In 2021, people arriving is down 93.9%, compared to 2020. In January 9 boats made it to the Greek islands, carrying a total of 188 people. Arrivals has decreased 8.3% compared to December, boats arriving is down 30.8%. Demographics on the islands: Men 52%, Women 21% and Children 27%

Total arrivals are down by 93.9% compared to same month in 2020. 32 boats started their trip towards the Greek islands in January, carrying a total of 803 people. 9 boats made the trip, carrying a total of 188 people, the rest, 23 boats, 615 people, were picked up by the Turkish Coast guard, most of these boats had been pushed back by Greek Coast Guard.

In 2021 23 boats have been stopped on their way towards Greece, 615 people have been arrested. Boats arriving on the Greek island has been reduced due to the Greek governments pushback tactics, boats picked up by TCG has increased for the same reason. Also the COVID-19 pandemic have had a huge impact. Population on the islands is 16231.
In February 1002 people were transported to mainland, from the Greek islands. Transfers have increased 68.4% compared to January, when 595 people were transported. In the last 12 months population on the Aegean islands has decreased by 64.1%, from 42354 to 15220 people. The Greek government have drastically reduced the population on the Greek island in 2020, population is now the same as in beginning of May 2019.
It is the legal right of men, women or children to enter a country with or without paperwork, if they intend to apply for asylum. Pushbacks are the illegal practice of a state preventing them from doing so by stopping them entering its territory, or forcing them back across a border or into the waters of another state. The Greek government has hugely increased illegal pushbacks of refugees since March 2020, with some victims stating they have been beaten by Greek officials before being forced back across borders, or into the sea.

### Pushbacks - people

![Graph showing pushbacks by month for 2020 and 2021](image)

**Total people 2021:** 660

### Pushbacks

![Graph showing pushbacks by month for 2020 and 2021](image)

**Total pushbacks 2021:** 30

In February Aegean Boat Report have registered 20 pushback cases in the Aegean Sea, involving 491 children, women and men who tried to reach safety in Europe. Many of them had already arrived on the Greek Aegean islands, arrested by police, forced back to sea and left drifting in life rafts, illegally deported by the Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG), on orders from the Greek government, so far there has been no reaction from the EU on these illegal actions.

### Pushbacks by Island

![Pie chart showing pushbacks by island](image)

### Pushbacks by craft type

![Pie chart showing pushbacks by craft type](image)

Of 20 registered pushback cases in February, 9 of these cases was performed by using rescue equipment/life rafts, 212 people, children, women and men was placed in a total of 13 life rafts, and left helplessly drifting at sea by the Hellenic Coast Guard, a systematic use of rescue equipment as a deportation tool. The Turkish coast guard and police picked up 1052 people floating in the Aegean Sea and on Turkish beaches, in 32 cases in February, 62.5% of these cases people had been pushed back by the Hellenic coast guard.