

MED REPORT

JUNE 2025



INDEX

03

OCCUPYING A LAND TO ERASE ITS PEOPLE

The international Observatory “Mediterranea with Palestine”
in Masafer Yatta

10

SYSTEMATIC TORTURE ON THE MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

The denunciation by Doctors Without Borders (MSF)

13

LET’S TAKE STOCK

Monthly report on migrations

17

REPORT BORDERLINE EUROPE

News from the central Mediterranean

OCCUPYING A LAND TO ERASE ITS PEOPLE

THE INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATORY
“MEDITERRANEA WITH PALESTINE”
IN MASAFER YATTA

Since January 2025, the “Mediterranea with Palestine” project has been monitoring human rights violations and crimes committed by Israeli occupation forces. The project aims to document the oppression suffered by Palestinian civilian population, that Mediterranea activists witness on a daily basis, through the systematic collection of data and testimonies.

Mid-year report: January - May 2025

The “Mediterranea with Palestine” project, which has been continuously present in the Palestinian villages of Masafer Yatta region in the southern West Bank, has been monitoring human rights violations and crimes committed by Israeli occupation forces since January 2025. The project aims to document the oppression suffered by Palestinian civilian population, that Mediterranea activists witness on a daily basis, through the systematic collection of data and testimonies.

The mid-year report, which precedes a more extensive annual report, presents the results of the first 129 days of monitoring, from January 23rd to May 31st, 2025. The collected data is based on the constant presence and nonviolent intervention of our activists in support of the Palestinian population.

The 838 violations documented in 27 Palestinian villages in just over four months (shown in Table 1), distributed throughout Area C, demonstrate how what is happening in the Occupied Territories is the result of a deliberate and centralized strategy of ethnic cleansing against the resident Palestinian population, based on coordinated and complementary action between Israeli security forces - the army and police - and settlers. Nothing that happens is an isolated case.

As for the geographical distribution of documented violations (Figure 1), the highest concentration of events is recorded in the areas of Susiya (150), Tuwani (93), Umm Dhorit (87) and Khallet Athaba (83): these four villages alone account for 49% of the recorded episodes. These are villages that are located in strategic positions for the Israeli colonial expansion project: they are located very close or surrounded by Israeli settlements, on the edge of or inside Firing Zone 918 (which is a military training zone), near or along the connecting roads between Palestinian population centers.



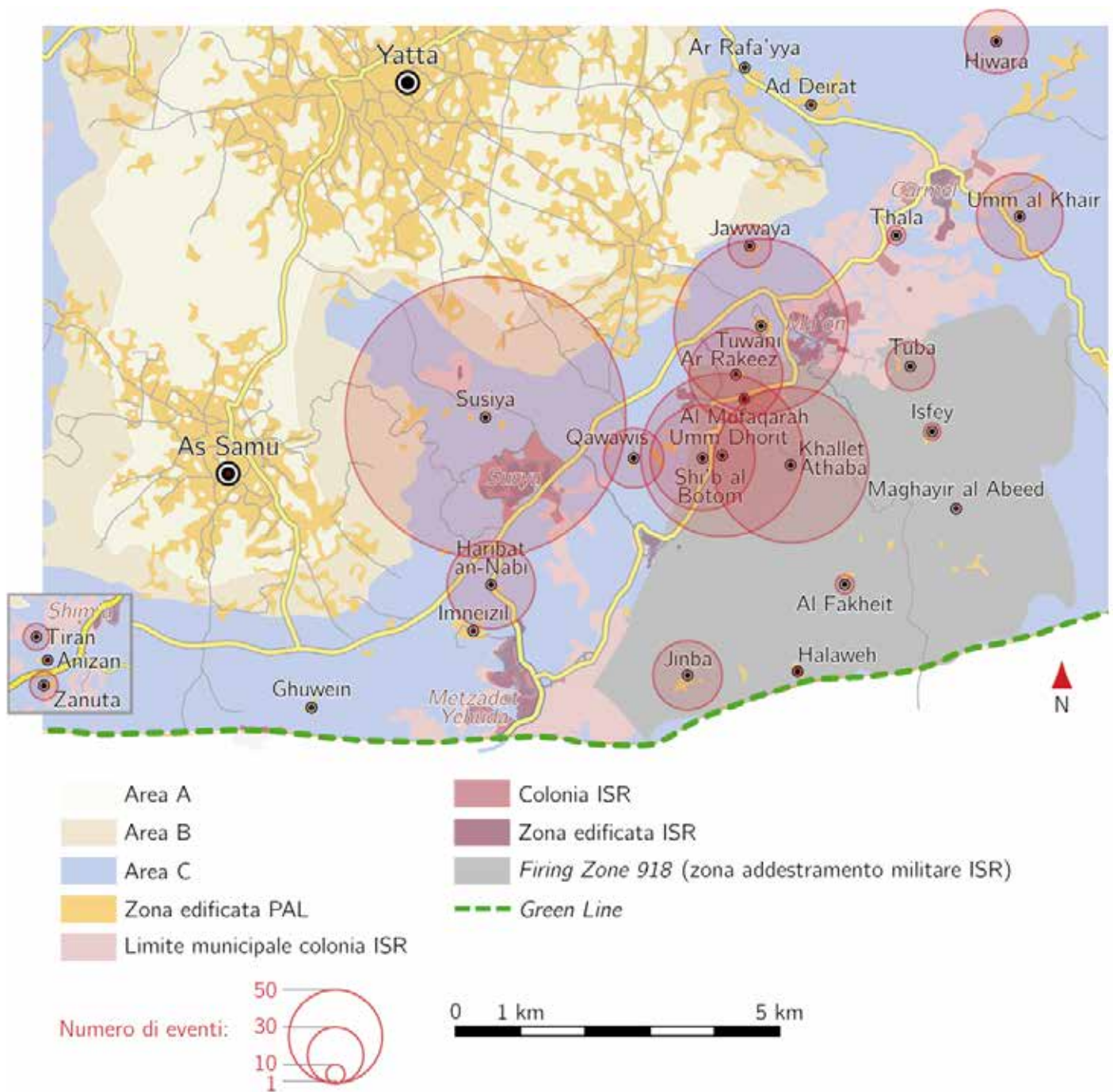


Figure 1: Map of violations

If ethnic cleansing can be traced back to the colonial plan of exclusive land appropriation, the first step towards its completion must be sought in the invasion of Palestinian private property. It is no coincidence, therefore, that the numerically most significant violation among those recorded is the invasion of Palestinian property for the purpose of intimidation or harassment by settlers.

However, property invasions are often also a warning that something more serious is about to happen. In 147 out of the 409 documented cases - more than one in three episodes - the invasion was accompanied by other violations, such as acts of verbal or armed intimidation by the Occupation forces, attacks by settlers, arrests of Palestinian present on the property, burning or damaging land, plants, irrigation systems or other property (Figure 2).

Azioni contro la proprietà palestinese	Azioni contro persone palestinesi	Azioni di controllo o appropriazione dello spazio palestinese	Azioni contro attivisti internazionali o israeliani
<p>Invasione di proprietà privata a scopo intimidatorio o di molestia Coloni</p> <p>Incendio di abitazioni Coloni</p> <p>Demolizione di abitazioni Forze dell'ordine</p> <p>Incendio o danneggiamento di terreni agricoli, piante o sistemi di irrigazione Coloni Forze dell'ordine</p> <p>Incendio o danneggiamento di auto o altri beni Coloni Forze dell'ordine</p> <p>Attacco o furto di bestiame Coloni</p>	<p>Aggressione con arma da fuoco Coloni</p> <p>Aggressione con bastoni o altri oggetti contundenti Coloni</p> <p>Intimidazione verbale o armata Coloni Forze dell'ordine</p> <p>Arresto arbitrario Forze dell'ordine</p>	<p>Irruzione immotivata nei villaggi Forze dell'ordine</p> <p>Blocco stradale Coloni Forze dell'ordine</p> <p>Costruzione o ampliamento di avamposto Coloni</p>	<p>Detenzione o arresto Forze dell'ordine</p> <p>Aggressione violenta Coloni</p>

Table 1: Distribution of violation by category

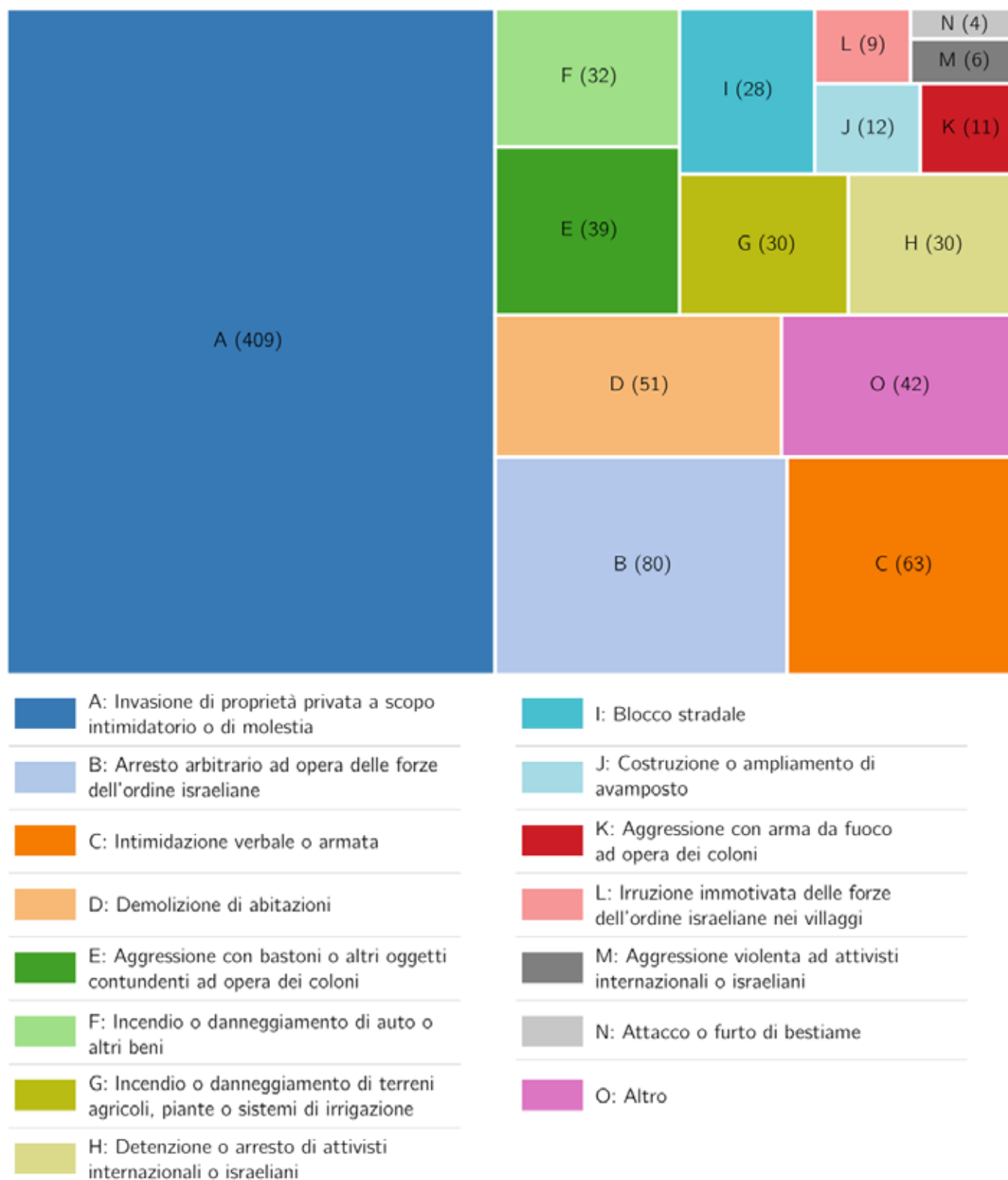


Figure 2: Relative frequency of events accompanying a property invasion (total cases: 147)

In 136 episodes of settler violations, Israeli police forces were present on the spot. As the occupying force, they are supposed to guarantee the rights of the population subjected to the Occupation, yet during the monitoring period they never formally sanctioned the perpetrators of violations.

On the contrary, in most cases, the police, which in any case by their mere presence contributes to the process of oppression and violation of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, has been directly or indirectly responsible for further acts of violence against the Palestinian population (Figure 3).

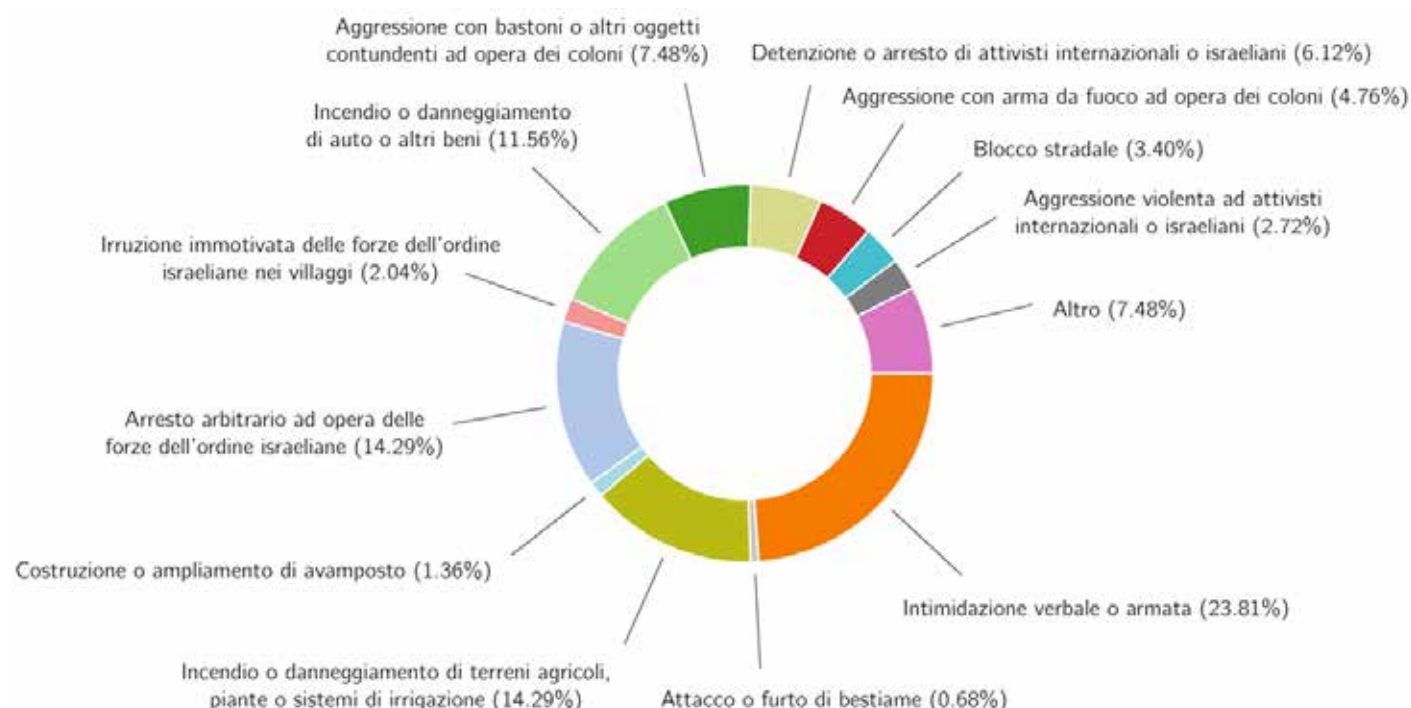


Figure 3: Relative frequency of police intervention outcomes (total cases: 136)

Other analyzed violations, which we consider significant although less frequent, are the imposition of roadblocks and the creation of new outposts. They represent respectively the denial of Palestinians' freedom of movement and the final stage of the occupation of Palestinian lands. Two key elements in shaping the apartheid system in the Occupied Territories, aimed at continuing the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians.

As further evidence of the coordinated actions of settlers and Israeli security forces aimed at ethnic cleansing in Masafer Yatta, the report highlights four cases, chosen because they display characteristics that make them

emblematic of the daily human rights violations suffered by the Palestinian population: the high level of violence, the targeting of a single village, family or activist, the strategic location of the affected villages.

In the village of Tubas, settler violence has been accompanied by the targeting of international activists to eliminate inconvenient witnesses to the Occupation's crimes. In Jinba there was clear operational coordination between settlers and the army, aimed at terrorizing the resident population. Khamet Athaba is the most significant example of the ongoing ethnic cleansing in Masafer Yatta, carried out first through the demolitions of Palestinian homes

and subsequently through the occupation of the village by settlers. Lastly, the example of Ar Rakeez tells of a coordinated escalation of violence between security forces and settlers, which resulted in the serious injury of the Palestinian Shaikh Saeed al-Amor.

In this particularly complex historical period, the Palestinian community is well aware of the difficulties it will face in the short and medium term, and knows that it can remain on its lands only by resisting every day. It is only by keeping in mind this tenacity and this strenuous refusal to bow to the will of the Occupation that the data presented in this report can be read fully.

An extraordinary example of resistance is that of Ali, 86, who has always lived in the village of Khallet Athaba and now lives with settlers camped on his land. Ali decided to sit on a chair in front of the place where his house stood, now demolished. In simple and direct words, he expressed a sense of resistance: "I was born here before Israel even existed, my family has owned this land for generations. Now how can they kick me out, telling me it's no longer mine?".



Khallet Athaba, June 2nd. Ali sitting in front of a group of settlers feasting on the rubble of his demolished house.

BORDER STORIES



SYSTEMATIC TORTURE ON THE MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

**THE DENUNCIATION BY DOCTORS
WITHOUT BORDERS (MSF)**

Doctors Without Borders (MSF), collecting testimonies at its center for survivors of torture in Palermo, has denounced the systematic torture that migrant people suffer on the Mediterranean Route. A situation that has been going on for years and that no one is trying to stop.

Victims tell of being systematically captured, abused, and beaten inside the centers, where the length of stay varies but can reach several months. Other people tell of having witnessed violence, torture, and abuse against other detained people, and even against their own family members and traveling companions.

The origin of the sample of victims interviewed by Doctors Without Borders is very diverse, 20 countries, with the largest national groups coming from Bangladesh, Gambia, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, and Nigeria. Most of the users are men, with an average age of 25.

Among the 160 people welcomed, 108 had experienced violence in Libya. Episodes of torture include beatings, whipping, nail removal, suffocation, and electric shocks.

The last MSF report illustrates the consolidated situation of violence suffered by those trying to reach Europe through the Mediterranean.

The torture committed against migrant people on the Mediterranean Route is “systematic”. This is what the medical-humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders (MSF) denounces, after collecting dozens of victims’ stories among users of its Service for Survivors of Torture in Palermo, Sicily, Italy. Entitled “Inhuman: torture along the Mediterranean migratory route and support to survivors in a fragile system,” the latest report by Doctors Without Borders illustrates, with testimonies and statistics, the situation of terrible violence suffered by those trying to reach Europe from the Mediterranean.

Sadly known but poorly considered by Western governments, detention centers for migrant people, especially in Libya, are places where violence and abuse are regularly committed against people detained there.

Doctors Without Borders then reports a significant increase in reports of torture among migrant people: while in 2023, the percentages of MSF patients who reported experiencing violence in Algeria and Tunisia were 3% and 11%, respectively, in 2024 the numbers rose to 15% and 24%. Underscoring the presence of oppressive practices against migrant people in transit from North African countries, with the indifference of the rest of the world. Violence is, in almost all cases, committed by traffickers (60% of cases) and security forces (29% of cases).

Episodes of sexual violence are also common among migrant women. Between 2023 and 2025, the Doctors Without Borders center received 40 patients; 80% reported having experienced one or more episodes of sexual or gender-based violence. The consequences of the violence experienced are clearly multiple, including severe psychological disorders such as post-traumatic stress disorder, from which 67% of patients at the Doctors Without Borders center suffer, as well as anxiety, depression, nightmares, emotional numbness, and isolation.

For years now, civil society organizations and some international newspapers and websites have been documenting and denouncing the situation that migrant people face in the Mediterranean. According to the latest findings of the International Organization for Migration, there are currently 800,000 migrant people in Libya. Almost 30,000 people have reached Italian shores since the beginning of 2025, more than 5,000 of whom are unaccompanied minors. The nightmare of Libyan prisons continues, day after day, but at the same time, relations between European Union countries and the governments of North African countries are carried on and indeed strengthened.

The stories collected by Doctors Without Borders are just a drop in the bucket compared to what happens to thousands of people every day, but they give a good idea of the extent to which the phenomenon of torture of migrant people has taken on. These are stories that now seem familiar but should make consciences and complicit governments outraged.



LET'S TAKE STOCK

MONTHLY REPORT ON MIGRATIONS

What happened on the migratory routes of Europe, of the Mediterranean, of the world?

What measures have governments taken?

Who provided assistance?

Who, instead, sanctioned, detained or rejected?

Let's take stock.

MOROCCO, June 6

Moroccan authorities have found 8 lifeless bodies. The victims of this shipwreck off the coast of Tarfaya were traveling on a watercraft carrying 52 people, many of whom were in critical medical conditions after the rescue.

TUNISIA, June 8

Forum Tunisien pour les Droits Économiques et Sociaux (FTDES) reports that the Tunisian government is hiding the presence of tens of bodies of people on the move found on the coasts of the governorates of Sfax and Mahdia.

EGYPT, June 10

10 lifeless bodies were found on Egyptian beaches near Marsa Matrouh. They were likely people on the move who set sail from Libya and were victims of a shipwreck.

BANGLADESH, June 17

Thanks to coordination between Libyan authorities, the Bangladeshi embassy in Libya, and the IOM, 158 Bangladeshi citizens detained in the Libyan prison of Tajoura have been repatriated.

MAURITANIA, June 20

After 11 days at sea, a watercraft departing from Kamsar, Guinea, washed ashore in Northern Mauritania. The castaways reported at least 3 deaths at sea, while approximately 96 people survived, but were later deported to the south of the country by Mauritanian authorities. Instead 4 people were rushed to the hospital in critical conditions.

TURKEY, June 30

4 Turkish border guards were sentenced to life in prison for torturing and killing two Syrian citizens, Abdurrezak Kastal e Abdulsettar Elhaccar, as they attempted to enter Turkey along with 6 other guards, who were also targets of Turkish institutional violence, in March 2023.

GERMANY, June 4

The German Council of Ministers has approved several measures to toughen asylum laws, including a plan to simplify the process of declaring a country safe and thus facilitate the deportation of rejected asylum seekers.

FINLAND, June 4

The Finnish Parliament has approved the extension of a temporary law that allows for the rejection of asylum seekers from Russia under certain circumstances.

FRANCE, June 10

France is considering a plan to intercept watercrafts carrying people in the English Channel in response to the increase in crossings to the UK.

GREECE, June 24

In coordination with European governments and Libyan authorities, Greece has deployed navy watercrafts off the Libyan coast to prevent people on the move from reaching Greek territory.

GERMANY, June 25

The budget plan approved by the German Federal Parliament no longer includes founding for civilian maritime rescue organizations.

ALBANIA, June 27

The Italian government has deported 15 people whose asylum applications were rejected to the CPR in Gjader, Albania.

SICILY, June 5

37 people were rescued off the Sicilian coast by the merchant ship Svenborg.

CIVIL FLEET, June 5

Aurora (Sea-Watch) rescued 91 people aboard a drifting watercraft. The Italian Coast Guard took the women and girls abroad and disembarked them in Lampedusa, while Aurora disembarked the men in Pozzallo.

GREECE, June 5

The sailboat Madleen (Freedom Flotilla Coalition) witnessed an illegal pushback by the Libyan militia Tariq Ben Zeyad. At the time of the interception, 4 people managed to jump in the water and were rescued by the Madleen, which disembarked them in a safe port in Greece.

LIBYA, June 5

Around 200 people who set sail from Libya aboard 3 watercrafts were intercepted in the sea between Tobruk and Crete and deported to Libya by the so-called Libyan coast guard.

CIVIL FLEET, June 10

The sailboat Astral (Open Arms) rescued 54 people who had set sail from Libya and been stranded for several days on an oil platform off the coast of Libya.

CIVIL FLEET, June 13

Sea-Watch 5 rescued 53 people and disembarked them in the port of Brindisi, assigned by the Italian authorities.

CIVIL FLEET, June 13

Ocean Viking (SOS Méditerranée) rescued 70 people aboard an overcrowded fiberglass watercraft and disembarked them in the port of Marina di Carrara, 3 days' sailing from the rescue site.

GARABULLI, June 16

A watercraft that had set sail 6 days earlier from Garabulli, Libya, sank. 5 people were rescued, the others are missing in the central Mediterranean.

CIVIL FLEET, June 16

Louise Michel rescued 193 people. 146 of these were transferred to an Italian Coast Guard patrol boat and disembarked in Lampedusa, while the remaining 46 stayed on Louise Michel and disembarked in Crotone after another 36 hours at sea.

IZMIR, June 18

2 watercrafts carrying 33 and 20 people were located by Turkish authorities off the coast of Izmir. According to the Turkish authorities' reconstruction, they were victims of pushbacks carried out by the Greek Coast Guard.

GAVDOS, June 19

In one day, more than 350 people disembarked independently or were rescued by the Hellenic Coast Guard near Gavdos or on the small nearby Greek islands.

CIVIL FLEET, June 20

Sea-Watch 5 rescued 70 people aboard a drifting watercraft and disembarked them in the faraway port of Naples, assigned by the Italian authorities.

MARMARIS AND DATCA, June 20

According to Turkish sources, 2 watercrafts carrying 21 and 23 people were pushed back into Turkish waters by the Greek Coast Guard.

CIVIL FLEET, June 20

Thanks to Alarm Phone's report, Ocean Viking rescued 73 people in the Maltese SAR zone and disembarked them in the port of Savona, over 1100 km away from the rescue site.

MALLORCA, June 24

Several bodies of people on the move have been found near the Spanish coast around Mallorca. They all had their hands and feet tied.

CIVIL FLEET, June 26

During a reconnaissance flight, the Seabird 1 (Sea-Watch) aircraft spotted 5 lifeless bodies in the central Mediterranean.

CIVIL FLEET, June 26

Despite the intimidating presence of a patrol boat from the so-called Libyan coast guard at the site of the operation, Sea-Watch 5 rescued 30 people and disembarked them in Marina di Carrara, the port assigned by the authorities a further 3 days of sailing away.

POZZALLO, June 27

After 6 days at sea, 44 people were rescued in the Italian and Maltese SAR zone by the Italian Coast Guard, who disembarked them in Pozzallo.

LESBOS, June 27

Around 17 people were intercepted off the coast of Lesbos by the Greek Coast Guard and pushed back to Turkey.

LIBYA, June 27

Around 40 people who set sail from Garabulli were intercepted by the so-called Libyan coast guard and deported to a concentration camp in Libya.

CIVIL FLEET, June 28

Life Support (Emergency) recovered 2 lifeless bodies in the Libyan SAR zone and transported them to Augusta, where they were buried.

LAMPEDUSA, June 30

The body of a woman who was the victim of a shipwreck has been found off the coast of Lampedusa. 5 or 6 people are also missing, and 87 were rescued by a Tunisian fishing boat and later disembarked on the Sicilian island.



LAMPEDUSA, June 8

After rescuing 112 people, Nadir was fined and detained under the so-called Piantedosi Decree for failing to coordinate with Libyan and Tunisian authorities during the rescue and for refusing to accept a distant port. This is the first time the so-called Piantedosi Decree has been applied to a sailboat.

ROME, June 11

Saddam Haftar, a senior Libyan official accused of war crimes against humanity, was received in Rome by Italian Interior Minister Piantedosi.

POZZALLO, June 16

After rescuing 65 people, Sea-Eye 5 was placed under administrative detention in the port of Pozzallo pursuant to the so-called Piantedosi Decree. The Sea-Eye crew is accused of failing to follow instructions from the MRCC in Rome, failing to immediately request a port of disembarkation, and delaying its journey to Taranto, the port initially assigned by the Italian authorities.

ROME, June 20

A press conference was held in the Chamber of Deputies to present the Stop Memorandum Italia-Libia campaign, calling on the Italian government not to renew the agreements signed with Libyan militias in 2017.

CATANZARO, June 24

The Court of Appeal of Catanzaro confirmed that the detention of the Humanity 1 (SOS Humanity) ship that took place last year by Italian authorities was illegal, given that the so-called Libyan coast guard is not a legitimate SAR actor.

ROME, June 27

71 refugee people landed in Rome from Libya via humanitarian corridors organized by UNHCR in cooperation with the Community of Sant'Egidio and ARCI.

ROME, June 29

The Court of Cassation expressed doubts about the constitutionality of the Italy-Albania Memorandum, which allowed the opening of an Italian CPR in Gjader, Albania, which is still in operation.





REPORT

BORDERLINE EUROPE

NEWS FROM THE CENTRAL
MEDITERRANEAN

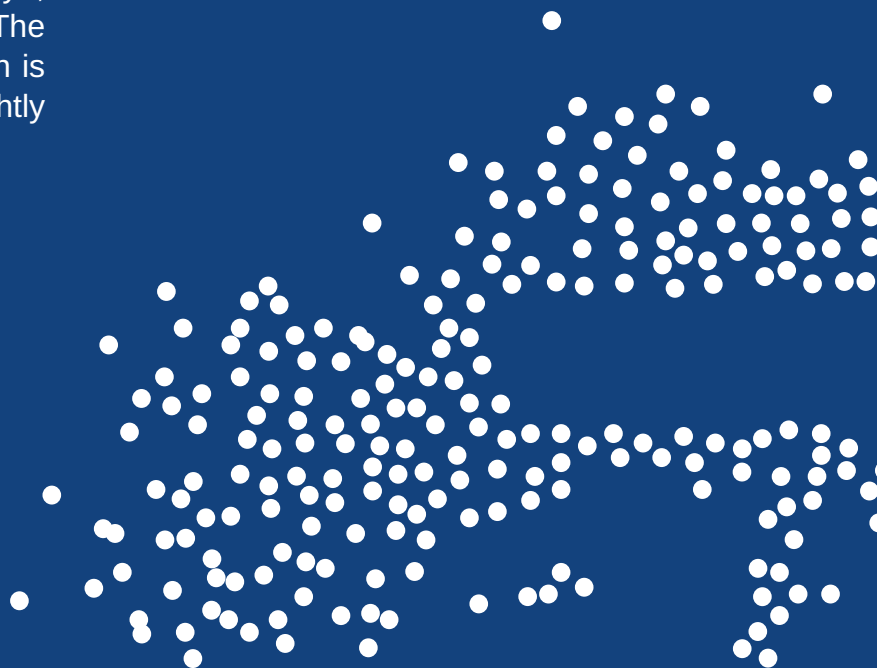
Arrivals

The rescue of 54 people from an abandoned oil platform by the NGO Open Arms drew international attention. The people suffered shipwreck during the crossing and were able to save themselves on the platform, where a woman gave birth to a child without medical support. In total, the people had to endure three days on the drilling platform under the most adverse conditions until they were brought to Lampedusa by the civilian sea rescue ship. The rescue, which was supported by Alarm Phone and the reconnaissance aircraft Sea Bird of the NGO Sea Watch, is one of many further examples of how the EU and its member states shirk their responsibility for refugees in the central Mediterranean.

In June 2025, according to counts by [borderline-europe](#), 7,142 people reached Italy by sea. Of these, 5,788 people or 81% arrived in Sicily - mainly Lampedusa - and 69 people arrived autonomously in Sardinia. In twelve cases, the crossing to Italy took place via the Ionian route: 866 people reached Calabria via the eastern central Mediterranean. Thus, compared to last month, crossings increased fourfold - in recent years, the Ionian route to Italy was rarely chosen. Besides Turkey, from where 3.4% of the crossings started, they often began in eastern Libya. Overall, [borderline-europe](#) can demonstrate for approximately 67% of arrivals that the boats departed from Libya, but the percentage is very likely higher. The share of departures from Tunisia this month is approximately 7% and has thus risen slightly compared to the previous month (5.3%).

According to our counts, Italian authorities brought approximately 50% of arrivals to land, with rescue by NGO ships occurring in three cases. Overall, approximately 11% of rescues were carried out by NGO ships, with 758 people rescued from distress at sea. According to [borderline-europe](#) data, Frontex was involved in the rescue of 1,058 people in June. 747 refugees (10.5%) reached Italian coastal waters (12 nautical miles from the coast) autonomously without being intercepted or rescued beforehand. In some cases, they were towed to safe harbor by Frontex or the Italian Coast Guard after reaching territorial waters. For 9.4% of arrivals, no information about rescue was available.

According to official figures from the Italian Interior Ministry, 7,089 people arrived in Italy in June. We were able to document similar arrival numbers this month. However, we would like to note that the background of the figures released by the Interior Ministry is not transparent.



Pushbacks

This month we recorded 1,460 interceptions (pullbacks or rejections at sea) in the central Mediterranean, where boats with refugees were pushed back or pulled back to the North African coast. 1,415 people were dragged back to Libya and 45 people to Tunisia. These figures are without guarantee. The actual number is likely much higher.

One interception by the so-called Libyan Coast Guard received particular media attention in June: During their attempt to break the blockade of Gaza and deliver aid, the crew of the ship *Madleen* of the Freedom Flotilla Coalition witnessed a pullback to Libya. The refugees from Sudan who were in distress were within the Egyptian maritime and rescue zone when - in addition to the *Madleen* - a ship of the Libyan militia Tariq Ben Zeyad approached, which is known for serious human rights violations and the forced return of asylum seekers. While four people jumped into the water and could be taken aboard by the *Madleen*, it can be assumed that the other people were dragged back to Libya, where they face imprisonment and torture.

Dead and missing

The number of dead and missing in the central Mediterranean continues to rise with each passing month. According to *borderline-europe* data, 43 people lost their lives fleeing across the central Mediterranean in June, with 82 people considered missing this month. The fate of another 37 people is uncertain. Here too, the actual number is likely significantly higher. Among the victims are presumably also 60 people, including women and children, who suffered shipwreck within a few days in mid-June off the Libyan coast.

Furthermore, *Seabird 1*, a reconnaissance aircraft of the sea rescue organization *Sea-Watch*, discovered the bodies of five dead people in international waters off the Libyan coast at the end of June. Two of the bodies have meanwhile been recovered by *Life Support*, a sea rescue ship of the NGO *Emergency*, and brought to Italy. Now the EU must act: The other dead must also be recovered and their families notified. Furthermore, safe escape routes and state-organized sea rescue are needed so that the dying at EU external borders ends. The UNITED network has been documenting the fatal effects of European isolation policy since 1993 and counts 66,519 refugees and migrants who died from the restrictive policies of 'Fortress Europe' in June 2025.

Routes towards Europe

European “Realpolitik” in Libya: “We know they’re dodgy, we just don’t care”

The escalating war in Sudan has led to many Sudanese having to flee to Libya. Additionally, thousands of Sudanese refugees have been driven into Libyan territory by Egypt’s repressive border measures. As a result of these developments, the number of Sudanese arrivals in Europe has increased by 134% in the first five months of 2025. In conjunction with ongoing political instability, Libyan border controls have become more fragile.

In view of the growing arrival numbers both in Greece and in southern Italy, particularly in Calabria, the EU is increasingly relying on cooperation with Libyan authorities in both the west and east of the country. EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen sent Interior Commissioner Magnus Brunner on a diplomatic “mission” to Libya, whose goal is to halt “irregular” migration from Libyan shores to the EU through new cooperation. Brunner himself brought the double standard of European border policy to the point when he explained at an event in Brussels: “We know they’re dodgy, we just don’t care,” thereby justifying cooperation with Libyan authorities while simultaneously openly admitting their human rights violations.

The increased European cooperation with Libya takes place in a context of increasing repression against migrants. On the first day of the Islamic festival Eid, the so-called “Anti-Illegal Immigration Department” in Benghazi - a port city in the east of the country - started a city-wide action to drive migrants from public spaces like parks, streets, and beaches.

At the end of June, security forces conducted a large-scale raid on the western coast of Libya, particularly in Sabratha: boats were confiscated, accommodations destroyed, and migrants arrested. Such operations are presented as progress in the fight against “trafficking,” but they frequently lead to arbitrary detentions and collective punishments of people fleeing, in disregard of rule-of-law standards. Furthermore, ever new evidence of systematic violence comes to light: Thus, the United Nations confirmed in June the discovery of several mass graves near Tarhuna, a place known for extrajudicial executions during the Libyan conflicts. Dozens of bodies were found, most of which could not be identified. This triggered international demands for investigations and an end to impunity. Despite the dehumanizing conditions, the EU maintains operational partnerships with actors linked to violent crimes and plans to deepen cooperation with them further.

This so-called “realpolitik” of the EU provokes resistance from civil society actors. Thus, the network “Refugees in Libya” launched a new campaign in June to abolish the Italian-Libyan Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This agreement, which has been in force since 2017 and has been extended several times, secures political and material support for the so-called “Libyan Coast Guards” and detention authorities, despite numerous reports of torture, forced labor, and human trafficking in state- and militia-run facilities. A current report by Doctors Without Borders also highlights the systematic and widespread violence against migrants in transit countries like Libya and Tunisia. It suggests that among the new arrivals in Italy, many are torture survivors and that a structured and appropriate response is urgently required. The activists therefore demand an immediate end to cooperation and emphasize European complicity in crimes against humanity.

Migration Defense in Tunisia

An escalation of migration defense measures is also observed in Tunisia. Thus, authorities again cleared the camps El Am and Henchir El-Ochi near the coastal city of Sfax in June, forcibly displacing about 1,500 people. An improvised tent clinic that served migrants was also destroyed. Alarm Phone documented serious violence in connection with pullbacks at sea and deportations during this period. The report shows that Tunisia does not serve as a refuge but acts as an active actor in a repressive European border regime. Black people fleeing are systematically deported to the desert and shipwreck survivors are left to themselves, often under life-threatening conditions.

Civil resistance

11% of all rescues were carried out by NGOs in June 2025. The civilian sea rescuers were able to save a total of 758 people. Furthermore, NGO ships participated in the rescue of 381 people before they were brought to land by state authorities or Frontex. There was one multiple rescue this month.

Furthermore, the balance from 10 years of civilian sea rescue was drawn in June: 21 organizations (including 10 German ones) rescued more than 175,000 people from the Mediterranean according to their own statements. Instead of recognizing the necessity of civilian sea rescue, the German federal government decided a few days ago to stop financial support for civilian sea rescue organizations.

Detention of Civilian Sea Rescue Ships NADIR & Sea-Eye 5

Italian authorities are now extending the criminalization and obstruction of rescue operations based on the Piantadosi Decree to sailing ships and smaller boats:

Thus, the NADIR, a sailing ship of the German NGO RESQSHIP that has been operating in the Central Mediterranean since 2021, was detained for the first time. After the crew rescued 112 people from an overcrowded wooden boat on the night of June 5-6, it was detained for 20 days after arrival at the port in Lampedusa. The NADIR is accused of not informing Tunisian and Libyan authorities in time and not following Italian authorities' instructions regarding the assigned port. In their press release, Resqship refutes these accusations and points to the serious and comprehensively documented human rights violations that people on the move experience in Libya and Tunisia. These violations justify why both countries should never be considered safe harbors.

The NGO Sea-Eye is also affected by similar accusations: The speedboat "Sea-Eye 5" rescued 65 people on June 14 - including women and partly severely injured people - from an overcrowded rubber boat 50 nautical miles off the Libyan coast. The crew rejected the instruction to the port of Taranto, 48 hours away, for safety reasons. Hours-long negotiations followed, during which the Sea-Eye 5 had to wait in front of the port of Pozzallo and the health condition of some passengers drastically deteriorated. Only through international pressure were they finally allowed to enter the port, where they were then detained. Sea-Eye firmly rejects the accusations and emphasizes having always acted in accordance with international maritime law and for the welfare of the rescued people.

ECtHR Dismisses Migrants' Lawsuit Against Italy

The lawsuit refers to the violent pullback of November 6, 2017. About 130 people were traveling in a rubber boat and suffered shipwreck near the Libyan coast. The civilian rescue ship Sea-Watch 3 was able to rescue 59 people at the time, at least 20 people died, and 47 passengers were brought back to Libya by the so-called Libyan Coast Guard. The so-called Libyan Coast Guard, which was equipped, trained, and financed by Italian authorities and the European Union Trust Fund for Africa, acted factually as an extended arm of Italy. 17 survivors from Ghana and Nigeria filed a lawsuit against Italy at the European Court of Human Rights 7 years ago. They accuse Italy of being co-responsible for human rights violations such as the death of refugees and their return to torture and inhumane detention conditions through support and influence on the Libyan Coast Guard. The ECtHR now declared the complaint inadmissible because, in the court's view, Italy bore no extraterritorial human rights responsibility for the actions of the Libyan Coast Guard in the specific case.



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