

Catharina Ziebritzki

The EU's Liability for its Refugee Camps

Responsibility for Fundamental Rights Violations
in the Integrated EU Hotspot Administration



Nomos

Beiträge zum
ausländischen öffentlichen Recht und Völkerrecht

Edited by
the Max Planck Society
for the Advancement of Science
represented by Prof. Dr. Armin von Bogdandy
and Prof. Dr. Anne Peters

Volume 341

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Open Access funding by the Max Planck Society.

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available on the Internet at <http://dnb.d-nb.de>

a.t.: Frankfurt am Main, Univ., Diss., 2024

Original title: The EU's Responsibility in the Asylum Administration. Administrative Integration, Judicial Protection and the Case of the EU Hotspots.

1st Edition 2025

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Published by

Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG
Walzseestraße 3–5 | 76530 Baden-Baden
www.nomos.de

Production of the printed version:

Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG
Walzseestraße 3–5 | 76530 Baden-Baden

ISBN (Print): 978-3-7560-2323-3

ISBN (ePDF): 978-3-7489-4972-5

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5771/9783748949725>

D30



Online Version
Nomos eLibrary



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Acknowledgements

This book came out of a long journey. I would like to express my deep gratitude to all those who have made this journey possible, be it through their inspiration or their support, and to all those who have accompanied me, be it for a shorter or for a longer part of the way.

The journey began in summer 2015 in the refugee camp *Moria*, on the island of Lesvos, Greece. I had just completed my law degree in Heidelberg, and was drawn towards the shores of Europe, where I would see with my own eyes what European externalisation policies really do to our fellow humans. I realised two things. Firstly, I began to sense the extent of suffering caused by European policies. It became obvious to me that this suffering affects racialised people in particular and that it hits children and vulnerable people especially hard. Secondly, I realised that, contrary to what media reports at the time often suggested, the inhumane camps were projects not of Greece but of the EU. It seemed strange to me that officials from EU agencies and the European Commission had their office containers inside the camps and walked through the mud alongside their Greek colleagues while the EU fiercely denied any legal responsibility for human rights violations.

The journey continued in January 2016 when I started my work as a research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg. This was a different world. Unlike in *Moria*, there was not always an urgent next thing to do. There was space and time for thought and reflection. The Institute offered me a truly wonderful space to discuss, learn, read, write, think, and discuss again. We had time for concentrated research, and we were given the possibility to follow our inclinations and interests.

I thank all those who have accompanied me during my time at the Institute, both intellectually and personally. I am truly grateful to Professor Armin von Bogdandy for his generous trust. From the very first moment, he gave me the greatest possible freedom to do things the way it seemed right to me – even when this meant things would take me longer. He managed to both inspire and challenge me. Without his support, the journey would have stopped before it really began.

Acknowledgements

I am deeply grateful to Kanad Bagchi, Leander Beinlich, Milan Tahraoui, Raffaela Kunz, Giacomo Rugge, Teddy Shulman, Silvia Steininger, Franz Ebert, Christoph Krenn, and all the others who travelled with me as PhD fellows and friends. You made those parts of the journey that we travelled together a wonderful time. I am equally grateful to Michalis Ioannidis, Laura Hering, and Erin Pobjie for their constant support and friendship. And I am grateful to Anuscheh Farahat, Christian Marxsen, Nora Markard, Jürgen Bast, Anna Lübbe, and Melanie Fink for their continuous advice and encouragement. Without you all, I would most likely not have completed this project.

I am equally grateful to Robert Nestler, Vinzent Vogt and Clara-Anne Bünger. We met in 2016 in Chios, a neighbour island to Lesvos, and what brought us together was the ambition to offer qualified legal advice to those trapped in the dangerous and chaotic sites that were labelled 'EU hotspots'. I am grateful to the three of you for our collaboration and friendship and for giving me the freedom to pursue both NGO work and academic work. I am indebted to Katharina Voß, Ansgar Gilster and Kristine Rembach for trusting in our ambitions.

The journey continued throughout the following years, with my mind and body oscillating between Heidelberg, Berlin, Athens and the Greek Aegean islands. I met wonderful people along the way. I am grateful to Cathryn Costello and Violeta Moreno-Lax. I am grateful to Yasar, Kate, Anne Pertsch, Niki Georgiou, Elli Kriona, Giorgos Maniatis, Corinna Ujkašević, Mustafa Noah, and Aora Helmzadeh. Thank you for your inspiration and your support, in different ways and times.

My journey was generously funded by the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, and Equal Rights Beyond Borders. I thank my interview partners at the EU asylum agency and the European Commission for their time and openness. I am truly grateful to all those who have invested time and intellect to read and improve my sketches and drafts. I am indebted to Jamie Kessler, Carolyn Moser and Florian Kriener for final proofreading. I thank Johannes Rux, Andrea Schneider, Carola Spengler and their team at Nomos for the great collaboration and smooth publication process.

The journey has been long and rich, and it seems impossible to mention everyone I have met along the way. I thank all those who, knowingly or unknowingly, have accompanied, supported and inspired me.

And finally, thank you to those who have accompanied my soul over the last years, for I could not have made this journey with my mind alone.

Thank you, dear sisters and dear brother, Jojo, Valja, and Toni. Thank you, dear parents, Doris and Henning. Thank you, dear grandfathers and dear grandmothers, especially Werner and Heide, for passing on our own family's stories of flight. Thank you, dear friends. Thank you, Felix. Thank you, Antonia. Thank you, Sophia, Aljoscha, and Sigrid, for those parts of the journey that we shared. Thank you, Lin, thank you, Heidi and Emna. Thank you, dear Maxim; and thank you, little Jascha, for bursting into our lives.

Berlin, 5 September 2024

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List of Abbreviations

AFSJ	Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
AMIF	Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
AST	Asylum Support Team
CAT	Convention against Torture
CEAS	Common European Asylum System
ChFR	Charter of Fundamental Rights
CJEU	Court of Justice of the European Union; the same abbreviation is used to refer to the CJEU's predecessors, i.e. the Court of Justice of the European Coal and Steel Communities and the Court of Justice of the European Communities
COM	European Commission
CPT	European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DARIO	Draft Articles on the Responsibility of International Organizations
DARS	Draft Articles on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts
ECA	European Court of Auditors
EASO	European Asylum Support Office
EC	European Community
ECCHO	European Commission, Directorate General European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
ECGAB	European Code of Good Administrative Behaviour
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
ECtHR	European Court of Human Rights
EFCA	European Fisheries Control Agency

List of Abbreviations

EMA	European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products
EMSA	European Maritime Safety Agency
ESM	European Stability Mechanism
EU	European Union
EUAA	European Union Agency for Asylum
eu-LISA	Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
Europol	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation
EURTF	European Regional Task Force
FRA	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
Frontex	European Border and Coast Guard Agency, and formerly: European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union
GAS	Greek Asylum Service
HOME	European Commission, Directorate General Home Affairs
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JMD	Joint Ministerial Decision
MMST	Migration Management Support Team
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoU-JP	Memorandum of Understanding on a Joint Pilot
MP-RIC	Multi-Purpose Reception and Identification Centre (also referred to as 'EU Hotspot 2.0')
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OP	Operational Plan
RABIT	Frontex, Rapid Border Intervention Team
RIC	Greek Reception and Identification Centre

RIS	Greek First Reception and Identification Service
SoP	Standard Operation Procedures
TEU	Treaty on European Union
TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
ToC	Terms of Cooperation
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

