

Greeks arrested on mass murder charges

MASS murder charges were last night brought against three Greeks in connection with a chilling — and mysterious — illegal immigration case, *writes John Hooper, Southern Europe Correspondent.*

On Saturday, the Greek government said it feared that more than 280 would-be immigrants from the Indian

sub-continent had died in a collision at sea off Sicily on Christmas Day. But searches have failed to find any trace of the alleged disaster.

More than 100 immigrants who claimed to have survived the collision were arrested after coming ashore near the Greek port of Nafplion. The town's prosecutor, Yannis Provataris, said the mass

murder charges had been laid against three fugitive sailors.

"Only Greeks have been charged with murder because, under international law, we cannot charge foreigners for crimes committed outside Greece," he added. Another eight people, including foreigners, are charged with the illegal movement of immigrants in Greece, he said.