# Scirocco - Latest news from Italy

## 06.11.2026 - „Sardinia abandoned “

Over the last 2 months, Sardinia has experienced an immense increase in arrivals. From January to August 2026, 477 [1] people reached the shores of Sardinia, while in the last 2 months (September - October) 615 arrived on the Island. In comparison, in 2025, only 323 people arrived during September and October. Most of the boats arriving were coming from Algeria.

This massive increase in arrivals leaves the region overwhelmed, with no help from the government. Hence, M5S politician Alessandro Solinas from Cabras said the Meloni government has “abandoned” Sardinia. They are completely unfit to accommodate such an amount of people. This happened in response to multiple incidents of violence and vandalism in and around the CAS (extraordinary reception center) in Cabras, a center specifically for unaccompanied minors. The mayor of Cabras immediately called to close the center. However closing the center will not solve the problems but rather transfer them to another region, with the same terrible conditions. The focus should rather lie on improving the conditions in the already existing one, with more social and psychological help, as well as meeting basic needs like hot water and healthcare. Similar conditions arise in Monastir. While the CAS there only has space for 300 people, nonetheless they had to accommodate a lot more over the last two months, which also led to horrible conditions of overcrowding.

Furthermore, the supposed transfers from Sardinia to the mainland are not working. Normally, people arriving in Sardinia are supposed to be brought to Olbia and from there transferred to the mainland, like Livorno or Civitavecchia. However, in September, the crew of ferries did not let the migrants on board due to bureaucratic reasons. This intensified the whole situation even more. The port Isola Bianca turned into a temporary shelter for many migrants, and volunteers started to mobilize to distribute clothes and food.

With basically no space, no healthcare or psychological help, long stays, no integration and no perspective of a future, it is no surprise that tensions flare up between the people held in the center and also with the islanders living alongside them. These conditions do not produce a harmonious coexistence, but rather conflict.

While the complaints of the inhabitants of Sardinia might be valid, right-wing politicians instrumentalize the situation to promote their anti-migrant propaganda and ask for even more restrictive policies. The Cagliari MP of FdI (Fratelli d'Italia), Salvatore Deidda, proposed putting the people who arrive directly back on a boat to

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[1] All numbers are based on figures collected by borderline-europe

Algeria. They are even considering using merchant boats for it. This idea would simply breach the non-refoulement principle and therefore international law, as it is not allowed to send people back if there is the possibility of persecution for the individual. People who arrive carrying traumatic experiences are confined in a place that offers them no help. Meanwhile, the government uses the friction in Sardinia as material for its propaganda without offering any viable solution. It blames the people on the move directly without even considering the reasons behind their actions. It is time for Italy to stop leaving the regions alone and then using the inhumane conditions for migrants for its own anti-migration-politics.