# Greek Coastguard Accused of Human Rights Violations



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The Greek coastguard faces allegations of deliberately throwing migrants into the sea, resulting in multiple deaths over the past three years. Witness testimonies reported by the BBC detail claims that nine migrants were thrown overboard by Greek authorities, with a broader pattern of forced returns leading to fatalities.

Between May 2020 and 2023, BBC analysis utilized local media, NGOs, and eyewitness accounts to identify 43 deaths linked to Greek coastguard actions. The accused practices include pushing migrants back towards Turkey or making them leave Greek waters after reaching islands, contravening international law.

In one incident, a Cameroonian witness recounted how he and two companions were apprehended on the island of Samos in September 2021. The witness claims that he survived being pushed into the water, but his companions, Sidy Keita and Didier Martial Kouamou Nana, drowned, with their bodies later found on the Turkish coastline. Another Somali man reported surviving a similar ordeal on Chios in March 2021, where three in his group perished.

Greek authorities have strongly denied illegal activities, asserting their commitment to international obligations and emphasizing their rescue efforts, citing 250,834 rescues involving 6,161 sea incidents between 2015 and 2024. However, continuous reports point to ongoing human rights violations, calling for further scrutiny and legal actions.

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