

URGENT ACTION

DO NOT EXTRADITE NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION (NGO) WORKER

On March 16, 2026, Tommy Olsen, a Norwegian human rights worker and founder of the NGO Aegean Boat Report, was arrested at his home in Tromsø and remanded in custody following a European arrest warrant issued by the Greek authorities and subsequently released. The warrant stems from a 2022 Greek investigation into his work with refugees and migrants. He was released on March 20, but remains at risk of extradition to Greece, where he could face pre-trial detention for up to 18 months on charges that are not backed by evidence and stem from Greece's misuse of anti-smuggling legislation. Amnesty International calls on Norwegian authorities not to extradite him, to uphold international human rights law, and protect human rights work.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **UA 22.26**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Ministry of Justice

Postboks 8005 Dep

0030 Oslo

Norway

Fax: +47 22 24 60 40

Email 1: justisministerens_kontor@jd.dep.no

Email 2: postmottak@jd.dep.no

Send a copy of your letter to the address below

CC: Norwegian Embassy in the United States

Ambassador Anniken Huitfeldt

2720 34th Street NW

Washington, DC 20008

Email: emb.washington@mfa.no

Dear Minister Astri Aas-Hansen,

I am writing to express deep concern about the arrest and proposed extradition to Greece of **Tommy Olsen**, a Norwegian human rights worker and founder of the NGO Aegean Boat Report. Tommy has spent years assisting refugees and migrants arriving in Greece, documenting cases of distress at sea, and reporting serious human rights violations against them, including illegal pushbacks at sea and land borders. His work is legitimate, humanitarian, and vital for holding authorities accountable.

On February 11, 2026, Tommy was informed by Norwegian authorities that a European arrest warrant had been issued against him following a 2022 investigation in Greece, on charges of membership of a criminal organization. These charges are not backed by evidence and are a misuse of anti-smuggling legislation. While he has been released pending his appeal hearing, Tommy remains at risk of extradition to Greece, where he could face pre-trial detention for up to 18 months.

I call on you to refrain from extraditing Tommy Olsen to Greece, ensuring that he is not sent to be prosecuted for his human rights work and for helping people in need. Upholding Norway's international human rights obligations in this case is critical to protecting civil society's freedoms and opposing attempts to undermine those speaking out against human rights violations.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tommy Olsen, 53 years old, a Norwegian human rights worker, founded Aegean Boat Report (ABR) in 2017 after volunteering with refugees and migrants on Lesbos. He is being prosecuted on charges of facilitation of irregular entry and stay of people (smuggling) and membership of a criminal organization. Based on information available to Amnesty International, the charges against Olsen and Dimitras are not backed by evidence, are a misuse of smuggling legislation, and target their legitimate exercise of human rights work, including assistance to migrants and refugees and the documentation of human rights violations against them by Greek authorities.

Since the creation of ABR, Tommy Olsen has monitored arrivals of refugees and migrants to the Greek islands through the Aegean, documented and reported situations of distress and Greece's unlawful returns (so called "pushbacks") at sea and land borders, and [provided critical information](#) to humanitarian organizations, service providers, and international media, helping ensure that people in distress receive assistance and that abuses are monitored and recorded. His co-defendant, **Panayote Dimitras**, with the Greek Helsinki Monitor (GHM) has similarly filed multiple complaints to Greek authorities concerning pushbacks allegations.

On February 11, 2026, Tommy Olsen was informed by Norwegian authorities that a European arrest warrant had been issued against him following a 2022 Greek investigation. On March 16, 2026, he was arrested at his home in Tromsø. A Norwegian court subsequently ruled that he could be extradited to Greece, a decision which he is appealing, and he was remanded in custody. He was subsequently released on March 20 pending his appeal hearing but remains at risk of extradition. If extradited, he could face pre-trial detention for up to 18 months. Panayote Dimitras, who is a Greek citizen and based in Greece, was subjected to restrictive measures pending the trial.

The arrest and proposed extradition of Tommy Olsen and the ongoing criminal case against him and Dimitras, happens in a climate of growing hostility against civil society in Greece. Since 2018, Greek authorities have misused anti-smuggling and facilitation laws to criminalize humanitarian and solidarity work. Several people have faced criminal investigations and prosecution, while an untold number of migrants and refugees have experienced human rights violations both in the country and at its borders.

Amnesty International has [clearly stated](#) that Greek anti-smuggling legislation is not aligned to international standards and does not adequately protect human rights defenders from criminal prosecution. [New rules](#) introduced by Greece earlier in the year, which make membership of a registered migration NGO an aggravating factor in smuggling cases, create a dangerous and unjustified link between legitimate human rights work and criminal activities. It is imperative that Norway and other European countries are not complicit in attempts to criminalize those standing in solidarity with refugees and migrants and speaking out against violations of their rights.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Norwegian, English, or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: September 23, 2026

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Tommy Olsen (he/him)