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Subject Important opinion on Frontex and human rights

Frontex became deeply involved in the violation of human rights of intercepted illegal immigrants at the Greek-Turkish land border.

Below is the reason why all this happened:

Before the Frontex activities started at the greek-turkish landborder, the Hellenic Police used to intercept the migrants and register them in the names and nationalities they claimed to be. The local authorities in Evros had orders from their HQ in Athens to only detain those who are returnable to Turkey according to the signed agreement between the two countries. Returnable persons were nationals of Irak, Syria, Iran and Turkey.

All other nationalities were given a paper with an order to leave Greece within 30 days. The miserable detention facilities at the landborder were never so full or crowded with illegal migrants before the arrival of Frontex Border guards.

Frontex staff planned an operation to assist the Hellenic Police both in intercepting and in returning the illegal immigrants to third countries. A special extra frontex project named Attica was launched and given some millions of Euros in budget to cover return flights.

Frontex deployed andeven still deploying until today guest border guards and interpreters from other EU countries to assist HP in the screening of nationalities of intercepted immigrants. Once the intercepted migrants were nationality screened and theguest border guards guessed they were probably not from the country they claim to be, the HP was informed by the EU border guards about the screening results. Frontex knew very well that the available detention

facilities does not comply with the minimum standards required by human rights laws. Frontex guest officers together with interpreters were visiting the detention facilities everyday to screen illegal migrants and they are still doing it until today. Attica project could not send back more than few percent of those who entered illegally, The HP were keeping the migrants detained in miserable conditions just because they were ordered by Frontex to do since its written in the operational plan. The HP were hoping and expecting more effectiveness from Frontex in the issue of returns, Frontex was supposed to arrange flights to return those intercepted migrants. The HP were keeping the migrants for 3 months, then when Frontex could not assist in returning them since Frontex staff suddenly discovered that returning procedures were complicated, the migrants, and after spending 3 to six months in chicken cages, were free to go to Athens with an order to leave Greece by themselves within 30 days, but before going free, they were kept in miserable conditions for at least 3 months and their human rights were violated.

Content

Frontex staff probably the project manager of the rabbit operation and the ongoing Poseidon land operation including their directors of operations at the Warsaw HQ, are highly responsible for all this violation of human rights, I have to say they were not recruited from the fields of human rights exactly, I guess no one of Frontex employees has his background in the field of human rights, is this a coincidence? On the other hand no blame what so ever can be put on Greece or the deployed EU guest officers since those followed orders given by Frontex Staff to use their expertise and delivered good results.

My proposal is that Frontex terminates today before tomorrow, its screening activities at the Greek-Turkish land border. For us EU tax payers, It does not make any sense to screen 350 illegal immigrants per day but at the same time is unable to return more than 2 or 3. Instead of all this money wasting activities, Frontex could have helped in a different way, and with a little sum of money equal to the cost of one day of its immigrant-counting activities, frontex could have recruited and payed local workers to paint or refurbish water pipes in toilets and showers inside those inhuman facilities, rather than ordering the HP to keep taking in 5 times more persons inside those facilities, than they are constructed for.

Good luck in your investigation dear Ombudsman.