Central Med Info
March 19 – May 13 2019

About our Central Med Info: borderline-europe started in March 2019 to put together information about the situation in the Central Mediterranean Sea for internal research reasons. In 2020 we decided to publish these info-letters. You will also find sources of right-wing newspapers and twitter quotations of “friends” of the so-called Libyan Coast Guard. This does not reflect our opinion, but some information is only available here.

LIBYA- INFO

14.04.2019
6.000 migrants are ready to leave Libya and go to Italy
At least six thousand refugees are ready to embark towards Italy to escape from the Libyan hell, where the fighting for the conquest of Tripoli rages: these are the numbers contained in a confidential dossier handed over by the intelligence to Premier Giuseppe Conte. The 007, furthermore, underline how the civil war can unleash a new offensive of the groups linked to the Isis.

Flavio di Giacomo (IOM) @fladig comments: Impossible to predict if and, in case, how many migrants could flee Libya. Even then, let's not forget that Italy was able to welcome more than 6.000 migrants per month until 2017 […]

14.04.2019
Diplomats are being evacuated
International diplomats have left Tripoli. EUBAM border guards evacuated by boat were taken on board by the Tunisian navy off the coast of Djerba after making an emergency call. Whether there is still international pressure could soon be seen. On Saturday the US aircraft carrier "Abraham Lincoln" crossed the Strait of Gibraltar on a routine mission. It could reach the Libyan coast in a few days […]
https://www.taz.de/Archiv-Suche/15584990&s=Libyen/

11.04.2019
Migrants flee Libyan 'prison' to Tunisia
Faced with brutality and rising smugglers' fees, people temporarily put plans of reaching Europe on hold […]
https://www.politico.eu/article/migrants-flee-libya-war-for-tunisia-amp/?__twitter_impression=true

05.04.2019
Interview with the “Libyan Foreign Minister”
This is a link to an Interview with Abdulhadi Elhweg, "Libyan Foreign Minister" of the so called "Government" in Tobruk. The interview is in German and quite interesting because his perspective is rarely represented in the media, at least in Germany.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20sRBcfqMEA

03.04.2019
Libya, IOM Statement: Protection of Migrants in Libya is of Major Concern
"With regard to its activities in Libya, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) would like to clarify that we follow the UN position indicating that Libya cannot yet be considered a safe port. IOM in Libya is present at the disembarkation points to deliver primary assistance to migrants that have been rescued at sea. However, following their disembarkation, migrants are transferred to detention centres under the responsibility of the Libyan Directorate for Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM) over which the Organization has no authority or oversight. The detention of men, women and children is arbitrary. The unacceptable and inhumane conditions in these detention centres are well documented, and IOM continues to call for alternative solutions to this systematic detention." […]
So-called LIBYAN COAST GUARD

02.04.2019
A boat that raised the alarm last night went missing
Since last night there has been no news of a boat with about 50 migrants on board, including women and children, from which a distress call had been made to the Alarm Phone number. It is precisely the site, the reference point for thousands of people facing the crossing, that reports this. The migrants contacted Alarm phone in the afternoon giving their coordinates, then the line was disconnected. A new contact at 10pm, but since then nothing. Alarm phone tried to contact the so-called Libyan Coast Guard to provide the coordinates of the boat but no one ever answered, then reported the boat in trouble to the Rome Operations Room, which simply provided another number of Libyans who never answered.
In the afternoon, the Italian Coast Guard reported that it had "immediately forwarded the information received to the so-called Libyan Coast Guard, which assured it had received the information provided for subsequent actions". The boat would be located north of Zwar, still within Libyan territorial waters and in the Libyan sar area. From Tripoli he replied that in the absence of precise coordinates, no action was taken. And in the evening Alarm Phone insists: "At 20.50 we finally have reached the Libyan authorities who speak only Arabic. They refused to take and give any information about rescue situations. We still have no idea where the 50 people" on board the raft that had asked for help could be found. [...] https://www.repubblica.it/cronaca/2019/04/02/news/migranti_sparita_un_imbarcazioneche_ha_dato_l_allarme_ieri_sera-223100290/

19.04.2019
Migrants, the Sos: "Missing dinghy with 50 people on board"
The Corriere della Sera writes, that the Libyans are saying “we are to being attacked to be not reachable, dubious figures are trying to weaken our powers.” – and the Italian Coast Guard is saying they did give every info to the LCG [...] https://www.corriere.it/estero/19_aprile_02/migranti-soc-disperso-gommone-50-persone-bordo-3ac9da12-5542-11e9-ac1d-631b8415241b.shtml?refresh_ce-cp

INTERCEPTIONS

13.05.2019
Migrants, the denunciation of Sea Watch: "Shipwrecked escape swimming from the so-called Libyan Coast Guard. Here are the pictures" – Moonbird images of the VOS TRITON
"Yesterday, the crew of our reconnaissance plane Moonbird witnessed a desperate attempt: shipwrecked men who tried to escape an interception and capture by the so-called Libyan Coast Guard by swimming away". He denounces it on Sea Watch Italy twitter showing the images taken from above with the migrant’s escape and the Libyan maneuver. [...] https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2019/05/13/migranti-la-denuncia-di-sea-watch-naufraghi-scappano-a-nuoto-da-guardia-costiera-libica-ecco-le-immagini/5173702/

05.05.2019
Interceptions in 2019
"A total of 1,287 migrants were intercepted by the Libyan Coast Guards while crossing the Mediterranean to Europe in 2019, the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) announced Friday. The UNHCR added that 161 migrants were rescued Friday night, 82 miles northwest of al-Khoms, eastern Tripoli. The Libyan Maritime Information Office said the migrants reached Saturday morning the Libyan Anti-Illegal Immigration Authority at Khoms Migrant center, where they received medical care. The clashes in Tripoli between the eastern Libyan National Army (LNA) and the Tripoli-based Government of the National Accord (GNA) have forced many residents to flee their homes due to the shelling and armed attacks on the infrastructure, including schools and homes. The UNHCR announced on April 30 that 42,000 people have been displaced from Tripoli alongside 345 people who have been killed since the conflict began earlier this month. Meanwhile, 146 refugees were evacuated on April 29 from Libya to Italy in a joint operation between UNHCR, and Italian and Libyan authorities. "It’s now crucial that other States match this gesture and offer similar evacuation places for refugees caught up in the conflict. Turning a blind eye will have real and tragic
consequences,” said Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees."

https://en.218tv.net/2019/05/05/1-2k-migrants-intercepted-by-libyan-coast-guards-in-2019_uhrch/7fbclid=IwAR096xyWytww60c_CsGjHRxLY4-pAGCpghjfxDItTSUEkraRGT-DrGco

02.05.2019
Interception: BREAKING NEWS — From Mare Jonio, engaged in patrolling and monitoring operations in the Central Mediterranean

03.05.2019
Interception
Around midnight we had final confirmation by ITMRCC Rome and RCC Malta that both boats were captured and 180 people deported back to Libya. The role of a military airplane from Malta Air Force (and perhaps also other European aerial assets in the area, including an Italian one) was crucial to coordinate and guide from the sky the Libyan patrol boat (from Misurata’s militias - so called "Coast Guard") in intercepting and capturing the two boats.

Departures from Libya

ISPI - Estimated migrant departures from Libya
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ncihxQHix4prrYXgGi9TIbw533HqA3wFrfr8m67a4/edit#gid=0

03.04.2019
ALAN KURDI rescue operation 63 ppl
Sea- Eye spokeswoman Carlotta Weibl makes statement in Rome — Alan Kurdi case of April 3
On April 3rd we rescued 64 persons from a rubber boat in international waters off Libya. [...] https://sea-eye.org/en/sea-eye-sprecherin-carlotta-weibl-gibt-erlaeungung-in-rom-ab/

60 people remain on board the ship of the German NGO Sea Eye, from Thursday off Lampedusa, just outside the Italian territorial waters.

The go-ahead for the landing of four people from the ship "Alan Kurdi" from Thursday off Lampedusa, just outside Italian territorial waters: these are the most vulnerable of the group of 64 migrants on board the boat of the German NGO Sea Eye, the two children of 11 months and six years and the two mothers, also in view of the bad weather conditions. According to an agreement, after landing on the island, they should be taken to Germany. [...] https://www.corriere.it/cronache/19-aprile_05/migranti-alan-kurdi-sbarcano-due-bimbi-mamme-8942c332-57a6-11e9-9553-46b376332b08.shtml
http://www.rainews.it/dl/rainews/articoli/lampedusa-migranti-sbarco-nave-alan-kurdi-ong-sea-eye-2-bimbi-mamme-d591b9a0-7cd7-40fc-eb0e6cc21da2.html

Important Central Med decisions and reports

14.05.2019
Court decision Malta against Captain of Mission Lifeline
The captain of the MV Lifeline has been fined €10,000 after a court found that the rescue vessel had not been properly registered when it entered Maltese waters after rescuing 200 migrants at sea last June. While the charges could have carried a 12-month prison sentence, magistrate Joseph Mifsud said this was never contemplated as the court “immediately understood the circumstances of the case”. He said the captain had a clean criminal record and always showed respect to the court proceedings. The fine will be distributed among Maltese organisations which help refugees and people living in poverty. The court turned down a request by the authorities for the MV Lifeline to be confiscated, on the basis that the vessel was not the property of the accused. A second charge, of using the vessel for commercial purposes without a licence, was also rejected. Lawyer Cedric Mifsud told Times of Malta the defence team had requested a suspension of the judgment and would be appealing it, as they believed the captain to be innocent. Captain Claus-Peter Reisch was at the helm of the Lifeline when it rescued 234 migrants in the Mediterranean last June, prompting an international dispute and days-long stand-off as countries squabbled.
over who would take the migrants in. Malta eventually allowed the Lifeline access to its ports - following an ad-hoc agreement to distribute the migrants among several countries - but charged the captain with steering a vessel within Maltese territorial waters without the necessary registration and licence. The vessel has been detained ever since, and the NGO Mission Lifeline has repeatedly complained about delays in the case. The Lifeline is registered as a pleasure craft in the Netherlands, but Dutch authorities said this constituted only a certificate of ownership and did not grant the right to fly the Dutch flag. The defence argued that the certification indicated Holland as the vessel's flag state and therefore constitutes recognition by the Dutch authorities. The court concluded that the registration "was not to the satisfaction of the Dutch authorities" when the vessel entered Maltese waters. https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20190514/local/lifeline-captain-fined-10000-over-migrant-rescue-vessel-registration.709936

12.04.2019
The Mediterranean battlefield of migration
In the central Mediterranean it is doubtful whether the lines have ever been drawn with greater clarity: the lines between force and freedom that mark out the battlefield of migration. On the one side there are the migrant travellers, those who stubbornly move and move on in conditions of extreme hardship and violence, and there are those in solidarity with them: activists who listen to their pleas from the sea as calls toward a collective struggle, as well as humanitarians, including ‘accidental’ ones such as north African fishermen, who go out to sea to conduct vital rescue operations. [...] https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/can-europe-make-it/mediterranean-battlefield-migration/

Central Med Rescue Ships and airplanes, situation May, 7
• Sea Watch – SW3: Sea-Watch wins in court in Den Haag. The newly introduced Dutch ship code, which has been keeping #SeaWatch3 in port for one month, must not be enforced without a transitional period. Sea-Watch 3 will thus be able to resume its operations. https://twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1125769323363151874

11.5.2019
Sea Watch 3 started again
• Sea-Eye -Alan Kurdi: Burriana (Spain)
• Mediterranea – Mare Jonio: 07.05.2019 – sailed out from Lampedusa. Rescue operation on May → turned back to Lampedusa and temporarily seizure of the ship
• SOS Med still looking for a new ship
• Open Arms: did not get the permission for the CM, is now in the Aegean
• Aita Mari: blocked in Spain, legal actions
• Jugend Rettet: plan to take over sea fox failed, new fundraising, luventa still seized

• Proem Aid: Taking over Sea Fox, but no more news...
• Lifeline: process against commander/ship in Malta – decision 14.5.

AP Cases April and May 2019

11.05.2019
AP-CASE: A group of 85 migrants was saved off Malta after their boat was reported to be in distress. The Armed Forces of Malta said its rescue vessel was dispatched to a location where the wooden boat was reported to be in trouble. The migrants - 77 men, seven women and a child - were transferred to the AFM vessel and landed in Malta early on Saturday. https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/afm-saves-group-of-migrants.709707

Twitter AP: BREAKING: Boat in international waters off #Libya in acute distress. Since the afternoon today we’re in contact with a boat with 80 people, incl. 10 women, 1 of whom is in labour. Their engine is broken. When we had their GPS location, we informed @guardiacostiera at 16:01CEST. https://twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/1127277083959209984

12.05.2019
AP-CASE: Boat with approx. 80ppl. (incl. 10 women, 1 of whom is in labour) in distress off Libya. Moonbird observes one man swimming towards the merchant vessel VOS TRITON, which was close by the boat but did not conduct a rescue operation for the people on board. The man reaches VOS TRITON and is taken on board
by the crew. MRCC Rome reports an interception of the boat by the so-called LCG to Libya, it is likely to be the same boat, but not officially confirmed by AP. Report about interception: Libyan Coast Guard ship "Zawiya" from Western Sector rescued 96 migrants incl. 16 women & 4 children 68 nm NW of Zawiya. All disembarked safely @ Refinery Point & were transferred to Al Nasr ImmDC. BZ
https://twitter.com/search?q=%2523VosTriton

Twitter AP: ITMRCC informed us the boat was rescued by so-called LCG. We have no further confirmation of this information, since they do not provide position of rescue or any other details. No news from 80 people themselves. We denounced all push-backs by proxy taking place in the Central Med.
https://twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/1127336237419958273

10.05.2019
AP Twitter: BREAKING: Over 100 lives at risk, incl. 24 women & 8 children! We were called this morning from a boat off #Libya. Communication difficult, calls repeatedly broke down. Once their approx. location was clear we informed @guardiacostiera. So called Libyan coastguard not reachable.
https://twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/1126775485495562250

We have not been able to re-establish contact to the boat since 12.25 CEST. Italian and Libyan authorities are informed and it appears the group was returned to #Libya. However we have no confirmation beyond any doubt.
https://twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/112689969402469907

08.05.2019
AP-CASE: Boat with 150ppl in distress off the coast of Libya. AP-CASE 2: 100ppl in distress off the Coast off Libya. It is most likely, these two boats were intercepted by the s.c.LCG, as statet in the following notification: Libyan Coast Guard ship “Sabratha” rescued in 2 separate operations 214 migrants incl. women & children. All disembarked safely at Al Khums. Upon MedA & humanitarian aid migrants transferred to ImmDC for P&A.

AP Twitter: BREAKING: Boat in urgent distress off #Libya! Since the morning, we are in contact with a boat, reportedly carrying 150ppl. Once we obtained a GPS position at 11.15h CEST, we passed it on to MRCC Rome. Boat’s engine is broken, there is a hole, water is coming in.
https://twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/1126067793538035714

MRCC #rome @guardiacostiera informed us that the 150 people were found and picked up by the so-called #Libyan #CoastGuard. We cannot reach the #boat anymore. We have to assume yet another #pullback to the Libyan warzone. #migrants
https://twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/1126204838134669313

Returned to Libya:
https://twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/112689969402469907

29.04.2019
AP-CASE: Mediterranea Saving Humans and Alarm Phone platform reported on Twitter the presence of a boat with 23 people (men, women and children) in difficulty, drifting off the coast of Libya. Italian and Maltese authorities have been informed. They contacted AP and reported a broken engine, but lost contact to them at 17.05 CEST, 29.04. They have been in the sea for more than 30 hours. The Italian Coast Guard confirmed to take on the case. Reconnaissance aircraft "Colibri" was searching for them - without success. At 6pm CEST, AP was informed, that the people have been rescued by a Libyan fisher boat and brought back to Libya.

AP Twitter: Boat from #Libya in distress. This afternoon we were alerted to an emergency situation- a boat in the Central Med. We tried to assist the approx. 23ppl but lost contact at 17h05 CEST. RCC Malta & @guardiacostiera informed- we expect a rescue operation according to intr. law.
https://twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/1122970994006745090

This boat left #Libya around midnight which means that the 23ppl are at #SEA for a whole day. There are men, women & children on board. When we spoke to them several hours ago, they said the engine had broken. At approx. 21.30h CEST @guardiacostiera confirmed to take on the case.
https://twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/1122979025792770048
https://twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/1123003883854313249

BREAKING: Around 6pm CEST we were informed by a relative of one of the 23ppl, that they had been rescued by fishermen & returned to #Libya. We informed @guardiacostiera shortly after. We hope it is true that they all survived, but we worry for their safety in the Libyan warzone.
https://twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/1123269023817453574

10.04.2019
AP-CASE: AP was called this morning at approx. 6am CEST by 20 people, incl. 1 Women and 1
child in distress off the coast of Libya. 8 people have fallen into the sea and are missing. They lost their engine, water is coming into the boat. The boat is drifting near the Libyan-Tunisian border. Authorities in Tunis, Valletta, Rome are informed. Tripolis can’t be reached. Moonbird keeps visual contact to the vessel to monitor the situation. A helicopter by Operation Sophia delivers one life-raft and asks Moonbird to contact Tunis Coast Guard. Authorities don’t want to take responsibilities for the case, i.e. RCC Tunis repells to start a rescue-operation, shipping company Vroon has ships nearby the vessel but they are not interested in communication with Moonbird and don’t rescue. During late morning, Libyan Coast Guard announces to prepare for their rescue and intercepts the boat in the afternoon. All people on board were brought back to Libya by the Libyan Coast Guard and Libyan Coastal Security.

11.04.2019
Libyan coast, 20 migrants rescued, 8 missing
The so-called Libyan coast guard has rescued 20 migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean in a rubber dingy, following an SOS sent via the Alarm Phone emergency number. The migrant support service received a distress call at 6 a.m. from a dinghy with 20 people on board, including women and children. The migrants told Alarm Phone the engine wasn’t working and the boat was taking on water.

“We will die at sea, we will die in Libya and in Tunisia. If we do not arrive in Italy we will all die,” the migrants said after eight people had already been lost at sea.

News of the rescue pleased Italy’s Interior Minister, Matteo Salvini - “The famous 20 who were ‘sinking’ were promptly rescued by the Libyan coast guard and brought back to shore. Very good!”

AP Twitter: #MRCC #Rome has now confirmed to us that the so-called #Libyan Coastguard intercepted the boat. The 20 ppl are being returned to an active war zone by a militia funded by #EU. Everyone was watching while this inhuman & illegal refoulement was carried out. Shame on you!

03.04.2019
AP-CASE: At 10.30 CEST, AP was called by 64 people, including up to 10 women, 5 children and 1 infant, in urgent #distress. Later AP received their GPS position, near Zuwarah. Authorities called to this case couldn’t be reached. AlanKurdi spotted the boat & carried out a successful rescue operation, rescuing the lives of 64 people. Among them are 10 women and 6 children. Off Lampedusa the ship was not only denied access to the port but also to Italian territorial waters. On the 5th of April, the Federal Foreign Office, the European Commission, and other European countries negotiated with Italy about the evacuation of two families with small children for humanitarian reasons. According to the Federal Foreign Office the negotiations resulted in an agreement about the evacuation of the two families. Italy however, stated towards Sea-Eye that the agreement only included the two children and displayed itself as generous by also offering the evacuation of the two mothers. The families did not want to be separated, so mothers and children stayed on board and the Alan Kurdi was heading towards Malta. On the 09th of April a 24 years old woman was evacuated by the Maltese marine due to medical reasons. NGO Moas delivers aid supplies to Alan Kurdi at 09.04. Migrants are allowed to leave the ship in Malta and will be distributed to 4 EU countries (Luxembourg, France, Germany, Portugal). Vessel is not allowed to dock at Malta, people are transferred to land by boats. 23.04.: Alan Kurdi reaches Spanish port to rest and to prepare for the next (undated) mission.

AP Twitter: BREAKING: another boat off #Libya in distress! At 10.30 CEST, we were called by 64 people, including up to 10 women, 5 children and 1 infant, in urgent #distress. Later we
received their GPS position, near Zuwarah. Authorities called to this case couldn't be reached.
https://twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/1113430631852199941
https://twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/1116993625496391681

02.04.2019
AP-CASE: About 50 people, including men, women and children, on a boat off #Libya called the Alarm Phone yesterday (01.04.), at approx. 10pm CEST. AP got info from them, incl. their GPS position. Communication with them was difficult, and was re-established only once, at 10.02pm. AP tried to reach the so-called #Libyan coastguards tirelessly on several phone numbers. When AP informed #MRCC Rome about the unavailability of the Libyan authorities, a number was passed on which AP had already tried several times, without reaching anyone! Alan Kurdi (Sea Eye) is sailing search patterns in the area of the last GPS position. The LCG says they did not receive the position from MRCC Rome and because of this they do not send ships or planes.
AP Twitter: Where are they? About 50 people, including men, women and children, on a boat off #Libya called the Alarm Phone yesterday, at approx. 10pm CEST. We got info from them, incl. their GPS position. Communication with them was difficult, and was re-established only once, at 10.02pm.
https://twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/1112982814549520386

13.05.2019

Death in the CM

FAX: Up to 70 dead in the Mediterranean, others try to swim to safety – Sea-Watch 3 on the way to rescue mission, after court lifts blockade

On Saturday, the Sea-Watch 3 has set sails again for search and rescue after more than a month of unlawful blockade by its own flag state, the Netherlands. It is once again the only civilian rescue ship in the Central Mediterranean Sea. Last Friday alone, about 70 people fell victim to the EU’s deadly migration policy after a refugee boat that had departed from Libya capsized. Last Tuesday a court in The Hague ruled that the flag state had unlawfully prevented the Sea-Watch 3 from leaving port since the beginning of April. Previously, the Dutch Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management had issued new regulations for ships of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Sea-Watch 3 was the only ship to which the regulations came into immediate effect, without a transitional period which was previously promised by the Minister, and then demanded by the judge. This obvious political blockade of a civil sea rescue asset has now been lifted by the court following a legal challenge issued by Sea-Watch. The ship is now back on mission and en route to the search and rescue (SAR) zone off Libya. On Friday, a boat carrying people fleeing Libya sank off the coast of Kerkennah, Tunisia, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). While 16 shipwrecked people

were rescued by local fishermen, for around 70 every rescue came too late [...] [https://sea-watch.org/en/sea-watch-3-on-the-way-to-rescue-mission/]

Dozens of migrants dead between Malta and Tunisia

• 11.05.2019
  Boat was carrying 70 migrants - 62 deaths, 16 rescued
  At least 65 migrants have died after their boat capsized in the Mediterranean off the coast of Tunisia, the UN refugee agency said.
  Sixteen people were rescued between Tunisia and Malta, UNHCR said in a statement.

• Weitere Links zu ähnlichen Artikeln in verschiedene Sprachen
  https://www.taz.de/Schiffsunglueck-vor-tunesischer-Kueste/i5591356&s=Tunesien/

• 05.05.2019
  UNHCR – 65 reported drowned after shipwreck off coast of Tunisia
  An aerial shot of the Mediterranean Sea south of Sicily, May 2011. Some 65 people have drowned after their boat sank approximately 45 nautical miles off the coast of Tunisia early this morning, in one of the worst incidents on the Mediterranean in months. 16 people were pulled from the water and have been
brought to the coast of Zarzis by the Tunisian Navy. One person has been immediately transferred to hospital for medical treatment, while the others await permission to disembark. According to the survivors, the group left Zuwara, around 120km west of Tripoli, yesterday evening. Their boat ran in to trouble soon afterwards when encountering strong waves [...]


19.04.2019

Mediterranea Saving Humans: exclusive document on communications between Italy and the so-called“Libyan coast guard”

The following are the recordings of some telephone calls made between 18 and 19 March, between the general command of the Port Captaincies – Operations Room - of Rome (IMRCC), an Italian military ship, stationed in Tripoli, engaged in the bilateral mission between Italy and Libya called “Nauras” (logistical support and maintenance), and the so-called “Libyan Coast Guard”. These and other materials were delivered to the Public Prosecutor’s Office of Agrigento, as the outcome of the investigative activities conducted to defend us from the accusations made against us following the rescue at sea of 50 people carried out in international waters more than 40 miles from the Libyan coast, on March 18, 2019.

The content of these phone calls requires everyone to reflect seriously and raises questions about the role played by our country in the central Mediterranean in the management of search and rescue at sea. https://www.borderlinesicilia.org/en/mediterranea-saving-humans-exclusive-document-on-communications-between-italy-and-the-so-called-libyan-coast-guard/

CRIMINALISATION

17.04.2019

New directive of Italian Ministry of Interior – Mediterranea

We learn that the Viminale has dedicated, in its intense activity of production of “directives ad navem”, a new directive entirely dedicated to our ship, Mare Ionio, sailed for the second mission of 2019 on April 14 last. The directive appears written as if the Government were living in a parallel world. No mention is made of the war that is raging in Libya and the corresponding international obligations, nor of the thousands and thousands of people tortured in that country in recent years, nor of those drowned in the central Mediterranean (in increasing numbers, 2,100 in 2018 alone). Perhaps they should talk to each other between Ministries: the Italian Minister of Defence has just stated that “with the war we would not have migrants but refugees and refugees are welcomed” [...] 

https://www.facebook.com/Mediterranearescue/posts/3522847820594197_xts_%5B0%5D=68.ARAuPoY-8Mabc7G- bitFZqoLv6W3OwWK4higDUnIntMADFpjoG-0b85rdD49h_03meZfxo0_78Hm0vklo- JTaLzZmmD21GLDhucx0rYWWZ8bwbr9guOvyoiuxU20xwQNB0h25-v1CG1isu9h8W2wvPynqew87m79flpxWHMMyvB5-1Wnc2BcoX-Tue- Ip_y9vSnth39f4U8hba5bqkw8xOgjlDK2URTgeu5_JW5I8Bqdr4F8TW hornsoiF3RyvCdcKcTdky7DISZGLYb9Y7uiv1e1frm6SF1rD0dNhru

MFk1WOulua8fH7c-0zWgExyiQNzQt0TwA6sfFvslAgrkZ92p6-trn =K-R

10.04.2019

Alarm Phone – a radiotaxi for smugglers, founded for drug trafficking

No drug dealer, trafficker: because 2 kilos of drugs - hashish - are heavy stuff. And they are only those for whom it has been identified. By the way, Zerai was also expelled: but only on paper.

One wonders what interests, beyond a sudden vocation, can push a 'former' drug trafficker to take the cassock suit and exploit it to import as many illegal immigrants as possible into Italy. If we were a criminal organization that wants to export drug dealers to Italy, it would be the right choice. The same question is asked for your colleagues - in the sense of religious - of Avvenire. So, committed to getting the arriving people back from Libya.

You don’t want your satellite boatman to be intercepted by the authorities? Call Alarm Phone, they will call for you.

Alarm Phone was born, like a Chinese box, in October 2014. Alarm Phone is a call center for migrants organized by a coalition of international activists that look directly at the Mediterranean Sea from Tunis to Chicago, from Tangier and Melilla to Palermo, Berlin, Strasbourg, Barcelona, Brussels, Vienna, Zurich, Amsterdam and London.

The coalition has collaborations such as WatchTheMed, Boats4People, Welcome to Europe, Africa Europe Interact, Borderline-
Europe, No Borders Morocco, FFM and Voix des migrants.

The foundation of Alarm Phone was made by the Eritrean priest and drug trafficker Don Mussie Zeray. For years he was the number one contact of illegal immigrants and investigated for aiding and abetting illegal immigration. All smugglers had his number [...]


10.04.2019

Migrant Rescue Watch Twitter: 2/2 #SAR Op 10.04.19 - Delay in response to distress call caused by absolute lack of cooperation & refusal to share vital data by #NGO #AlarmPhone thus gravely endangering the lives of innocent people. 1st CS unit dispatched at 14:45 pm from Zuwara. Migrant Rescue Watch @rgowans

Francesca Totolo, Twitter: The 20 migrants are saved thanks to the intervention of the Libyan Coast Guard, despite the lack of cooperation of @alarm_phone, which warned the Libyans only 4 hours after the report.

https://twitter.com/francescatotolo/status/1116061816235470850

MALTA

11.04.2019

Migrants stuck in the Maltese zone

On the situation in Malta – reference is made to the situation of migrants automatically detained upon disembarkation (a practice that seems to have resumed since 2015) in Marsa and Hal Far. Several interviews (UNHCR, N.Fazon from ADITUS Foundation, crew members from the Lifeline) in addition to the testimony of a man rescued by the Aquarius last summer and spent months in detention pending his relocation to Spain which - in the end - is not successful. No means to challenge/appeal such decision of course. The article suggests that no asylum claim can be made pending the relocation to another EU Member State.

https://www.liberation.fr/planete/2019/04/14/les-migrants-coince-dans-le-bourbier-maltais_1721348

Italy – possible new law decree

10.05.2019

Here you will find the security-bis decree: fines for each migrant transported and for those who do not comply with the SAR standards

Salvini gives the competence to prohibit the transit of ships considered dangerous and provides that only the DDA can investigate. Heavier penalties for those who attack the forces of law and order. The M5S:"The Minister of the Interior thus covers the failure on repatriations".

Mar Jonio, the head of mission: "No irregularities, all propaganda. The smile of a child repays us". Here there is the security-bis decree: fines for each migrant transported and for those who do not comply with the Sar standards.

It is a real blitz with which the Minister of the Interior Matteo Salvini launches a decree security bis that provides for heavy fines against those who rescued migrants in violation of the SAR rules but above all with which he attributes to the Viminale and the district anti-mafia Directorate that were the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport and the Ordinary Prosecutor's Office.

The measure consists of twelve articles, most of which are still dedicated to the fight against illegal immigration. With sensational regulations destined to split the Council of Ministers. The first provides for sanctions against those who "in carrying out rescue operations in international waters, do not comply with the obligations under international conventions", therefore the conduct that Salvini attributes to humanitarian ships.

The sanctions provided for are of two types: from 3,500 to 5,500 euros for each foreigner transported and, in repeated cases, if the ship is having the Italian flag, the suspension or revocation of the license from 1 to 12 months. Article 2 amends the Navigation Code. Salvini attributes to the Viminale those that are currently the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport, in particular the limitation or prohibition of transit through territorial waters
of ships when there are reasons of safety and public order [...] 
https://www.repubblica.it/cronaca/2019/05/10/news/ecco_il_decreto_sicurezza-bis_pene_piu_pesanti_per_i_trafficanti_di_uomini_operazioni_sotto_copertura_e_invio_di_militari_-225949764/?ref=RHPPLF-BL-1225842826-C8-P2-S2.8-T1

11.05.2019
Another decree law against the right to life and democracy
Here a link to an article by Prof. Fulvio Vassallo Paleologo, which well analyses the most important aspects from a juridical perspective. 

Glossary
AP: Alarm Phone
IOM: International Organisation of Migration
Migrant Rescue Watch: Account of R. Gowans, a person that seems to know a lot about the so-called Libyan Coast Guard. We do not share his opinion about the so-called LCG and the SAR NGOs.
So-called LCG: so-called Libyan Coast Guard. These coastguard units since long time are the subject of criticism because of the human rights violations they have committed, their frequent unavailability and the impossibility of attributing them to a government or to militias, for this we call them "so-called" coastguards.

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