

Illicit Return Practices of Irregular Migrants from Greece to Turkey

Authors : Enkelejda Koka, Denard Veshi

Abstract : Since 2011, in the name of 'humanitarianism' and deaths in the Mediterranean Sea, the legal and political justification delivered by Greece to manage the refugee crisis is pre-emptive interception. Although part of the EU, Greece adopted its own strategy. These practices have also created high risks for migrants generally resulting in non-rescue episodes and push-back practices having lethal consequences to the life of the irregular migrant. Thus, this article provides an analysis of the Greek 'compassionate border work' policy, a practice known as push-back. It is argued that these push-back practices violate international obligations, notably the 'right to life', the 'duty to search and rescue', the prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the principle of non-refoulement.

Keywords : Greece, migrants, push-back policy, violation of international law

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