January 2022 was an especially important month for Mediterranea Saving Humans, as it marked Mare Jonio’s return to sea. The civil fleet ship set out on January 15 for Mission #10 in order to monitor, search, and rescue in the central Mediterranean. The crew experienced intense emotions while preparing to sail from the port of Trapani on a powerful politically symbolic mission. Mare Jonio, in fact, has returned to service after an interruption lasting months due not only to completing important structural maintenance, but also due to the intense political and judicial attacks NGOs at sea have had to endure. These attacks on humanitarian search and rescue activities are aimed at halting these activities through the criminalisation of such activities.

Mare Jonio sailed from the port of Trapani on January 15th, after a little less than 2 weeks of preparation, and reached the Libyan SAR area at 6:10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 19th. The civil fleet ships, Louise Michel and Geo Barents, were already in the area. Mare Jonio’s crew immediately started receiving reports of boats in distress primarily as the result of Alarm Phone’s extraordinary work and also thanks to the aerial surveillance provided by Colibri 2.

Mare Jonio spots the first of these boats the night between January 19th and Thursday, January 20th. The Team quickly realized that the drifting, overcrowded wooden boat, whose engines had failed, was already taking on water and starting to sink. Some people had already fallen into the sea, while dozens were crammed below deck, risking being crushed and suffocating. After a complicated 4-hour rescue operation, everyone, more than 100 people, were safely transferred to the ship.

In the meantime, around 4 in the morning, a second SOS call came in from Alarm Phone- a second boat in distress about 10 miles away. Once again, a wooden boat carrying over 100 people was in danger. There were many women and children, including 2 infants under one year of age, aboard the wooden boat. On January 20th, at 11:25 a.m., Mediterranea’s crew successfully concluded its second rescue operation by taking all the survivors on board Mare Jonio which, at this point, carried 214 survivors.
Faced with the Maltese authorities’ silence and failure to respond, the ship headed north and requested the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (IT MRCC) in Rome assign the nearest port for disembarkation of the survivors. That same day, January 20th, the ship reached the island of Lampedusa in the late afternoon. Mare Jonio had never had such a large number of people on board. Conditions on board became critical. Survivors occupied all available space on the ship’s deck.

On the morning of Friday, January 21st, 2 seriously ill men were evacuated for medical reasons (MEDEVAC) after their first night on board following the ship’s doctor’s request which was immediately approved. The Italian Coast Guard’s patrol boat accompanied them to Lampedusa’s hospital where they were admitted.

In the afternoon, the Authorities assigned Pozzallo, 120 miles northeast from the ship’s present position, as a “port of disembarkation” for the survivors. The ship’s command points out that it is impossible to safely cross the Channel of Sicily for 12 hours in worsening weather conditions with more than 200 hundred people on board. While waiting for a more suitable solution, the crew prepared the overcrowded ship for a second night at sea.

In the evening, permission was granted to transfer the most vulnerable people on board to a Coast Guard patrol boat which would take them to the hotspot of Lampedusa the next day. Once the 142 survivors were transferred, Mare Jonio sailed to the port of Pozzallo where it concluded landing operations for the 70 people still on board at 3:09 p.m. on Sunday, January 23rd.

On the evening of Monday, January 24th, the ship sailed to Mazara del Vallo where it stopped for crew rotation and necessary supplies for its next mission- Mission #11.
What do the numbers tell us

Forced to flee across the Mediterranean, 3,035 people managed to arrive in Italy in January. This number is much higher compared to previous years’ totals: 1,039 arrivals in January 2021 and 1,342 arrivals in January 2020.

195 unaccompanied minors were among those who arrived in the first month of the year.

There were also dozens of victims in the first days of this year: 35 confirmed deaths, not counting the number of people on at least 2 missing ghost boats that likely sank. Almost daily, the Libyan Red Crescent identified many lifeless bodies on the east coast of Tripoli. These numbers confirm that the central Mediterranean is the most dangerous route for people trying to reach Europe from Africa again this year.

All these people are victims of indifference as are the 7 nameless people who died in the cold aboard a fragile 2-story boat bound for Lampedusa the last week of the month on the night between Monday and Tuesday. Alarm Phone had launched an SOS to Italian and Maltese authorities for that boat.

These data are based on information provided by the Ministry of the Interior’s Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration. These data refer to landing events recorded by 8:00 a.m. on January 31, 2022.
OUR TEAM

SHEILA MELOSU
Head of Mission

GIOVANNI BUSCEMA
Commander

DAVIDE DINICOLA
Ship's First Mate

SHEILA MELOSU
Head of Mission

GIOVANNI BUSCEMA
Commander

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Commander

DAVIDE DINICOLA
Ship's First Mate

IASONAS APOSTOLOPOULOS
Rescue Coordinator

IRENE SOLDATI
Rhib Driver

MICHELE USUELLI
Ship's Doctor

IASONAS APOSTOLOPOULOS
Rescue Coordinator

IRENE SOLDATI
Rhib Driver

MICHELE USUELLI
Ship's Doctor
Sheila Melousu is 35 years old and was born in Palermo.

She was an activist and a volunteer for EMERGENCY for 10 years and became the contact person for the group in Palermo. She has been an event coordinator and organizer, including national meetings. She has contributed to the construction and opening of the first Italy Project clinic in Palermo that cares mostly for people in need and migrants, but is not limited to them.

This “on-the-job” training, together with her passion for cinema, has allowed her to experience concretely the issues of defending human rights and fighting for environmental sustainability which brought her to becoming project manager for the SiciliAmbiente Film Festival. **Starting in 2019, when the Mare Jonio arrived in Palermo returning from its third mission, she began to handle the ship’s logistics and shipment management.** She, then, came on board and joined the Mediterranea family, thus becoming an integral part of the association’s life at the local and national level, until finally becoming head of mission.
Davide Dinicola is 33 years old, was born in Vittoria (Ragusa), and has always lived in Messina.

At the age of 23, he received his nautical diploma from the Caio Duilio Institute in Messina. He worked as a sailor on merchant ships, and then he was a first mate on luxury yachts. Then came a turning point in his life during a trip on the Aegean Sea where he saw a body floating in the middle of the sea- it was a man who fell from a sailboat many hours earlier and was unconscious. Thanks to his determination and insistence, the crew pulled the man out of the water and managed to resuscitate him. This experience leads David to abandon the world of luxury boats and enter the world of rescue ships which is defined by putting moral obligation before a law to be obeyed. He came into contact with Mediterranea in April 2019 and chose to be the first officer for Mare Jonio’s 5th mission. “My journey to a different sea where I could combine my work and my desire to contribute to the birth of a more just world began there.”
Giovanni Buscema is 62 years old and was born in Riposto, a village located on the slopes of Etna, in the province of Catania. He graduated from Italy’s oldest nautical institute which has trained thousands of our merchant navy officers and sailors. He has been working at sea for 45 years - 23 of them as a commander.

When asked to command the Mare Jonio’s search and rescue missions in the central Mediterranean, he immediately accepted. “I’ve seen too many at sea not to know what it means to be abandoned and to ask for help without anyone listening to you…my first mission, in August two years ago, was very emotional. We managed to save 98 people, and 22 were children, the youngest of which was only 8 months old. That’s the time the Mare Jonio was called “the ship of children.”

Withstanding pressure at sea is not a joke, but having to feel like a criminal every time I returned with people saved from dying is worse. I was even fined 300,000 euros and charged with entering Italian waters after a rescue mission!” Giovanni leaves for his 6th mission on the Mare Jonio with the same spirit as always: no one is abandoned at sea and everyone who lives at sea as he does knows this.
Irene Soldati is 36 years old. She was born and raised in Bologna.

She has been an activist for Greenpeace Italy for about 10 years. In addition to fighting for environmental issues, Greenpeace Italy has carried out a very important disarmament campaign. Through the years, she has been part of various currents and movements, such as the We Remain Human network with helped open her eyes to human rights violations and how borders have become deadly for people fleeing places of terror in search of safety. “I boarded the Mare Jonio for Mission #10 because when I got my nautical license, I was taught that a ship in danger is a priority above all else. The response to a distress signal is a rescue intervention- an immediate one. The sea says every life counts and I am here to help those who risk their own lives for a new start.”
Iasonas Apostolopoulos is 37 years old and was born in Athens.

He studied civil engineering at the Technical University of Athens. In 2015, his life changed completely. At the height of refugee arrivals, he moved to the Greek island of Lesbos where Iasonas and other activists saved 3,000 a day through a project by a collective named Platanos Refugee Solidarity which was formed by activists who fight against the violation of rights and dignity at that border. They were the first to bring a lifeboat to Lesbos. **From that year onwards, he has devoted his life to rescue operations at sea and for the defense of human rights.** He has worked on several ships such as Aquarius and Geo Barents, and has spent a year in South Sudan with MSG. **Since March 2019, he has been Mediterranea Saving Humans’ Rescue Coordinator aboard the civil rescue ship, Mare Jonio, which is active in the central Mediterranean.**

“In July 2021, the President of the Greek Republic decided to give me the Medal of Honor, but the award was canceled at the last minute after pressure from far-right deputies. The reason? Our condemnation and fight against the illegal pushbacks in the Aegean by Greek authorities. It is a battle we will never stop fighting. For us, the greatest reward is the smiles and hugs on the bridge when life conquers death, when solidarity overcomes barbarism.”
Michele Usuelli is 47 years old. He was born and raised in Milan. He is a neonatologist and has worked in the NICU at Milan’s Mangiagalli Clinic.

He has 7 years of experience and has worked in hospitals in various countries around the world, including in some war areas such as Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, the Central African Republic, Sudan, Malawi, and Cambodia. He was in charge of Emergency's pediatric division. He is also involved in the right to contraception in developing countries and is the only Italian member of the steering committee of the UNFPA's technical division, and the Italian focal point for the Italian Society of Neonatology in the World Partnership for Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health.

“This is my second mission as ship’s doctor on the Mare Jonio. Why am I doing this? I do it because it is necessary to keep ships on this stretch of sea that has become a cemetery. We are ambulances of the sea.”
An interview with David, spokesperson and founder of the Refugees in Libya movement

David answers the videocall on the second ring. He is very elegant and smiles at me in a formal and relaxed way, even if there are some signs of restlessness. It’s a situation that almost makes me feel uncomfortable, knowing that his life is in danger. He speaks to me with extreme clarity (and perfect English), despite having admitted to being exhausted during this period.

He has kept himself locked up in an apartment in Tripoli, allowing himself to go out rarely in order to get some food and essential items. It’s not safe to be seen out on neighborhood streets. He tells me he lives there with three other companions and that they are among the very few who escaped the eviction on January 10th. That night the police and armed militias led by al Khoja, the new director of the Directorate for Combating Illegal Immigration (DCIM), dismantled the Refugees in Libya encampment and brought more than 600 refugees and asylum seekers to the detention centre in Ain Zara.

«I haven’t felt like myself for at least two weeks. I am consumed by constant worry for my safety and that of my companions.»
People in prison are not receiving adequate food, they have nowhere to sleep and they do not receive any medical attention, despite the fact that many of them are falling seriously ill. David is in constant contact with his companions, especially at night. He keeps telling them to stay hopeful and that they can still make their voices heard from prison. “I am trying to do everything possible, but I have become too fatigued,” he admits. “I am in contact with them day and night, I feel emotionally exhausted, and mentally troubled by recent events, and this has given me a tremendous headache. I haven’t felt myself for at least two weeks. I am consumed by constant worry for my safety and that of my companions.”

The encampment was dismantled after being in front of the UNHCR Libya, the UN Refugee Agency, for more than 3 months. Refugees in Libya is a collective dedicated to this movement that was created from the bottom up and consists of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers living in Libya. David is one of the spokesmen, one of the founders, and leads thousands of people exhausted by violence and deprivation through a historically unprecedented movement that claims rights for itself and for all migrants around the world.

“The movement was born under dramatic circumstances,” he explains, referring to the house-to-house round-ups that woke the Gargaresh neighborhood on the morning of October 1, 2021. On that morning, 5000 men, women, boys, children, infants, pregnant women, and the ill were forcibly removed and illegally transported to a detention centre. Among these people, many were already officially recognized as having the right to international protection. “Following the militia attacks, people registered with the UNHCR went to their headquarters to ask for protection. We arrived there on Friday, but the offices were closed because they follow the Muslim calendar and, therefore, work from Sunday to Thursday. Some officials arrived the next day to bring much needed blankets and hygiene products, but there weren’t enough for everyone. The next day, we reminded them that we felt we were in danger and that we had the right to receive protection as asylum seekers and refugees.”

«On October 3, 2021, I explained to my companions that the situation was much more serious than we thought and that it was necessary to join forces to protest and obtain real protection.»

The operation’s stated objective, as ordered by the Libyan Attorney General, was to “eliminate pockets of prostitution and drug dealing and to demolish makeshift buildings in the neighborhood.” But it actually represented yet another attempt to drive out refugees and migrants from Tripoli. For years, these communities, concentrated almost exclusively in the district of Gargaresh, have been subjected to the Libyan government’s attacks. According to authorities, all black migrant men are drug dealers, while black migrant women have bodies they can sexually abuse. It is in this climate that arbitrary arrests, violence, and abuses take place on a daily basis.
From that day, Refugees decided to live in permanent encampments located on the pavement in front of the UNHCR Libya headquarters. They were exposed to the rain and cold, without a roof over their heads, with progressively worsening health, and deprived access to essential services.

«We had to focus on the thing that unites all our experiences: the denial of our rights and freedoms. We are all brothers and sisters; it is necessary to remain united and to continue the struggle towards the common goal.»

Taking into consideration the number of nationalities and languages present within the Refugees movement, David had to ask the people most involved to create groups that would then elect their own representatives who spoke English and Arabic and were ready to collaborate as interpreters representing their communities. He knew this process would take time. The committees created would be responsible for various tasks: from cleaning the area, welcoming new members to contacting local medical services. Before making any decisions, he always consulted the community leaders who had helped a great deal in mediating tension-filled situations of strong disagreement. Many were concerned that media visibility would increase the risk of becoming political targets and that they would be killed. “I was aware of this, but I was also convinced that if I wanted to see my rights recognized and protected, I would have to speak publicly for the group in order to let the world know the kind of situation we are forced to live in. If I can’t assert my own rights, I should at least try to do so for others.”
When I ask him to describe their relationship during the encampment with the UNHCR Libya and Jean Paul Cavalieri, the head of mission, David starts to answer but then he stops. He apologizes. The UN Refugee Agency made them feel completely abandoned and that makes him sad and angry. “Jean Paul simply told us that they could do nothing for us- neither defend our cause nor could they to deal with the Libyan government which is often in political disagreement with the United Nations and is unwilling to comply with International obligations. The head of mission simply suggested that we find shelter among Libyan civil society, but that is not a viable path.”

As if that were not enough, after the January 10th eviction, those who managed to escape were isolated and struggling with post-traumatic stress symptoms due to the tragic events experienced in recent months. David himself admits that he is emotionally exhausted and mentally affected by recent events.

Even if the encampment has been dismantled, the movement continues as does the number of days from the birth of the movement itself. Moreover, its strength lies in its fluidity, in the ability to adapt to new scenarios and situations, as demonstrated by the hunger strike that was started by some inmates in Ain Zara prison.

Refugees in Libya is now in a moment of reflection and reconstruction, looking for new ideas in order to plan its next steps, even without meeting in person. “If our brothers and sisters are not released, we will return to protest in front of the UNHCR office. We know that we will be putting our lives at great risk, but there are no alternatives.” The UNHCR’s budget for 2022 is not yet confirmed, so before they reorganize, they will have to figure out what funds will be made available for humanitarian evacuation flights and see who will benefit from them.

David tells me that the priority now is to spread the Refugees’ requests among national and international institutions, build a global audience, and share the movement’s advocacy efforts as much as possible. “Migration policies must definitely be revised. The international community must allocate more places for reception and offer more options for safe transfers. It is also essential to insist on a global ceasefire and to increase awareness of the injustices perpetrated to the detriment of the populations in the world’s South.” Just think of the criteria for obtaining a visa, which determine restrictions on the ability to move freely: the reasons for traveling, the country of origin, political background, and religious faith are required. This system prevents people from traveling even when they have the financial means to do so and, consequently, it forces them to travel on irregular and dangerous migration routes.

End of questions. I stop the recording. I was unable to alleviate this young man’s anguish during the interview. At 24 years of age, he leads a movement supported by thousands of people and he now finds himself powerless before the conditions hundreds of his unjustly imprisoned companions endure. But now that I have stopped asking him questions, it is his turn to ask questions. He asks me about my life in Italy, my free time, and my work. I am not uncomfortable any longer and he no longer has a solemn expression on his face. For a moment, we are just two peers joking and smiling, forgetting the profound experiential differences that have characterized our lives so far.

«Migration will always exist, we must guarantee safe routes and equal opportunities for all!»
GOOD NEWS!
On January 28, 2022, the Judge for Preliminary Investigations of the Court of Agrigento, Dr. Micaela Raimondo definitely closed the investigation into the sea rescue carried out on May 9, 2019 by Mediterranea Saving Humans. Commander Massimiliano Napolitano and Beppe Caccia, the Head of Mission and the owner of the Mare Jonio, were acquitted of all charges against them.

During that rescue operation conducted in the Libyan SAR area, 30 people aboard an overcrowded dinghy whose engine was failing and which had already taken on water were rescued. After the rescue, our Commander and the Head of Mission refused to obey the Italian government’s orders to deliver these people to the so-called Libyan Coast Guard. After the survivors disembarked in Lampedusa on May 10th, our Commander and Head of Mission were investigated for the crime of “aggravated aiding and abetting illegal immigration” and the ship was place under seizure. Beppe Caccia was also charged with two violations of the Navigation Code for not complying with the Authorities’ “warning” to not “carry out a planned and organized search and rescue with a ship lacking the necessary certifications.”

In addition to noting the lack of Navigation Code violations, the reasons for the acquittal underscore that the crew acted “in a situation of necessity” and “in the fulfillment of the obligation of rescue, provided for by national and international law.” That Libya cannot be considered a place of safety was also reaffirmed given the conditions in which “Several thousand asylum-seekers, migrants, and refugees are in arbitrary detention, subjected to torture, and inhuman and degrading treatment, in violation of their human rights.”
SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

At dawn, the people rescued by Sea Watch 3’s crew are beginning to disembark after waiting a week for a port to be assigned. About 250 minors and their families went ashore. Many others have to spend yet another night on board the ship.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

The island of Lampedusa sees the first landing of 2022. 26 people, including 14 women and 2 minors arrive on a boat that had been previously stopped by a Port Authority patrol boat.
MONDAY, JANUARY 3

In the afternoon, Sea Watch’s aircraft, Seabird, spots a boat in distress in the central Mediterranean. There are about 80 people on board. The appropriate coordination centers and the Maridive 601, the nearest cargo ship which is about 18 miles away at the time, are informed of the situation by Sea Watch’s crew.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4

Following Seabird’s report, the humanitarian rescue ship, Louise Michel, rescues 31 people in distress aboard a boat adrift. At the same time, many more people (it is thought about 70 people) are in danger a short distance away and are rescued by a Shell oil rig. However, the survivors are subsequently forced to board a military ship flying the Tunisian flag. This can only be considered yet another act of illegal refoulement to Tunisia, a country that is not considered safe.
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5**

The 31 survivors rescued by the crew of Louise Michel will be allowed to disembark in Lampedusa following authorization by Italian authorities.

The Libyan Red Crescent recovers a lifeless body off Gasr Garabulli in the region of Tripolitania.

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**THURSDAY, JANUARY 6**

After only 24 hours following the discovery of a lifeless body in the north of Tripolitania, the Libyan Red Crescent finds yet another lifeless body near the port of the city of Homs, the capitol of al-Murgub district.
SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

After the discoveries of January 5th and 6th, the Libyan Red Crescent yet again detects another lifeless body. This time it is found off the coast of the city of Misrata.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

In a press release, the Italian Coast Guard reports that it has placed Sos Méditerranée’s ship, Ocean Viking, under administrative detention. The ship has been in Trapani’s port since last December 25.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

Once again, the Libyan Red Crescent locates a lifeless body. It is discovered off of Ghanima, a short distance from Homs where other lifeless bodies have been found in the previous days.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

At 4:06 p.m., the Mare Jonio, the civil rescue ship flying the Italian flag, sails from Trapani’s port, thus beginning her 10th mission. The crew of Mediterranea Saving Humans is on board.
The crew of Doctors Without Borders, aboard Geobarents, locates and rescues 87 people, including 2 small children. They were aboard an overcrowded dinghy in distress fleeing Libya.

4 days after its departure, the Mare Jonio, with aboard the crew of Mediterranea Saving Humans, commences its 10th mission upon reaching Libya’s Search and Rescue area.

The civilian rescue ship, Louise Michel, during its monitoring activities in the central Mediterranean, witnesses yet another of the endless illegal refoulements carried out by the so-called Libyan Coast Guard.

The so-called Libyan Coast Guard’s patrol boat, Fezzan, intercepts 47 people, including 11 women and 6 children, who were aboard a fragile boat attempting to cross the Mediterranean. Everyone intercepted is returned to the city of Tripoli. Their fate is ignored.

Coordinating with the Red Crescent, the Libyan armed forces locate a lifeless body off the city of Misrata. Only 10 days before, another lifeless body was found in the same place. Other recoveries have occurred in the previous days in nearby areas.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

At night, at the end of a difficult SAR mission lasting hours, the crew of Mediterranea Saving Humans aboard the Mare Jonio, rescue over 100 people fleeing Libya, among them are women, men and minors. They were aboard a sinking fragile wooden boat. Some people were already in the water and were rescued. After a few hours, the same crew rescues 107 people in a second rescue operation. There are 14 women and 2 babies who are only a few months old among the survivors. Mediterranea has rescued 208 people during these two operations.

24 hours after the previous rescue, Médecins Sans Frontières’ crew on board Geo Barents rescues 109 people aboard a boat in distress. Alarm Phone had reported their presence. A few hours later, another 100 survivors are rescued who were piled up on 2 stories of a very unstable wooden boat.

The crew aboard the Louise Michel spots an inflatable boat in distress. Thanks to their rescue operation, 62 people, including several children and infants, are allowed to board. A few hours later, a pregnant woman, who survived the sinking of the boat, is evacuated for medical reasons.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

During the night, the crew of Doctors Without Borders aboard Geo Barents carries out a fourth rescue operation since the beginning of their mission: 67 people aboard an unsafe, small wooden boat. One of the survivors has evidence of a facial wound that he says was inflicted on him as he left Libya. At dawn, 76 people, including 12 children, are rescued in another 2 operations.

During those same hours at night, 305 people aboard a boat that departed from Libya manage to arrive in Lampedusa. Among them, there are also some children and several women.
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 22**

Italian authorities authorize 142 people rescued by Mare Jonio to disembark in Lampedusa. All other survivors, however, will disembark in Pozzallo.

“Autonomous” landings continue in Lampedusa, or rather, landings taking place thanks to the Coast Guard’s intervention: during the night, 109 people arrive on 2 boats.

23 people aboard a boat north of Al-Khums are intercepted by the Libyan Coast Guard’s patrol boat, PB P-301.

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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 23**

During the night, the Louise Michel receives permission from Italian authorities to disembark the 58 survivors rescued in the previous days. The disembarkation takes place after midnight at one of the outer docks at Lampedusa’s port which is directly in front of the place where the humanitarian vessel had been waiting for many days for a port of safety to be granted.

After having requested a port of safety twice from Maltese authorities, MSF’s crew aboard Geo Barents receives a flat “no” as a response. Many people who were subjected to torture and violence in Libyan detention centers and are in need of medical care, as well as several minors, are on the ship. “Everyone on board is tired and exhausted by the long sea voyage and by the long period in Libya which was marked by violence and torture,” Alida Serracchieri, medical manager aboard the humanitarian ship, stated.

Over 500 people are intercepted north of Misurata in a large interception operation carried out by the so-called Libyan Coast Guard’s patrol boats, Ubari and Fezzan. The Libyan Red Crescent finds a lifeless body near the Shat Al Hanshir area.
Monday, January 24

«Although I am physically distant from you, I am with you with affection. Please know that we fully share your ideals of hospitality, of caring for others.»

Mons. Domenico Mogavero
Bishop of Mazara del Vallo

These are the words Monsignor Domenico Mogavero, the bishop of Mazara del Vallo, shared with Sheila Melosu, a Palermo native and head of mission of Mare Jonio, Mediterranea Saving Humans' humanitarian ship.

Tuesday, January 25

280 people land in Lampedusa during the night together with 7 lifeless bodies. According to the initial reports, 3 people were found lifeless by the Finance Police agents and the Port Authority aboard the boat they intercepted about 24 miles south of the island's coast. Another 4, who appeared to the rescuers as being in already desperate conditions, died before arriving to the island aboard Coast Guard vessels. All of the deceased died of hypothermia.

The Libyan Red Crescent discovers a lifeless body near Qarabolli.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

The International Organization for Migration reports yet another shipwreck off the coast of Tunisia, near Zarzis, in the Mediterranean Sea. The survivors disembark in the Tunisian port of Ben Guerdane.

Italian authorities release the humanitarian vessel, Ocean Viking, which had been detained a few weeks earlier.

The so-called Libyan Coast Guards’s patrol boat, Fezzan, intercepts a boat carrying 36 people, including 2 children. Everyone is returned to Tripoli’s military base. On the same day, Tunisian armed forces intercept 34 people aboard a boat and they also recover 6 lifeless bodies.

The Libyan Red Crescent discovers a lifeless body near Qarabolli.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

After 9 days at sea, Italian authorities allow 439 survivors rescued by the humanitarian ship, Geo Barents, to disembark at the commercial port of Augsburg.

The investigation into the rescue of migrants in May 2019 executed by the Mare Jonio, Mediterranea Saving Humans’ ship, is permanently archived by the Court of Agrigento’s judge for preliminary investigations. The Court of First Instance cited the obligation to rescue as provided for by domestic and international law as the basis for the decision.
SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

An Italian Finance police’s patrol boat intercepts a boat with 57 people on board about 5 miles from Lampedusa. They are later brought to Contrada Imbriacola- a hotspot. The Libyan Red Crescent retrieves a lifeless body near Zawiya’s refinery area.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

Italian authorities allow 176 survivors rescued by humanitarian vessel, Aita Mari, to disembark at the port of Lampedusa.

The Libyan Red Crescent spots the lifeless body of a woman near the Qasr Al-Akhyar area. On the same day, the Libyan armed forces find a decomposing body in the water near Al-Haniya.