**Original tekst på engelsk som den tyrkiske ambassadøren Herr. Fazlı Çorman har skrevet:**

**Comments from the Turkish Ambassador to the statements of the Ambassador of Greece to Oslo in the article titled “– The authorities are right-wing extremists”**

[**https://www.dagbladet.no/nyheter/myndighetene-er-hoyreekstreme/77033862**](https://www.dagbladet.no/nyheter/myndighetene-er-hoyreekstreme/77033862)

[**https://www.dagbladet.no/meninger/avviser-pastandene/77547773**](https://www.dagbladet.no/meninger/avviser-pastandene/77547773)

**By Fazlı Çorman** *(Fazli Corman)***Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to the Kingdom of Norway**

The statements of the Ambassador of Greece regarding the arrest of a Norwegian photographer in Lesvos published in Dagbladet on the 4th of September is actually a mere reflection of the longstanding Greek policy of blaming Türkiye for every issue that they have. Nevertheless, it is surprising even for me that she could actually go so far to claim the arrest of a Norwegian photographer in Lesvos as Türkiye’s fault.

The Greek Ambassador, my colleague here in Oslo, claims that the islands in the Aegean face “significant Turkish military forces” and that Türkiye threatens Greece over the sovereignty of the islands, and this in fact led to the arrest of the Norwegian photographer in Lesvos. I don’t know if we should move Asia Minor away from the Greek islands so that Greece should not “face” significant Turkish forces that apparently make them nervous so that they would not arrest the next Norwegian photographer that they could find. She does not just say she is sorry about the incident but instead she uses the occasion to meaninglessly and unnecessarily attack us. Our Greek friends generally brag about the source of the word “democracy” being Greek in origin but so are the words like “demagoguery”, “hypocrisy” and “drama”.

With my professional respect to her as a colleague, her printed words in Dagbladet are to me a blatant effort of misleading the Norwegian public opinion with false claims and accusations hence my response:

I would like to first point out that it is not Türkiye but Greece who chooses to escalate tension in the region with provocative actions and hostile rhetoric on a daily basis. The Norwegian media chooses not to report on endless Greek annoyances but only reports when we finally respond. There is no reason for Türkiye to prefer escalation with Greece as we have already a lot to deal with real issues elsewhere. Türkiye has always been in favor of dialogue and cooperation with Greece.

Despite our calls for dialogue, Greece continues to use a hostile rhetoric, complains about us to all third parties (EU, the US, UNSG and NATO and lastly Norway), and try to impose their maximalist positions in all issues that they put themselves in including their big-fat claims on maritime boundaries.

Furthermore~~,~~ Greece has been in material breach of legal obligations of 1923 Lausanne and 1947 Paris Peace Treaties. Demilitarization obligation was the condition of transfer of sovereignty of these islands to Greece. Those islands are in very close proximity to the Anatolian (continental) mainland, and their location and status have always had implications for Türkiye’s national security perceptions.

Secondly, I completely and utterly reject the unfound claims, put forward without any evidence, that “Turkish coastguard and navy have escorted fragile vessels into Greece's territorial waters”. This is exactly what they have been doing as the OLAF report on Frontex documented: (<https://fragdenstaat.de/en/blog/2022/10/13/frontex-olaf-report-leaked/> )

Greece has turned the inhumane practice of push backs into a systematic policy.

Concrete evidences of ill-treatment of migrants and EU Frontex’s complicity in these criminal push-backs have already been put forward by many international NGOs and media. NGOs have made several calls for proper investigation and criticized EU’s indifference to pushbacks and ill-treatments. Despite all, the Greek side, encouraged by the silence or concealed approval by the EU, continues to blame us for the loss of lives and tries to cover its wrongdoings leading deaths of innocent lives even while you are reading this.

By the way, kudos to the Norwegian brave man (that I do not know) named Knut Bry in standing up against such hypocrisy and telling the truth. There are other Norwegians who are aware of what is happening in Turkish-Greek borders and the truth will slowly surface, as it always does.

