

Scirocco - Latest News from Italy

22.06.2026: The UN Raises Alarm: Italy fails to implement the UN Convention against Torture

Italy is facing scrutiny over its compliance with the *UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*. In its latest [concluding observations](#), the UN Committee Against Torture (UNCAT) identified serious shortcomings in Italy's implementation of the convention, including Italy's definition of torture, the prison conditions and Italy's migration policies. These concerns echo longstanding criticism raised by civil society organizations and come at a time when European migration policies increasingly prioritize deterrence and forced returns over protection and safeguarding of people on the move.

The UNCAT was [established in 1984](#) to monitor the implementation of the *UN Convention against Torture* and is comprised of ten independent experts. In their concluding observations on Italy, the UNCAT criticises many aspects of Italy's migration policies that have long been under criticism by civil society organizations: the agreements with Libya and Albania, the breach of the right to non-refoulement, the inhumane conditions in the Pre-Removal Detention Centers (CPRs) and the criminalization of civil sea rescue operations. Italy must provide information on the actions it will take in response to these recommendations by May 1, 2027, which will be reviewed in the UNCAT's next periodic report.

Another major gap in Italy's implementation of the UN Convention was highlighted by the *Italian Network for the Support of Torture Survivors (RESST)*: the failure to uphold the right to rehabilitation for torture victims. This issue is particularly relevant in the case of people on the move arriving in Italy from Libya or Tunisia, places where human rights abuses and torture of migrants are well-documented. According to an estimate by [Avvenire](#), 17,000 victims of abuse and torture have arrived in Italy in 2025 alone. However, the report found that beyond the treatment of externally visible vulnerabilities, rehabilitation opportunities for torture victims are scarce. While guidelines do exist, they are found to be poorly implemented, if at all. This is reflected by the fact that CAS facilities (the most common reception facility for people on the move) are not required to have a psychologist. Meanwhile, the SAI reception system, which is intended to accommodate vulnerable migrants, lacks sufficient spaces.

These reports were published at a time when both Italian and European politics are further turning toward dehumanizing policies. In a recent [Scirocco](#) we reported on the Council of Europe's Chişinău Declaration, which aims at reinterpreting the article of the European Convention on Human Rights that prohibits torture and inhuman or degrading treatment. This reinterpretation would result in weaker human rights protection for non-EU citizens. Furthermore, the return regulations, which were agreed upon last week by the EU, will further undermine the right to non-refoulement. In this context, the UN and RESST reports

must be understood not only as a criticism of current politics but also a warning-signal about Italy's and the EU's plans to further erode safeguarding against torture and ill-treatment. Although the committee's recommendations are not legally binding, they increase international pressure on the Italian government and strengthen legal and advocacy efforts.

