In this context, the Legal Centre Lesbos (LCL) continued its crucial work challenging human rights violations and ensuring the criminal defense of migrants. A case of pushback from the island of Symi that LCL filed before the European Court of Human Rights in 2020, was recently communicated to Greece. Moreover, **LCL continues to represent two of the Pylos shipwreck survivors, who despite having been unjustly imprisoned for nearly a year, were denied compensation**. Following the closure of the investigation into the circumstances and responsibilities into the shipwreck in the Naval Court, LCL lawyers joined the lawyers of the survivors and victims, and called for an expanded investigation, highlighting the gaps and shortcomings in the current investigation, which fails to take into consideration all available evidence.

OVERALL SITUATION AND STATISTICS

INCREASE OF ARRIVALS BY SEA

Arrivals to Lesbos increased significantly throughout the last quarter of 2024. Statistics of the [Ministry of Migration and Asylum](#) indicate that 4,734 arrivals were registered in Lesbos between October and December 2024. As a result, the number of people hosted inside the Lesbos CCAC doubled during the first weeks of November, exceeding 3,500.

The [UNHCR](#) reported that 19,009 people who arrived in Greece by sea between October and December 2024, were registered as asylum seekers. Throughout 2024, Syrians made up the largest number of people arriving in Greece by sea, followed by Afghans, Egyptians, Eritreans and Palestinians, as shown by [UNHCR data](#).

PUSHBACK AND BORDER VIOLENCE TRENDS

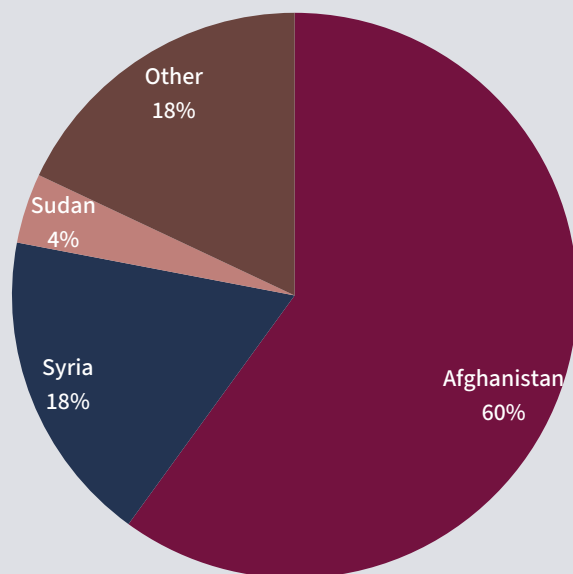
According to the data of the [Turkish Coast Guard Command](#), **3,413 people were subject to unlawful pushback operations by Greek authorities in the Aegean sea**, in at least 145 incidents between October and December 2024. The Turkish Coast Guard also reported to have apprehended an additional 10,000 people attempting to cross to Greece.

Greece's violent and deadly pushback policy was, once again, documented and publicly exposed in an [investigation released by Arte](#) on 30 October 2024 and in a report by the [ASSEDEL](#) (Association européenne pour la défense des droits et des libertés) submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Committee. The recent investigation highlights the use of **hundreds of motorless liferafts to unlawfully refool migrants to Turkish waters since 2020**, includ-

LESVOS CLOSED CONTROLLED ACCESS CENTRE IN NUMBERS AT THE END OF DECEMBER

3,482
REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS
RESIDING IN THE CCAC

Men, 42%	Women, 22%	Children, 36%
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ing specific liferafts manufactured by the Greek company, [Lalizas](#), and the Chinese company, [Shanghai Youlong Rubber Products Co. Ltd.](#) Despite evidence that part of this equipment, in addition to several Coast Guard vessels, are purchased with the support of EU funds, the European Commission - currently [under inquiry by the European Ombudsperson](#) – states that it is not aware of the use of EU-funded equipment in unlawful activities at the borders.

The first months of the winter were particularly deadly for migrants forced to cross the sea border on dinghies to seek asylum. There were numerous shipwrecks of migrant boats, often in instances where migrants took longer and more dangerous routes in their attempt to avoid being attacked by the Hellenic Coast Guard and reach Europe. **At least 36 people were killed while attempting to migrate to Greece by sea during these three months, in at least nine documented incidents.** In at least two of these incidents, people are known to have been killed following the intervention of the Hellenic Coast Guard.

- On 16 October, at least 4 people (two women and two children) were killed after [the Hellenic coast guard chased and opened fire on their boat, which was carrying 31 people](#). The migrant boat capsized following this pursuit shortly before reaching Kos island.
- On 21 October, 2 people (a woman and a man) were killed [following a shipwreck of a migrant boat](#) off the coast of Samos. 22 other people were rescued from the sea.
- On 6 November, the [bodies of 4 people](#) were found in the sea near Rhodes island. 25 people who had traveled on the same migrant boat were later found on land and registered by Greek authorities.
- On 25 November, a man [died following his arrival on Lesbos shores](#) in Farah Beach. He is suspected to have died due to health issues. 26 other people who had arrived in the same boat were transferred to the Lesbos CCAC.
- On the same day, 8 people (six women and two children) were killed in the [shipwreck of a migrant boat off Samos island](#), following which 39 people were rescued from the sea.
- On 23 November, following a [shipwreck near Farmakonisi island](#), 19 migrants were eventually rescued from the sea and found on land, however one person who had traveled with them remained missing.
- On 28 November, 4 people (two women and two children) were [killed in a shipwreck in the north-eastern part of Samos island](#). A total of 16 migrants were rescued but it is not known how many people were on board the boat.
- On 13 December, at least 5 persons were killed, 40 people were reportedly missing while 39 survivors were rescued as [their migrant boat capsized off Crete island](#).
- On 20 December, [8 people were killed and a 4 year-old girl was reported missing](#) after the [coast guard collided with their boat](#) carrying 27 migrants near Rhodos island. Two Turkish nationals were arrested on smuggling charges for allegedly driving the boat.

The deadly border policies of the EU and its member states are not limited to its borders. As revealed by the [investigative report](#) of major media outlets, **€213 million euros of EU funds were funnelled over the last decade to the construction and maintenance of around 30 deportation centres across Turkey.** It is reported that this vast and shadowy deportation system has served for the detention, abuse and forced deportation of hundreds of thousands of migrants back to their countries of origin, mainly Syrians and Afghans fleeing persecution from the Syrian civil war and the Taliban rule.

The recent [migration deal](#) for the opening of a camp in Albania where the Italian government has repeatedly tried to deport and offshore the processing of asylum claims from Italy, is a further proof of the continued efforts for deadly externalisation and deportations policies.

DETENTION OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN INSIDE LESVOS CCAC

During the last reporting period, dozens of unaccompanied minors (UAMs) continued to be detained inside several CCACs for an indefinite period due to the lack of appropriate accommodation for children. On Lesbos, UAMs are detained inside the former quarantine area — originally used during the COVID-19 pandemic — [a fenced-off section inside the camp that lacks proper equipment and facilities](#). Many were forced to sleep on the floor without access to medical care or mental health support. Some UAMs were detained for weeks, forbidden to leave the area to access basic necessities or services.

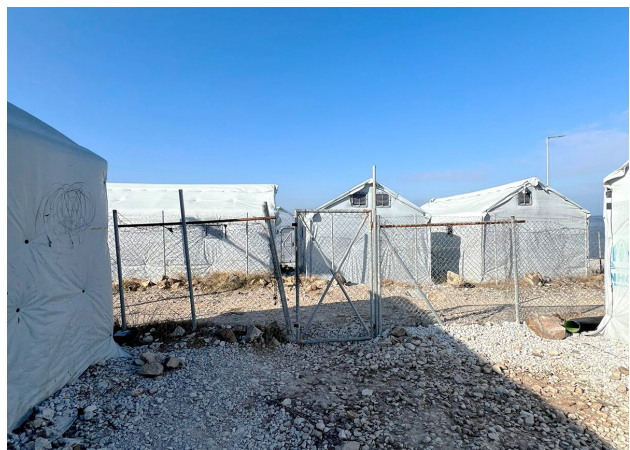


Photo: Fenced off area for UAMs inside Lesbos CCAC.

Source: Camp resident

In December, [hundreds of UAMs](#) were held inside in Reception and Identification Centres (RICs) and in CCACs across Greece, in dire conditions.

As exposed in our monthly [Nonsense publication](#), children should not be forced to live in a camp, let alone be detained. The unlawful detention of children in Greece's migrant camps must end.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS IN MYTILENE POLICE STATION

During the reporting period, LCL observed an increase in the number of migrants traveling to Lesbos from other parts of Greece in order to seek asylum. Many of these individuals had arrived in Greece by sea to other islands such as Rhodos, people are denied access to the asy-

lum procedure, sometimes for weeks at a time. Some of these individuals managed to travel to Lesbos, but instead of being allowed to register their asylum claims, were detained in the Mytilene police station under administrative detention, without trial or charges.

The Mytilene police throughout this period followed inconsistent and arbitrary procedures, leading to confusion and frustration for the detained asylum seekers. Some were released from detention and allowed to register their asylum claims in Lesbos, whereas others were not allowed to register, supposedly to prevent a ‘pull-factor’ for other asylum seekers to travel to Lesbos island to register their asylum claims.

The LCL took on representation of 9 of these asylum seekers, most of whom were eventually transferred to the Detention Centre of Amygdaleza in Athens, before being released. Due to lack of interpretation in the asylum service (as described below), it took over two months before they could even apply for asylum. The arbitrary detention and delay of the registration process could have a long-term impact on these individuals’ asylum procedures. For example, some of those who were represented by LCL are Syrians, and would have likely been recognised as refugees if assessed upon arrival, yet they now face an uncertain future due to the current suspension of decision on the asylum claims of Syrian nationals.



Photo: Detention Centre of Amygdaleza in Athens.
Source: [DTRocks - Own work](#), CC BY-SA 4.0

DENIAL OF MEDICAL CARE AS HIPPOCRATES PROGRAM INITIATES

In September 2024, the responsibility for providing medical services to residents of the Lesbos CCAC (and camps across Greece) shifted from the Public Health Authority (EODY) to the Ministry of Migration & Asylum, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This significant change, introduced through the “Hippocrates” program, led IOM to subcontract private companies to deliver medical services inside the camp. The rollout of this program has already been plagued by several problems, including interruptions in access to medical care due to delays in staff hiring. For example, job postings for doctors at Lesbos CCAC initially offered salaries of less than 900 Euros per month, resulting in vacancies that remained unfilled for weeks.

Another significant issue has been the lack of interpretation services. In Lesbos CCAC, the IOM does not provide its own interpreters for medical care. As a result, doctors, psychologists, and other medical professionals can only communicate with patients when interpreters provided by the NGO Metadrasi are available. Some medical NGOs attempt to fill the gap, however, they

are insufficient to meet the medical needs of the camp population, and in any case are not authorised to carry out official functions such as conducting vulnerability assessments or issuing vaccines.

This latest program appears to be a further measure to **segregate asylum seekers in Greece from accessing the national health and social security services, accessible to any other person, including foreigners, in the country**. The introduction of a separated social security regime for asylum seekers started in 2020 (PAAYPA or Temporary Number of Insurance and Healthcare for Foreigners) already led to severe delays in the access to vaccination and medical care for asylum seekers during the COVID-19 pandemic. This [logic of segregation based on people's legal status is not justified and has proven to lead to further discriminations against migrants](#).

PERSISTENT LACK OF INTERPRETATION AND DELAYS

The lack of interpretation goes beyond denial of medical care. On 1 November, the LCL and 35 other NGOs addressed an [open letter to the Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum](#) (MoMA) highlighting the issues created by the persistent lack of interpretation services for asylum seekers in Greece. Without its own interpreters, the Greek Asylum Service had relied on interpretation provided by the NGO Metadrasi, however, following the suspension of operations of Metadrasi, it took seven months, from May 2024 to January 2025, for the Greek government to take concrete measures towards reinstating a functional interpretation system in Greek asylum procedures.

This interruption left asylum seekers stranded without any means to communicate effectively with the authorities and gave rise to [protests by camp residents](#). In particular, the persistent lack of interpretation led to postponements in the registration of asylum claims and severe delays in the scheduling of asylum interviews.

SYRIANS STRANDED IN THE ASYLUM PROCEDURE

Following the collapse of Bashar al-Assad's regime in Syria in December 2024, [several EU member States announced](#) that they would pause the processing of asylum applications lodged by Syrians. They invoked the uncertainty of the situation and Article 31(4) of the [Asylum Procedures Directive](#) to justify their decision. Certain states even mentioned the possibility of the deportation of Syrian asylum seekers and refugees despite the uncertainty, volatility and insecurity of the situation in Syria.

Greece also suspended the asylum procedure for Syrians, impacting around [9.000 asylum seekers](#) across Greece, putting them in a precarious limbo. Syrian nationals make up the second largest population in the Lesvos CCAC. Among them are families, some of whom have been granted refugee status before the regime change, and others who are awaiting their decisions, leading to increased uncertainty and frustration.

CONTINUED CONSTRUCTION OF VASTRIA CCAC

The construction work of the massive EU-funded CCAC in the heart of Vastria forest on Lesbos is continuing, with countless lines of two-tier containers and rubhalls. This is despite a [court order that revoked the construction permit](#) of the only road leading to the camp due to a lack of an adequate environmental study. The project to build what would become one of Europe's largest detention and deportation centers continues with a completion deadline extended to [April 2025](#), despite uncertainty about [what source of water](#) could supply the massive camp located in the middle of a nature reserve, far from any existing infrastructure on the island.

In October 2024, several organisations, including the LCL, published a [joint letter to the Greek government and EU Commissioners](#), condemning the CCAC construction anticipating the foreseeable disastrous impact its opening will have on migrants' human rights. A hearing scheduled for October 2024 in the Council of State - Greece's highest administrative court - regarding both the construction of the road, and the validity of an environmental assessment needed for the operation of the camp, was rescheduled for early February 2025, after the Government [rescinded its environmental study the day before the hearing](#).

In [November 2024](#), the Municipality of Mytilene held a special session to discuss the future of Vastria camp, and passed a resolution opposing the construction and operation of any new camp for migrants on Lesbos island, reconfirming their opposition to the construction of the access road to Vastria camp, and declared that they would support only a small reception facility to register new arrivals in Lesbos. This measure does not appear to have any legal implications, and the current Mayor's announcement that he would file legal action against the operation of Vastria does not seem to have been followed by any concrete measures.



Photo: Vastria construction site as of February 2025. Source: Anonymous

Meanwhile, in the neighbouring island of Chios, on 24 October, a local court [cancelled the construction of a new CCAC](#). As in Lesbos, the construction of a new camp there has faced fierce

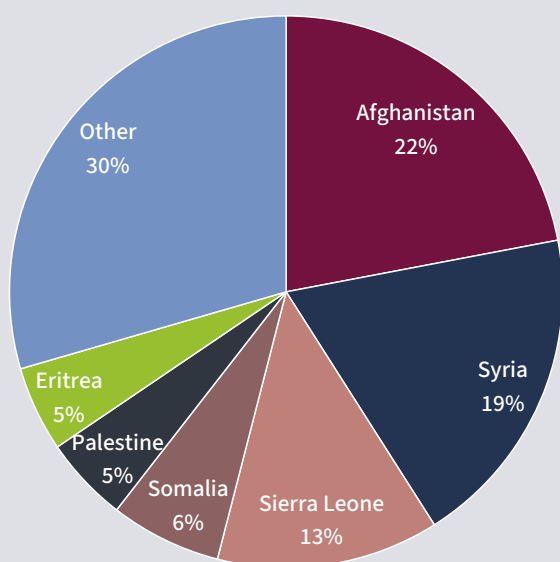
local opposition across the political spectrum, ever since the government announced plans to construct new EU funded camps on both islands in 2020.

In Samos, the CCAC opened on the island in 2021 continues to violate asylum seekers' fundamental rights— due to [its prison-like conditions](#) and lack of proper access to medical and legal services. In December 2024, Mobile Info Team, the Border Violence Monitoring Network and Border Criminologies, submitted a [joint submission to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture](#) highlights the continued human rights violations in Greece's pre-removal detention centers, for conditions that may constitute torture or inhuman treatment.

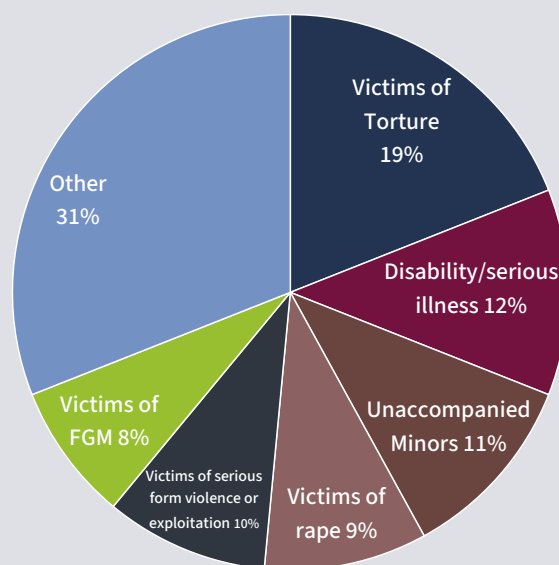
OVERVIEW OF THE LEGAL CENTRE LESVOS' WORK

1,193 PEOPLE SUPPORTED

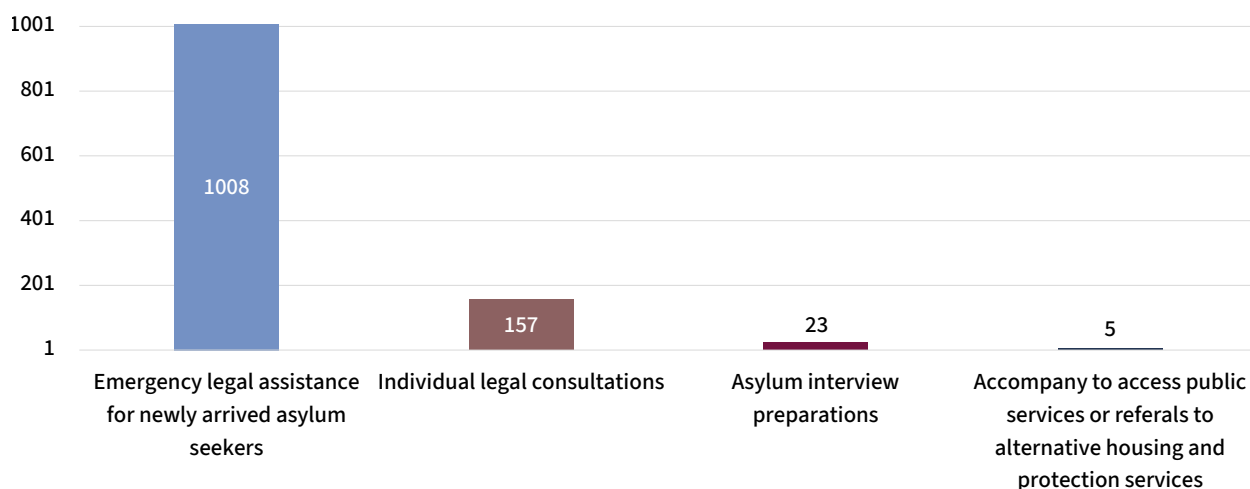
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN¹



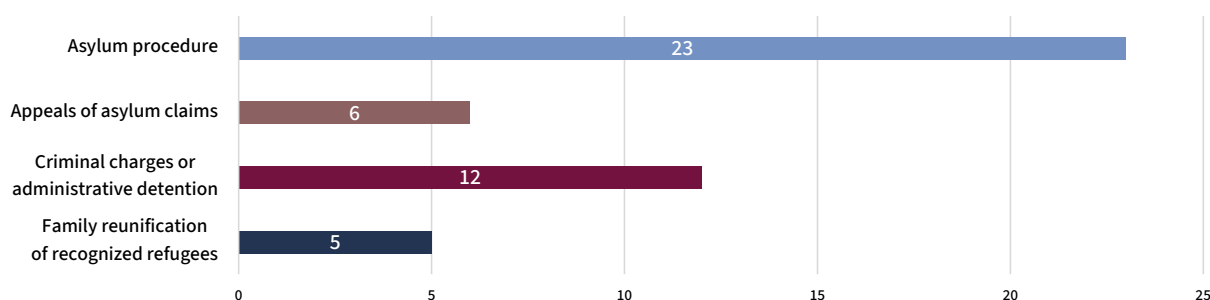
VULNERABILITIES²



LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION PROVIDED INCLUDED:



LEGAL CENTRE LESVOS' LAWYERS TOOK ON THE REPRESENTATION OF:



NOTABLE CASES

FRIENDLY SETTLEMENT REACHED IN LCL CASE BEFORE THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS (ECTHR)

On 17 November 2024, the Greek state and our client agreed to a friendly settlement in the case A.M. v. Greece (Application no. 40408/21). This case was part of a series of 19 emergency petitions lodged by LCL in 2021 to the European Court of Human Rights (ECTHR) on behalf of residents of Lesbos' RIC, who had been living in inhuman and degrading conditions and were denied critical medical care. In A.M. v. Greece, the ECTHR had recognised that there was an imminent risk to our client and granted interim measures in 2021, ordering Greece to ensure access to healthcare and living conditions in compliance with Article 3 of

the ECHR, before communicating the case to the Greek state in April 2024.

In recent months, Greece was condemned by the ECtHR in several other cases regarding inhuman and degrading camp conditions. On 3 October, the ECtHR condemned the Greek state for violating the rights of seven accompanied minors who had been living in the Samos RIC. The ruling found that the living conditions in Samos RIC constituted inhumane and degrading treatment, in violation of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

1 Other countries are primarily: Democratic Republic of Congo (4.5%), Sudan (3.5%), Egypt (2.5%), Guinea (2.5%), Haiti (2.5%), Iran (2.5%), Turkey (2%) and Cameroon (1.5%).

2 Other vulnerabilities are primarily: single parents with minor children (8%), people suffering of post traumatic stress disorder (7%), pregnant women or women who recently gave birth (5%), survivors of shipwrecks (5%), elderly people (4%) and victims of trafficking (1.5%)

INTERIM MEASURES SUCCESSFULLY ALLOWED FOR THE REGISTRATION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS IN RHODOS

On 26 November 2024, after direct intervention with the Rhodos police did not lead to any results, the LCL filed a request for interim measures before the ECtHR, on behalf of 10 unregistered asylum seekers including three unaccompanied minors, who had arrived on Rhodos island, were denied access to the asylum procedure, and were at risk of refoulement to Turkey. Like hundreds of other asylum seekers who had arrived to Rhodos island over the last months, the group [was left to sleep outdoors in the street in front of the Rhodos police station for two weeks with no access](#)

[to shelter, food, or medical care](#), unable to register their arrival to Greece or their asylum claims. Following our request, the group was finally registered and transferred to Leros island. Greek authorities have used the influx of asylum seekers arriving to Rhodes and Crete in the last months to announce the [potential construction and operation of new infrastructure to contain migrants on these islands](#), rather than simply registering their arrival and allowing them to travel off the island to their destination of choice.

DEFENSE OF MIGRANTS' RIGHTS IN LESVOS AND BEYOND

- [A life long innocent in prison?](#) – On 6 November, LCL's lawyer Vicky Aggelidou, took part in an event co-organised with Leave No One Behind, Human Rights Legal Project Samos, the [#FreeHoumayoun](#) and [#FreePylos9](#) campaign and lawyers, on the topic of criminalisation of migration and the continued targeting of the driver of boats and vehicles under smuggling charges.
- [Defence of Migrant Rights Across Borders, Izmir](#) – Building on the June 2024 conference in Lesbos, between 17 and 19 October 2024, the second part of the conference – jointly organized by the Legal Centre Lesbos and Agora Association and funded by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation – took place in Izmir. Over 80 people from 27 different organisations coming from across Europe gathered for three days of panels, workshops, and events, including a film screening and solidarity concert. The con-

A life long innocent in prison?

Meet the [#FreeHoumayoun](#) lawyers & supporters
6th November, 5pm CET/6pm EET



Link to [Zoom Registration](#) in the comments!

#LeaveNoOneBehind

Photo: Poster of the 'A life long innocent in prison?' event.
Source: Leave No One Behind

ference addressed issues of criminalisation of migration, combating border violence, and means of resistance. VC Mytilene was with us and released a [podcast](#) detailing the event.

- The Legal Struggle in Support of the Palestine Cause: Challenges and Opportunities:** On November 16, 2024, LCL participated in the ELDH organised conference in Bilbao. The conference brought together legal experts including Raji Sourani, Lamis Deek, and Francesca Albanese, focusing on recent developments in international law concerning Palestine, including the 2024 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the UNGA resolution calling for sanctions against Israel, and the ongoing investigations by the International Criminal Court (ICC). The event underscored the urgency of legal advocacy and international solidarity in the face of Israel's ongoing genocide of Palestinians in Gaza.
- Strategic Litigation Roundtable, Athens –** On 3 and 4 December 2024, HIAS Greece and the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation organised a roundtable in Athens to discuss strategic litigation in the area of migration and refugee law. [LCL presented about the challenges faced when filing a joint complaint](#) before the European Ombudsperson for the maladministration of EU funds used in Greece's illegal collective expulsion of migrants.
- Rights in Peril, Justice in Action!** – The LCL, Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF) - Samos Legal Centre Project, Equal Legal Aid, Mobile Info Team and the Human Rights Legal Project (HRLP) launched a joint fundraising campaign to support their common goal to provide legal aid and uphold justice for people on the move who are constantly denied access to basic rights in Greece.



Photo: [Art Venue Izmir - AVI](#), which hosted the conference. Source: LCL Team member



Photo: The Legal Struggle in Support of the Palestine Cause. Source: LCL Team member

LITIGATION AND CRIMINAL DEFENSE

EUROPEAN COURT: DEVELOPMENTS AND INTERVENTIONS IN ONGOING PUSHBACK LITIGATION

On 8 October 2024, the ECtHR communicated new pushback cases to Greece in [A.A.N. and Others v. Greece and 7 other applications](#), all related to the unlawful refoulement of asylum seekers from Greece to Türkiye without due process in March 2020. The applicants, represented by LCL lawyers, claimed that following their documented arrival to the Greek island of Symi, they were detained in an unofficial facility before being unlawfully returned to Turkish waters and left adrift on liferafts. One applicant was subsequently forcibly deported from Türkiye to Syria. The applicants invoke violations under Articles 2 and 13, Article 3 and Article 5 of the ECHR, for actions by the Greek authorities which endangered their lives and physical safety, without an effective remedy for their complaints, and which led to their mistreatment both in detention and during their unlawful expulsion.

On the same day, the ECtHR issued a major ruling in the cases of [M.A. and Z.R. v Cyprus](#), condemning Cyprus for the pushback of two Syrians asylum seekers in September 2020. The two applicants, upon reaching Cypriot territorial waters, were intercepted by the Cypriot coastguards, denied entry, and summarily returned to Lebanon without an opportunity to apply for asylum in Cyprus. The ECtHR decision found that Cyprus violated Articles 3 and 13 of the ECHR and Article 4 of Protocol No. 4 in this specific case, but did not recognise pushbacks as an official state practice.

In November 2024, **the Legal Centre Lesvos and the European Association of Lawyers for Democracy and World Human Rights (ELDH), submitted a third-party intervention to the ECtHR in the case of Muhammad v. Greece (No. 34331/22)**. This case, brought by HIAS Greece and Equal Rights Beyond Borders, addresses the killing of Muhammed Gulzar, who was fatally shot while attempting to cross the Turkish-Greek border in March 2020. Our intervention emphasizes the systemic use of lethal force and violent pushbacks by Greek authorities, the inaccessibility of legal remedies for survivors and surviving family members, and the State's deliberate suppression of evidence. We argue that the European Court should shift the burden of proof to Greece in these cases due to the asymmetry of information and the State's obstruction of evidence collection. [Our full submission is publicly available here.](#)

JUSTICE FOR THE STATE CRIME OF PYLOS

[On 20 November 2024](#), the Three Member Felony Court of Appeal of Kalamata rejected the request for compensation presented by the Pylos 9, the survivors of the Adriana shipwreck who were unjustly accused of causing the shipwreck and imprisoned for almost a year in pre-trial detention [until their trial and acquittal in May 2024](#). The Court stated that the pre-trial

detention of the applicants was justified, given that the Greek courts' lack of jurisdiction could not be investigated, established, and confirmed before the May 2024 hearing.

This decision is a **further refusal to acknowledge the gross prosecutorial mistakes committed during these proceedings and the unjust treatment faced by the innocent Pylos 9 as a result of it.** This is particularly shocking, when looking at the facts: it was clear from the outset, as confirmed by the [Hellenic Coast Guard](#) itself and by the defense lawyers, that the shipwreck occurred in [international waters](#) and that the Greek Courts were therefore [not competent](#). Even more shocking: a major [journalistic investigation](#) recently revealed that Greek authorities actually knew, by July 2023—that is, just a month after the shipwreck— that the 'Pylos 9' were not human traffickers.

These revelations confirm that the wrongful prosecution of the Pylos 9 was another case of groundless and systematic criminalisation of people on the move by Greece, in this case in order to cover up the state crime that killed over 600 people.

[In December 2024](#), the preliminary investigation into the circumstances and responsibilities of the shipwreck conducted by the Prosecutor of the Piraeus Naval Court was concluded. The lawyers of survivors and victims of the shipwreck, including LCL's lawyers, highlighted [serious gaps and omissions emerging from the case file](#). Despite a 18-months long investigation, only the captain and crew of the Hellenic Coast Guard vessel PPLS 920, were summoned to respond about offenses including causing a shipwreck resulting in multiple deaths, dangerous interference with vessel traffic, failure to render assistance, and aggravated involuntary manslaughter and assault.

The group of lawyers is demanding a **comprehensive investigation that holds all responsible parties accountable and additional investigative action to be carried out in order to provide evidence for the many unanswered questions.**

THE LEGAL CENTRE LESVOS CALLS ON:

THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO:

- **Immediately end the unlawful practice of containment of asylum seekers in inhumane and degrading conditions in the Greek islands CCACs and in particular the unlawful and unacceptable practice of detention of unaccompanied minors inside the Lesvos CCAC.**
- **Ensure that camp residents have immediate access to the registration of their asylum procedure and are provided with adequate shelter, sanitation and medical care, particularly for vulnerable individuals.**
- **Reinstate asylum processing for Syrians and avoid forced returns to Syria given the ongoing instability and humanitarian crisis in Syria, and the persecution and trauma Syrian asylum seekers have already survived before arriving and registering their asylum claims in Greece.**
- **End discriminatory practices that deny access to health, food, clean water, and other basic necessities to migrants inside the Lesvos CCAC, based on legal status, and to offer people a safe environment with access to shelter and adequate living to uphold to the European Court of Human Rights rulings on inhuman and degrading treatment in Greek camps.**
- **Stop the construction of the Vastria CCAC and terminate all related plans for its opening, given the acute risks the massive detention structure poses to human rights and the environment.**
- **Stop violent, unlawful and deadly pushbacks practices and carry out thorough investigations into allegations of border violence to hold perpetrators accountable.**
- **Stop the systematic and groundless criminalisation of migrants and ensure that the Greek Courts respect fair trials principle for migrants facing criminal charges.**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO:

- **Ensure Greece adheres to human rights obligations by seriously monitoring the way in which EU funds are allocated for asylum and migration support and border maintenance, and immediately suspending the financing of any operation suspected to be violating the fundamental rights of migrants in Greece.**