Analyzing smuggling of migrants in north Mediterranean sea areas in terms of Turkey, Greece and Italy

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Received: 08 February 2012; accepted: 19 April 2012

Abstract

Smuggling of migrants is a transnational crime that is related with international community in terms of international relations, regulations and international law. This crime is not only a problem that is occurred by financial and spiritual abuse of migrants, but it is a serious problem between coastal states. The main source of the problem is undetermined sea boundaries between coastal states, since the belonging of territorial sea or contiguous zone that smuggling of migrants has found is crucial for the coastal states in terms of rescue operations’ financial costs. Due to being located on the routes of north – south and east – west, Turkey is transit country for smuggling of migrants. It is estimated that every year one hundred thousand people migrates to European countries via Turkey. However seventy thousand migrants have been arrested by Turkish Coast Guard Command just in last one year. It is well known fact that migrants using sea routes prefer Turkey in order to reach Greece and Italy. On the ground of a long history of conflict, Greece and Turkey’s problems are well known in the international relations and international maritime law literature. However, smuggling of migrants related problems between these states are not being studied enough. This study examines smuggling of migrants via maritime areas in terms of territorial waters and contiguous zone in North Mediterranean and this context focuses problems that are related with smuggling of migrants between Turkey, Greece and Italy. In order to clarify these problems, first of all the concept of territorial waters, contiguous zone and smuggling of migrants in North Mediterranean have been defined. Afterwards, internal provisions related with smuggling of migrants in Turkey, Greece and Italy have been illustrated. Finally, smuggling of migrants in North Mediterranean Sea in terms of Turkey, Greece and Italy have been discussed.

Keywords: Smuggling of Migrants; Turkey; Greece; Italy; United Nations