



MEDREPORT
JULY 2023

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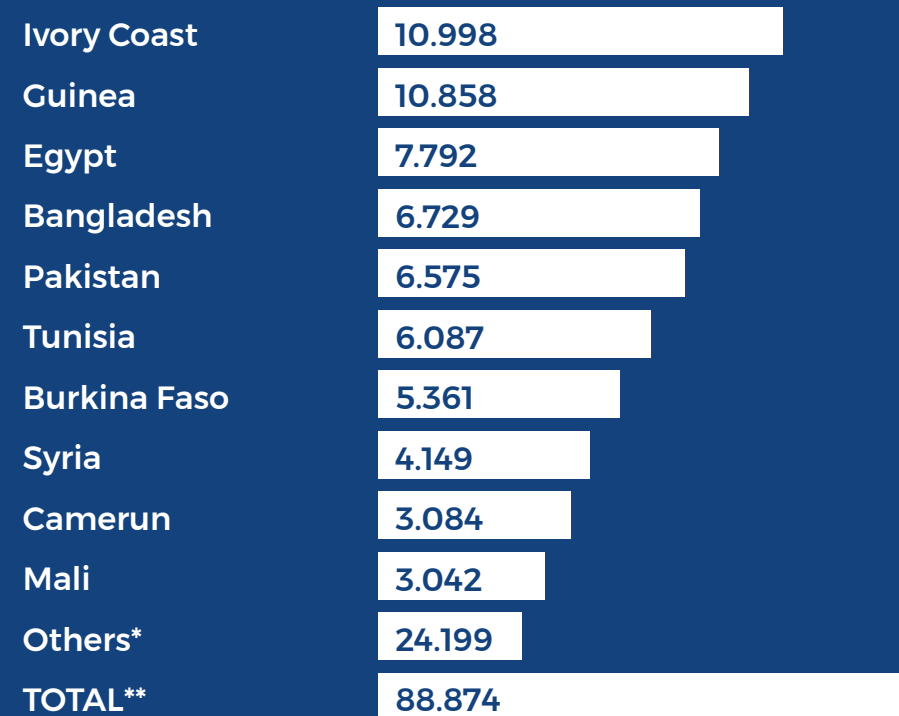
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WHAT DO THE NUMBERS TELL US

In July, the number of people forced to flee across the Mediterranean and who managed to arrive in Italy was 23,944. Among them were 2,663 unaccompanied minors.

Since January 2023, just as in previous years, the debate around the migration emergency in Italy has been characterized by alarmist tones and catastrophic forecasts. The data for these eight months, however, show a much more nuanced picture which is far from the proclaimed emergency. In the first seven months of 2023, about 88,000 people landed on the Italian coast.

NATIONALITIES DECLARED AT THE TIME OF LANDING (UPDATED TO JULY 31, 2023)



* The figure could include immigrants for whom they still are identification activities are in progress.

** The data refer to the landing events detected before 8:00 am of the reference day.

Source: Department of Public Security of the Ministry of the Interior of the Italian Republic.

The data are subject to subsequent consolidation

This number does indicate an increase compared to previous years, but it is far from the alarming numbers predicted by intelligence services at the beginning of the year which estimated possible entries reaching “up to 685,000 migrants.” With most of the arrivals coming from the Ivory Coast, Guinea, Egypt, and Pakistan, data indicate that the much feared “invasion” of migrants from North Africa has not materialized.


Even though these numbers show that the Italian reception system is able to cope with these migratory flows without falling into a state of

emergency, the state of emergency approach in welcoming migrants continues to be decidedly the predominant approach. It is an approach that allows political exploitation and permits widespread propaganda to distort public perception of the phenomenon of migration.

The need for a more realistic and informed approach in managing migration is obvious. It is necessary in order to promote public policies based on solidarity, integration, and above all, respect for human rights.



These data are processed on the basis of information provided by the Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration of the Ministry of the Interior of the Italian Republic. The data refer to the landing events detected by 8.00 on the reference day.



CHRONICLE OF JULY

**OF THE FACTS IN
MEDITERRANEAN**

DAY 1

During the night, MareGo's crew completes the disembarkation of 41 people at the port of Trapani. The rescue operation took place south of the island of Lampedusa.

DAY 2

At the port of Trapani, the merchant ship, Calajunco M, disembarks the 70 people rescued the previous day thanks to Seabird's alert.

DAY 4

During the night, GeoBarents' crew rescues 196 people in four separate operations, including three coordinated by MRCC Rome.

DAY 6

It has been an extremely demanding day for the crew aboard Open Arms. Approximately 300 people have been rescued in six separate operations and several other missions have been carried out assisting more boats in distress. Italian authorities have assigned the port of Brindisi for disembarkation.

DAY 7

After four additional days of further useless navigation, Italian authorities assign the port of Marina di Carrara to GeoBarents and allow the crew to disembark the 196 people who were rescued in the preceding days. There are 47 unaccompanied minors, 16 women, and a newborn among them.

In the afternoon, Ocean Viking's crew rescues 46 people aboard a fragile fiberglass boat fleeing Libya that had been signalled by Seabird. On board, there are four women, a 4 year old girl, and about 10 unaccompanied minors. During the rescue operation, the crew and survivors are threatened by shots fired from an armed Libyan patrol boat.

DAY 11

In the afternoon, the civil ship Humanity 1's crew rescues approximately 200 people fleeing from Tunisia in four separate missions south of Lampedusa. Among the survivors are a pregnant woman who is in critical condition and several other women and children.

DAY 15

During the night, dozens of boats fleeing the racist violence in Tunisia brave the route to Lampedusa. ResqShip's sailboat, Nadir, assists dozens of people and later rescues 99 who are then disembark at the island.

SeaWatch's fast SAR unit, Aurora, with the support of Pilotes Volontaires' crew aboard the aircraft, Colibrì, stabilizes 11 boats in distress with a total of 485 people on board. Later, another 62 people in distress are rescued. Italian authorities will designate Trapani as the port of disembarkation for the survivors.

Thanks to Seabird's alert, the crew of the civil ship, GeoBarents, rescues 41 people. There are 5 women and 27 minors among those fleeing Libya.

DAY 19

ResqShip's crew aboard its sailboat, Nadir, rescues 138 people and assists 140 others aboard four separate boats. The operation was possible thanks to the support of Pilotes Volontaires' plane, Colibrì.

DAY 21

Emergency's crew aboard the civilian ship, LifeSupport, rescues 184 people in four separate operations.

DAY 24

The crew aboard OpenArms rescues 73 people during two operations coordinated by MRCC Rome and with the collaboration of AlarmPhone and Seabird. Disembarkation will take place safely at the port of Naples.

MED CARE FOR UKRAINE

MEDITERRANEA ALSO BRINGS ITS SUPPORT TO THE POOR IN LVIV

Mediterranea Saving Humans' Med Care for Ukraine project is approaching its first year of operation.

In fact, on August 11, 2022, our mobile medical clinic arrived in Lviv with an initial medical mission, accompanied by Mediterranean activists who initiated the project.

In the past month, as the first candle of our project in Ukraine approaches, we have reached medical mission number 28, which is operating at the 8 formal and informal reception sites in Lviv hosting war refugees.

Over the past month, fighting has intensified in the country and Russian shelling has repeatedly hit major Ukrainian cities such as Zaporizhzhia, Rivny, Kharkiv and Kiev. Our doctors and activists have had to operate under the constant pressure of air raid alarms that on several occasions each day have forced our workers and get to safety in shelters. But despite this, the project is moving forward expeditiously. Thanks to collaboration with the Community of St. Egidio in Ukraine, our mobile medical clinic is also bringing assistance to a large segment of the destitute population in the city of Lviv, in addition to war refugees. These are the homeless, very often people who come from the most war-torn cities, living in makeshift places or near public parks.

Med Care for Ukraine's primary health care activities have been joined by meal distribution done by volunteers from the St. Egidio community.

Instead, treatment for refugees housed in the municipal camp in the Shykviv district and those housed in churches, monasteries, private homes and the Lviv National Polytechnic University, which continues to house about 300 people in its gyms, is going on.

In the past month the medical missions have also consisted of doctors and nurses who for the first time took part in the project in Ukraine.

The rotation of medical health personnel, composed exclusively of volunteers, is one of the most successful participation processes of the Med Care for Ukraine project with nearly 50 people making up the 28 health teams that have taken turns so far. In addition at the next edition of “A Bordo” the Festival of Mediterranean Saving Humans that this year will be held in Rome at Città dell’Altra Economia from September 7 to 10, some of the activists from the NGO Insight, one of the partners of the Med Care for Ukraine project, will be in Italy.

Also with them will be some of our Ukrainian translators who decisively support our Med Care teams in their daily care activities. In fact, one of the panels of the rich program of the Festival “On Board” will be dedicated to our intervention in Ukraine and the activities of the Med Care project. It will thus be an opportunity to hear live accounts of the war in Ukraine and the work we have been doing for the past year.



MSH MONTHLY REPORT ON MIGRATIONS



WORLD

TUNISIA, July 3rd-4th: Violence and inhumane treatment targeting migrants in the country characterizes the deteriorating situation in Tunisia. Near Sfax, mass detentions leading to forced deportation have been reported. Tunisian authorities deport hundreds of people and leave them in the desert on the border with Libya. The images of the lifeless bodies of Fati Dosso and his daughter, Marie, are emblematic of Europe's complicity with Saied's authoritarian regime.

NIGERIA, July 5th: Famine and malnutrition is worsening in northwest Nigeria. In addition to the poor performance of local agricultural production, the continuous spiral of violence that characterizes this area of the African state plays a dramatic role in the serious humanitarian cost. The continuous raids of armed groups in the region are severely endangering the lives of the local population.

LIBYA, July 11th: A panel of experts submit a document at a UN summit detailing the results of an investigation carried out in Libya. The probe finds evidence of complicity between the so-called Libyan Coast Guard and traffickers. Salvatore Vella, Agrigento's Chief Prosecutor, illustrates the dramatic situation in Libya and Tunisia emphasizing the inadequacy of the State's response.

LIBYA, July 12th: EU Commissioner for Internal Affairs, Ylva Johansson, reaffirms that Libya is at the mercy of armed gang violence. Moreover, she has called on the so-called Libyan Coast Guard to comply with international commitments regarding sea rescue in the Libyan SAR area.

LIBYA, July 12th: Libyan authorities release 225 refugees who were detained in Libya's Ain Zara concentration camp for a year and a half following protests outside UNHCR headquarters in Tripoli. Refugees in Libya and other European civil society groups have been fighting for the release of migrants in the camp since 2022. The people who have been freed are now in UNHCR custody, but they have been granted evacuation to a safe third country.

TUNISIA, July 16th: The Memorandum of Understanding between the EU and Tunisia is signed in Carthage. The document will aid in worsening the treatment of migrants in the country and it will continue the process of externalization and militarization of European borders. Only part of the document has been made public, but there are many concerns regarding the decisions made that will impact migrants' lives in Tunisia.

WESTERN SAHARA, July 18th: 24 people lost their lives after a boat sank off the coast of Western Sahara. There are approximately 37 survivors who have been admitted to Dakhla Hospital.

WORLD

LIBYA, July 18th: The so-called Libyan Coast Guard attacks and boards the Italian fishing boat, Orizzonte. An Italian Navy helicopter arrives on the scene. The boat suffers extensive damage and requires assistance to return to port due to a broken rudder.

TUNISIA, July 20th-2st: In Tunis, various associations and civil society organizations gather for a series of initiatives on migrant rights and on the brutality implemented by Mediterranean governments and the European Union in order to deal with the migration crisis.

SENEGAL, July 25th: A boat capsizes off the Senegalese capital, Dakar, killing at least 16 people. The boat, headed for the Canary Islands, collided with rocks in its attempt to escape local patrols.

TUNISIA, July 28th: Interior Minister Kamel Feki denies Tunisia is failing to meet its obligations towards migrants. However, there is clear evidence that the IOM is complicit in repatriations carried out by Tunisian authorities. Following scuffles with local residents, 46 people of Gambian origin were expelled from the country under ambiguous circumstances.

ETHIOPIA: Refugees in Libya receives alarming direct reports from Ethiopia that the 6,000 people residing in the Kumar camp who fled Sudan which has been ravaged by civil war have not received needed assistance from the UNHCR.

EUROPEAN UNION, July 1st: Refugees in Libya and many other European civil society organizations have planned a demonstration in Brussels which is home to the main European institutions responsible for human rights violations in Libya. These institutions continue to be passive in the face of the irrefutable evidence that attests to the complicity between the traffickers of human beings and the European Union.

GREECE, July 4th: After a two-day standstill, Alarm Phone reports that a group of 9 people were pushed back in Turkey by Greek authorities along the Evros River. Greece had denied having spotted these people in distress along the Evros River during a joint patrol with Frontex.

GREECE, July 4th: Several European and international organizations join in calling for an end to the smear campaign against Panayote Dimitras who has condemned and documented many illegal push backs by Greek authorities. For the activist, the situation in Greece is becoming increasingly difficult due to authorities' open hostility.

POLAND, July 7th: Poland will strengthen its borders by sending police units to join border guards and soldiers already deployed along the Belarusian border. The decision is motivated by the arrival of the Russian commander of the Wagner Group, Yevgeny Prigozhin, in Minsk.

WORLD



HOLLAND, July 7th: Mark Rutte's government falls as a result of a government crisis linked to changes in family reunification policy. The new stricter rules demanded by the right wing of the government were judged to be too strict by the Rutte liberals and the Christian Democrats who supported the coalition.

EUROPEAN UNION, July 10th: The Stop Border Violence campaign supporting the European Citizens' Initiative to force the Commission to respect the correct application of the European Union's Declaration of Fundamental Rights' Article 4 has begun and will last a year. Specifically, it calls for an end to all forms of torture and all degrading and inhumane treatment.

EUROPEAN UNION, July 13th: The Chamber of the European Parliament has approved a declaration calling for the creation of a European relief mission to support NGOs currently operating in the Mediterranean. The MEPs also asked for clarification on all EU cooperation activities with countries such as Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, and Morocco.

GREECE, July 13th: Greek police pressured Pylos shipwreck survivors to identify certain Egyptian men as possible traffickers. Suspicions regarding the Greek Coast Guard's behavior during the shipwreck have been extensively confirmed. However, there has been no willingness from Athens to collaborate in reconstructing the truth around the disaster.

UNITED KINGDOM, July 18th: The British Government launches a barge docked at the Port of Portland along the British Channel coast in order to lock up approximately 500 asylum seekers waiting for their cases to be examined. The inhumane measure is largely operational, but it is destined to become fully operational after King Charles III signs the bill into law.

MALTA, July 22nd: Malta begins a joint exercise with the so-called Libyan Coast Guard. According to Maltese authorities, the operations are expected to increase relief capabilities in the Libyan SAR, but there is evidence that continues to demonstrate that Libyan militia violence is perpetrated both at sea and on land.

EUROPEAN UNION, July 26th: The European Ombudsman announces that an investigation into the Cutro massacre has been opened. Specifically, Frontex has been asked to hand over all the documentation in its possession in order to ascertain whether the agency could have acted more effectively than just alerting Greece.

EUROPEAN UNION, July 28th: A cross-party delegation of MEPs signs a letter challenging Ursula von der Leyen's decision to ignore Tunisia's serious human rights violations and her decision to work closely with Tunisian President Kais Saied.

SEA

CIVIL FLEET, July 3rd-4th: Geo Barents (Médecins Sans Frontières) rescues 196 people on three boats. They disembark at the port of Marina di Carrara, more than 100 kilometers away.

LAMPEDUSA, July 6th: Throughout the day, following about thirty landings, more than 1,200 people arrive in Lampedusa.

CIVIL FLEET, July 6th: Open Arms rescues 299 people in six separate operations. After an additional three days of navigation, the survivors disembark at the port of Brindisi.

CIVIL FLEET, July 7th: Ocean Viking (SOS Méditerranée) carries out two operations rescuing 57 people. The survivors disembark at Civitavecchia.

CIVIL FLEET, July 10th: Ocean Viking receives a third SOS in the Maltese SAR area as it heads north. But the so-called Libyan Coast Guard also arrives at the location, shoots at Ocean Viking, and departs about 250 people to Libya.

LESBOS, July 9th: The Greek Coast Guard repels 27 people in Turkey who were intercepted off Lesbos.

CIVIL FLEET, July 11th: Humanity 1 (SOS Humanity) rescues 199 people in four separate operations. They disembark in Ancona, over 1,400 kilometers away.

LIBYAN COASTS, July 12th: About 28 people in distress in the Maltese SAR area are likely illegally taken back to Libya.

PELAGIE ISLANDS, July 13th: The Coast Guard rescues nine boats carrying a total of 389 people. Unfortunately, a 4-year-old boy lost

his life at sea off the Pelagie Islands. The survivors disembark at Messina and Reggio Calabria.

SFAX, July 13th: While attempting to flee Tunisia, a boat capsizes off Sfax leaving 13 people dead and 25 survivors.

SFAX, July 13th: While attempting to flee Tunisia, about 45 people are rescued by a Tunisian fishing boat which returns them back to Sfax. Two people drown during the rescue attempt.

CIVIL FLEET, July 14th: Aurora (Sea-Watch) rescues 52 people and assists another 433 who are later rescued by the Italian Coast Guard. The people aboard Aurora disembark at Trapani.

CIVIL FLEET, July 15th: Nadir (ResQShip) rescues 100 people from two boats. The Italian Coast Guard later takes them aboard a patrol boat and brings them to Lampedusa.

CIVIL FLEET, July 16th: Geo Barents rescues 346 people: 213 disembark at Marina di Carrara and 133 at Livorno.

CIVIL FLEET, July 16th: Mare*Go assists 87 people on two boats while waiting for the Italian Coast Guard to arrive. Another 38 are later rescued and brought to Trapani.

CIVIL FLEET, July 16th: Rise Above (Mission Lifeline) assists 5 boats and rescues 77 people aboard two boats. The survivors disembark at Vibo Valentia which is more than 650 kilometers away from the site of rescue.

CIVIL FLEET, July 18th-19th: Nadir assists 140 people while waiting for the Italian Coast Guard to arrive and later rescues

SEA

another 138. Of these, 19 are taken on board by the Coast Guard while the remaining survivors disembark at Lampedusa.

CIVIL FLEET, July 20th: Mare*Go assists about 400 people on eight separate boats and rescues 57 people who later disembark at Trapani.

PSERIMOS, July 20th: The Greek Coast Guard rescues 27 people off the coast of the Dodecanese Islands and brings them to Kalymnos.

CIVIL FLEET, July 21st: Life Support (Emergency) rescues 184 people from four separate boats. 13 of the survivors are in critical physical condition and are disembarked at Lampedusa while the remaining survivors are brought to Taranto.

CIVIL FLEET, July 22nd: Nadir assists 31 people on two boats while waiting for the arrival of the Italian Coast Guard who later brings them to Lampedusa.

NADOR, July 22nd: 6 people die and 48 survive a shipwreck off Nador along the Moroccan coast.

CIVIL FLEET, July 24th: Nadir rescues 103 people together with Imara (r42 sail & rescue). They disembark at Lampedusa.

CIVIL FLEET, July 24th: Open Arms rescues 73 people and they disembark at the port of Salerno.

MALTESE SAR ZONE, July 25th: During an attempt to flee Sfax, 5 people die while 36 survive a shipwreck in the Maltese SAR area.

LEUCA, July 27th: 129 people on board a fishing boat autonomously land at the port of Leuca.

ITALY

ROME, July 5th: Artist Harry Greb donates his art installation entitled “#borders” to Mediterranea Saving Humans. The installation will be exhibited in the occupied space Spin Time Labs in Rome.

MILAN, July 10th: Altraeconomia condemns the silence of the institutions regarding the inhumane conditions found at the CPR of via Corelli in Milan. The despair of the people inside has led to clashes, but no action has been taken by authorities to guarantee the dignity of those detained there.

CIVITAVECCHIA, July 11th: A 20 day detention order is issued to the civil ship Ocean Viking in the port of Civitavecchia following an inspection by port authorities. SOS Méditerranée broke the news and is currently working on resuming rescue activities as soon as possible.

PALERMO, July 13th: In the quarterly report published on July 13th, Palermo’s Circolo Arci Porco Rosso sheds light on the prison reality of the passeurs, a derogatory term improperly designating smugglers. The conditions under which these people are held in prisons have devastating effects on their mental health and often the charges against them are not substantiated by factual evidence.

ROME, July 21st: A Mediterranea Saving Humans delegation is received by the Pope. Bentolo, a survivor of the Libyan concentration camps who managed to contact Mediterranea’s chaplain, Don Mattia Ferrari, while he was in Libya is also present.

ITALY

ROME, July 23rd: At a summit, Giorgia Meloni meets with delegations from the African continent to discuss development and migration. According to reports, the model advocated by Rome would be the “Tunisia model,” even though there are obvious human rights violations against migrants taking place daily in that country.

ROME, July 23rd: At Spin Time Labs in Rome, the African Counter Summit is held concurrently with the summit organized by the Government. Mediterranea and Refugees in Libya have organized a meeting where several African migrants and refugees brought their personal testimony and discussed the theme of migration.

BOLOGNA, July 23rd: Patrick Zaki finally arrives in Bologna. The Egyptian activist was pardoned after being sentenced to three years in prison for threatening national security.

BOLOGNA, July 25th: The European Court of Justice will assess the legitimacy of the crime of aiding and abetting irregular immigration, a charge the Court of Trapani directed at the crew of Iuventa. The appeal submitted by the lawyer Francesca Cancellaro was accepted by the Court of Bologna in another case, after the Court of Trapani’s refusal.

LAMPEDUSA, July 31st: In Lampedusa, four Tunisian fishermen are charged with maritime piracy. They are accused of preying on migrants during central Mediterranean crossings from the city of Sfax to Italy.

TURIN, July 1st: Several local organizations march together in procession in the city center to demand that the CPR of Corso Brunelleschi, temporarily closed due to damage caused by a prisoner revolt, not be reopened.

ITALO-FRENCH BORDER, July 27th-28th: 180 people trying to travel to France, by crossing the Italian-French border in various locations in the Susa Valley, are rescued in one night by the Red Cross and other local solidarity organizations from the valley.

REPORT BORDERLINE EUROPE

NEWS FROM
CENTRAL
MEDITERRANEAN



ARRIVALS

According to [borderline-europe](#), a total of 22,178 people arrived in Italy through the central Mediterranean in July. This was the month with the highest number of arrivals in Italy so far. However, no boats were recorded arriving in Malta. After more than 3,500 people reached Lampedusa in 48 hours at the end of June, the numbers dropped in early July and remained steady. Every day in July, there were hundreds of arrivals. Only on three days in July, there were less than 100 people who arrived per day. But, there was a stretch of ten days where up to thousands arrived. However, the number of arrivals published by the Italian Interior Ministry was just 2,363. In contrast, the UNHCR and the IOM reported 21,507 and 23,734 arrivals respectively.

Despite the Meloni government's multi-level efforts to control arrivals in the Mediterranean, including restricting NGO rescue operations, cooperating with Libyan and Tunisian Coast Guards, and the recent agreement between the EU and Tunisia, migrants are still able to reach Europe. The most recent data published by Alarm Phone report 539 boats in distress in the central Mediterranean just in the period from January to the end of June.

In July, dozens of boats were rescued concurrently in the Italian SAR area, prompting Italian authorities to ask NGOs to ignore the Piantedosi decree and to participate in several rescue operations. Several boats also managed to disembark autonomously, with 216 people landing in Lampedusa and 49 in Puglia. Lampedusa remains the place with the highest number of arrivals, with a total of 18,922 people landing there.

The increase in arrivals is partly due to the good weather in summer, but it can also be attributed to the current anti-Saharan sentiment of migrants in Tunisia. In Sfax, at the beginning of the month, there were reports of incidents of violence against migrants which forced them to leave the city. Sfax, in Tunis, is also the port from which most refugees leave Tunisia.

DEAD AND MISSING

Yet again, too many people have lost their lives attempting to cross the central Mediterranean in July. [borderline-europe](#) reported a total of 49 people died on this route and another 20 people are considered missing. UNHCR and IOM reported 57 deaths and disappearances during the same period.

On July 6th, [Alarm Phone](#) reported a case where three people died. However, what happened to the 33 survivors who were on the boat is unknown.

On July 9th, one person was reported deceased and another ten were reported missing following a boat accident. However, another 11 people were rescued by the Tunisian Coast Guard and returned to Tunisia. The boat had sailed from Zarzis.

On July 12th, five people were reported missing, while 44 people were rescued by a merchant ship following an accident at sea.

On July 13th, Tunisian authorities recovered 13 bodies after another shipwreck. The 25 remaining survivors were taken back to Sfax, Tunisia.

On July 14th, [Alarm Phone](#) reported two deaths had occurred during a pushback in Tunisia.

On the 23rd, 36 survivors were rescued by the Italian Coast Guard following a shipwreck in Malta's SAR zone. The survivors were taken to Lampedusa together with the body of a 40 year old woman. According to the survivors, five people are missing: a woman and her child from the Ivory Coast, a woman whose husband and sister arrived in Lampedusa, and two men, one of whom is 33 years old and from Gambia.

Most of the deceased (28) washed ashore in Libya.

In July, Tunisian Interior Minister Kamel Feki told parliament that 901 migrants had been found dead off the coast of Tunisia since the beginning of the year. Among the dead were 36 Tunisian citizens and 267 people of different nationalities. The remaining bodies were not identified. In 2023, [borderline-europe](#) reported a total of 1,273 dead and missing in the central Mediterranean, while UNHCR and IOM reported 1,815 and 1,285 respectively.

PUSHBACKS

The number of people intercepted attempting to reach Europe has not changed much since June: 2,145 people were forcibly returned to the place from which they tried to escape. Most of them were intercepted by Libyan authorities. Some cases stand out because they occurred in Maltese waters.

On July 7th, Alarm Phone received a distress call from a boat carrying about 250 people that had left Libya and was at that time located in Malta's SAR area. Sea-Watch's aircraft, Seabird, spotted the boat on the same day and reported that the Maltese authorities had instructed the nearby merchant ship, SAN FELIX, to leave the area. The next day, Sea-Watch posted a photo of Haftar Tariq Ben Zayed's militia ship next to the boat, which meant the boat had been taken back to Libya.

On July 10th, Alarm Phone reported another incidence of a boat in distress. This one carried 28 people. Two days later, Alarm Phone reported that it had had no contact with the boat since Monday and feared it had been forcibly returned.

On July 20th, Sea-Watch reported another pushback to Libya. In addition to the so-called Libyan Coast Guard's participation, a Maltese helicopter was also involved.

On the 28th, Sea-Watch reported the pushback of 300 people allegedly involving Frontex. Earlier, a Frontex plane had flown over the wooden boat several times, perhaps informing the Libyan militias of its location. Frontex has officially declared that it only cooperates with maritime rescue coordination centers.

In July, official cooperation between Libya and Malta was demonstrated as the two navies participated in joint exercises. This took place even though a patrol boat of the so-called Libyan Coast Guard had fired at the Ocean Viking and executed dangerous maneuvers during a rescue operation a few days earlier.

However, the pushbacks to Libya do not happen only at open sea. Reports of migrants being intercepted even before embarking on the crossing have been documented. Repeated reports of serious human rights violations concern everyone applying for protection in the field.

However, despite the new agreement between the EU and Tunisia, Tunisian authorities do not seem as committed to re-foulement. Even though we have documented a small number of expulsions from the central Mediterranean to Tunisia, 144 people in total, Tunisia is very committed to the lethal deportation of migrants to the border with Libya. The Italian Interior Minister's statement that an agreement involving the EU is a guarantee human rights will be respected is clearly untrue.

WAYS TO EUROPE

Since April, departures from Tunisia have been consistently more numerous than those from Libya. However, the gap has now widened. Our tally shows that in April, 9,559 people departed from Tunisia (most of them, 8,145 people, left from Sfax), while only 669 people departed from Libya. There were also 660 people who departed from Turkey. For the remaining 11,290, whether they left Libya or Tunisia is not specified. Up to now, many of those who left Tunisia by way of the Mediterranean had to cross Libya first despite the undignified and dangerous situation there. They either had to cross it if they were coming from sub-Saharan Africa or if they arrived by plane from Asia. However, the situation in Tunisia is no better than in Libya and many depart from Tunisia anyway. It is not easy to say whether this will change following the new developments in Tunisia. Arrivals from Tunisia fell only at the end of the month. It is still unclear whether this is due to the weather or if it is due to the new agreement's impact.

Together with the increase in departures from Tunisia, there has also been an increase in the number of cases of people who were rescued being found on boats without engines. The victims reported their boats had been attacked and their engines stolen. Consequently, Italian authorities accused four fishermen of piracy. These events are related to the previously mentioned shipwreck that took place on July 23rd. The survivors of the shipwreck reported being approached and attacked by a Tunisian fishing boat that stole their boat's engine. However, it is yet unclear whether this is just another instance of looking for a scapegoat and using the strategy of criminalization as exemplified in the numerous arrests of "smugglers."

CIVIL RESISTANCE

Many NGO rescue ships were involved in rescue operations in the central Mediterranean in July. A total of 2,381 people were rescued which is just 10.74% of all the people who arrived in July. Most of them were then sent to distant ports which the Italian Coordination Centre for Search and Rescue, MRCC in Rome, has been doing for months. At present, five non-governmental organizations have lodged a complaint with the European Commission because Italian law prohibits search and rescue vessels in Italy from carrying out more than one consecutive rescue operation.

In July, there was also a new investigation. This time the investigation involved SOS Méditerranée's Ocean Viking. The charge is not for having carried out more than one consecutive rescue operation, but for alleged administrative deficiencies found during a Port State Control inspection. After 10 days of dubious detention, the ship was released as authorities concluded the ship was in compliance with all applicable regulations. On its own behalf, Sea-Eye has filed a lawsuit against the Italian Ministry of Transport for SEA-EYE 4's 20 day administrative detention in Ortona and the fine it incurred.

Update on Iuventa: Italy's highest court, the Court of Cassation, has ruled on the territorial jurisdiction of the Iuventa's crew's trial and that of other accused parties. The ruling calls for a broader trial against the civilian fleet that must be divided into several individual trials.

NGOs active in July:

Humanity 1 (SOS Humanity)

Humanity I carried out two missions in July, rescuing several boats on those same missions.

On July 1st, 199 people were rescued from five boats as authorized by the MRCC in Rome. The survivors were later assigned Ortona in Abruzzo as a “safe” port. Two people had to be immediately evacuated by the Coast Guard due to medical emergencies before the others arrived at the port following a three day trip.

Upon its return to sea on July 11th, Humanity I rescued 204 people aboard four boats. This time the ship was assigned a port farther north than the previous occasion. Humanity 1 had to travel to the port of Ancona (Marche). Yet again, it was necessary to evacuate five people, while the rest arrived in Ancona after four days of navigation.

GeoBarents (MSF)

GeoBarents carried out two missions in the Mediterranean in July, rescuing several boats as authorized by the MRCC in Rome. In both cases, the ship was assigned a distant “safe” port in Tuscany.

During the night between July 3rd and 4th, 196 people aboard four boats were rescued. After three days of travel, they reached the port of Marina di Carrara.

Between July 14th and 16th, 462 people were rescued by 12 vessels. 116 people were taken ashore to Lampedusa. The other 346 people on board disembarked at two different ports, Livorno and Marina di Carrara, after four days of navigation.

Open Arms (Open Arms)

Open Arms carried out two missions in July.

On July 6th, the MRCC in Rome ordered them to rescue six boats carrying a total of 299 people. After three days of navigation, they reached the assigned port of Brindisi in Puglia.

On July 24th, 73 people were rescued and taken to the port of Salerno in Campania after two days on a stormy sea. One person was evacuated due to a medical emergency before the ship reached port.

Ocean Viking (SOS Mediteranée)

After a mission on July 7th in which 57 people were saved from two boats, the Ocean Viking reached the “safe” port of Civitavecchia, Lazio, after four days. Here the ship was held for ten days, as previously mentioned. During the rescue operation, the aforementioned incident with the Libyan patrol ship took place.

Aurora (Sea-Watch)

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Sea-Watch's small ship, Aurora, assisted the Italian Coast Guard on July 12th without taking any people on board. The operation involved a total of 120 people from two boats.

On July 14th, after several support missions, Aurora finally rescued 52 people from two boats. They disembarked the next day at the port of Trapani, Sicily.

Mare*Go (Mare*Go)

The small boat Mare*Go rescued 38 people on July 17th. They were later taken to the port of Trapani.

Rise Above (Mission Lifeline)

On July 15th, the ship Mission Lifeline rescued 80 people from two boats. Afterwards, the team assisted seven boats in distress during the night until the Italian authorities finally intervened. 77 of the survivors disembarked at the port of Vibo Valentia in Calabria on July 17th. Three had to be evacuated and brought ashore before the ship's arrival at the destination.

Nadir (RESQSHIP)

The small ship Nadir was very active in July and oversaw several rescue missions near Lampedusa.

On July 15th, 91 people were rescued from two boats and taken

to Lampedusa.

The next day, 65 people were rescued and brought ashore to Lampedusa.

On July 18th, Nadir assisted four boats in distress until Italian authorities arrived. Nadir then brought 119 people to Lampedusa the next morning.

On July 21st, Nader rescued two boats carrying a total of 31 people, 21 of whom were handed over to Italian authorities. All 31 later disembarked at Lampedusa.

On July 24th, three boats carrying a total of 103 people were rescued during an operation and brought ashore to Lampedusa.

Life Support (Emergency)

On the night of July 20th to 21st, the ship Life Support rescued 184 people from four boats after a call from the MRCC in Rome. 13 of the survivors were brought ashore at Lampedusa, while the remaining 171 disembarked after a three-day trip at the assigned port of Taranto, Puglia.

Louise Michel (Louis Michel)

On the last day of the month, Louise Michel's crew rescued 43 people immediately after entering the Mediterranean and took them to the port of Trapani, Sicily, the next day.



TRASPORTO UMANITA



ГУМАНІТАРНИЙ ТРАНСПО

Гуманітара міс
для УКРАЇНА

Парафія Сан Март
Rebbio - Como
Італія



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