

# COVID19 - Update of the situation in Italy , borderline-europe, Sicily



– Part 12 –

Latest Update 17.09.2020

## Political/Social Situation

- After the recent events in Camp Moria, the Italian [Prime Minister Conte](#) reemphasizes the necessity to find a common European solution and addresses the bad conditions in Italian centers. Another tragedy like in Moria should not be repeated. If these words will be followed by concrete measures remains to be seen.
- The quarantine for the crew of the Sea Watch 4 and the 353 rescued people ends. On this occasion the Forum Antirazzista Palermo organized a demonstration to show solidarity with those who challenge 'odio e onde' (hatred and waves), save lives and set a sign of humanity.

## Situation of the Migrants

- The [27 people, rescued by chemical tanker Maersk Etienne](#), could go ashore after 40 days on the sea. It took the intervention of NGO vessel Mare Jonio and an international outcry until they could finally disembark in Pozzallo. A pregnant woman and her husband had already been taken off the ship and brought to hospital before. Afterwards the remaining persons were tested for Covid-19, all of them resulted negative. They are now in a reception center in the Syracuse region.
- After her deployment, the [Mare Jonio was disinfected and freed from quarantine restrictions](#), so that she is ready to reach out again.
- Prime Minister Conte, the President of the Region of Sicily and the Mayor of Lampedusa met in Rome to discuss the critical situation in Lampedusa. The excessively crowded hotspot was emptied afterwards as discussed during the meeting. The people were taken on several ships. At the moment there are [over 2,800 people on the quarantine ships](#). A total of about 7.8 percent of them are said to be tested positive on Covid-19.
- The placement on quarantine ships is not risk-free. The transfer of [700 people to the 'Rhapsody'](#) was extremely difficult due to the weather conditions. Moreover, there is no additional security staff on the boat. The responsibility and the risk of being on board with 900 locked up people is solely in the hands of the ship's crew and the Red Cross.
- The quarantine ships continue to be criticized also because of their [high and disproportionate costs](#). An extrapolation shows the drastic difference between 1,151,400 euros for 101 days in accommodation on land compared to about 4,037,475 euros for the same period on a quarantine ship. The last number is made up of 3,030,000 euros for the rental of the boat and about one million for the cost of living during the period mentioned.
- Nevertheless, there are [further calls for proposal for additional quarantine vessels](#) to which even people who reach Italy by land are to be brought. Shipping companies could apply until September 15.

- Meanwhile the arrivals in Lampedusa continue, so that after few days there are again more than [300 persons in the Hotspot](#).

### Situation on the Central Mediterranean

- In a center near Siculiana (Agrigento), several protests broke out as a result of the unacceptable quarantine conditions. [A young Eritrean man died](#) in his attempt to escape, as he ran on the streets and was hit by a truck.
- But [Riots in the reception centers](#) are taking place throughout the country. The fugitives protest against the conditions of their quarantine that deprive them massively in their right of freedom.
- In Udine there are considerable problems in finding quarantine accommodation for people arriving via the Balkan route. They are held in [improvised locations](#). These include tents and a dilapidated building of a former psychiatric institution. Some of them could be moved to a former barrack, while others were accommodated in a hotel.
- For 30 people, the unworthy conditions in Udine have been taken to extremes. They are forced to endure their [2-week quarantine in a bus](#). 'We sleep on the seats' they said. The local authorities claim to find no place to accommodate them. Several organizations have tried to collect signatures against these ['inhumane and degrading' conditions](#). Whether their efforts will bear fruit remains to be seen.
- The Sicilian Hotspot, the center [Gasparro di Bisconte near Messina](#) was closed as they could not handle the masses of people fleeing from the center due to its unacceptable condition. After all migrants were tested negative for Covid-19 they were transferred to other accommodations.

Further information on the situation in Italy can be found in our Newsletter 'Spotlight Italy' and previous Corona Updates on our homepage <https://www.borderline-europe.de/projekte/newsletter-italien>