

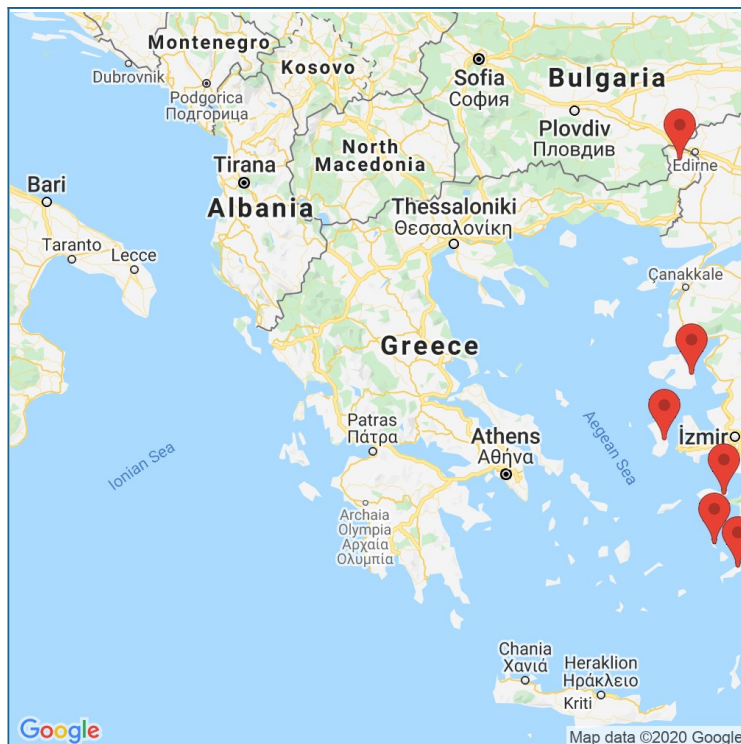
Greece Immigration Detention Data Profile

Global Detention Project profile produced in partnership with Red Line Project and Greek Council for Refugees

THE RED LINE PROJECT
A project led by the Hungarian Helsinki Committee and funded by EPJM

**GREEK COUNCIL
REFUGEES**

**GLOBAL
DETENTION
PROJECT**



Quick Facts

Immigration detainees (2018)	31,126
Detained asylum seekers (2018)	18,204
Detained minors (2017)	Not Available
Immigration detention capacity (2013)	6,290
Persons expelled (2018)	12,490
International migrants (2019)	1,211,382
New asylum applications (2019)	92,661
Number of immigration detainees on a given day (2018)	8,200

NOTES ON USING THIS PROFILE

- Sources for the data provided in this report are available online at: <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/europe/greece>
- "Observation Dates" indicate the timeframe statistical data correspond to or other data were last validated. More than one statistical entry for a year indicates contrasting reports.

STATISTICS

Detention, expulsion, and incarceration statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Total number of immigration detainees by year	31,126	2018	Number of immigration detainees on a given day	8,200	2018
	25,810	2017			
	14,864	2016			
Number of detained asylum seekers	18,204	2018	Total number of detained minors	Not Available	2017
	9,534	2017		255	2016
	4,072	2016			
Number of apprehensions of non-citizens	93,365	2018	Estimated total immigration detention capacity	6,290 - 7,570	2013
	68,110	2017			
	204,820	2016			
	911,470	2015			
	73,670	2014			
	42,615	2013			
	72,420	2012			
Number of dedicated long-term immigration detention centres	8	2018	Estimated capacity of dedicated long-term immigration detention centres	6,417	2018
	9	2017		5,212	2017
	15	2013		6,033	2016
				7,260	2013
				5,965	2013
Number of transit facilities	1	2016	Number of criminal facilities	13	2013
Number of persons removed/returned (voluntary returns and deportations)	12,490	2018	Number of deportations/forced returns only	7,760	2018
	18,765	2017		Not Available	2017
	19,055	2016		Not Available	2016
	14,390	2015		Not Available	2015
	27,055	2014		Not Available	2014
	25,465	2013			
	16,650	2012			
Percentage of persons removed in relation to total number of people placed in removal procedures	41	2017	Criminal prison population	10,580	2019
	56	2016		9,566	2017
	14	2015		13,147	2013
	37	2014		12,479	2011
	59	2013			

Percentage of foreign prisoners	52.9	2019	Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population)	99	2019
	54.3	2017		89	2017
	63.2	2011		120	2013
				111	2012
Demographics and immigration-related statistics					
		Observation Date			Observation Date
Population	10,400,000	2020	International migrants	1,211,382	2019
	10,955,000	2015		1,220,400	2017
	11,400,000	2012		1,242,000	2015
				988,200	2013
International migrants as a percentage of the population	10.9	2017	Estimated number of undocumented migrants	470,000 - 470,000	2013
	11.3	2015			
	8.9	2013			
Refugees	80,454	2019	Ratio of refugees per 1000 inhabitants	4.25	2016
	61,460	2018		0.94	2014
	38,999	2017		0.19	2012
	46,381	2016		0.1	2011
	24,838	2015			
	3,485	2014			
	2,100	2012			
Total number of new asylum applications	92,661	2019	Stateless persons	198	2018
	58,134	2016		198	2016
	9,450	2014		214	2015
	8,220	2013		178	2014
	9,580	2012		154	2012

DOMESTIC LAW				
LEGAL TRADITION				
Legal tradition	Name		Observation Date	
	Civil law		2017	
LAWS AND REGULATIONS				
Constitutional guarantees?	Yes/No	Constitution and Articles	Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Yes	Constitution of Greece, art. 6	1975	2008
	No			

LAWS AND REGULATIONS			
Core pieces of national legislation	Name	Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Law 4375/2016 on the organization and operation of the Asylum Service, the Appeals Authority, the Reception and Identification Service, the establishment of the General Secretariat for Reception, the transposition into Greek legislation of the provisions (Νόμος 4375/2016 «Οργάνωση και λειτουργία Υπηρεσίας Ασύλου, Αρχής Προσφυγών, Υπηρεσίας Υποδοχής και Ταυτοποίησης σύσταση Γενικής Γραμματείας Υποδοχής, προσαρμογή της Ελληνικής Νομοθεσίας προς τις διατάξεις της Οδηγίας 2013/32/ΕΕ του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και του Συμβουλίου «σχετικά με τις κοινές διαδικασίες για τη χορήγηση και ανάκληση του καθεστώτος διεθνούς προστασίας (αναδιαιτύπωση)» (L 180/29.6.2013), διατάξεις για την εργασία δικαιούχων διεθνούς προστασίας και άλλες διατάξεις)	2016	2018
	Law 3386/2005 on Entry, Residence and Social Integration of Third-Country Nationals on Greek Territory (Νόμος 3386/2005 «Είσοδος, διαμονή και κοινωνική ένταξη υπηκόων τρίτων χωρών στην Ελληνική Επικράτεια»)	2005	2015
	Law 3907/2011 on the Establishment of an Asylum Service and a First Reception Service (Νόμος 3907/2011 «Ίδρυση Υπηρεσίας Ασύλου και Υπηρεσίας Πρώτης Υποδοχής, προσαρμογή της ελληνικής νομοθεσίας προς τις διατάξεις της Οδηγίας 2008/115/ΕΚ «σχετικά με τους κοινούς κανόνες και διαδικασίες στα κράτη-μέλη για την επιστροφή των παρανόμως διαμενόντων υπηκόων τρίτων χωρών» και λοιπές διατάξεις»)	2011	2016
GROUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE IMMIGRATION-RELATED DETENTION			
Immigration-status-related grounds	Name	Observation Date	
	Detention for failing to respect a voluntary removal order	2019	
	Detention to prevent absconding	2019	
	Detention to effect removal	2019	
	Detention to establish/verify identity and nationality	2019	
	Detention during the asylum process	2019	
GROUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE IMMIGRATION-RELATED DETENTION			
Non-immigration-status-related grounds providing for administrative detention in immigration legislation.	Name	Observation Date	
	Detention on public order, threats or security grounds	2019	
	Detention on health-related grounds	2017	
CRIMINALIZATION OF IMMIGRATION-RELATED OFFENCES			
Does the country provide specific criminal penalties for immigration-related violations?	Fines	Incarceration	Observation Date
	Yes	Yes	2019
CRIMINALIZATION OF IMMIGRATION-RELATED OFFENCES			
Grounds for criminal immigration-related detention/incarceration and maximum potential duration of incarceration	Grounds for Incarceration	Maximum Number of Days of Incarceration	Observation Date
	Unauthorized entry		2019
	Unauthorized exit		2019
	Unauthorized re-entry		2019

CRIMINALIZATION OF IMMIGRATION-RELATED OFFENCES				
Has the country decriminalized immigration-related violations?	Has the country decriminalized immigration-related violations?		Observation Date	
	No		2019	
LENGTH OF DETENTION				
Maximum length for administrative immigration detention in law.	Number of Days		Observation Date	
	540		2019	
LENGTH OF DETENTION				
Maximum length of time in custody prior to issuance of a detention order	Number of Days		Observation Date	
	3		2019	
LENGTH OF DETENTION				
Maximum length of detention for asylum-seekers	Number of Days		Observation Date	
	90		2019	
	540		2014	
PROCEDURAL STANDARDS				
Provision of basic procedural standards	Name	In Law	In Practice	Observation Date
	Information to detainees	Yes		2019
	Right to legal counsel	Yes		2019
	Independent review of detention	Yes		2019
	Compensation for unlawful detention	No		2019
	Access to free interpretation services	No	No	2013
	Right to appeal the lawfulness of detention	Yes	No	2013
NON-CUSTODIAL MEASURES (ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION)				
Types of non-custodial measures	Name	In Law	In Practice	Observation Date
	Supervised release and/or reporting	Yes	No	2014
	Release on bail	Yes	No	2014
	Registration (deposit of documents)	Yes	No	2014
	Designated non-secure housing	Yes	No	2014
	Electronic monitoring	No	No	2014

VULNERABLE PERSONS				
Is the detention of vulnerable persons provided in law? Are they detained in practice?	Name	In Law	In Practice	Observation Date
	Asylum seekers	Provided	Yes	2018
	Unaccompanied minors	Provided	Yes	2018
	Accompanied minors	Provided	Yes	2018
	Survivors of torture		Yes	2016
	Stateless persons	Provided		2014
	Elderly	Not mentioned		2014
	Pregnant women	Not mentioned		2014
MANDATORY DETENTION				
Mandatory detention	Filter	Name	Observation Date	
	No	No	2019	
EXPEDITED REMOVAL AND RE-ENTRY BAN				
Re-entry ban	Name		Observation Date	
	Yes		2019	

COVID-19 UPDATES

	Update Status	Observation Date
	<p>Amidst a surge in cases across the country, several migrants and asylum seekers held in Chios' Reception and Identification Centre (RIC) are reported to have tested positive for COVID-19. (The exact number remains unclear, while Greek media referred to two positive cases confirmed in Chios hospital. InfoMigrants cited reports of "at least 30" confirmed cases.) Access to medical treatment and testing has been described as "inadequate," due to a lack of funding from the Ministry of Immigration and Asylum. On Wednesday 14 October, the Greek Migration Ministry announced that the camp would be placed under quarantine until at least 21 October, and that "extensive health checks" would be carried out. On 22 October, this quarantine was extended to 4 November. In its statement, the ministry also announced plans to transfer all pregnant women (five months pregnant and beyond) from the facility to mainland Greece (near to hospitals that are treating COVID-19 patients), "so that no deliveries take place at the General Hospital of Chios 'Skylitso'." The camp was previously placed under quarantine restrictions in August, after four non-nationals and one employee tested positive. On Lesvos island, frustrations have been growing regarding government plans to close Pikpa Camp, an "open, community-run space" where significant numbers of vulnerable asylum seekers are living. The camp was due to be closed by 15 October, but this was given a last-minute postponement. The European Court of Human Rights has called on the Greek government to respond to questions regarding plans to close the camp, and the situation of an asylum seeker and her new-born child (represented by the Greek Council for Refugees) who applied for interim measures before the court.</p>	2020
	<p>More than 240 refugees and migrants have tested positive for Covid-19 in the newly erected Kara Tepe camp on Lesvos. The new camp, which was constructed after a fire levelled Moria camp, is built on a former military firing range near the main town of Mytilene. In the wake of the Moria fire, more than 12,000 refugees and migrants were left homeless—but many reportedly refused to settle in the new camp for fear that they would be prevented from leaving (see 15 September update on this platform). However, following a "police operation" designed to persuade refugees and migrants to relocate to the new facility, on 18 September the Greek migration minister announced that the camp was holding 5,000 persons.</p>	2020
	<p>On 9 September 2020, a few days after several people in Lesvos' Moria Camp tested positive for Covid-19, fires broke out that destroyed the camp, leaving some 13,000 people without shelter and resulting in a major humanitarian crisis. It is unclear how the fires began but according to Greece's migration minister, the fires "began with the asylum seekers." Some migrants told the BBC that the fire had broken out after scuffles between migrants and Greek forces at the camp. Marco Sandrone, a project coordinator for Médecins Sans Frontières, stated that while it was difficult to establish the cause of the fires, "it's a time bomb that finally exploded," adding that people had been kept in inhumane conditions for years. After the fire, police reportedly blocked roads to prevent migrants from entering nearby towns. Some locals also reportedly attacked and prevented migrants from passing through a nearby village after they fled the flames. One migrant from Afghanistan told Reuters: "We don't know where to go, and all the refugees are outside, trying to find a place to at least just stay." The mayor of Mytilene, Stratis Kytielis, said it was a "very difficult situation because some of those who are outside will include people who are positive for coronavirus." Migrants have been left to sleep on the streets or in cemeteries. According to Radio Télévision Suisse (RTS), 800 people have settled in a newly erected emergency camp, where 21 people have tested positive. Most migrants are refusing to settle in the new camp as they fear that once they enter it, they will be prevented from leaving. On 12 September, Greek riot police fired teargas at refugees protesting against conditions in Lesvos. Witnesses reported teargas being fired after younger migrants began throwing rocks at police units. The Guardian reported that the insistence of Greek officials that transferral is out of the question and a growing realisation that any prospect of leaving is diminishing rapidly have helped create an increasingly toxic atmosphere. One aid worker on the island told the Guardian: "The thought that they may be here for even longer now, the sight of the replacement camp and being stranded without proper shelter for days, has, for many, become the tipping point." Certain European countries and the European Union have offered their aid to Greece. For instance, Switzerland has volunteered to take in some unaccompanied minors that were left stranded. In total, 10 countries, including Switzerland, will be taking in 400 unaccompanied minors from the camp. The response of most countries has focussed on resettling unaccompanied minors, although Germany vowed to also take care of families. The Prime Minister of the North-Rhine Westphalia, Armin Laschet, offered to take in "1,000 refugees." RTS has qualified the measures adopted by countries regarding the transferral of unaccompanied minors rather than families as "selective solidarity" in that due to children's vulnerability, governments do not need to justify themselves when providing care for children. However, taking in adults, raises many more doubts in public opinion, especially in times of economic uncertainty.</p>	2020
	<p>Greek authorities reported the first confirmed Covid-19 case in Lesvos' overcrowded Moria Camp. In response, the country's ministries for asylum, health, and civil protection announced in a joint statement that the camp would be closed for 14 days, and that authorities were actively tracing and testing all persons who had come into contact with the individual. Until 15 September, only security personnel would be permitted to enter the camp, and the police presence surrounding the facility would be stepped up to ensure that lockdown is not breached. Although the camp has capacity for less than 3,000 persons, it currently accommodates some 13,000 migrants and asylum seekers. According to the Migration Ministry, the individual—a 40-year-old refugee from Somalia—had left the camp on 17 July 2020 after his application for asylum was approved. However, he had reportedly returned at the end of August having failed to settle in Athens and had been living in a tent outside the facility. This, the migration authority stressed, underscored the need for authorities to move forward with proposed plans to enforce stricter controls on the camp. Although the camp has been placed under quarantine for two weeks, residents in the camp have essentially been in lockdown since the start of the pandemic (see 4 July and 18 June updates on this platform). Residents have only been permitted to leave at certain times of day to see a doctor or to buy food, and only 150 persons have been permitted to exit the camp per hour.</p>	2020
Latest Update	<p>Responding to the Global Detention Project's Covid-19 survey, an official from an international organisation said that in Greece no moratorium on new immigration detention orders had been established but that new arrests and detention orders were reduced beginning from late March to mid-May. Since the end of May, the issuing of detention orders has gradually increased, reaching pre-lockdown numbers. The official also reported that limited numbers of persons were gradually released from pre-removal detention centres (PRDCs) and police stations on the basis of age and vulnerability as well as their overall health condition (see 18 June Greece update on this platform). Yet, the legal basis of the release decisions did not make direct reference to Covid-19, nor were "alternatives to detention" programmes (ATD) employed. No specific measures are being taken to prevent the spread of the infection or to ensure appropriate care for persons released from detention. According to the source, information on preventive measures against Covid-19 was gradually provided to detainees in PRDCs, with a significant number of released persons having received such information while in detention. But there has not been generalised Covid-19 testing for immigration detainees, despite police authorities in some locations having expressed their intention to do so. As of 19 March, police authorities gradually restricted access to PRDCs. Transfer to these centres from police stations or other PRDCs have also been gradually reduced. According to the police, emergency cases, including those with Covid-19 symptoms, were exceptionally transferred to the hospital upon communication with the Hellenic National Public Health Organisation (EODY). Although Greece lifted some lockdown measures in May, other measures were still imposed in reception and identification centres as of June (see 18 June Greece update on this platform). While specific areas were made available for infected detainees, the capacity of medical staff in PRDCs remained very limited. Gradually, information on Covid-19 (including EODY material) was provided to detainees through Medical Units S.A., the actor providing medical services in PRDCs where available. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has donated to the police authorities (primarily to PRDCs and certain police facilities), cleaning and hygiene material. The official stated that returns had been suspended to all countries from mid-March to May 2020. Returns on the basis of the EU-Turkey agreement have still not resumed as of July 2020, but returns of Turkish nationals under the EU-Turkey readmission agreement have gradually resumed since mid-May. Apart from the suspension of returns from mid-March to May, the Asylum Service and Appeals' Authority was suspended, and thus all administrative procedures were postponed, including asylum interviews (see 18 June Greece update on this platform). The authorities' functions resumed in May. In addition, new arrivals were placed in 14 day quarantine, while the restriction of movement in all types of reception facilities throughout the country, was extended (for the seventh time) until 2 August 2020, from 21 March, on the basis of the protection of public health, despite the fact that the last restrictions of movement for the general population were lifted on 2 May. As previously reported on this platform (18 June Greece update), facilities on the islands of Lesvos, Samos, Chios, Kos, and Leros have been criticised for their overcrowding, poor material living conditions, and insufficient service provision. Despite 3,000 people being transferred out of the camps in mid-April, the facilities remain severely overcrowded, with 31,203 persons registered as living in the camps, as of 9 June, sharing only some 6,095 places.</p>	2020
	<p>Despite repeated criticisms of its continued lockdown of refugee and migrant camps (see 18 June update), Greece recently announced its fifth extension of these lockdown measures. As of 4 July, camps are to be quarantined until 19 July, with migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers continuing to face movement restrictions. According to the country's migration ministry, those held in these facilities are only permitted to leave between 7am and 9pm in groups of less than 10 persons, and no more than 150 persons are allowed to exit each hour. Activists and NGOs have reiterated their criticism that these lock-down measures have nothing to do with public health concerns given that no confirmed cases of the virus have yet been detected within these settings. Moreover, instead of protecting those inside these facilities, the continued lockdown appears to be placing them at greater risk of harm. As Oxfam and the Greek Council for Refugees reported, in Moria camp reports of sexual harassment, domestic violence, and rape have risen during the lockdown period. According to the Centre for Research on Women's Issues (CRWI) Diotima, a women's NGO, the inhumane living conditions and current legislation have "created suffocating conditions for these people, and particularly for persons who are in need of special protection, who find themselves further exposed. When you don't have money and you don't have a house, but you do have some kind of vulnerability, then you will become an almost certain victim of [further] exploitation and abuse."</p>	2020
	<p>Although Greece lifted its lockdown measures in May, authorities have continued to impose movement restrictions upon migrants and refugees held in Reception and Identification Centres (RICs) on the Aegean islands as well as facilities on the country's mainland. Initially extended until 10 May, lockdown measures for such facilities were later extended until 7 June—and now until 21 June. The continuation of lockdown measures in these facilities has been strongly condemned by NGOs and rights observers. Human Rights Watch stated on 12 June, "There is no evidence of any Covid-19 cases on the islands' camps. And those on the mainland haven't recorded any cases since April. Yet despite insufficient evidence to justify stronger restrictions in the camps than elsewhere in the country, these discriminatory lockdowns continue for all of them." Some observers have warned that these lockdown measures may have an ulterior motive - to convert the reception sites into closed detention facilities, in line with the controversial International Protection Bill (Law 4636/2019), which entered into force on 1 January 2020. Facilities on the Greek islands of Lesvos, Samos, Chios, Kos, and Leros have long been criticised for their overcrowding, poor material living conditions, and insufficient service provision. While rights groups and NGOs called for their decongestion at the start of the crisis, Greece instead opted to seal off the facilities (see 23 April update). Since mid-April, 3,000 people have reportedly been transferred out of the camps, but facilities remain severely overcrowded: As of 9 June, 31,203 people were registered as living in the camps, a number that far surpasses the 6,095 capacity of the facilities. According to the NGO Refugee Rights Europe, promised measures in RICs—including the establishment of special health units including medical clinics and isolation spaces—have not yet been implemented. Since March, Greece has also been arbitrarily detaining newly arrived asylum seekers—including children, persons with disabilities, older persons, and pregnant women—in two mainland detention facilities (in Malakassa and Serres). Although authorities have presented their detention as a necessary health measure to avoid the spread of the virus, the facilities are reported to lack even basic health and sanitation provisions. Several media outlets reported pushbacks at the country's land and sea borders. According to a report by Der Spiegel, Report Mainz, and Lighthouse Reports, masked Greek coast guard officers were intercepting refugee boats and returning them to Turkey. The report provides video footage that appears to corroborate this claim. On 12 June, UNHCR urged Greece to immediately investigate the reports and stated, "Greece has the legitimate right to control its borders and manage irregular migration while respecting international human rights and refugee protection standards. Controls and practices must guarantee the rights of asylum seekers and they should not be turned away at Greece's borders." Having suspended asylum procedures in March until 1 April after Turkey opened its western border to allow non-nationals to cross into the EU, Greece's asylum system was again suspended through to 18 May. On 5 June however, HRW reported that asylum procedures had finally restarted.</p>	2020
	<p>Nearly 42,000 refugees remain in overcrowded detention camps as the Covid-19 pandemic spreads, with refugees lacking access to essential items and services, such as soap and water as well as basic health care. Despite calls from civil society and the European Commission to release detainees into adequate alternatives and after several detainees tested positive, the government instead ordered an immediate lockdown of the camps. Human Rights Watch said that the conditions on the islands make it impossible to adhere to the appropriate public health guidelines designed to curb the outbreak: "Restricting thousands of women, men and children in severely overcrowded camps, where living conditions are unacceptable, makes it impossible to isolate people exposed to Covid-19 or to comply with minimum preventive and protective measures, even hand washing and social distancing." On 21 April 2020, 148 asylum seekers at a hotel managed by the IOM tested positive for Covid-19. The hotel in Kraniidi is hosting some 450 asylum seekers and has been quarantined since last week after a staff member tested positive for Covid-19. The Greek Minister for Migration announced on 20 April 2020 that around 1,500 of the most vulnerable people living in the Moria camp would be evacuated on a specially chartered ship to mainland Greece by the end of this week. On 9 April 2020, a riot broke out in the Eleonas women's prison due to the death of an inmate. Prisoners are worried that the death was due to Covid-19 and are requesting that immediate measures to prevent the spread of the disease be implemented.</p>	2020
	<p>On 15 April Greece began relocating to Luxembourg unaccompanied children from camps on the islands of Lesvos, Samos, and Chios, which are severely overcrowded. There are reportedly some 5,000 unaccompanied children in Greek camps, and the country has plans "to relocate about 1,600 vulnerable children to other European countries that volunteer to host them, amid the coronavirus outbreak," according to the BBC. The move comes after severe criticism from human rights groups calling for the immediate release of children from police cells and detention centres. "Keeping children locked up in filthy police cells was always wrong, but now it also exposes them to the risk of Covid-19 infection," said Human Rights Watch. Previously, the EU Commissioner for Home Affairs reported in early April that 1,000 refugees and migrants deemed vulnerable to the virus had been moved from Greek islands to hotels. In addition, although asylum services were temporarily suspended from 13 March 2020, including registration of asylum requests, asylum interviews and appeals in asylum cases, the asylum service stated that applicants' cards and residence permits due to expire during the suspension would remain valid. Meanwhile, according to reports in the Greek press, Turkey has allegedly been pushing Covid-infected migrants across the border into Greece. According to Ekathimerini.com (11 April), "Sources that cannot be named but are considered reliable believe that Turkey has a plan to push migrants infected with the coronavirus to cross into Greece and other parts of Europe in the midst of the virus pandemic. According to the sources, these migrants, many of whom were also at the Pazarkule, or Kastanies, border crossing, have been transported from migrant camps in the hinterland."</p>	2020
	<p>In mid-March, Greece announced that its plans to transform the hotspots on Leros and Kos into closed reception centres would be accelerated and that all visits to hotspots would be suspended in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, national and international organisations subsequently issued urgent calls to reduce overcrowding in hotspots, including Médecins Sans Frontières and the European Parliament, which called for the evacuation of all the migrant camps on the islands. By the end of March, the government began transferring thousands of new arrivals, including children and people with disabilities, to detention centres on the Greek mainland. Human Rights Watch denounced the move: "If the government is serious about preventing COVID-19 transmission and illness among migrants and asylum seekers, it needs to scale up testing, provide more tents, and give people enough toilets, water, and soap, and put in place prevention interventions. ... Forcing people, some of whom are at high risk of severe disease or death, to live in dirty and unsanitary conditions, cramped together in close quarters, is a recipe for spreading the virus, not to mention is degrading and inhumane." On 25 March ECR published an open letter, signed by 121 organisations, requesting that "alternatives to detention" for all administrative detainees throughout Greece be implemented; measures to protect public health are taken to protect those residing in camps, camp employees, and society at large; and measures are taken to ensure that people are still able to apply for asylum before the Greek Asylum Service. By early April, various migrant sites were being placed under quarantine as a result of outbreaks, including the Malakassa and Ritsona facilities. In Malakassa, a 53 year old man tested positive on 5 April 2020 and was transferred to hospital in Athens. In the Ritsona camp, 20 people tested positive for Covid-19 during the week of 30 March 2020. Within penal institutions, the government announced plans to release up to 1,500 inmates to lessen the chances of transmission of the coronavirus. Prisoners sentenced for minor offences who have up to a year of their terms left would be released.</p>	2020

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
International treaties	Name		Ratification Year
	ICPED, International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance		2015
	OPCAT, Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment		2014
	CRPD, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities		2012
	CTOCTP, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children		2011
	CTOCSP, Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime		2011
	ICCPR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights		1997
	CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child		1993
	CAT, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment		1988
	ICESCR, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights		1985
	CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women		1983
	CRSSP, Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons		1975
	VCCR, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations		1975
	ICERD, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination		1970
	PCRSR, Protocol to the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees		1968
	CRSR, Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees		1960
Ratio of relevant international treaties ratified	15/19		
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
Individual complaints procedure	Name		Acceptance Year
	ICCPR, First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966		1997
	CEDAW, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 1999		1999
	CAT, declaration under article 22 of the Convention		1988
	CRPD, Optional Protocol to o the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities		2012
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
Ratio of complaints procedures accepted	Number	Observation Date	
	4	2019	
	4	2019	

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

Relevant recommendations issued by treaty bodies	Name	Recommendation Excerpt	Recommendation Year
	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	§23. The Committee calls on the State party to increase its efforts to implement the specific rights of persons fleeing armed conflict or persecution who arrive on its shores. The Committee also calls on the State party to ensure the respect of the rights of migrants arriving in the same migratory flows as refugees and asylum seekers. Such efforts could also be stepped up through strengthened international cooperation, in particular by European Union countries. The Committee further urges the State party to: (a) Eliminate the automatic detention of migrants arriving on the islands after the conclusion of the statement by the European Union and Turkey on migration, introduce alternatives to detention, ensure that those deprived of their liberty enjoy due process and take measures to convert the reception and identifications centres on the islands into open centres; (b) Take immediate measures to improve the living conditions in reception and identification centres and ensure that everyone in those centres has access to medical care, interpreters, adequate food and social support; (c) Uphold the rule of law in reception and identification centres and redouble its measures to protect everyone staying in those centres from all forms of violence; [...]	2016
	Human Rights Committee	§28: The State party should ensure that detention of all irregular migrants is reasonably necessary and proportionate and for the shortest possible period of time, and that alternatives to detention are available in law and implemented in practice. In particular, the State party must ensure that any decision to detain asylum seekers and refugees is based on their individual circumstances and takes into account less invasive means of achieving the same end. The State party should also strengthen its efforts to ensure, in cooperation with its regional and international partners, decent living conditions in all reception and detention centres for migrants and asylum seekers, by providing adequate health-care services, food, sanitary conditions and access to transportation. It should also ensure that conditions in the new reception "hotspots" are adequate.	2015
	Committee on the Rights of the Child	§ 65 (a): Ensure that children, either separated or together with their families, who enter the country in an irregular manner, are not detained, or remain in detention only in very exceptional circumstances and for the shortest period of time necessary.	2012
	Committee against Torture	§ 20: The State party should ensure that administrative detention on the grounds of irregular entry is not applied to asylum seekers. In particular, detention of asylum seekers should be used only in exceptional circumstances or as a measure of last resort, on grounds specifically prescribed by law, and then only for the shortest possible time. To this end, alternatives to detention should be duly examined and exhausted, especially with regard to vulnerable groups. The State party should also take urgent and effective measures to improve conditions of administrative detention through alleviation of overcrowding, appointment of a sufficient number of trained staff, and provision of basic supplies, such as medical care and treatment, adequate food, water and personal hygiene items in any facility used for the detention of foreign nationals. §21: The Committee urges the State party to repeal the provision permitting detention of migrants and asylum seekers on public health grounds and replace detention on such grounds with the appropriate medical measures. §22: The State party should strengthen its efforts to provide adequate protection and proper care in respect of unaccompanied or separated minors entering the country, including by promptly amending its legislation to prohibit their detention. The Committee concurs with the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture that the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Interior should cooperate closely to ensure that they are placed in suitable and separate reception centres.	2012
	Committee against Torture	21. The State party should: (a) Refrain from detaining asylum seekers and irregular or undocumented migrants for prolonged periods, use detention as a measure of last resort and for the shortest period possible and continue the application of non-custodial measures, in conformity with international standards; (b) Guarantee that detained asylum seekers and migrants have access to counsel, including legal aid services; (c) Guarantee judicial review or other meaningful and effective avenues to challenge the legality of administrative immigration detention; (d) Take the necessary measures to ensure appropriate reception conditions for asylum seekers and migrants; (e) Strengthen its efforts to ensure adequate living conditions in all immigration centres; (f) Ensure that asylum seekers and migrants held in detention are provided with adequate medical and mental health care, including a medical examination upon admission and routine assessments; (g) Establish an effective and independent oversight mechanism of the Reception and Identification Service to which individuals held in immigration detention can bring complaints; (h) Ensure that all allegations of torture and ill-treatment by law-enforcement officials are promptly, thoroughly and impartially investigated by the authorities, that the perpetrators are prosecuted, and if found guilty, punished and that victims are provided with redress. 23. The State party should: (a) Ensure that children are not detained solely because of their immigration status. Detention should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest period possible; (b) End the practice of detaining migrants and asylum seekers, especially unaccompanied children, in police holding cells and other detention facilities that are not suitable for long stays.	2019

Regional treaties, regulations, and directives

Regional legal instruments	Name	Year of Ratification (Treaty) / Transposed (Directive) / Adoption (Regulation)
	CATHB, Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings	2014
	ECHR, Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (commonly known as the European Convention on Human Rights)	1974
	ECHRP7, Protocol 7 to the European Convention on Human Rights (amended by protocol 11)	1987
	ECHRP1, Protocol 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights (amended by protocol 11)	1974
	ECPT, European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Punishment	1991
	CPCSE, Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse	2009
	ECCF, European Convention on Consular Functions	1983

Regional treaties, regulations, and directives

Regional judicial decisions on individual complaints	Name	Decision Details	Observation Date
	European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)	S.D. v. Greece. 53541/07. 11 June 2009	2019
	European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)	Tabesh v. Greece. 8256/07. ECtHR. 26 November 2009	2019
	European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)	A.A. v. Greece. 12186/08. ECtHR. 22 July 2010	2019
	European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)	M.S.S. v. Belgium and Greece. 30696/09. ECtHR. 21 January 2011	2019
	European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)	Rahimi v. Greece. 8687/08. ECtHR. 5 April 2011	2019
	European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)	R.U. v. Greece. 2237/08. ECtHR. 7 June 2011	2019
	European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)	Efremidze v. Greece. 33225/08. ECtHR. 21 June 2011	2019
	European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)	Mahmundi and others v. Greece. 14902/10. ECtHR. 31 July 2012	2019
	European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)	Bygylashvili v. Greece. 58164/10. ECtHR. 25 September 2012	2019
	European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)	Lin v. Greece. 58158/10. ECtHR. 6 November 2012	2019
	European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)	Khuroshvili v. Greece. 58165/10. ECtHR. 12 December 2013	2019
	Court of Justice of European Union (CJEU)	N.S and M.E. Joined Cases C-411/10 and C-493/10. 21 December 2011.	2019
	European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)	A.F. v. Greece, 53709/11, 7 October 2013.	2019
	European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)	Mahammad and others v. Greece, 48352/12, 15 January 2015.	2019
	European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)	Tatishvili v. Greece, 26452/11, 31 July 2014.	2019
	European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)	Horshill v. Greece, 70427/11, 1 August 2013.	2019

Regional treaties, regulations, and directives

[illegible]

Bilateral/Multilateral agreements linked to readmissions

Bilateral/multilateral agreements linked to readmission	Name	Year in Force	Observation Date
	France	2004	2017
	Italy	2001	2017
	Turkey	2001	2017
	Latvia	2000	2017
	Lithuania	2004	2017
	Poland	1996	2017
	Romania	1995	2017
	Russian Federation	2004	2017
	Switzerland	2009	2017
	Turkey	2002	2017
	Albania	1995	2017
	Bulgaria	1998	2017
	Croatia	1996	2017
	China	1996	2017
	Egypt	2000	2017
	Cape Verde (EU agreement)	2013	2013
	Georgia (EU agreement)	2011	2011
	Pakistan (EU agreement)	2010	2010
	Macedonia (EU agreement)	2008	2008
	Moldova (EU agreement)	2008	2008
	Montenegro (EU agreement)	2008	2008
	Serbia (EU agreement)	2008	2008
	Ukraine (EU agreement)	2008	2008
	Bosnia-Herzegovina (EU agreement)	2008	2008
	Russia (EU agreement)	2007	2007
	Albania (EU agreement)	2006	2006
	Sri Lanka (EU agreement)	2005	2005
	Hong Kong (EU agreement)	2004	2004
	Macao (EU agreement)	2004	2004

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms				
Visits by special procedures of the Human Rights Council	Name		Year of Visit	Observation Date
	Working Group on arbitrary detention		2013	2019
	Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants		2012	2019
	Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment		2010	2019
	Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography		2005	2019
	Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants		2016	2019
Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms				
Relevant recommendations by UN Special Procedures	Name	Recommendation Excerpt	Recommendation Year	Observation Date
	Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants	<p>§121: Urgently consider alternatives to detention for all migrants, and especially unaccompanied minors and families with children. Detention should only be ordered in exceptional circumstances, as provided in Law 4375/2016, article 46, and in the European Union Returns Directive.</p> <p>§122: Conduct individual assessments of the limited number of migrants for whom detention is necessary and provide documentation of the individualized reasons why it is necessary.</p> <p>§123: Strictly refrain from detaining unaccompanied minors or families with children, in conformity with the principles of the best interests of the child and of family unity.</p> <p>§124: Further improve detention conditions and procedural safeguards, and develop appropriate regulations for all detention facilities, in line with international human rights standards.</p> <p>§125: Ensure full access to all detention facilities for lawyers and civil society organizations, and continue to ensure a system of systematic, independent monitoring of detention centres.</p> <p>§126: Provide appropriate detention conditions in all centres, including in pre-removal centers, and ensure that all migrants deprived of their liberty are able to promptly contact their family, to have access to a lawyer who should be free of charge if necessary, to seek asylum if the migrant requests it, to have access to a doctor and to an interpreter as necessary, to have access to their mobile phones, and to have the capacity to promptly challenge their detention.</p> <p>§127: Ensure that standards in all facilities in which migrants are held meet the standards established by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ("CPT standards", 2013 revision) addressing specifically the special needs and status of migrants in detention, and by the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.</p> <p>§128: Ensure, in cooperation with regional and international partners, more appropriate long-term accommodation arrangements, and urgently establish decent living conditions in all reception and detention centres for migrants and asylum seekers by providing adequate health-care services, food, and sanitary conditions.</p> <p>§129: Provide clear and systematic information regarding all migration policies to all stakeholders, including migrants themselves and all those who have a responsibility to promote and protect the human rights of migrants, such as government officials, international organizations, civil society and lawyers. Provide human rights training to all government officials working with migrants, especially those who receive them at borders and in detention.</p> <p>§130: Appoint camp management immediately for every hotspot and every open camp, in charge of coordinating activities of all actors and protecting the human rights of all migrants. Provide clear and public information about the authority of the management at the central level.</p>	2016	2019
	Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants	<p>§ 98: End the policy of systematic detention of all irregular migrants and instead explore alternatives to detention. Detention should be a measure of last resort, limited to cases where there is a risk of absconding or when the person poses a threat to his or her own or public security; duration of detention should be limited to the minimum time necessary to carry out removal or other proceedings. Less coercive measures should always be considered before resorting to detention, in line with Law 3907/2011 and the EU Returns Directive. § 99: Significantly improve detention conditions and procedural safeguards, and develop appropriate regulations for all detention facilities, in line with international human rights standards. In particular: (a) Ensure that all detained migrants have access to proper medical care, an interpreter, adequate food and clothes, hygienic conditions, adequate space to move around and access to outdoor exercise; (b) Systematically inform detained migrants in writing, in a language they understand, of the reason for their detention, its duration, their right to have access to a lawyer, the right to promptly challenge their detention and to seek asylum; (c) Ensure that all migrants deprived of their liberty are able to promptly contact their family, consular services and a lawyer, free of charge. § 100: Refrain from detaining children and families with children, in conformity with the principles of the best interests of the child and of family unity. Shelters should be established, particularly for these categories of migrants. § 101: Continue to facilitate, where possible, the voluntary return of migrants who are willing to return to their countries, as opposed to deportation proceedings, in full accordance with international human rights law. § 102: Ensure full access to all detention facilities for lawyers and civil society organizations, and implement a system of systematic, independent monitoring of detention centres.</p>	2013	2019
	Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	<p>§ 89(8): Promptly proceed with the reform of the system of detention of aliens, resorting to detention only as a last resort and if absolutely necessary and proportionate in the individual case. Vulnerable groups, including asylum seekers, unaccompanied minors, families, single women, persons with disabilities should in principle not be detained. Women should always be separated from men and children from adults; (9) In the interim, take measures to improve the treatment and standard of care of irregular migrants and refugees held in all detention facilities, including legislative provisions to ensure that those arrested while trying to enter or leave the country on false documents are not detained for a prolonged period; (10). Enact minimum operating standards for special detention facilities for migrants in compliance with international human rights law; (11). Re-negotiate the Readmission Agreement with Turkey out of concern that Turkey is not complying with minimum standards for the detention of irregular migrants and failing to protect refugees from being summarily returned to Iran, Iraq, or the Syrian Arab Republic.</p>	2011	2019
	Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	<p>§ 113: The authorities should end the detention of alien minors for illegal entry into the country and refer the children to institutions of special care. § 114: In relation to the detention centre for irregular migrants awaiting deportation of Petrou Ralli, the Special Rapporteur recommends taking appropriate measures to improve the conditions of detention of migrants and striking a better balance between security concerns and the dignity and protection needs of detained migrants.</p>	2006	2019
Working Group on arbitrary detention	<p>§ 118 (c): End the policy of systematic detention of all migrants in an irregular situation, and instead explore alternatives to detention. Detention should be a measure of last resort, limited to cases where there is a risk of the person absconding or when the person poses a threat to her or his own security or public security. The duration of detention should be limited to the minimum time necessary to carry out removal or other proceedings. Less coercive measures should always be considered before resorting to detention, in accordance with Law No. 3907/2011; (d) Significantly improve detention conditions and procedural safeguards, and develop appropriate regulations for all detention facilities, in accordance with international human rights standards. In particular, it should: (i) Systematically inform detained migrants in writing, in a language that they understand, of the reason for their detention, its duration, their right to have access to a lawyer, the right to promptly challenge their detention, and to seek asylum; (ii) Ensure that all migrants deprived of their liberty are able to contact promptly their family, consular services and a lawyer, free of charge; (iii) Ensure that all detained migrants have access to proper medical care, an interpreter, adequate food and clothes, hygienic conditions, adequate space to move around and access to outdoor exercise. § 119: The Working Group also recommends that: (a) At the time of detention, detainees be provided in writing, in a language they understand, with the grounds for their detention, clearly and exhaustively defined; (b) Detainees be provided with a written explanation of their rights and how to exercise them. § 120: The legality of detention must be open for challenge before a court, and a regular review should be conducted within a fixed time limit. Each decision to detain should be reviewed to confirm its necessity and compliance with international legal standards by means of a prompt oral hearing by a court or similar competent independent and impartial review, accompanied by appropriate legal aid. In the event that continued detention is authorized, detainees should be able to initiate further challenges against their detention. § 121: Detainees should be held in special immigration detention centres in conditions appropriate for their status, and not together with persons charged with or convicted of criminal offences (unless so charged or convicted themselves). § 122: Detainees should be given adequate access to their legal representatives, relatives and officials of UNHCR. § 123: The Government should limit the use of detention to appropriate cases, such as of asylum seekers whose application has been rejected after the asylum determination process (namely, when the incentive to abscond has increased) or where removal is imminent and there are reasons to believe it cannot be effected unless the individual is detained. The power to detain should not be exercised if the person concerned is, on the basis of substantiated evidence, fully integrated into the society from which that person's removal is sought. § 124: Alternative and non-custodial measures, such as reporting requirements, should always be considered before resorting to detention. § 125: Detaining authorities should be required to establish a compelling need to detain that is based on the personal history of each individual asylum seeker. § 126: Any review body should be independent of the detaining authority. § 127: Specialized non-governmental organizations, UNHCR and legal representatives should have access to all places of detention. § 128: All staff members of detention facilities should receive training on the special situation and needs of asylum seekers in detention. § 129: Effective measures should be taken to ensure that migrants have full access to lawyers and interpreters to appeal deportation decisions, and to prevent the refoulement of persons in need of international protection. § 130: The Government should refrain from detaining unaccompanied minors and families with children, in conformity with the principles of the best interests of the child and of family unity. § 131: The Government should continue to facilitate, where possible, the voluntary return of migrants who are willing to return to their countries, as opposed to deportation proceedings, in full accordance with international human rights law. § 132: Lawyers and civil society organizations should be ensured full access to all detention facilities, and a systematic, independent monitoring system should be established for them. § 133: All detained persons claiming protection concerns should be adequately informed of their right to seek asylum and be able to file an asylum application and communicate with UNHCR, lawyers and civil society organizations. § 134: The Government should strengthen, through the provision of competent staff and resources, the Office of the Ombudsman and the National Commission for Human Rights in order to allow them to effectively accomplish their mission of human rights protection and promotion for all, including migrants, regardless of their administrative status, including by undertaking regular unannounced visits to detention facilities throughout national territory.</p>	2014	2019	

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms

Relevant recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review	Recommendation Issued	Year Issued	Observation Date
	Yes	2011	2019
	Yes	2016	2019

INSTITUTIONAL INDICATORS

Governing structures

Federal or centralized governing system	Federal or centralized governing system	Observation Date
	Centralized system	2019

Governing structures

Centralized or decentralized immigration authority	Centralized or decentralized immigration authority	Observation Date
	Centralized immigration authority	2019

Institutions responsible for immigration detention

	Agency	Ministry	Ministry Typology	Observation Date
Custodial authority		Ministry of Citizen Protection	Internal or Public Security	2019
	Reception and Identification Service	Ministry of Migration Policy	Immigration or Citizenship	2019
		Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection	Internal or Public Security	2016
		Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection	Internal or Public Security	2012
		Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection	Internal or Public Security	2009
		Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection	Internal or Public Security	2008
		Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection	Internal or Public Security	2007
		Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection	Internal or Public Security	2006
		Hellenic Police/ Ministry of Public Order	Justice	2003
		Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection	Internal or Public Security	2003
		Hellenic Coast Guard / Ministry of Mercantile Marine		2002
		Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection	Internal or Public Security	2001
		Coast Guard		2001

Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Detention Facility Management		Entity Name				Entity Type				Observation Date					
		Police				Governmental				2018					
		Police				Governmental				2013					
		Coast Guard Police				Governmental				2013					
		First Reception Service				Governmental				2013					
		Police				Governmental				2012					
		Attika Foreigners Directorate				Governmental				2009					
		Lesvos Prefectural Government				Governmental				2009					
		Harbour Office				Governmental				2003					
Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Formally designated detention estate?		Formally designated immigration detention estate?				Types of officially designated detention centres						Observation Date			
		Yes				Dedicated immigration detention facilities						2018			
Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Types of detention facilities used in practice	Immigration detention centre (Administrative)	Immigration field office (Administrative)	Transit centre (Administrative)	Reception centre (Administrative)	Offshore detention centre (Administrative)	Hospital (Administrative)	Border guard (Administrative)	Police station (Criminal)	National penitentiary (Criminal)	Local prison (Criminal)	Juvenile detention centre (Criminal)	Informal camp (Ad hoc)	Immigration detention centre (Ad hoc)	Surge facility (Ad hoc)	Observation Date
	Yes		Yes	Yes				Yes							2018
Detention monitoring institutions															
Authorized monitoring institutions		Institution				Institution Type						Observation Date			
		European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment				International or Regional Bodies (IRBs)						2018			
		Greek Ombudsman				OPCAT National Preventive Mechanism (NPM)						2016			
		AITIMA				Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)						2016			
		Greek Council of Refugees				Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)						2014			
		Medecins sans Frontieres				Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)						2014			
		Working Group on Arbitrary Detention				International or Regional Bodies (IRBs)						2014			
		Greek Ombudsman				National Human Rights Institution (or Ombudsperson) (NHRI)						2011			
Detention monitoring institutions															
Is the national human rights institution (NHRI) recognized as independent?		Is the NHRI recognized as independent by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions?										Observation Date			
		Yes										2016			
Detention monitoring institutions															
Does NHRI carry out visits?		Does NHRI carry out visits in practice?							Observation Date						
		Yes							2016						