

borderline-europe, Sicily

# SCIROCCO

*News from Italy*





measure. Although, according to the minister, **there is no reason to doubt it**, he could envision a "downgrading of the amount with case-by-case examination." Nevertheless, Piantedosi emphasizes how well all the isolation measures taken by the Italian government have worked so far and proudly reports on the "pull-backs" carried out by the so-called Libyan and Tunisian coast guards in recent months (pull-backs refer the returning to the departure state). He even strategically uses the **tragic shipwreck in mid-March with over 60 deaths**, claiming that there is no evidence that the **government's measures** are not working, but that they need to crack down even harder.

At a **conference of the government party**, Piantedosi stated that neither the "Cutro Decree" nor the Albania deal has been rejected by the European Court of Justice. Although the **review of the "5000€ Bail" by the European Court of Justice** gives a glimmer of hope, it is still alarming how much the Italian government stands to its course of "combating" irregular migration, adopting increasingly hostile measures and methods, and even praises itself for its so-called "successes."

### Situation of refugees



Photo from Geralt via Pixabay

### New Report on Accommodation in Italy

In March 2024, a new report from the "**Centri d'Italia**" by the organizations openpolis and ActionAid was released. The title "**A Predicted Failure**" ("**Un fallimento annunciato**") leaves no doubt about how the accommodation system for

refugees in Italy is faring. The two organizations analyzed the data from the facilities as well as the tenders for their management. As always, obtaining data was more than difficult. The comparison with previous years 2018-2021 was interesting, as arrival numbers declined during those years. However, in 2022-2023, they rose again, making the investigation of tenders and fund distribution very relevant. "The prefectures seem to have increasing difficulties in awarding contracts and increasingly resort to direct awards or other procedures that **reduce the level of transparency** and competition in the contracts, increasing the risk of mismanagement," **says openpolis**. 60% of the centers are still emergency centers (CAS). **Mismanagement and administrative chaos** characterize the accommodation system. The decrees and laws issued last year allow centers to be overcrowded without penalties. The accommodation of unaccompanied minors with adults is legitimized, and the construction of centers in accelerated tender procedures without transparency or control is allowed. Funding for accommodation is continuously being cut, and new temporary centers **without any compliance to minimum standards** are becoming more common. With the **declaration of the migration emergency** last year, "an exceptional situation was created, which is not justified by the number of arrivals (as in the years before 2018) and, as the Minister of the Interior himself stated, is only useful as a 'technical instrument' for managing reception. A way to remedy **the lack of planning** in [previous] years, when the same Minister Piantedosi himself held almost always key roles in the Ministry of the Interior," as stated in the report. During the times of the Arab revolution, it may seem possible to say that the numbers of arrivals was surprising, but ten years later this excuse is no longer valid. But not only the government parties are to blame but also the opposition parties are to be held responsible, all of whom have instrumentalized the issue of migration and accommodation for **election campaigning**, without ever working on a new restructuring of the accommodation system.



*Demonstration in Palermo, 26.03.2024, Justice for Kitim*

### **Police violence, racial profiling, and racist violence**

On March 13, Idrissa Diallo, a 23-year-old assistant cook of Guinean origin, was stopped by the Carabinieri in Modena at night and asked for his papers. Since he didn't have them with him, he offered to have them brought, but the Carabinieri wanted to force him into their car and Diallo resisted. The situation escalated quickly, [and the officers beat Diallo](#). However, the incident was filmed, and the video of **police violence** went viral. The case is part of a multitude of cases of "**racial profiling**" followed by the use of violence, according to the online platform "[Cronache di ordinario razzismo](#)" on which it is also possible to report racist attacks throughout the country. The [association Rote Hilfe e.V.](#) from Hamburg also emphasizes that police violence and "racial profiling" are not just an Italian problem: "What is also worrying is the development of racist police violence. The murder of Mouhamed Lamine Dramé in Dortmund and the attempted murder of Bilel in Herford were never isolated cases. Marginalized groups often must fear for their well-being when dealing with the police in Germany. The restrictive deportation policy of the federal government is readily implemented by the police. Due to the isolation policy of EU's borders and the militarization of the police, they are acting increasingly brutally and lethally against refugees." In Palermo, a young man from Gambia, Kitim, [died in the hospital](#) on March 23. He had been attacked

with a knife and run over two weeks earlier. **Daily racist violence is increasing massively**. Various migrant communities [called for a demonstration against racist violence](#) on March 26 and demand clarification of the events from the authorities.

Richard Braude of [Arci Porco Rosso](#) emphasized in his speech in front of Palermo Cathedral that there are not many different communities in Palermo, but that we are one community and only strong together.

### **Discrimination against migrant women**

On March 8, International Women's Day, various events drew attention to the **difficult situation for migrant women**. The Italian labor union CGIL organized a meeting, focusing mainly on the poor legal situation in the job market for migrant women, as well as human rights violations and abortion bans. It was strongly criticized that **migrant women hardly have a voice** to actively participate in politics. Furthermore, there is a lack of institutions to care for women who have suffered of human trafficking. Many women still face the significant problem of finding qualified work and mainly sustain themselves with small jobs like babysitting or caregiving.

The Foundation "Iniziativa e Studi sulla Multietnicità di Milano" and Cariplo Foundation examined the discrimination against migrant women in the labor market.

They point out that according to the European Institute for Gender Equality, Italy ranks 13th and is with that below the European average. Overall, due to language barriers and, for example, employers' prejudices regarding affiliation with a particular religion, there is a clear discrimination against migrant women on the work market. Thus, they are often facing **double or even multiple discrimination** and are also hardly examined as a social group in migration research. Even in international agreements and laws, such as the Geneva Refugee Convention or the Istanbul Convention, the precarious situation for migrant

women is often overlooked and not recognized as a gender-specific issue. It would be desirable if this problem were not only addressed on certain days, such as March 8, but became a fixed part of everyday discussions!



Foto von Lidsey LaMont via Unsplash

Further information on the situation in Italy can be found under "Projects" on our [Homepage](#), in previous issues of [Scirocco](#) and in our magazine [Spotlight Italy - Zones of Lawlessness](#)".

## Contact

---

[borderline-europe](#)  
**Menschenrechte ohne Grenzen e.V.**  
<https://www.borderline-europe.de/>  
[italia@borderline-europe.de](mailto:italia@borderline-europe.de)

The Scirocco is published in 20234 with the kind support of the Evangelical Church in the Rhineland (EKIR)

Coverphoto: Wolfgang Hasselmann, unsplash