



The children were taking in the water, and the cold.

# Borders Kill

Nikos Pilos

Exhibition, App





The waves were getting higher.



# Borders Kill

## The story of Ali Jeyedad

Since 2009 Greece has been the point of entry and transit for 2 million migrants from Africa, Asia and the Middle East. From the beginning of the crisis the country's fragility was evident, in its economic decline, highly porous borders, poor reception facilities and ineffective asylum framework. Then in 2015 the number of migrants and refugees exploded. Fleeing Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Africa, they attempt the sea crossing from Turkey to the eastern Aegean islands.

Even when they survive the perilous journey to Europe, there is no relief for the migrants. They still risk beatings and tear gas in clashes with the police, usually caused by delays in the registration process; and they endure long hikes in extreme weather conditions to reach northern Europe. Since 2016 they have not been able to get much further than Greece, as border controls have been tightened amid fears of an immigrant invasion and terrorism. Xenophobia and nationalism are poisoning the open borders policy and the democratic values of Europe.

*Borders Kill* is based on the personal story of Ali Jeyedad. Ali undertook two journeys to bring his Iraqi family to safety. He lost the youngest two of his four children: Hisen (4) and Zeyneb (6). They are among the 3,600 people who lost their lives while seeking refuge in Europe since 2009. The UN referred to the situation as 'the worst refugee crisis since the second World War.'

### Nikos Pilos (1967)

is an award-winning photo-journalist based in Athens, Greece. Pilos has covered major historical events such as the overthrow of Ceausescu in Romania, the war in Iraq and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Pilos's work appears regularly in international newspapers and magazines including *The New York Times*, *Die Zeit*, *NRC Handelsblad*, *Newsweek Japan*, *Time* and other media.

### XAOΣ

*Borders Kill* is part of XAOΣ, Nikos Pilos's project dealing with the Greek crisis, which he started to document as early as 2007. XAOΣ is a project under development, produced by Paradox.

### Exhibition

Audiovisual installation on two screens with sound, combined with live Twitter feeds. Video editing: Peter Claassen & Tiago Rosado

### Launch

Benaki Museum (Athens Photo Festival), June 2016

### App

To be announced

### Info

[paradox.nl/borderskill](http://paradox.nl/borderskill)

### Paradox

#### documentary projects

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