



Last updated: November 2009

## Greece Detention Profile

- » [Detention policies](#)
- » [Detention infrastructure](#)
- » [Facts and figures](#)

Traditionally an emigrant-producing country, since the 1990s, Greece has become a key entrance point into the European Union for increasing numbers of migrants, many of whom arrive without appropriate documentation. Between 1993 and 2008, the number of immigrants in Greece quadrupled (Chindea et al. 2008, pp.11-12). Migration pressures have been particularly noticeable in Evros, which shares a land border with Turkey, and on the islands of Samos, Chios, and Lesbos, where immigrants from Africa, Asia, and the Middle East arrive (Pro Asyl 2007; Itano 2009). Greece has responded with a series of measures, including hardened border controls, regularization programmes, and stepped up expulsion efforts (Chindea et al. 2008, p.12). There has also been a dramatic increase in the reported number of apprehensions of both irregular migrants and asylum seekers. In 2005, approximately 40,000 migrants were apprehended; by 2008, the number had jumped to 146,337 (Kehayoiyolu 2009; Greek Ministry of Interior 2009).

**Detention policies.** Law 3386 (2005), on *Entry, residence and social integration of third-country nationals in the Hellenic territory*, provides Greece's principle legal framework governing entrance and departure of non-citizens (European Parliament 2007, p.92; Pro Asyl 2007, p.19). The law provides for the "imprisonment" and/or expulsion of "foreigners" for a number of infractions related to their residence status. Article 76 provides for "the administrative expulsion of a foreigner" if he/she has committed certain offenses or served a prison sentence of at least one year. Article 82 provides that any person registered on the country's list of "undesirable foreigners" who illegally enters Greece is subject to a fine of 3,000-10,000 Euros and a three-month prison sentence.

Article 83 of Law 3386 provides specific penalties for non-EU—or "third-country"—nationals, who are subject to a prison sentence of at least three months and a fine of at least 1,500 Euros for attempting to enter or exit Greece without authorization. The law stipulates that the public prosecutor can decide to abstain from pursuing these cases and submit the offender to administrative expulsion instead. If immediate expulsion is not possible, the third-country national may be held in administrative detention under articles 76 and 83. The maximum period of such detention was raised in June 2009 from three to six months (Itano 2009).

While the Ministry of the Interior has overall responsibility for immigration issues, detention facilities—which include specialised centres for administrative detention, ad hoc facilities, and prisons—can be designated by a number of additional ministries, including the Ministry of Public Administration and Decentralization, the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity, the Ministry of Public Order, and the Ministry of Economy and Finance (Law 3386, Article 81; European Parliament 2007, p.92).

The police and border guards are authorized to apprehend non-citizens and carry out expulsion orders, which can be issued by the public prosecutor or a relevant police director (Law 3386, Article 76). The police are also responsible for security arrangements in detention facilities (European Parliament 2007, p.92; Law 3386, Article 81). The [European Committee on the Prevention of Torture \(CPT\)](#) noted during a 2008 visit to Greece that there was a lack of coordination between the various agencies involved in immigration detention (CPT 2009).

Although Law 3386 provides that asylum seekers are exempt from expulsion (Article 79), Amnesty International stated in a 2009 report that they can be detained for up to 60 days (AI 2009). In addition, observers have noted that many asylum seekers are prevented by police from filing asylum claims (Brothers 2007). A particularly violent example of such practice is provided in Amnesty International's 2009 report: "On 26 October [2008], police officers outside the Aliens Directorate in Athens attacked a crowd of asylum-seekers waiting to file applications, killing one man and injuring several others. ... The Directorate has reportedly been refusing to accept new applications for the past two months" (AI 2009, p.157).

Access to asylum in Greece is a growing concern due to the fact that as a major point of entry into the Schengen area, the country shoulders much of the responsibility for asylum seekers arriving to Europe. According to the Dublin II Convention, asylum claims must be processed in the country of entry to the Schengen area, placing a heavy burden on Greece's infrastructure (HRW 2008). As of July

2009, Greece was involved in diplomatic efforts to attempt to get other EU countries to help share its immigration burden (Itano 2009). **Finland** halted all returns to Greece under the Dublin II Convention precisely due to concerns over the Greek asylum procedure (AI 2009, p.147).

A number of human rights bodies have criticized Greece's detention practices. AI reported in 2005 that detention centres bear a striking resemblance to prisons, arguing that there is little difference between incarceration of criminals and administrative detention on non-criminal grounds (AI 2005, pp.25-26). Similarly, during its 2008 visit to Greece, the CPT noted that "detained irregular migrants continue to be provided with the same regime as criminal suspects; the drafting of minimum operating standards for special facilities for irregular migrants, as required by Article 81 of the Law 3386, is still ongoing" (CPT 2009).

Human rights groups and governmental bodies have also pointed to a lack of transparency with regards to Greek detention practices. Detainees reportedly are often not provided sufficient information regarding the process of appealing detention (Pro Asyl 2007, p.20; European Parliament 2007, p.93), and it is difficult to track conditions at centres because civil society groups are prevented from accessing them (European Parliament 2007, p.93).

Finally, the treatment of minors within the framework of immigration detention has been criticized by various international actors. UNHCR reports that refugee protection afforded to minors in Greece is arbitrary (AI 2009, p.156). Minors may also be detained for expulsion. While the Greek government claims that minors are always held in separate facilities, AI and Human Rights Watch (HRW) report that unaccompanied minors are at times held together with adults (Greek Ministry of Interior 2009, p. 72; AI 2005, p.31; HRW 2009).

**Detention Infrastructure.** Greece has two types of immigration detention facilities: police and border guard stations for short-term detention following apprehension, and detention centres, or "special centres for hosting foreigners" for foreign nationals awaiting deportation (Greek Ministry of Interior 2009; Law 3386, Arts. 76, 81). Additionally, there have been reports of foreign nationals being held temporarily at airport facilities and ad hoc sites located at the Academy of the Merchant Navy and hotels (Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants 2003; AI 2002). Prisons are used to confine irregular immigrants who have been prosecuted for criminal offences (European Parliament 2007).

Reports by the CPT, the Greek government, and various human rights organisations identify some 36 different sites in which immigrants have been detained since 2001, including specialised immigration detention centres, police and border guard stations and ad hoc facilities. The European Parliament noted in a 2007 study the lack of official listings enumerating all immigrant detention facilities currently in use (European Parliament 2007). The Global Detention Project has been able to verify that since 2008, at least 9 specialised immigration detention centres as well as one police/border guard station (Xanthi) have been used on a regular basis for detaining immigrants for periods lasting more than a few days (Greek Ministry of Interior 2009; CPT 2009; Kehayoiyolu 2009; HRW 2008b). The total detention capacity in specialised detention centres was 2,500 in 2007 (Pro Asyl 2007, 19). In addition to these detention facilities, in 2007 Greek authorities operated at least 10 non-secure reception centres for asylum seekers (European Parliament 2007, p.91).

While in theory irregular migrants are transferred from police or border guard stations to specialised detention facilities within a few days of apprehension, detention facilities are often operating at full capacity, resulting in many migrants being held in police or border guard stations for extended periods of time. The CPT noted during its 2008 visit that "many ... persons, in particular irregular migrants, would remain locked up under such conditions [in facilities intended for short term detention] for months on end. The situation observed could in some cases, such as in Xanthi Police and Border Guard Station, amount to inhuman or degrading treatment" (CPT 2009).

The large numbers of immigrants apprehended in Greece means that not only are detainees held in police or border guard facilities for excessively long periods of time; conditions within the specialised centres suffer as well. During its 2008 visit, the CPT noted poor detention conditions and the "persistent failure by Greek authorities to tackle structural deficiencies in the establishments holding irregular immigrants" (CPT 2009).

Reports by human rights bodies have noted that Greece's specialised detention facilities suffer from overcrowding, poor hygiene, deficiencies in access to healthcare, and lack of segregation of men, women, and children (CPT 2009; AI 2005; European Parliament 2007 p.93; Kehayoiyolu 2009; MSF 2008a & b; Pro Asyl 2007, p.23; HRW 2008). For instance, AI described conditions in the Pagani centre on the island of Lesbos in October 2008, thusly: "Detainees slept on floors, which were permanently flooded due to faulty plumbing, and were rarely allowed to exercise. The centre, built to hold 300, accommodated 830 detainees, including mothers with

babies and at least one pregnant woman” (AI 2009, p.157). Furthermore, there have been multiple reports of physical abuse in the facilities, especially those run by border guards (who were characterised by the CPT in 2008 as “a paramilitary task force”) (CPT 2009; AI 2005; European Parliament 2007 p.93; Kehayioylou 2009; MSF 2008a & b; Pro Asyl 2007, p.23; HRW 2008). In October 2009, UNHCR demanded an inquiry into the alleged beating of several asylum seekers, including a 17-year old boy, after they had protested against the cramped and insanitary conditions of detention at the Pagani centre in Lesbos (Brabant 2009).

Many of the criticisms of Greek detention sites were highlighted in a 2009 judgement by the [European Court of Human Rights](#) (ECHR), in which a Turkish national challenged the legality of his detention in Greece under immigration laws. The ECHR found that the conditions of the applicant’s detention amounted to degrading treatment, citing the lack of facilities for outdoor exercise, the inability to establish contact with the outside world, the lack of medical attention, and an excessively long detention period of over two months given the poor conditions (*S.D. c. Grèce* 2009, §53-4).

**Facts and figures.** Irregular immigrants in Greece come from a number of countries, including Albania, Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Iraq, Romania, Egypt, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Pakistan, and Georgia (Chindea et al. 2008, p.40). The country’s undocumented population in 2006 was estimated to be between 200,000 and 400,000 (Rapporteur on Migration, Refugees and Population 2007, p.12). As of December 2008, 38,061 asylum applications were pending (UNHCR 2009).

The number of irregular immigrants apprehended in Greece was reportedly very high at the turn of the century, peaking at 259,403 in 2000. The numbers then purportedly fell dramatically to 66,351 in 2005 (Chindea et al. 2008, p.37). However, apprehensions appear to be on the rise once more, as 146,337 immigrants were reportedly taken into custody in 2008 (Greek Ministry of Interior 2009). In 2005, the Greek government issued 40,649 expulsion decisions and removed 21,219 persons from the territory (Chindea et al. 2008, p.42).

The GDP has identified 9 specialised immigration detention centres in Greece according to information from 2008 and 2009 (Greek Ministry of Interior 2009; CPT 2009; Kehayioylou 2009; HRW 2008b). The total detention capacity in specialised detention centres was 2,500 in 2007 (Pro Asyl 2007, 19). The maximum length of detention was raised in June 2009 from three to six months and twelve months in exceptional cases (Itano 2009).

**THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE | GENEVA**  
INSTITUT DE HAUTES ETUDES  
INTERNATIONALES ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT  
GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL  
AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Global Detention Project  
Programme for the Study of Global Migration  
The Graduate Institute - P-O. Box 136 - 1211 Geneva 21  
Phone +41 22 908 4556 - Fax +41 22 908 4594  
[global.detention.project@gmail.com](mailto:global.detention.project@gmail.com) - [www.globaldetentionproject.org](http://www.globaldetentionproject.org)

**PROGRAMME FOR THE STUDY  
OF GLOBAL MIGRATION**

© Global Detention Project 2007 - 2011



Last updated: December 2009

## Greece Detention Profile

### List of Detention Sites

[Disclaimer](#) | [Sources](#) | [Categories](#)

Name	Status (Year)	Location	Facility Type	Security	Authority	Management	Capacity	Reported Single Day Pop.	Demographics & Segregation
Amygdaleza Special Foreigners Holding Centre for Minors	In use (2009)	Amygdaleza, Attica (Amigdaleza)	Migrant detention centre (TIDC)	Secure (SC)	Ministry of Interior (MI)		40 (2009)	42 (September 2008)	Minors.
Aspropyrgus Holding Facility for Irregular Migrants	In use (2009)	Attika	Migrant detention centre (TIDC)	Secure (SC)	Ministry of Interior (MI)	Attika Foreigners Directorate	140 (2009)	54 (September 2008)	Adult males.
Feres Border Guard Station	In use (2009)	Alexandroupoli	Prison or Police Station (TIPR)	Secure (SC)	Ministry of Interior (MI)			95 (September 2008)	Adult males & females. No gender segregation.
Filakio Detention Centre (Fylakio-Kyprinou)	In use (2009)	Filakio, Orestiada (Fylakio)	Migrant detention centre (TIDC)	Secure (SC)	Ministry of Interior (MI)		370 (2008)	343 (314 men, 26 women, 3 children) (2008)	Adult males & females, minors. Gender segregation, segregation of minors.
Iasmos Border Guard Station	In use (2009)	Rhodopi	Prison or Police Station (TIPR)	Secure (SC)	Ministry of Interior (MI)		20 (2009)		Adult females & minors.
Isaakio Border Guard Station	In use (2008)	Orestiada	Prison or Police Station (TIPR)	Secure (SC)	Ministry of Interior (MI)				
Kordello Border Guard Station	In use (2008)	Thessaloniki	Prison or Police Station (TIPR)	Secure (SC)	Ministry of Interior (MI)				
Mersinidi Detention Centre	In use (2008)	Chios (Hios)	Migrant detention centre (TIDC)	Secure (SC)	Ministry of Public Order, Chios Prefecture (MJ)		200 (2006)		
Metaxades Border Guard Station	In use (2009)	Orestiada	Prison or Police Station (TIPR)	Secure (SC)	Ministry of Interior (MI)			10 (September 2008)	Minors.
Neo Himoni Border Guard Station	In use (2008)	Orestiada	Prison or Police Station (TIPR)	Secure (SC)	Ministry of Interior (MI)				
Pagani Mytilini Special Facility for irregular migrants (Lesvos reception centre)	In use (2009)	Mytilini, Lesvos	Migrant detention centre (TIDC)	Secure (SC)	Ministry of Public Order, Lesbos Prefecture (MJ)	Lesvos Prefectural Government (MS)	300 (2009), 400 (2008)	"more than 900" (August 2009); 990 (November 2008); 800 (July 2008); 830 (October 2008) "	Adult males & females, minors. Gender segregation, segregation of minors, family units.
Petrou Ralli Street / Kentrikou Holding Facility for irregular migrants	In use (2009)	Athens, Attika	Migrant detention centre (TIDC)	Secure (SC)	Ministry of Interior (MI)	Attika Foreigners Directorate	358 (208 male, 150 female, 2008) 380 (2007)	259 (185 male, 74 female) (September 2008)	Adult males & females. Gender segregation.

Name	Status (Year)	Location	Facility Type	Security	Authority	Management	Capacity	Reported Single Day Pop.	Demographics & Segregation
Samos Detention Centre	In use (2008)	Island of Samos	Migrant detention centre (TIDC)	Secure (SC)			400 (2007)		Adult males & females. Gender segregation.
Soufli Border Guard Station	In use (2009)	Alexandroupoli	Prison or Police Station (TIPR)	Secure (SC)	Ministry of Interior (MI)			30 (September 2008)	Adult males & females. No gender segregation.
Thermi Border Guard Station	In use (2009)	Thessaloniki	Prison or Police Station (TIPR)	Secure (SC)	Ministry of Interior (MI)			8 (September 2008)	Adult females.
Thessaloniki Detention Centre	In use (2008)	Thessaloniki	Migrant detention centre (TIDC)	Secure (SC)				108 (2008), 181 (2006)	Adult males.
Tichero Border Guard Station	In use (2009)	Orestiada	Prison or Police Station (TIPR)	Secure (SC)	Ministry of Interior (MI)				
Venna Detention Centre	In use (2009)	Venna	Migrant detention centre (TIDC)	Secure (SC)	Ministry of Public Order, Rodopi Prefecture (MJ)		300 (2006)		
Xanthi Police and Border Guard Station	In use (2009)	Xanthi	Prison or Police Station (TIPR)	Secure (SC)	Ministry of Interior (MI)		35 (2009)	70 (September 2008)	

## Sources

(This is only a partial list. More detailed information is available upon request.)

- Amnesty International (AI). 2007. "Greece" in Amnesty International Report 2007. <http://thereport.amnesty.org/eng/Regions/Europe-and-Central-Asia/Greece> (accessed 28 August 2007)
- AI. 2009. Amnesty Report 2009: The State of the World's Human Rights. London: Amnesty International. POL 10/0012009. <http://report2009.amnesty.org/sites/report2009.amnesty.org/files/documents/air09-en.pdf> (accessed 27 July 2009)
- Brothers, Caroline. 2008. "Unwilling New Frontier for Migrants: 3 Greek Isles." New York Times, 3 January 2008. <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/03/world/europe/03greece.html> (accessed 31 August 2009)
- Council of Europe. 2006. Response of the Government of Greece to the report of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) on its visit to Greece from 27 August to 9 September. Annex N° 1. Strasbourg, 20 December 2006. <http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/grc/2006-42-Appendices.pdf> (accessed 28 August 2007)
- European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT). 2009. Report to the Government of Greece on the visit to Greece carried out by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) from 23 to 29 September 2008. Strasbourg: CPT. CPT/Inf/ (2009) 20. 30 June 2009. <http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/grc/2009-20-inf-eng.htm> (accessed 29 July 2009)
- European Parliament. 2007. Report from the LIBE Committee Delegation on the Visit to Greece (Samos and Athens). Brussels, 2 July 2007. <http://www.cir-onlus.org/RApportoLIBE2007.pdf> (accessed 28 August 2007)
- Greek Ministry of Interior. 2009. Response of the Government of Greece to the report of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) on its visit to Greece from 23 to 29 September. Strasbourg: CPT. CPT/Inf (2009) 21. 30 June 2009. <http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/grc/2009-21-inf-eng.pdf> (accessed 29 July 2009)
- Human Rights Watch (HRW). 2008. Stuck in a Revolving Door: Iraqis and Other Asylum Seekers and Migrants at the Greece/Turkey Entrance to the European Union. HRW. 26 November 2008. <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2008/11/26/stuck-revolving-door-0> (accessed 29 October 2009)
- HRW. 2009b. "Greece: Unsafe and Unwelcoming Shores." 31 October 2009. <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/<WBR>2009/10/31/greece-unsafe-and-<WBR>unwelcoming-shores> (accessed 10 December 2009)
- Indymedia UK. 2007. "Mobilisation against detention camps in Northern Greece." 8 May 2007. <http://www.indymedia.org.uk>

</en/2007/05/369990.html> (accessed 28 August 2007)

- Medecins sans Frontieres. 2009. "Greece: 'They could not understand why they and their children were being detained' ." MSF: 9 September 2009. <http://doctorswithoutborders.org/news/article.cfm?id=3921&cat=field-news#> (accessed 22 October 2009)
- Migreurop. "Foreigners' camps in Europe and in Mediterranean countries," Migreurop. <http://www.migreurop.org/IMG/pdf/carte-en.pdf> (accessed 29 October 2009)
- PRO ASYL. 2007. The truth may be bitter, but it must be told: The Situation of Refugees in the Aegean and the Practices of the Greek Coast Guard. Frankfurt / Main: PRO ASYL. [http://www.proasyl.de/fileadmin/proasyl/fm\\_redakteure/Kampagnen/Stoppt\\_das\\_Sterben/Griechenlandbericht\\_Engl\\_01.pdf](http://www.proasyl.de/fileadmin/proasyl/fm_redakteure/Kampagnen/Stoppt_das_Sterben/Griechenlandbericht_Engl_01.pdf) (accessed 31 August 2009)

**THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE | GENEVA**  
INSTITUT DE HAUTES ETUDES  
INTERNATIONALES ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT  
GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL  
AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Global Detention Project  
Programme for the Study of Global Migration  
The Graduate Institute - P-O. Box 136 - 1211 Geneva 21  
Phone +41 22 908 4556 - Fax +41 22 908 4594  
[global.detention.project@gmail.com](mailto:global.detention.project@gmail.com) - [www.globaldetentionproject.org](http://www.globaldetentionproject.org)

**PROGRAMME FOR THE STUDY  
OF GLOBAL MIGRATION**

© Global Detention Project 2007 - 2011

## Greece Detention Profile

### Map of "In Use" Detention Sites

For more detailed information, see the complete List of Detention Sites.

[Disclaimer](#) | [Sources](#) | [Categories](#)



Map data ©2011 Basarsoft, Google, Tele Atlas -

### Country View

1. Amygdaleza Special Foreigners Holding Centre for Minors
2. Aspropyrgus Holding Facility for Irregular Migrants
3. Feres Border Guard Station
4. Filakio Holding Facility
5. Iasmos Border Guard Station
6. Isaakio Border Guard Station
7. Kordello Border Guard Station
8. Mersinidi Detention Centre
9. Metaxades Border Guard Station
10. Neo Himoni Border Guard Station
11. Pagani Mytilini Special Facility for Irregular Migrants
12. Petrou Ralli Street / Kentrikou Holding Facility for Irregular Migrants

13. Samos Detention Centre
14. Soufli Border Guard Station
15. Thermi Border Guard Station
16. Thessaloniki Aliens Police Holding Facility
17. Tichero Border Guard Station
18. Venna Reception Centre
19. Xanthi Police and Border Guard Station

## Sources

(This is only a partial list. More detailed information is available upon request.)

- Amnesty International (AI). 2007. "Greece" in Amnesty International Report 2007. <http://thereport.amnesty.org/eng/Regions/Europe-and-Central-Asia/Greece> (accessed 28 August 2007)
- AI. 2009. Amnesty Report 2009: The State of the World's Human Rights. London: Amnesty International. POL 10/0012009. <http://report2009.amnesty.org/sites/report2009.amnesty.org/files/documents/air09-en.pdf> (accessed 27 July 2009)
- Brothers, Caroline. 2008. "Unwilling New Frontier for Migrants: 3 Greek Isles." New York Times, 3 January 2008. <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/03/world/europe/03greece.html> (accessed 31 August 2009)
- Council of Europe. 2006. Response of the Government of Greece to the report of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) on its visit to Greece from 27 August to 9 September. Annex N° 1. Strasbourg, 20 December 2006. <http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/grc/2006-42-Appendices.pdf> (accessed 28 August 2007)
- European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT). 2009. Report to the Government of Greece on the visit to Greece carried out by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) from 23 to 29 September 2008. Strasbourg: CPT. CPT/Inf/ (2009) 20. 30 June 2009. <http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/grc/2009-20-inf-eng.htm> (accessed 29 July 2009)
- European Parliament. 2007. Report from the LIBE Committee Delegation on the Visit to Greece (Samos and Athens). Brussels, 2 July 2007. <http://www.cir-onlus.org/RApportoLIBE2007.pdf> (accessed 28 August 2007)
- Greek Ministry of Interior. 2009. Response of the Government of Greece to the report of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) on its visit to Greece from 23 to 29 September. Strasbourg: CPT. CPT/Inf (2009) 21. 30 June 2009. <http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/grc/2009-21-inf-eng.pdf> (accessed 29 July 2009)
- Human Rights Watch (HRW). 2008. Stuck in a Revolving Door: Iraqis and Other Asylum Seekers and Migrants at the Greece/Turkey Entrance to the European Union. HRW. 26 November 2008. <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2008/11/26/stuck-revolving-door-0> (accessed 29 October 2009)
- HRW. 2009b. "Greece: Unsafe and Unwelcoming Shores." 31 October 2009. <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/<WBR>2009/10/31/greece-unsafe-and-<WBR>unwelcoming-shores> (accessed 10 December 2009)
- Indymedia UK. 2007. "Mobilisation against detention camps in Northern Greece." 8 May 2007. <http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2007/05/369990.html> (accessed 28 August 2007)
- Medecins sans Frontieres. 2009. "Greece: 'They could not understand why they and their children were being detained'." MSF: 9 September 2009. <http://doctorswithoutborders.org/news/article.cfm?id=3921&cat=field-news#> (accessed 22 October 2009)
- Migreurop. "Foreigners' camps in Europe and in Mediterranean countries," Migreurop. <http://www.migreurop.org/IMG/pdf/carte-en.pdf> (accessed 29 October 2009)
- PRO ASYL. 2007. The truth may be bitter, but it must be told: The Situation of Refugees in the Aegean and the Practices of the Greek Coast Guard. Frankfurt / Main: PRO ASYL. [http://www.proasyl.de/fileadmin/proasyl/fm\\_redakteure/Kampagnen/Stoppt\\_das\\_Sterben/Griechenlandbericht\\_Engl\\_01.pdf](http://www.proasyl.de/fileadmin/proasyl/fm_redakteure/Kampagnen/Stoppt_das_Sterben/Griechenlandbericht_Engl_01.pdf) (accessed 31 August 2009)



Last updated: November 2009

## Greece Country links

- » Government Agencies
- » International Organizations
- » NGOs and Research Institutions
- » Media

### Government Agencies

Greek Ministry of Interior (Greek)

<http://www.ypes.gr/el/Ministry/>

The Greek Ombudsman

[http://www.synigoros.gr/en\\_index.htm](http://www.synigoros.gr/en_index.htm)

Hellenic Migration Policy Institute IMEPO

<http://www.imepo.gr/Home.aspx?C=3>

Hellenic Police

[http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo\\_content&perform=view&id=34&Itemid=13&lang=EN](http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&perform=view&id=34&Itemid=13&lang=EN)

### International Organizations

International Organisation for Migration – Greece Country Information

<http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/activities/europe/southern-europe/greece>

UN High Commissioner for Refugees – Greece Country Information

<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/page?page=49e48e726>

### NGOs and Research Institutions

Amnesty International - Greece

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/greece>

Amnesty International Greek Section (Greek)

<http://www.amnesty.org.gr/>

Antigone

<http://www.antigone.gr/en/default.php>

Greek Refugee Council (Greek)

<http://www.gcr.gr/>

Hellenic Republic National Commission for Human Rights

[http://www.nchr.gr/index.php?category\\_id=3](http://www.nchr.gr/index.php?category_id=3)

Human Rights Watch - Greece

<http://www.hrw.org/en/europecentral-asia/greece>

Mediterranean Migration Observatory

<http://www.mmo.gr/>

## Media

Athens News

<http://www.athensnews.gr/>

Athens News Agency

<http://www.ana-mpa.gr/anaweb/user/selectlang?lang=en&currpageurl=%2Fuser%2Fshowhomepage>

Eleftherotipia (Greek)

<http://www.enet.gr/>

Kathimerini

<http://www.ekathimerini.com/>

Ta Nea (Greek)

<http://www.tanea.gr/>

**THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE | GENEVA**  
INSTITUT DE HAUTES ETUDES  
INTERNATIONALES ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT  
GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL  
AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Global Detention Project  
Programme for the Study of Global Migration  
The Graduate Institute - P-O. Box 136 - 1211 Geneva 21  
Phone +41 22 908 4556 - Fax +41 22 908 4594  
[global.detention.project@gmail.com](mailto:global.detention.project@gmail.com) - [www.globaldetentionproject.org](http://www.globaldetentionproject.org)

**PROGRAMME FOR THE STUDY  
OF GLOBAL MIGRATION**

© Global Detention Project 2007 - 2011

## Greece Detention Profile

### Reference List

- Amnesty International (AI). 2002. *Greece: Ill-treatment, shootings and impunity*. Amnesty International Report, 23 September 2002. <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGEUR250202002?open&of=ENG-375> (accessed 29 October 2009)
- AI. 2005. *Greece: Out of the Spotlight, The rights of foreigners and minorities are still a grey area*. AI Index: EUR 25/016/2005. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR25/016/2005/en/e1e23530-d4aa-11dd-8a23-d58a49c0d652/eur250162005en.pdf> (accessed 31 August 2009)
- AI. 2007. "Greece" in *Amnesty International Report 2007*. <http://thereport.amnesty.org/eng/Regions/Europe-and-Central-Asia/Greece> (accessed 28 August 2007)
- AI. 2009. *Amnesty Report 2009: The State of the World's Human Rights*. London: Amnesty International. POL 10/0012009. <http://report2009.amnesty.org/sites/report2009.amnesty.org/files/documents/air09-en.pdf> (accessed 27 July 2009)
- Brabant, Malcolm. 2009. "UN alarm at Greek migrant centre." *BBC News*. Athens: 27 October 2009. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8328746.stm> (accessed 5 November 2009)
- Brothers, Caroline. 2008. "Unwilling New Frontier for Migrants: 3 Greek Isles." *New York Times*, 3 January 2008. <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/03/world/europe/03greece.html> (accessed 31 August 2009)
- Brothers, Caroline. 2007. "Waves of migrants increase pressure on Greece." *New York Times*, 27 December 2007. <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/27/world/europe/27iht-greece.html> (accessed 22 October 2009)
- Chindea, Alin; Magdalena Majkowska-Tomkin, Heikki Mattila & Isabel Pastor. 2008. *Migration in Greece: A Country Profile 2008*. International Organization for Migration (IOM). Geneva.
- Council of Europe. 2001. *Report to the Government of Greece on the visit to Greece carried out by the European Committee or the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) from 26 October to 2 November 1999*. Strasbourg, 13 September 2001. <http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/grc/2001-18-inf-eng-2.pdf> (accessed 28 August 2007)
- Council of Europe. 2006. *Response of the Government of Greece to the report of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) on its visit to Greece from 27 August to 9 September*. Annex N° 1. Strasbourg, 20 December 2006. <http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/grc/2006-42-Appendices.pdf> (accessed 28 August 2007)
- *Entry, residence and social integration of third-country nationals in the Hellenic Territory*. 2005. Law 3386/2005. 23 August 2005. [http://www.imepo.gr/documents/Nomos3386\\_en.pdf](http://www.imepo.gr/documents/Nomos3386_en.pdf) (accessed 31 August 2009)
- EU business. 2007. "Euro MPs decry conditions at Greek immigrant detention centre." 15 June 2007. [http://www.eubusiness.com/news\\_live/1181930411.76/](http://www.eubusiness.com/news_live/1181930411.76/) (accessed 28 August 2007)
- European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT). 2009. *Report to the Government of Greece on the visit to Greece carried out by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) from 23 to 29 September 2008*. Strasbourg: CPT. CPT/Inf/ (2009) 20. 30 June 2009. <http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/grc/2009-20-inf-eng.htm> (accessed 29 July 2009)
- European Council. 2002. *Report to the Government of Greece on the visit to Greece carried out by the European Committee or the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) from 23 September to 5 October 2001*. Strasbourg, 20 November 2002. [http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/grc/2002-31-inf-eng.htm#\\_Toc7338463](http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/grc/2002-31-inf-eng.htm#_Toc7338463) (accessed 28 August 2007)
- European Parliament. 2007. *The conditions in centres for third country national (detention camps, open centres as well as transit centres and transit zones) with a particular focus on provisions and facilities for persons with special needs in the 25 EU member states*. European Parliament. REF IP REF IP/C/LIBE/IC2006-181. December 2007. [http://www.libertysecurity.org/IMG/pdf\\_eu-ep-detention-centres-report.pdf](http://www.libertysecurity.org/IMG/pdf_eu-ep-detention-centres-report.pdf) (accessed 27 July 2009)
- European Parliament. 2007. *Report from the LIBE Committee Delegation on the Visit to Greece (Samos and Athens)*. Brussels, 2 July 2007. <http://www.cir-onlus.org/RApportoLIBE2007.pdf> (accessed 28 August 2007)
- Greek Ministry of Interior. 2009. *Response of the Government of Greece to the report of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) on its visit to Greece from 23 to 29 September*

2008. Strasbourg: CPT. CPT/Inf (2009) 21. 30 June 2009. <http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/grc/2009-21-inf-eng.pdf> (accessed 29 July 2009)
- Greek Ministry of Mercantile Marine, "Hellenic Coast Guard," Ministry of Mercantile Marine, <http://www.yen.gr/en/yen.chtm?prnbr=23783> (accessed 24 October 2007)
  - Human Rights Watch (HRW). 2000. "Urgent Concerns: conditions of Detention for Foreigners in Greece." Human Rights Watch Memorandum December 2000. <http://www.hrw.org/background/eca/greece-detention-bck.htm> (accessed 28 August 2007)
  - HRW. 2008a. "Greece: Iraqi Asylum Seekers Denied Protection." HRW: 26 November 2008. <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/11/25/greece-iraqi-asylum-seekers-denied-protection> (accessed 1 October 2009)
  - HRW. 2008b. *Stuck in a Revolving Door: Iraqis and Other Asylum Seekers and Migrants at the Greece/Turkey Entrance to the European Union*. HRW. 26 November 2008. <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2008/11/26/stuck-revolving-door-0> (accessed 29 October 2009)
  - HRW. 2009. "Greece Does EU's Migration Dirty Work." HRW: 25 January 2009. <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/01/25/greece-does-eus-migration-dirty-work> (accessed 1 October 2009)
  - HRW. 2009b. "Greece: Unsafe and Unwelcoming Shores." 31 October 2009. <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/<WBR>2009/10/31/greece-unsafe-and-<WBR>unwelcoming-shores> (accessed 10 December 2009)
  - Indymedia UK. 2007. "Mobilisation against detention camps in Northern Greece." 8 May 2007. <http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2007/05/369990.html> (accessed 28 August 2007)
  - Itano, Nicole. 2009. "Greece plans to lock up illegal migrants: A new Greek law increases the amount of time illegal immigrants can be detained." *Global Post*. 13 July 2009. <http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/europe/090710/greece-plans-lock-illegal-migrants?page=0,0> (accessed 8 October 2009)
  - Kathimerini newspaper. 2008. "Mytilini: Without Concern Illegal Immigrants." 29 July 2008.
  - Kehayoiyou, Ketty. 2009. "Greece's infrastructure struggles to cope with mixed migration flow." *UNHCR News Stories*. Mytilini, Greece: UNHCR. 19 January 2009. <http://www.unhcr.org/news/NEWS/497495174.html> (accessed 27 July 2009)
  - Kourti, Anna. 2005. "Protest Rally." *The Hellenic Radio*, 6 March 2005. <http://www.hri.org/news/greek/eraen/2005/05-03-06.eraen.html> (accessed 28 August 2007)
  - Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF). 2008a. "MSF emergency intervention in Lesbos (Mytilini island June 2 – 25 September 2008. Findings – Results – Concerns – Challenges." Medecins Sans Frontieres. [http://www.msf-media.gr/press/080930\\_en\\_lesvos.pdf](http://www.msf-media.gr/press/080930_en_lesvos.pdf) (accessed 27 July 2009)
  - MSF. 2008b. "MSF ends emergency intervention in Lesbos island, Greece." MSF Press Release. [http://www.msf.org/msfinternational/invoke.cfm?objectId=B1F80A38-15C5-F00A-255CFBF9E50DCFE5&component=toolkit.pressrelease&method=full\\_html](http://www.msf.org/msfinternational/invoke.cfm?objectId=B1F80A38-15C5-F00A-255CFBF9E50DCFE5&component=toolkit.pressrelease&method=full_html) (accessed 31 August 2009)
  - MSF. 2009. "Greece: 'They could not understand why they and their children were being detained'." MSF: 9 September 2009. <http://doctorswithoutborders.org/news/article.cfm?id=3921&cat=field-news#> (accessed 22 October 2009)
  - Migreurop. "Foreigners' camps in Europe and in Mediterranean countries," Migreurop. <http://www.migreurop.org/IMG/pdf/carte-en.pdf> (accessed 29 October 2009)
  - Ministry of Public Order. "Hellenic Police: Organizational Structure." Ministry of Public Order. <http://www.ydt.gr/main/Section.jsp?SectionID=712&LanguageID=2> (accessed 24 October 2007)
  - PRO ASYL. 2007. *The truth may be bitter, but it must be told: The Situation of Refugees in the Aegean and the Practices of the Greek Coast Guard*. Frankfurt / Main: PRO ASYL. [http://www.proasyl.de/fileadmin/proasyl/fm\\_redakteure/Kampagnen/Stoppt\\_das\\_Sterben/Griechenlandbericht\\_Engl\\_01.pdf](http://www.proasyl.de/fileadmin/proasyl/fm_redakteure/Kampagnen/Stoppt_das_Sterben/Griechenlandbericht_Engl_01.pdf) (accessed 31 August 2009)
  - Rapporteur on Migration, Refugees and Population, Mr. John Greenway. 2007. *Regularisation programmes for irregular migrants*. Report of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Doc. 11350. 6 July 2007. <http://assembly.coe.int/Documents/WorkingDocs/Doc07/EDOC11350.pdf> (accessed 5 November 2009)
  - Rudge, Philip. 2003. "Some Reflection on Detention in European Asylum Policy." *Revue Juridique Polynésienne*, Vol. 3 (2003): 123-164.
  - S.D. c. Grèce. 2009. Cour Européenne des droits des hommes. Arrêt de 11 juin 2009. Requête no 53541/07.
  - Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the Human Rights of Migrants. 2003. *Specific Groups and Individuals: Migrant Workers. Communications sent to the Governments and replies received*. United Nations Economic and Social Council: E/CN.4/2003/85/Add.1. 30 January 2003. [http://www.sariq.org/pages/focus\\_areas\\_migration\\_UN\\_SR.aspx](http://www.sariq.org/pages/focus_areas_migration_UN_SR.aspx) (accessed 29 October 2009)
  - Taipei Times. 2007. "Greece cries out for help with immigration issue." 9 July 2007. <http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/world/archives/2007/07/09/2003368772> (accessed 28 August 2007)

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). 2009. *2008 Global Trends: Refugees, Asylum-seekers, Returnees, Internally Displaced and Stateless Persons*. UNHCR 16 June 2009.  
<http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c4d6.html> (accessed 29 July 2009)
- US Department of State. 2007. *Greece Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 2006*. Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, 6 March 2007.  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78815.htm> (accessed 28 August 2007)
- Wilkens, Chryssa. 2009. "A slice of hell on the other side of the fence." *Kosmos Ependyti*. 5 September 2009.

THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE | GENEVA  
INSTITUT DE HAUTES ETUDES  
INTERNATIONALES ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT  
GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL  
AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Global Detention Project  
Programme for the Study of Global Migration  
The Graduate Institute - P-O. Box 136 - 1211 Geneva 21  
Phone +41 22 908 4556 - Fax +41 22 908 4594  
[global.detention.project@gmail.com](mailto:global.detention.project@gmail.com) - [www.globaldetentionproject.org](http://www.globaldetentionproject.org)

PROGRAMME FOR THE STUDY  
OF GLOBAL MIGRATION

© Global Detention Project 2007 - 2011