

Ms Natalie Gruber
President of Joosor
Border Violence Monitoring Network

Our ref: ORD/ODSO/KABU/9903/2020
Please quote when replying.

Warsaw, 13 November 2020

Dear Ms Gruber,

I am writing with reference to your email of 11 November 2020 and subsequent letter of 12 November 2020, bringing to my attention the information that *“there are 70 people stranded on an island at Evros river who have been pushed back from Greece several days ago and whose lives are at risk”*.

Frontex has examined the above referred situation closely, being aware that there might be people at risk, and as a result I would like to inform you of the following.

Currently, there are no Frontex operational deployments in the area you referred to. Frontex Team Members are deployed 32 kilometers away, and hence were not patrolling in the vicinity of this area. However, given the urgency and importance of the information provided, we have immediately transmitted your message to the competent Greek local authorities.

In this context, please be informed that according to Greek authorities, there was a group of persons spotted in the Turkish territory during the day of 11.11.200, but they did not cross the border to the Greece territory.

In addition to the above, as Executive Director of Frontex, I would like to assure you that the Agency is fully respecting the requirements set by the European Border and Coast Guard Regulation and in particular the provisions related to the protection of fundamental rights. Let me underline that we attach particular importance to permanently and fully respect the fundamental rights within the Agency's daily operational activities, and therefore we closely monitor our operational areas, in order to avoid any incidents.

Yours sincerely,



Fabrice Leggeri
Executive Director