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Greece on high alert as Erdogan attempts to ‘flood’ Europe with migrants



Border security was at the highest level on Greece’s land borders with Turkey on Tuesday, especially at the Kastanies border port, where thousands of third country nationals from dozens of countries gathered in an attempt to breach Greece’s borders in order to reach preferred destinations in central and western Europe.

The negative development comes days after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said his country would not stop would-be migrants from trying to illegally reach the west, with Greece’s territory the first EU country on such a migratory path.

The same state of emergency was activated along Greece’s sea borders in the eastern Aegean, with dozens of inflatable craft carrying third country nationals attempting to reach a handful of islands, as Turkish coast guard authorities not only stood by, but in many cases, facilitated the people trafficking networks.

On the island of Lesvos, meanwhile, which has borne the brunt of the migrant/refugee crisis since 2015, yet another vandalism of a rural chapel was reported, this one close to a hotspot for migrants and would-be asylum seekers, most of whom are from predominately Muslim countries – ranging from sub-

Saharan Africa to central Asia.

The deployment of large numbers of Greek police and military units to the border has so far prevented any major breach, with frontier posts remaining closed.

According to Greek authorities, more than 24,000 people were prevented from illegally entering Greece over the past 48 hours, although some 1,000 asylum seekers and would-be migrants landed on the islands.

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis visited the Evros border region on Tuesday morning, accompanied by the European Union's top leadership.

In statements from the region, Mitsotakis said Greece is not facing a refugee/migration problem but an "asymmetric threat", speaking at a joint press conference with the heads of the EU's top institutions.

He added …"It is my duty to defend Greece's territorial integrity, and this is what I will do. My guide is the security of Greece and Europe."

The Orthodoxia news agency has been cited by several foreign ecclesiastical news providers over the weekend regarding the tense situation on the Greek-Turkish border, including references to the vandalism of churches by third country nationals, as well as the presence of Orthodox clerics on the front line at the side of security forces.