FRONTEX
EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY

Serious Incident Report no. 676

Reporting date: 12/12/2017 10:54 AM

Last modification date:

Reporting person: Text removed - justification 1

Last modification done by:

FSC SIR Category	2 Fundamental Rights
Subject	Alleged violation of fundamental rights - unprocessed return
Type of SIR	2 Formal SIR
JORA Incident number (if any)	
Joint Operation	FOA 2017 land on border surveillance / SE
Frontex SIR Coordinator	FRO
Incident date/time	11/12/2017 04:40 PM
Detection date/time	11/12/2017 04:40 PM
Original source of the information	Text removed - justification 4 / Turkish media articles
Location of the incident	Alleged Evros River
Is latitude unknown	Yes
Latitude	
Is longitude unknown	Yes
Longitude	
Reference to the operational area	No
Frontex resources involved (Human resources / co-financed technical equipment)	No
Type of resources / involvement	
Dead persons	
Injured persons	
Missing persons	

Information/allegations

On 09 December 2017 the article from Turkish news magazine Milliet was provided to Text removed - justification 4 regarding to alleged unprocessed return of irregular migrants.
The original translated text mentions: Irregulars sent back by Greece crossed over to Turkey in a boat. Irregulars in Edirne, illegally crossing over to Greece, were captured and beaten at the border by the Greek police, and then sent back to Turkey in a boat. Recording on a mobile their return on a boat on the River Maritza (Evros), the irregulars said they had been exposed to violence by the Greek police. ... 4 irregulars --one a woman-- recorded on their mobile phones, the footage of them being sent back by the Greek police, which is claimed to have beaten up the asylum seekers crossing into their country irregularly. According to the claims of the irregulars, who use the River Maritza to illegally cross to the Greek side, they had been exposed to violence by the Greek police, then were placed in a boat and sent off to Turkey. The video footage shows that returning back to Turkey in a boat, the irregulars are helped out by the villagers to the shore and then were taken into custody by the border patrol. After a medical check, whereby it is determined that they had been battered, the irregulars were then handed over to Edirne Migration Management Directorate for the completion of procedures.

Measures

Text removed - justification 4 has been adressed by the operational team with the request for possible information on the allegation.

Assessment

The article does not provide concrete information on the date or the exact location where the alleged incident has taken place and at the same time, there is no mention of presence of text removed - justification 4 and assets. The photos in the article show one wooden boat (a typical fisherman boat in the area) with 5 persons in civilian clothes inside. There are no visible signs that these persons are law enforcement officers (i.e. no weapons are visible); it is not possible to identify from the photos which side of Evros river the photos were taken from (if at all the photos are from Evros river). Source:
http://www.milliyet.com.tr/yunanistan-in-geri-gonderdigi-gundem-2569546/.
The video available (http://aa.com.tr/tr/vg/video-galeri/yunanistan-kacaklari-illegal-geri-itiyor-) also does not provide support to the allegation since it only shows one boat approaching a river bank but no signs of verbal or physical violence are present.
Within the established coordination structure for the JO no such information has been received.

Final outcome