



MEDREPORT
OCTOBER 2022

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WHAT DO THE NUMBERS TELL US

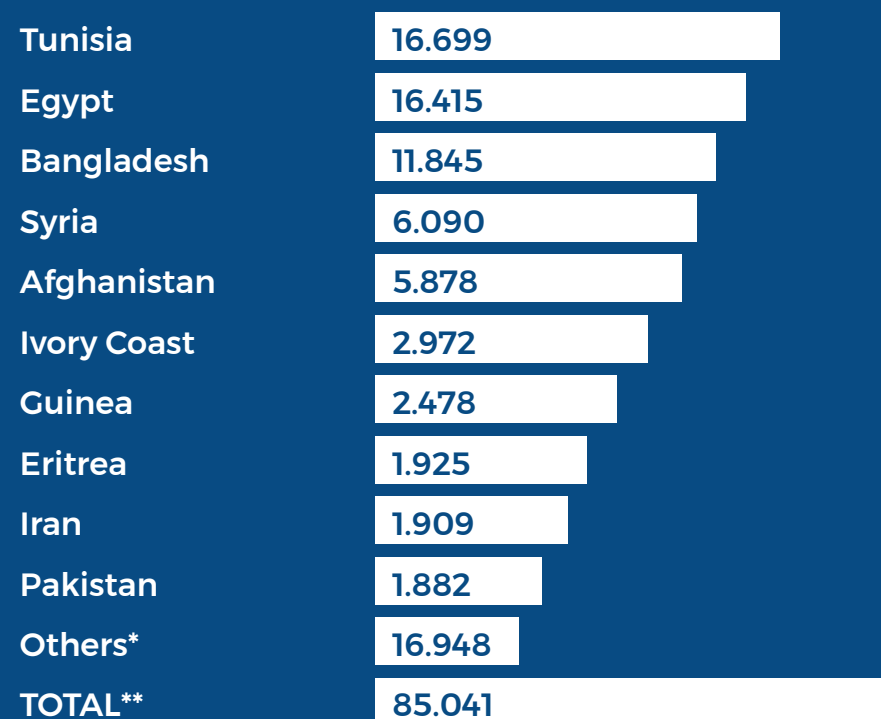
In October, the number of people who were forced to flee and cross the Mediterranean Sea and managed to arrive in Italy was 13,716.

Among them were 2,161 unaccompanied minors.

Numbers, again, extremely close to those of the previous month and so far removed from the immigration emergency rhetoric that has characterized previous months. The 3rd of October was the ninth anniversary of the shipwreck that occurred in 2013, when 368 people lost their lives off the coast of Lampedusa.

Since 3rd October 2013, more than 24,000 refugees and migrants have died or are missing in the Mediterranean Sea.

NATIONALITIES DECLARED AT THE TIME OF LANDING (UPDATED TO OCTOBER 31, 2022)



* The figure could include immigrants for whom they still are identification activities are in progress.

** The data refer to the landing events detected before 8:00 am of the reference day.

Source: Department of Public Security of the Ministry of the Interior of the Italian Republic.

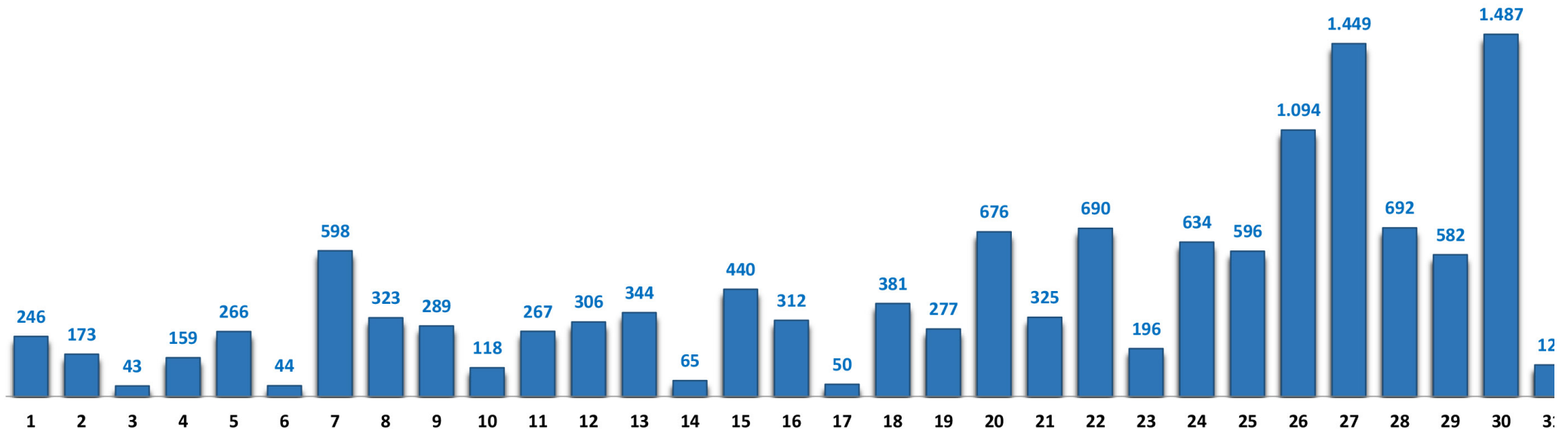
The data are subject to subsequent consolidation

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These data are processed on the basis of information provided by the Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration of the Ministry of the Interior of the Italian Republic. The data refer to the landing events detected by 8.00 on the reference day.

CHRONICLE OF OCTOBER OF THE FACTS IN MEDITERRANEAN



DAY 4

As soon as she returned to the Sar area, the ship Louise Michel rescued 48 people in distress on board an overcrowded boat. The presence of the latter had been reported by Alarm Phone operators.

DAY 5

The crew on board the civil ship Louise Michel rescued 48 people who were in danger of drowning or being deported to Libya.

DAY 6

Three shipwrecks in a few hours in the Mediterranean Sea: two occurred off the Greek islands of Kythira and Lesbos, the third off the coast of Tunisia. There are at least 20 dead and 94 missing.

DAY 7

The crew of the sailing boat Nadir assisted a boat with 39 people on board in distress. A few hours later, the Italian Coast Guard completed the rescue.

Carabinieri and Guardia di Finanza patrol boats recover two bodies off the island of Lampedusa, probable victims of one of the many ghost shipwrecks that occur in the Mediterranean.

During the night, the Libyan Coast Guard intercepted, in separate operations, 483 people of different nationalities. These, on board a fragile boat, were attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea.

DAY 8

The Sea Watch crew on board the Seabird aircraft witness yet another refoulement by the so-called Libyan Coast Guard: more than 40 people were turned back in Libya.

DAY 9

After declaring a state of need, already en route to Lampedusa, Louise Michel received permission to land there the 48 people who had been waiting for five days for a safe port to land.

The so-called Libyan Coast Guard intercepted 88 people on board a fragile boat in the central Mediterranean. Nine lifeless bodies were also found on board.

DAY 10

Alarm Phone operators raise the alarm for 55 people in danger. 30 hours after the first SOS, Italian authorities rescued the fragile boat.

DAY 11

The Sea Watch crew on board Seabird spotted four boats attempting to cross the central Mediterranean. Fortunately, with the help of the civil rescue ship Nadir, all the people managed to reach Lampedusa.

DAY 12

More than 12 hours after the first distress call, and following a long triangular communication between Nadir and the authorities of Italy and Malta, the Italian Coast Guard rescued a boat with 13 people in distress on board.

DAY 13

Reporting from Alarm Phone, the civil ship GeoBarents rescued 122 people in distress, including more than 90 minors, on board a dinghy shortly before it collapsed.

DAY 16

Following a report from Alarm Phone, the crew on board the humanitarian ship GeoBarents rescued a dinghy carrying 46 people in distress fleeing Libya. Among them were 16 minors.

In the afternoon, the crew on board the Nadir provides first aid to a boat that left the Tunisian coast with 65 people on board. Among them were five children (two of them without parents).

DAY 17

During the night, the GeoBarents crew responded to two different Alarm Phone reports. In total, 116 people were rescued and saved from drowning.

DAY 21

Nine days after the first rescue operation, the civil ship GeoBarents with the MSF crew on board is on its way to Taranto where the 293 people rescued on board will disembark.

An explosion on board a boat bound for Lampedusa: two children dead. A pregnant woman is in serious condition. Yet another tragedy a few miles off the Italian coast.

DAY 22

The air crew on board Seabird spotted two boats in difficulty. On one of them 45 people were fortunately rescued by the Sos Humanity crew after being adrift at sea for hours without an engine running. The second boat with around 60 people was turned back in Libya by the so-called Libyan Coast Guard in cooperation with Frontex and in violation of international law. Another illegal refoulement in the Sar area of Maltese competence.

DAY 23

During the night, following a report from the crew on board the SeaBird3, the civil ship Humanity1 rescued 45 people in distress in the waters between Malta and Libya.

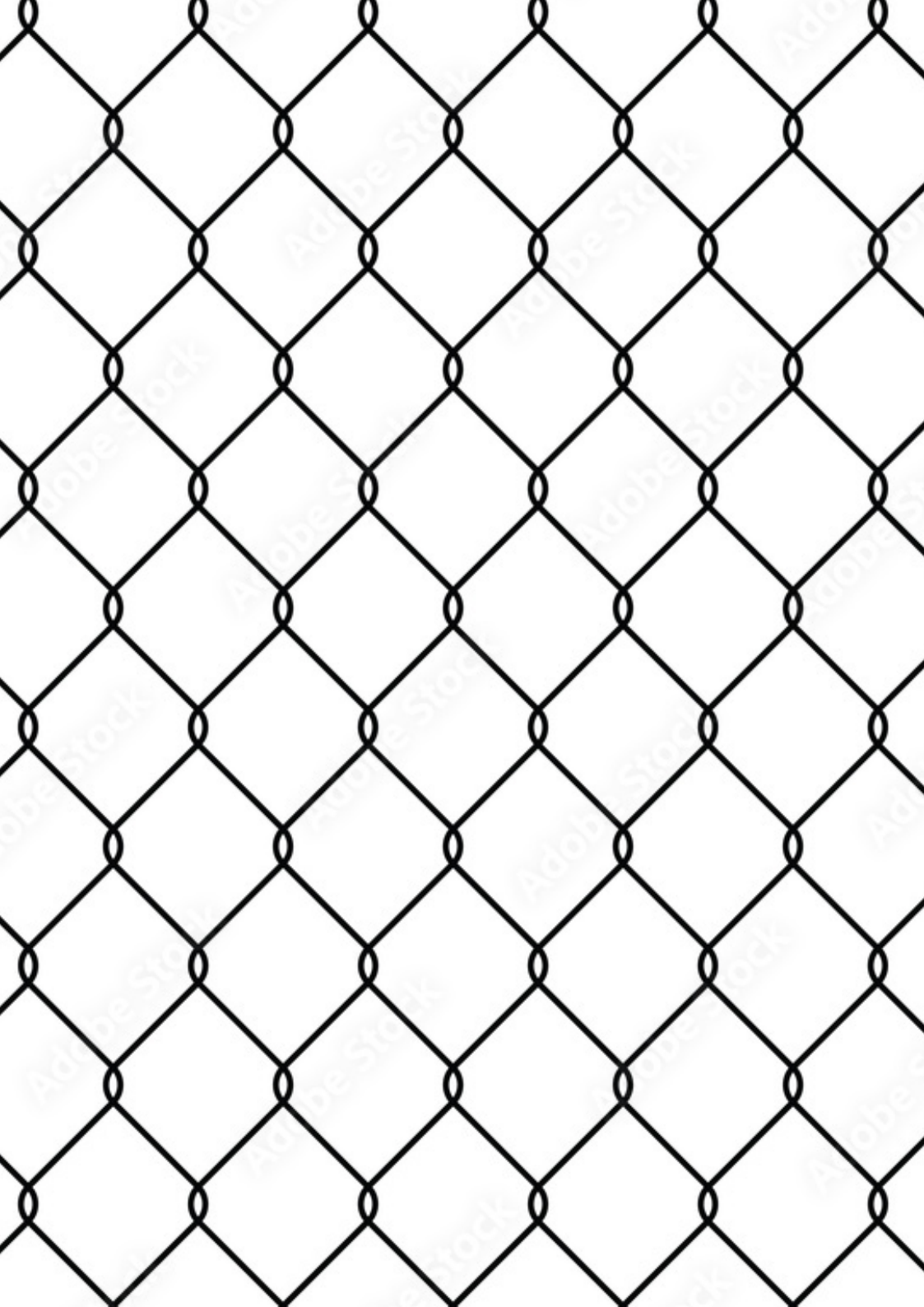
A few hours later, a new rescue operated by the Sos Méditerranée crew on board Ocean Viking: 39 people boarded.

DAY 25

The so-called Libyan Coast Guard threatens to shoot down, with the use of firearms and missiles, the Seabird reconnaissance plane carrying the Sea Watch crew. The latter, in fact, had spotted an overcrowded dinghy with around 70 people on board in danger. Shortly afterwards, the Libyan Coast Guard reached the boat, inside the Maltese search and rescue zone. The crew ordered the boat's crew to leave, probably to prevent the documentation of the illegal refoulement, which in fact took place shortly afterwards. The shipwrecked people were returned to Libya and the dinghy they were travelling on was set on fire with gunfire.

DAY 26

During the day, the Sos Méditerranée crew on board Ocean Viking rescued 32 and 56 people off Malta and Lampedusa in two separate operations.



CALAIS

BORDER

STORIES



It is 2pm at Lille Flanders station. Next to me is a family of 6, boarding the same train as me - direction Calais Ville. They sit next to me for the hour-long journey that separates us from the French coast. They are not locals but I only find out their nationality when we meet the conductor who asks them where they are from, they are Palestinians. He doesn't ask me though. I don't know where they go or why we are on the same train but what I will see in the following weeks will shed some light on a few things.

In Calais there is a migrant population of about 1500-2000 people. Approximately because since the dismantling of the jungle the situation of people on the move is extremely volatile. The CRS (Compagnies Républicaines de Sécurité) carries out evictions every 48 hours, attacking any gathering of tents and forcing migrants to move or flee.

To those who cannot move in time, the police seize or destroy personal belongings, tents and documents, as part of the 'Zéro point de fixation' plan, whose main objective is to prevent a scattered group of tents from turning into a permanent encampment.

The evictions never stop, not even in winter when the rain and cold never let up.

So the battle between local pro-migrant associations and the CRS flares up, with the associations fighting against time to provide new tents, warm clothes and blankets to all those who have been evicted once again and put in danger by an authority that is supposed to protect them.

But France is not alone in perpetrating these constant violations of human rights. All these operations are possible because the British government allocates millions every year (63 million last year alone) to support containment practices and policies to stop migrants trying to cross the English Channel.

But behind the statistics, numbers and categories there are the human beings in transit who populate Calais. I have met some of them, and what has struck me most is the ability of most of them to resist the constant attacks, the constant vicissitudes that wicked European policy imposes on them.

Every story is different; there are those who landed on Italian shores a few months ago and have never stopped, there are those who have lived, studied and worked for years in France and are preparing for the crossing to reunite with their families.

Many speak to me in German, they have lived in Germany, but their asylum request once processed was no longer approved. So they left again.

Since the Calais jungle has been dismantled, there are few left in the city. Few associations and none of the big INGOs.

Because Calais is no longer popular, it is a silent crisis that remains unheard by most, on the skin of those who continue the search for an eldorado that disappears with every kilometre.

Then I think back to the Palestinian family I met on the train. I will never know their final destination nor what they had to go through before they got to sit on that train next to me, but I know that in one of Europe's hottest borders there is still so much work to be done and so many battles to be fought.



MED CARE FOR UKRAINE NEWS FROM THE PROJECT

MSH' MED CARE FOR UKRAINE PROJECT IS DEVELOPING MORE AND MORE IN THE LVIV OBLAST. OUR MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC, ACTIVE SINCE AUGUST 2022, NOW HAS A CATCHMENT AREA OF MORE THAN 1,000 PATIENTS, THANKS TO THE REGULAR VISITS OUR MEDICAL TEAMS MAKE TO THE SYKHIV AND SOLONKA REFUGEE CAMPS,

and to a long list of informal shelters, schools, private homes, monasteries, parishes.

Refugees who arrive from the Eastern part of Ukraine are finding refuge in these latter places, as there is no room in formal refugee camps, which are basically container camps.

Every ten days a medical team consisting of doctors, nurses and psychologists leaves Italy for Ukraine.

Mediterranea Saving Humans, thanks to its land crews, guarantees a load of humanitarian aid every month, which leaves Italy with a column of vehicles and arrives in Lviv.

In this monthly supply there are medicines for our pharmacy located at the Don Bosco centre in Lviv, food and hygiene products, which are distributed in the refugee camps, supplies for the mobile clinic, and aid for the transfeminist NGO Insight, in support of their Women in March project, which helps transgender people and fragile women throughout Ukraine at war.

The October mission of Mediterranea Saving Humans left from Milan, thanks to the efforts of our EDT, and arrived in Lviv a few days after the city was bombed.

Russian missiles hit power plants in the Lviv oblast, creating a shortage of energy supply. There is still a lack of electricity in many regions of the country, power outages are frequent in the city of Lviv, and gas, energy and water supplies are rationed in the rest of the country.

In addition to humanitarian aid, our activists have also brought power generators, oil stoves, and gas burners to Lviv to cope with the energy supply difficulties experienced by the city of Lviv and the whole of Ukraine.

Our activists were able to see a clear deterioration in the psychological conditions of the citizens of Lviv, refugees and residents alike, due to the Russian bombardment during October.

There is growing fear and disorientation in what has become the 'city of refuge', where all the refugees from the east of the country had found asylum, fleeing the front line of the conflict.

Thanks to our project, we are succeeding in expanding the places of action of the mobile medical clinic, managing to bring basic medical care to refugees fleeing from the east.

To date, we have reached 8 medical missions, i.e. medical team replacements, and 3 humanitarian aid supply missions. Future medical missions are already planned until the end of the year, and two more humanitarian aid supply missions will leave in November and December from Naples and Rome.

MSH HAS BEEN PARTICIPATING FOR YEARS IN PROTESTS DEMANDING THE CANCELLATION OF THE ITALY-LIBYA AGREEMENT. THANKS TO THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF GROUND CREWS, MEDITERRANEA ACTIVISTS* ATTENDED MARCHES, GATHERINGS AND SIT-INS ALL OVER EUROPE. THIS IS OUR STORY.

THE SQUARES OF ITALY AND EUROPE SAY NO TO THE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN ITALY AND LIBYA.

STOP THE ITALY-LIBYA MEMORANDUM!

STOP THE ITALY-LIBYA MEMORANDUM!

STOP THE ITALY-LIBYA MEMORANDUM!

This is the chant united protests in Italy and all over Europe on October 15th, and that responds to the appeal promoted by Abolish Frontex, Diritto di Migrare, diritto di Restare and Refugees in Libya.

STOP THE ITALY-LIBYA MEMORANDUM!

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STOP THE ITALY-LIBYA MEMORANDUM!

This request is shouted by the hundreds of

people (and dozens of other organizations) that have occupied squares, standing in front of Libyan Embassies and consulates, in front of symbolic landmarks all over Europe.

STOP THE ITALY-LIBYA MEMORANDUM!

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In Brescia, Carpi, Naples, Rome, Turin, Barcelona, Berlin and Paris, protesters have demanded the immediate interruption of the criminal agreement signed five years ago between the Italian Government led by Paolo Gentiloni and Al Sarraj, which will be automatically renewed on November 2nd. People have protested with banners, flyers, music, speeches, sit ins, smoke grenades, raids.

STOP THE ITALY-LIBYA MEMORANDUM!

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STOP THE ITALY-LIBYA MEMORANDUM!

Between 2017 and 2022, Italy has spent almost a billion euro in order to train the so-called Libyan coastguards and provide it with uniforms and patrol boats, which are used to intercept and imprison people at sea and bring them back to Libyan detention centers.



STOP THE ITALY-LIBYA MEMORANDUM!

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STOP THE ITALY-LIBYA MEMORANDUM!

As of today, roughly 80.000 people have been captured and brought back to Libyan lagers. Tortures, rapes, extortions, deaths. Rapes, deaths, extortions, tortures, deaths, extortions, rapes, tortures. In a spiral that seems to never end.

STOP THE ITALY-LIBYA MEMORANDUM!

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There were a lot of different associations in the streets and in front of Embassies, such as Amnesty International, CGIL, ANPI, Solidarity with Refugees in Libya, Alarm Phone and many others, all demanding the same thing: that the acceptance given to Ukrainian refugees is extended to the thousands of people who migrate through the Balkan Route and the Mediterranean Sea.

That's because freedom of movement should be a universal right, as much as the right to be welcomed in equal and widespread structures. That should be not only for people escaping from conflicts, but also for those individuals that run away from economical, climatic and social crises.

STOP THE ITALY-LIBYA MEMORANDUM!

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Among others, two people who sung and shout in the protests are Ebrima Jalimqsa Kuyateh, who has crossed Libya, and Ghandi, who survived the tortures of the Libyan militias in a concentration camp in Tripoli. The list continues: Amewu, David Yambio, Lam Magok. Their testimonies caught the attention of the people who walked by. They brought light over the agreements hidden by media and institutions. Their testimonies are fundamental in order to attract people and make their voice part of the movement.

STOP THE ITALY-LIBYA MEMORANDUM!

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STOP THE ITALY-LIBYA MEMORANDUM!

There is also no shortage of demonstrative actions: the activists of Mediterranea Rome have symbolically sealed the entrance to the Italy-Libya Chamber of Commerce. The banner reads "Closed for Human Rights Violation", to underline how once again profit is considered more important than human lives.

STOP TO THE ITALY-LIBYA MEMORANDUM!

The actions in which Mediterranea took part, however, are not the only demonstrations of dissent to the Italy-Libya Memorandum that took place in October. In fact, a group named Women and Men of Goodwill of the New Mediterranean took independent action in Palermo on 18 October. On this occasion, the group presented itself at the Libyan consulate in via Libertà wearing white overalls and with their faces covered.

The group - recently formed - staged an action of peaceful disobedience. He has afflicted posters with images of Libyan concentration camps and writings that say “Libyan concentration camps” and “torturers”. A plaque was also placed inside the Libyan consulate bearing the phrase: “Consulate of torturers Libya”. The protesters also threw red liquid on the walls, symbolizing blood.

The reasons for the raid can be read on the flyer claiming the action. Tripoli’s militias are described as gangs of assassins and bandits. “Watchdogs” of Europe’s southern border, externalized and left in the hands of a government that detains, tortures, rapes and kills asylum seekers.

The Italy-Libya memorandum, according to Women and men of good will of the New Mediterranean, formalizes these horrors. It offends the Universal Charter of Human Rights. It repudiates the Geneva convention on refugees. It blatantly ignores the Hamburg Convention on Rescue at Sea.

In conclusion, we report the final words of the communiqué of the Women and Men of Goodwill of the New Mediterranean: *“We name our brothers and sisters those who are forced to walk through deserts and rely on the waves in order to overcome the border between death and life. We are Mediterraneans and we recognize a right to citizenship that is not based on skin color, on wealth or poverty, but on humanity. The struggles of our brothers and sisters to conquer the human right to mobility, to reaffirm the inviolable right to seek for asylum and shelter, are our struggles as well. And they will build a New Mediterranean”.*

REPORT BORDERLINE EUROPE



NEWS FROM CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN

ARRIVALS

Borderline-europe counts 12,899 people arriving in Italy via the Mediterranean Sea in October. The figure of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs refers to 13,251 arrivals in the same period. The IOM counts a total of 13,237 refugees and the UNHCR speaks of 12,282 arrivals in October.

What changes the election of the new government will have on civil sea rescue and Italy's migration policy can already be guessed from the allocation of ministries. For example, Meloni has added the new component "sea" to the Ministry for the South and the associated minister is the Fratelli d'Italia (FdI) politician and former president of Sicily Sebastiano (Nello) Musumeci.

It remains to be seen how and whether the overlapping competences between the Ministry of the Interior (Piantedosi), the Ministry of Infrastructure (Salvini) and the Ministry of the South (Musumeci) will affect the situation. In October, there are now about 1,000 people on three NGO ships waiting for the allocation of a safe harbour. The medical situation on Humanity 1 worsened towards the end of the month as a flu-like infection spread on board.

More than ten requests for a port of safety have been ignored by Italy and Malta. The deterioration of the physical and psychological condition of the rescued people was condoned by the governments. The mayor of Pozzallo, Roberto Ammatuna, opposed the inhumane strategy and called on the new Interior Minister, Piantedosi, to allow the ships to dock.

The changes in Italian policy are also triggering reactions from the Maltese government. Maltese Home Affairs Minister Byron Camilleri recently claimed that “Malta and Italy share the same challenges in the Central Mediterranean”.

These “challenges” refer to the arrival of migrants across the Mediterranean and the accompanying obligation to rescue at sea. Italy’s new government and its anti-migration policy will most likely increase the pressure on Malta, as it has an obligation as a coastal state under international law and conventions on the law of the sea to ensure that people in distress at sea are rescued and promptly brought ashore in a safe place.

The European border management agency Frontex once again made negative headlines in October.

Now a Frontex investigation report by the EU’s anti-fraud agency Olaf has also been published.

This report, which has existed since February, has not yet been officially published, but was leaked to the media. It reveals how Frontex members feel about the “Fundamental Rights Unit”, which was set up following serious allegations of Frontex involvement in illegal pushbacks. The report says that internally, the department is condescendingly referred to as “leftists”. WhatsApp messages from Frontex employees included terms such as “intellectual dictatorship”.

Reports on serious incidents, called “Serious Incident Reports (SIRs)”, have been classified, so there is no transparency to the outside world. The EU Ombudsman has now opened an investigation into Frontex and the EU Parliament decided against a budget discharge by 345 votes to 284. This decision is mainly symbolic.

DEAD AND MISSING

In October, borderline-europe counted a total of 67 people who died in the Mediterranean and about 31 who are missing. As always, the number of unreported cases is estimated to be much higher.

The case of a two-year-old girl and her mother, both from Burkina Faso, received media attention. They were on a small boat for five days with sixteen other people, drinking seawater because the drinking water supply was exhausted. After arriving in Lampedusa, both were taken by helicopter to hospitals in Palermo and admitted. The little girl was in a coma for several days, but fortunately woke up again.

In Zarzis, Tunisia, relatives and friends have been protesting for days to get the Tunisian authorities to search for the missing persons of a shipwreck. This is a boat that left Zarzis on 21 September with 18 young migrants and was shipwrecked. Some bodies that have already been recovered were buried in a migrant cemetery in Tunisia, but the people were not identified beforehand.

As a result, relatives now have no way of knowing whether they are the people they have been missing. The President of Tunisia, Kais Saied, called on Interior Minister Taoufik Charfeddine and the Director General of National Security, Mourad Saidane, to take further measures to ensure clarification. The bereaved have a right to know for sure what happened to their loved ones.

In Libya, however, 15 bodies were found near the town of Sabratha. This was reported by the aid organisation “Libyan Red Crescent”. A fight allegedly broke out between smugglers and migrants who wanted to set off from the Libyan coast. The dispute escalated and the smugglers shot at the fugitives and set the boat on fire, causing some of the migrants to catch fire and die.

PULLBACKS

This month, 1,722 people fled Libya but never reached the Italian mainland because they were intercepted by the so-called Libyan coast guard. According to the EU, from the beginning of this year until 02 September, 12,352 people have been intercepted in the waters off Libya on their way to Italy and returned to Libya against their will.

To further expand these pullbacks, Libya received 14 speedboats worth €6.65 million from Italy in October, co-financed by the EU. A UN press release earlier this month announced that inspections of vessels suspected of being used to smuggle people would continue.

The Tunisian coast guard intercepted a total of 647 people in October. In one night alone, 130 people from different African countries who wanted to depart from the central region of Sfax were intercepted.

At the end of the month, 70 survivors reported that the Tunisian coast guard destroyed the engine of their boat off the coast of Zarsis, leaving the refugees in the open sea for several days. Fortunately, those affected were eventually rescued by fishermen. In contrast to Libya, the intercepted persons who are brought back to Tunisia are in most cases released after their personal details have been recorded. In Libya, the situation is different.

This month, the Twitter account “Refugees for Libya” published disturbing information and photos on the so-called “detention centres” in Libya. The conditions in these prisons are so inhumane that, unfortunately, it happens again and again that inmates take their own lives; and yet the EU supports the country and uses it to externalise European borders.

Malta’s authorities again made ethically and legally questionable decisions at the end of September by sending a ship rescued in the Maltese search and rescue area by the Panama-flagged merchant vessel SHIMANAMI QUEEN to Egypt instead of giving them permission to dock in Malta.

Headlines like this happen almost every month. Now, Alarm Phone, Mediterranea Saving Humans, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and Sea-Watch issued a joint statement calling on Malta to “put an end to these serious human rights violations in the central Mediterranean and along the EU’s external borders”.

CIVIL RESISTANCE

On 11 October, the AlarmPhone celebrated its eighth anniversary. Since 2014, the network of volunteers has been instrumental in saving lives in the Mediterranean and helping relatives find out about the whereabouts of their family members. AlarmPhone has received a total of more than 5,000 calls for help from boats in distress and organised rescues or forwarded the calls for help to the state authorities.

The irresponsibility of state authorities was demonstrated again in October when the Louise Michel had to declare a state of necessity because the condition on board the NGO rescue ship was untenable.

The Louise Michel was only given permission to dock in Lampedusa when it was already approaching the port.

Delaying the landing of people who have risked their lives in the Mediterranean is an unjustifiable strategy of deterrence.

The same purpose is served by the criminalisation and discrimination of sea rescuers. Giorgia Meloni, Italy's new ultra-right prime minister, attacks NGO ships, calls them pirate ships and accuses them of breaking international (maritime) law with their rescues.

Admiral and former spokesman for the Italian Coast Guard, Vittorio Alessandro, explains in an interview with journalist Sergio Scandura that the duty to rescue a boat in distress at sea is an absolute duty.

He considers Meloni's accusation against sea rescue NGOs to be very dangerous, because on the one hand it sends the message that rescues are undesirable and on the other hand anyone who rescues is defamed as a pirate.

In October, another trial date for the crew of the German rescue ship 'luventa', who are on trial in Trapani, should have taken place, but the date was postponed again, so that the accused crew members are still kept in the dark. Now it has become known that the then captain of the luventa, Kai Kaltegärtner, was rejected by the agency Total Crew because he was driving missions for lifeboats on the Mediterranean. Total Crew is a Dutch placement agency for ship crews and no longer wants to place Kaltegärtner because of his work for sea rescue organisations. Kaltegärtner now wants to take legal action against this discrimination. He has already been proven right before the Dutch Human Rights Committee (College voor de Rechten van de Mens), but it is not a legally binding judgment, which is why Kaltegärtner wants to go further to court.

The Italian NGO Emergency now has its own rescue ship, it is called 'Life Support' and will carry out rescues in the Mediterranean in the coming weeks. On the side of the ship is the sentence "I diritti devono essere di tutti, sennò chiamateli privilegi" ("Rights must apply to all, otherwise they are privileges").

ROUTES TO EUROPE

One trend that can be observed is that more and more people from Egypt are making the crossing to Italy.

In the first half of this year, a total of 4,150 Egyptians arrived on Italy's shores, almost four times more than in the same period in 2021.

Egyptians are now the second largest group (after Tunisians) to have arrived in Italy this year, accounting for around one fifth of all arrivals.

One third of Egyptian refugees are unaccompanied minors.

This is due to the fact that the economic and political situation in the North African country is increasingly deteriorating.

The economic situation, but also the lack of future prospects, is causing many Egyptians to leave their home.

However, most boats do not depart from the Egyptian coast, as strict measures by the government prevent this, forcing people to take more dangerous routes, such as via Libya.

The EU has signed an €80 million agreement with Egypt, which includes funding for the Egyptian coast guard, preventing even more people from crossing to Italy.



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