

Greek immigrant smugglers sentenced to 43 years imprisonment

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Body

A Greek **immigrant smuggler** was convicted and **sentenced** on Thursday to 43 years imprisonment for smuggling 43 Albanian **immigrants** one year for each illegal alien.

Authorities said Pavlos Paraskevopoulos was convicted of **immigrant** smuggling under a new migration law that toughens **sentencing** guidelines.

Greece-**Immigrant Smuggler** Under the guidelines, a **smuggler** may be convicted to a year imprisonment for each illegal **immigrant**.

The court of first instance also fined the 45-year-old car mechanic 43 million drachmas (dlrs 107,500), one million for each **immigrant**. In Greece it is usual practice for courts to convict and **sentence** on the same day.

Paraskevopoulos was jailed pending appeal.

Police arrested Paraskevopoulos late Wednesday outside this northern port city's main vegetable market. They discovered the **immigrants** inside a truck he was driving.

Thousands of **immigrants**, mostly from the Middle East and Albania, sneak into Greece each year. Many are transported from Turkey by boat to nearby Greek islands, while others cross over Greece's mountainous northern borders.

About 500,000 Albanian **immigrants** live and work in Greece, many of them illegally.

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