



# **Information on the situation of Refugees in the Region of Sicily**

**borderline-europe July 2015**  
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Photo Title: Informal camp in front of the CARA Pian del Lago, September 2015, Photo: Giovanna Fioravanti

Translation: Giovanna Fioravanti

## 1. State-run reception centres in Italy

The Italian State offers three different types of reception centres for asylum seekers, which are regulated by law:

- **CSPA** (Centro di Soccorso e Prima Accoglienza): First reception after the arrival of migrants from the sea, meant for temporary stay of 48-72 hours.
- **CARA/CDA** (Centro Accoglienza per Richiedenti Asilo/ Centro di Accoglienza): First accommodation reception centres for asylum seekers or migrants.

There is also a municipal - voluntary - accommodation system that is managed by the State (by private or municipal delegates):

- **SPRAR** (Sistema di protezione per richiedenti asilo e rifugiati): A second accommodation centre, which offers integration. It mainly offers accommodation to people entitled to custody, but also to asylum seekers.

You can find an overview of the Italian "officially" available accommodation facilities for asylum seekers on the homepage of the Italian Ministry of Internal Affairs, which is not, however constantly updated. According to the information on the page, Italy has 9 CDA / CARA facilities, including the not much and well defined biggest refugee centre in Europe, Mineo (which is usually considered a CARA in all other publications) and 4 CSPA for the very first accommodation.

Available in Italian at: <http://www.interno.gov.it/it/temi/immigrazione-e-asilo/sistema-accoglienza-sul-territorio/centri-limmigrazione> (accessed June 2015).

The SPRAR system has increased the number of places for immigrants from 3,000 (Oct 2012) to nearly 20,000. Another 20,000 are going to be added. Up until now, the Italian reception system offers shelter to only 1,000 minors; but another 1,000 are going to be added before the end of this year. Available in Italian at: <http://sociale.regione.emilia-romagna.it/news/2015/sprar-i-posti-per-minori-raddoppieranno> (accessed July 2015).

The Italian government decided in July 2014, to change the reception system. The still existing CARA should be abolished and replaced with the so called HUBs (collecting points). From there the refugees are going to be distributed among the second reception centres SPRAR. Nowadays (as for October 2015) there are officially no CARAs in Sicily anymore. Big reception centres, which in other countries are called HUB, are going to be called Hot-Spot in Italy and be opened in Lampedusa, Porto Empedocle, Trapani, Augusta, Catania and Pozzallo.

The biggest problems for refugees in Italy however, begin only after they have been given a protection status (international or national). They can put themselves on waiting lists for a place in a SPRAR, but most of them remain without accommodation after receiving the title.

More detailed information on the state-run reception system and the care entitled to asylum seekers in Italy can be found on the report of the administrative court Braunschweig (12/2012), written by borderline-europe: [http://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/readingtips/2012\\_12\\_02\\_Gutachten\\_Antworten\\_finale\\_anonym.pdf](http://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/readingtips/2012_12_02_Gutachten_Antworten_finale_anonym.pdf) (in particular chapters 9 and 10).

### 1.1 State-run reception centres in Sicily

- In Sicily there are three CARA and two CDA (Trapani (CARA, CDA), Mineo (CARA), Caltanissetta (CARA,CDA) and officially two CSPA (Lampedusa, Pozzallo).

### **a) The CSPA in Lampedusa**

- It is currently open (July 2015). The centre can accommodate up to 381 people and it is meant for the very first reception of migrants, who cannot stay there for longer than 48 hours. Nevertheless, it was reported that they often remain for longer than 48 hours (in average between 3 and 8 days) and that it is often overcrowded and that even 1,000 migrants have once been accommodated. That is why there is not enough space and as there is no mensa, migrants have to eat wherever they can. Available in Italian at: <http://www.beppegrillo.it/movimento/parlamento/2015/06/immigrati-ispezione-m5s-a-lampedusa.html> (Accessed July 2015).
- The official length of stay is usually exceeded, as it was demonstrated when dealing with the survivors of the catastrophe of the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013: the last seven Eritreans were send away from the island after 101 days; according to the Ministry of internal Affairs this was due to legal reasons (they had to testify in a smuggler trial).

#### **Last developments in the CSPA in Lampedusa:**

- After the video in which it is shown how naked refugees are being sprayed with disinfectant has been published in December 2013, the Italian government has closed down the camp, transferring almost all migrants to centres in Sicily;
- These were still being illegally held in Lampedusa because of legal reasons, as they had to testify against suspected smugglers in a trial;
- Among them there were also seven of the survivors of the catastrophe of the 3<sup>rd</sup> October, who had to wait 101 days before leaving the camp. They were being held close to the site of the accident, under horrible conditions;
- On the 12.01.2014 the seven Eritreans were transferred to Pozzallo, again in a CSPA structure, even though it is not meant for long-term accommodations.
- Apart from them, there were other six Syrian refugees in the CSPA in Lampedusa, who also since their arrival on the 14.10.13, had to wait to make their statement at the court of Palermo. They were brought to Palermo on 15.01 but we do not know where they went to afterwards;
- In addition, there were two Tunisian unaccompanied minors in the centre; they also have been transferred according to "Save the Children", but where to is unknown.

#### **For more details read the following articles (German):**

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2014/01/von-lampedusa-nach-pozzallo-die.html>  
<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2014/01/die-eritreer-des-3-oktober-werden-nach.html>  
<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2013/11/lampedusa-das-verzweifelte-warten-der.html>  
<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2013/09/erstaufnahmezentrum-in-lampedusa.html>  
<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2013/07/lampedusa-die-verlegungen-haben-begonnen.html>  
<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2013/07/andauernder-notstand-im-aufnahmezentrum.html>  
<http://de.euronews.com/2013/12/25/nach-skandalvideo-italien-fliegt-fluechtlinge-aus-lampedusa-aus/>

### **b) The CSPA in Pozzallo**

- Apparently the centre can accommodate 174 people, but also here more and more migrants are being housed. In February 2015 more than 500 people were being accommodated in the centre.
- Until recently, it was run by the municipality of Pozzallo.
- According to the rules, migrants can stay inside a CSPA for 24 – 72 hours, but also here this rule is not being respected: some remain for a month.
- In the past there often have been tensions in the camps, because of the long periods of stay and the overcrowding. Some migrants were on hunger strike on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2014 to protest, in order to be transferred to adequate camps. There are reports about the police using excessive force against refugees at the centre of Pozzallo. **According to reports of Nawal Soufi, a Moroccan activist, refugees had been beaten with electrical cables, because they refused to be identified in order to continue their journey.**
- There are men, women and children inside the structure. From time to time there are also unaccompanied minors.
- Sanitation facilities are insufficient (7 showers for men and 7 showers for women).
- In June 2013, from a conversation with migrants, the staff of borderline-europe discovered that the food was not bad, but that no legal advice was given and that there was no cultural mediation.

Repeatedly, unaccompanied minors are being housed in this centre. In 2014, the administration declared that the centre was empty and closed, but actually several minors were being held there.

**For more details read the following articles:**

Italian:

<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2013/06/viaggio-nelle-strutture-di-accoglienza.html>  
<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2013/08/minori-non-accompagnati-al-cpsa-di.html>  
[http://viedifuga.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Centri\\_Diritto-protezione\\_ASGI\\_20121.pdf](http://viedifuga.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Centri_Diritto-protezione_ASGI_20121.pdf)  
<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2014/09/continuano-gli-sbarchi-pozzallo-i-nuovi.html>  
<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2014/09/a-pozzallo-sbarcano-altri-276-migranti.html>  
<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2014/09/a-pozzallo-i-minori-non-accompagnati.html>

as well as [siciliamigranti.blogspot.com](http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.com) → Tag Pozzallo

German:

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2014/07/die-tore-des-erstaufnahmezentrums-von.html>  
<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2014/06/einwanderer-fluchten-aus-dem.html>  
<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2014/05/unbegleitete-minderjahrige-werden-seit.html>  
<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2014/04/pozzallo-wird-zum-neuen-vorposten.html>  
<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2014/01/von-lampedusa-nach-pozzallo-die.html>

### **c) The CARA Pian del Lago in Caltanissetta**

- It was originally both a CDA and a CARA, but nowadays all the incoming asylum seekers are housed in both the two structures in Piano del Lago; a CIE (detention centre) is also located on the same ground.

- The centre is made of buildings, and also of containers which are erected on the asphalt, and it can officially house 456 people (in the CDA: 360, in the CARA: 96).
- The centre is chronically overcrowded. As for September 2015: 496 people.
- The accommodation in the containers is particularly affected by overcrowding: between 13 and 16 people live in one container (as of January 2014), although they are designed to contain between 8 and 10 people.
- There are not enough beds for everyone. People have to sleep on mattresses on the floor (as for January 2014).
- It is led since 01.10.2013 by the cooperative „Auxilium“, which receives everyday 25 Euros per person (and because of this low budget they obtained the tender for leading the CARA).
- In average the permanence inside the CARA is of between 8 and 10 months (because of the extension of the waiting times due to the Asylum Commission).
- Migrants inside the CARA complain also about:
  - quality and quantity of the food which is delivered by the Catering-Service; it is not good (they cannot cook by themselves);
  - deterioration of the medical services, since the original three hospital wards were combined into one;
  - the rooms are not often cleaned (just once a week) and there is not enough soap;
  - unsanitary condition of the sanitation facilities;
  - pocket-money of 2,50 Euro per day is given through coupons, which can only be cashed at the machines in the centre;
  - water supply has worsened under the management of Auxilium (just only two litres of water per day instead of 4);
  - there are not enough clothes, and when they are given, than those are second-hand ones; particularly critical is the absence of adequate winter clothes (as for January 2014).

### **September 2015**

- During our visit in the CARA and the CIE in Caltanissetta on 08.09.2015, only three people could enter the facility; on previous occasions delegations of 15 people entered the establishment .
- It was not allowed to take pictures or make videos. Before we could speak with the migrants, we had to obtain a written authorisation first. Everything is done, so that no information leaves the camp.
- We accept the conditions, so that we can enter the camp. They control our bags and bag packs. For refugees who want to get in or out of the camp, there is a metal detector.
- In front of the camp's entrance, there are refugees with documents which identify them as minors. We report this and we are told that the Questura will send them to an adequate camp, after identifying them. Only thanks to our help, these minors do not need to sleep in front of the camp, waiting for their papers to be elaborated. Most of the refugees though are not so lucky, and have to go through this ordeal.

- In order to reach the camp, migrants have to walk 6 km from the nearest village; there are no buses and there are no sidewalks nor lighting. That is why some migrants were victims of car accidents.
- The waiting period for the hearing with the commission takes between 8 and 12 months, and it is extended to another 2 to 6 months when the migrant has already been registered in another European country in order to carry out the necessary investigations after the Dublin Convention.
- At the moment 65 people are being held in the CIE; in the CARA there are 469 asylum seekers (362 in the CARA and 134 in the CDA, which although of the different naming are both being used as CARA; there is only a spatial separation.
- The refugees are mainly from Pakistan, Mali and Afghanistan; the average the length of stay is of 14 months. After receiving the residence permit, the people are immediately sent out of the camp.
- 106 people work in the centre, only 8 of which as interpreters.
- The containers have bunk beds with at least 12-14 places to sleep. Reminds us of a slum. The inmates bring also their food inside the containers.
- The sanitation facilities are in containers, each container has 6 showers and 12 toilets. In total there are 48 toilettes, and only 10 percent of them are working. An obviously not adequate number.
- Each inmate receives everyday a chip card with 2,50 Euros, with which he can get cigarettes, beverages and telephone cards. They do not receive pocket money in cash like other migrants in other reception centres do. This practice makes it impossible for the inmates to even buy a bus ticket.
- There are four people, who should give legal advice. None of them is a lawyer or has a degree in legal sciences. This situation has been criticized for years. The migrants are therefore advised to turn to the public defenders of the court of Caltanissetta. Usually, it is always the same 6-7 lawyers who are recommended.
- As for the Italian language courses, for more than 480 persons, 3 teachers are available and it is apparently not taken into account that many illiterate people are among the refugees.
- At the moment, in the CIE there are 65 people; the facility has a capacity of 96 places. Most of the people are of Maghrebi origin. The deportation rate is higher than 80%.
- The whole visit lasts only half an hour. In the camp there were 16 minors who have landed here without having their carpus x-rayed.
- After reporting the cases to Save the Children, we were assured, that during immediately initiated controls, only one of the sixteen resulted under age and has been brought immediately in another structure. The others are attended by a lawyer. Why has this lawyer not tried previously to obtain a x-ray of the carpus and left the declared minors in the camp?

### **Psychological and medical care in the CARA fails**

- A 27 year old refugee from Pakistan with a psychiatric pathology gets a place in the centre; he has drugs, strong psychotropic drugs, which are taken away from him once he arrives in the CARA (usually all drugs migrants posses, are confiscated in the CARA).
- After four months in the centre, the migrant shows clear signs of malaise; he stops speaking, becomes catatonic; other migrants inform the medical staff of the CARA, who DOES NOT intervene at first, because the request for help must be made by the patient himself.

- Finally, he gets examined by a neurologist who prescribes him other medicines, and who recommends a psychiatric examination.
- In January 2014 the management of the CARA lets him sign his own dismissal - although he clearly cannot decide for himself, as it is confirmed by other migrants.
- He was accidentally found by aid organisations outside the centre, which also arranged his accommodation in another institution for vulnerable people; the institution first refused to accommodate him, but then agreed, after a personal assessment of the case, due to the severity of it.

### **Informal camp before the CARA: "Pian del Lago 2"**

- Due to overcrowding inside the CARA, an informal camp was formed in front of the building, in which migrants wait in order to be identified and for an accommodation (they usually have to wait four to five weeks for identification, then another three months for accommodation).
- The promised new Asylum commission with at least 40 hearings per week is not operating, yet. In mid-November 2013, there were only between three and eight hearings per week.
- This camp is made of homemade tents; there is no supply and no sanitation facilities; during the winter, for months, people had to wash themselves outside (in December 2013, the association "Bao: unser Afrika" provided a shower, which is in their office).
- The number of people in the informal camp, changes constantly: at the end of November 2013, there were about 160 men, from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan; through several initiatives of various organizations such as "Borderline Sicilia" and "Emergency", about 100 migrants were brought in the, by the prefecture newly investigated, reception centres of the province of Caltanissetta (Mazzarino, Gela, Montedoro and Niscemi).
- Nevertheless, the informal camp became an official structure, since every week new migrants arrive there.

During the visit of the delegation of LasciateCIEntrare and Borderline Sicilia on the 19.09.2014 it was also confirmed that still many Pakistanis, Afghans and Nigerians, who wish to apply for asylum, are not allowed inside the centre.

After the removal of the informal camp last year, hundreds of refugees arranged themselves in houses in the near surroundings, made available by speculators; they pay up to 100 Euros for a mattress on the floor.

**For more details read the following articles:**

German:

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2013/11/caltanissetta-borderline-sicilia.html>

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2013/11/gegensatzliche-stimmen-aus-pian-del-lago.html>

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2013/11/einwanderungsschalter-cs-caltanissetta.html>

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2013/11/caltanissetta-arzte-ohne-grenzen.html>

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2013/12/unterricht-unter-freiem-himmel-und.html>

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2013/10/protest-der-frauen-in-pian-del-lago.html>

Italian:

<http://www.lasciateci centrare.it/j25/italia/news-italia/117-19-settembre-campagna-lasciateci centrare-ha-visitato-il-cara-ed-il-cie-di-pian-del-lago-a-caltanissetta>

<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2013/12/caltanissetta-100-migranti-di-pian-del.html>

<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2014/01/la-situazione-al-cara-di-pian-del-lago.html>

<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2014/01/metti-un-pomeriggio-pian-del-lago-2.html>

<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2013/11/caltanissetta-cresce-il-numero-di.html>

<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2014/01/assistenza-negata-migrante.html>

#### **d) The CARA in Mineo**

- Exists since February 2011 and was meant to accommodate 1.800-2.000 people in 404 houses: it was established during the patronage of Silvio Berlusconi.

- Nowadays (as for January 2014) it is led by the Consortium "Calatino Terra d' Accoglienza"; responsible for the centre within the government is since 01.01.2013 the prefecture of Catania.

- Currently, about 4.000 refugees live in there.

- Since the beginning of its existence, the CARA has witnessed many protests, repeatedly residents are blocking, for example, the nearby state road Catania-Gela.

- Asylum-seekers protest against:

- Bureaucratic hurdles: duration of the processing of the asylum applications by the Commission in Siracusa and waiting period for the consultation (as for December 2013: approximately 40 hearings a week, waiting period of up to one year);

- Persistent overcrowding of the camp (as for December 2013: officially 4,000 people, 12 people per house; compared to last year this represents an increase of 50% of detainees);

- No adequate sanitation and sleeping facilities (in some cases asylum seekers sleep on the ground);

- Bad food and cooking inside the homes is forbidden (this has consequences on the health: gastrointestinal diseases); 4,000 people have to wait in line every day at ONE food counter (mensa), in order to eat;

- Poor bus connections to the 10km distant village Mineo (as for July 2013: 1 bus in the morning with about 50 seats);

- Poor health care: there is only one - although well-equipped, but very small - infirmary for 4,000 people;

- The action of the operating company with regard to the state-proclaimed "Emergency North Africa," "L'Emergenza Nord Africa "(ENA) 2011-2013: payout of 500.00 Euros and issuance of one-year residence permit for humanitarian reasons in exchange for leaving the Italian centres - the operator demanded a written waiver of the sum from those asylum seekers who (for now) remained in the centre, while those who had received the money had to leave the centre immediately.

- These protests are regularly stopped by the police by using tear gas and through violence. The police also often uses horses to proceed against demonstrators.

- The lack of space increases violence in the centre. The allocation of housing units is critical: it is managed by the residents and not by the centre. The single "communities" decide. Consequence: a hierarchy is created; sometimes 20 people are in a house, while in some others just one small family -> This leads to conflicts between migrants.

- The prefecture writes that violence in the centre is mainly due to tensions between different ethnic groups, and does not instead refer to the real problems.

### **Short overview: Major events:**

#### **Referring to the CARA in Mineo in 2013**

**19<sup>th</sup> December:** Protest march of about 500-600 migrants to Palagonia to demonstrate against the long waiting period and a rally, and at the same time roadblock of the state road Catania-Gela;

**13<sup>th</sup> December:** A 21-year-old Eritrean refugee, who had been in Sicily since the beginning of May 2013, hanged himself in the CARA of Mineo; In the past, there had already been six suicide attempts inside the camp;

**22<sup>nd</sup> October:** protest against conditions in the centre by 150-200 asylum seekers through a seven-hour road blockade;

**3<sup>rd</sup> October:** Protest of 300 asylum seekers from sub-Saharan Africa against the extension of the waiting periods for the hearing;

**12<sup>th</sup> August:** Opening of the facility "Don Rosario Pepe" as a center for asylum seekers and refugees (SPRAR - Servizio Centrale del Sistema di Protezione per Richiedenti Asilo e Rifugiati) in the village centre of Mineo as a counter-model to the "MegaCARA", for a better reception and integration of those who arrive;

**30<sup>th</sup> July:** dispute between two migrants in the centre, one was brought to the hospital of Catania, as he suffered a brain trauma - increased violence rate as a consequence of the lack of space in the centre;

**14<sup>th</sup> June:** After a dispute between members of the staff and a resident of the centre (who gets arrested afterwards) starts a protest inside the centre, in which about 200 people are involved; employees and people of the Red Cross were evacuated and access to the centre was blocked by the police.

**28<sup>th</sup> May:** Several dozen asylum seekers from sub-Saharan Africa protest by road blockade, against bureaucratic hurdles.

**25<sup>th</sup> July:** refugees are driven from Catania to Mineo, but do not get the chance there to apply for asylum and are again driven back in an extraordinary accommodation.

#### **For more details read the following articles:**

German:

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2014/07/wann-endet-der-leidensweg-der-migranten.html>

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2013/07/cara-mineo-die-situation-wird-immer.html>

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2013/12/mineo-schluss-mit-den-langen.html>

Italian:

<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2013/12/ctzen-dalle-prime-luci-dellalba-un.html>

<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2013/12/laccoglienza-che-uccide.html>

<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2013/12/solidarieta-con-i-richiedenti-asilo-del.html>

<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2013/12/documento-degli-eritrei-di-mineo.html>  
<http://napolimonitor.it/2013/12/20/24101/il-cara-di-mineo-e-il-business-dei-centri-di-accoglienza.html>  
<http://www.ilsettemezzomagazine.it/cara-mineo-double-face1-il-coordinamento-consiglieri-comunali-del-calatino-non-e-a-misura-umana-video/>  
<http://www.ilsettemezzomagazine.it/cara-mineo-double-face-2-parte-i-gestori-offriamo-una-vita-dignitosa-ma-alcuni-non-ne-approfitano/#sthash.3okpSQs8.dpuf>  
<http://www.ilsettemezzomagazine.it/cara-mineo-double-face-2-parte-i-gestori-offriamo-una-vita-dignitosa-ma-alcuni-non-ne-approfitano/>  
<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2014/04/viaggio-tra-gli-immigrati-del-cara-di.html>

## e) The CARA of Salinagrande, Trapani

- It was closed in June 2015. It is currently an abandoned building.

For more details read the following articles (Italian):

<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2013/09/trapani-capitale-dei-centri-di.html>  
<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2013/09/non-chiamatela-accoglienza.html>  
<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2014/01/a-milo-per-il-giorno-della-memoria.html?sref=fb>  
<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2014/02/trapani-neue-proteste-von-immigranten.html>  
<http://www.tp24.it/2014/09/18/immigrazione/migranti-salinagrande-non-chiude-per-ora-strage-continua-nel-mediterraneo/86100>

**f) On the situation in the SPRARs** Through the massive increase of accommodation possibility in SPRARs, which is in principle a positive development, also the problems in the institutions have increased. Because it is not possible for the responsible “servizio nazionale” to carry out an effective controlling of the centres, many facilities, which do not meet the expected standards, have opened. Due to long waiting times and poor implementation of support, which should be normally provided by the SPRAR system (no education or integration to work, no language courses...), more and more refugees are protesting massively. They also complain for example, about the fact that they often do not receive pocket money, which is foreseen by the government, and that the meals are not edible. Operators of the SPRAR in Caltagirone report that they do understand the protests, but that they could not do anything about the long waiting times. The asylum commission in Syracuse is still examining applications of 2013. In addition, refugees have been brought to this centre directly upon their arrival, which means they have “skipped” the normal procedure, because there was not enough space in other first accommodation centres. This also leads to tensions. Another protest by refugees took place in Grammichele: “They are waiting for the commission to examine their asylum applications. A journalist of the daily newspaper “La Repubblica” visited the facility, after being informed by Borderline Sicilia, in which migrants had not been receiving water for four days. “We are dirty and need to get clean”. Between the men, who are accommodated in the centre, there are also young men who need medical care. “No doctor has ever come here, and we don’t have money to buy medicaments. We are scared; we are in a prison here.”

For more information:

Italian:

<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2014/09/migranti-in-protesta-caltagirone-tutti.html>

German:

<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2014/09/migranten-in-der-gegend-von-catania-wie.html>

## 1.2. Informal reception and accommodation centres in Sicily – CAS

Because the state-run accommodation centres for migrants are overcrowded and are increasingly collapsing, more and more informal facilities for the reception of refugees in Sicily have been established: “temporary solutions”, which often become long-term ones. These are named since Spring 2014, CAS (Centri di Accoglienza Straordinaria, Extraordinary Reception Centres). They are informal because: this centres usually have a contract with the prefectures, which are in charge; however, no governmental decision has been made for them and thus there is no legal basis for the opening and running of these centres. In addition, other facilities have opened, which do not have the right features to be a CAS and which furthermore have still not made a contract with the prefecture in charge. Dozens of such informal reception centres could exist in Sicily, on which NGOs have no information about. Moreover, facilities open and close on a daily basis. The reception in these centres is highly problematic because:

- Accommodation, reception in completely unsuitable buildings, often gyms or stadiums, as well as old school buildings with poor sanitation facilities and amenities, such as blankets for all;
- These facilities do not have a legal Status;
- Basically: overcrowding, no private sphere, no security;
- Because they are only thought as “temporary solutions”, the government does not invest much in the facilities;
- Identification of minors: because there is not enough time to verify the age, mistakes are often made: for example **Pala Nebiolo** (a stadion in the province Messina) – 10 minors are being identified as adults after a quick x-ray of the carpus; six of these people were hereupon sent to the **CARA in Mineo**, where they got mugged upon their arrival and where they had to fear for their safety;
- In the centres, identification of those who arrive should be carried out, but this does not happen without resistance: for example in **Pala Cannizzaro**: hunger strike of Syrian refugees against identification through fingerprinting;
- What really happens: sometimes they have to wait months to be sent to another state-run centre;
- In some cases, migrants are not allowed to leave the facilities without being accompanied by the police, although officially they are not being detained (for example **gym in Trapani**);
- There is no controlling from the outside: often NGOs are not allowed to enter the facilities and new informal structures are continually opened, also in hotels and private accommodations, which makes it difficult to control them.
- Other informal centres that open and close: **Sala Randone** (gym in the province Syracuse), , **Umberto I.** (School in province Syracuse).

For more details read the following articles (German and Italian):

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2014/08/hotel-acos-bericht-aus-dem-cas-von.html>  
<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2014/08/siracusa-macht-die-tur-den.html>  
<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2014/08/palaspedini-in-catania-in-24-stunden.html>  
<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2014/08/palermo-auerordentliche-aufnahme.html>  
<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2014/09/visita-al-cas-tra-mazara-del-vallo-e.html>

### a) The informal reception centre Umberto I. in Syracuse

- It is not an official institution, not a CARA, CSPA, nor SPRAR; it just functions as temporary accommodation for migrants, for 48-72 hours.

- Migrants are actually staying longer at Umberto I. than just between 48 – 72 hours, in average one month (as for December 2013); however, after borderline-europe's last visit, some of them had been staying there for more than two months and they had had no possibility to apply for asylum.
- After the start of the operation "Mare Nostrum" on the 18.10.2013, the saved migrants are brought by the Italian navy mostly to the port of Augusta, in the province Syracuse; the number of people arriving in Augusta increases as the centre on Lampedusa is closed down on the 24.12.2013; result: the province is unable to cope with the situation, continuous overcrowding of informal centres, in particular of Umberto I.
- The facility Umberto I. is a former school outside of Syracuse, not suitable for longer periods of stay.
- The capacity of the building is designed for 200 people; 320 migrants were housed here in December 2013.
- The centre is run by a private company, which works in the cleaning sector – the *Clean Services Srl* – but only since August 19, 2013 (according to Espresso, 2013) there is a formal agreement between the operator and the prefecture; previously the refugee reception services had been "transferred" to the operator without contract.
- The manager receives 30 Euros a day for each migrant, thus benefitting from overcrowding.
- Refugee reception services of *Clean Services Srl*: bed, meals and "basic equipment", like bed linen, clothes, hygiene products such as shampoo - no other services such as legal advice, Italian lessons are provided, as it should only be used for short periods. Visits have shown that there are not enough clothes or sometimes not appropriate according to time of the year (old clothes, borderline-europe has met men wearing flip-flops for women in December). All residents complained about the food, which is not enough.
- Medical care is provided by the organization *Emergency*, which has to remain with a bus outside the centre. But they do not have sufficient capacities to help all migrants (in August 2013: team of only five people, one of which a doctor).

**Particularly critical:**

- Accommodation of unaccompanied minors in Umberto I.:
  - Violence by adults on minors;
  - After Save the Children's report to the prefecture and the ministry of Internal Affairs on the condition, at the end of June 2013: separation of minors and adults through the confinement of minors "for their security" in a separate room;
    - Confinement is arbitrary; in average minors are confined for 48 hours in a separate room, sometimes up to a week;
    - Many minors leave the centre and their track gets lost in the Italian territory.
- Hygienic requirements: inadequate sanitation facilities (2 container bathrooms only), sewerage has already overflow once.
- No sufficient assistance - no interpreters, no legal counselling – people cannot apply for

asylum here.

- Refugees complain about food, which is not enough and not good.
- Overcrowding when there are too many arrivals, which leads to violence, for example like on August 9, 2013: clashes between camp operators and migrants: more than 20 injured Eritreans (three with head trauma), consequence of placement of 150 Eritrean migrants in a room with 50 mattresses. No legal advice nor linguistic mediation, no information about the way and reasons of their stay.

**For more details read the following articles:**

German:

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2013/08/Siracusa-zusammenstoe-im-zentrum-umberto.html>

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2013/07/die-aufnahme-nach-dem-notstand.html>

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2013/07/60-minderjahrige-somalier-werden-in-die.html>

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2013/07/neuigkeiten-aus-Siracusa-uber-die-lage.html>

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2014/04/toter-migrant-in-siracusa-der-fall.html>

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2014/08/siracusa-macht-die-tur-den.html>

Italian:

<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2013/08/sicilia-laccoglienza-tra-le-sbarre-semi.html>

<http://espresso.repubblica.it/attualita/cronaca/2013/09/13/news/migranti-siracusa-scoppia-br-1.58755>

<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2013/08/borderline-sicilia-incontra-emergency.html>

<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2013/07/lumberto-i-di-siracusa-il-punto-di.html>

<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2014/04/immigrato-morto-alfano-in-corso.html>

<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2014/07/visita-al-centro-informale-umberto-i-di.html>

## **1.3 Accommodation of unaccompanied minors**

### **a) SPRAR**

We have received complaints from some second accommodation facilities for unaccompanied minors, which also belong to the SPRAR system, similar to those which accommodate adults:

“The day is infinitely long. Sometimes a teacher comes and gives us some Italian lessons. But we would like to learn how to do a job and not to be insulted every time we cross the street” he adds. He reports, that two of his countrymen have been victims of violence from some of the locals. “A young man has been hit by a metal stick. We reported it to the police, but we did not reach anything. That is why in the evenings, even if we would like to go out and mingle, we prefer to stay nearby”. In addition to the delays caused by the commission, there are also some young people in the facility, who have health issues which are not - according to M. – been handled as they should be. As soon as we are in pain, we are given Oki (painkillers). But one of my friends has been hospitalized in Messina for more than a month, due to a serious tuberculosis. Now he walks with difficulty. Another boy fainted, after he had complained for days severe pain in the chest and had lost a lot of weight. At the hospital they diagnosed him with pneumonia.” In addition, so the young man from Gambia, people have difficulties with digestion due to the inferior quality of the food, provided by a canteen from Scordia. “The chicken is often raw. For a while we were able to keep a small stock and cook our own meals. This was a good solution. But to control the costs they have reintroduced the canteen.”

**For more information:**

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2014/09/seit-elf-monaten-im-sprar-von-palagonia.html>

## b) CAS –

The situation of unaccompanied minors in the transition centers (strutture ponte) and in the CAS for minors continues to be disastrous. So a report on these centers, here also Scuole Verdi, Augusta:

“The mismanagement of the centre does not guarantee an adequate reception of minors, many of whom are very young. The staff informed me, that the centre is currently supervising 123 refugee minors aged between 13 and 17, and the previous day another 23 Egyptians came in addition. (...) “The young men have regular eating times and have to be back in the centre not later than 10 p.m.”, explain the operators referring to a chart on the wall. “Anyway, after 10 p.m. the young men are completely alone. The police guards outside the building, but does not have effective control inside the centre.”

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2014/08/von-priolo-bis-augusta-ein-update-uber.html>

A letter from young men in Palermo, who are accommodated in a not specified centre (there is not even a contract with the municipality or the Prefecture, as for September 2014), shows their situation: *„We are here today to show our unhappiness in our emergency camp. We arrived in Palermo on the 19th of June 2014. We are 42 in number staying in a apartment of 7 rooms and 3 toilets. After reading the laws of Italy and right resident conditions for the foreign minors who entered in Italy illegally, we understood that the first priority is Education. As part of the resident conditions it says that all foreign children, also without valid resident permit, are entitled to attend any kind of school level. (We are not happy because we are not going to school). The minors also have right to health care. We are not happy because we don't have proper health care at our emergency camp and also we don't eat good food neither drink good water. And finally; the Italian laws says that all unaccompanied minors are entitled to granted residential permits as minors under the age of 18years. (We are not happy because, our guardian says that she cannot provide us any document in our camp, while other minors are having their documents). We are here today to let you know about our situation in our camp, we want you to transfer us from that house, being happy in that house. She use to threaten us anytime we complained about food, health, our documents, living conditions and pocket money. (The last time she opened the door and ask us to leave the house). Thank you”*

Also here there are big problems with provision, counselling and the payment of pocket money. Minors, who had to stay in a hospital, did not ever receive a visit from their tutors; no one took care of them.

<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2014/09/la-consapevolezza-dei-propri-diritti-e.html>

Another problem is the continuous transferring of the minors, which does not permit them to take control and start a new life. “The centre is about to collapse”, he explains to me. “The minors, who are in total 73, are divided in 8 rooms, with just one bathroom for seven/eight people and they feel like someone is winding them up. They get information through social media, and know therefore that they should not stay here for more than three days, but some of them have been here for three months already. They would like to go to school, they need to have the chance to live their life.” The SPRAR centres of Rome and Bologna have been contacted several times by those in charge of the centre, but so far no one has agreed to carry out the transfer, let alone to give information about an eventual date. Moreover, the doctor emphasize the absence of an admission plan between the facilities for minors at Augusta and Portopalo, who are commissariats of the same province. “

**For more details read the following articles:**

<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2014/08/portopalo-cas-per-minori-al-collasso-il.html>  
<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2014/08/portopalo-cas-fur-unbegleitete.html>  
<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2014/09/visita-allhotel-mokarta-uno-dei-sei-cas.html>  
<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2014/09/visita-piana-delgi-albanesi.html>  
<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2014/09/visita-al-cas-tra-mazara-del-vallo-e.html>

## **2. Custody pending deportation in Italy**

- According to the Italian Ministry of Internal Affairs, 10 CIE are still working in Italy (Centri di Identificazione ed Espulsione, Custody pending deportation centres). (See: <http://www.interno.gov.it/mininterno/export/sites/default/it/temi/immigrazione/sottotema006.html>).
- In 2012 7.944 people were detained in Italian CIEs, 4.015 of which were actually deported (barely 50 %) (Report MEDU, May 2013).
- Thanks to the EU return directive, people can be detained only up until 18 months.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2014 the Italian government decided to reduce the length of the maximum period of detention to 90 days. The house of deputies, still has to approve this change.

<http://www.senato.it/japp/bgt/showdoc/frame.jsp?tipodoc=Resaula&leg=17&id=801507>

**For more details read the following articles:**

Italian:

[http://viedifuga.org/?p=9896&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+viedi+fuga%2Fnews+%28Vie+di+fuga+%C2%BB+News%29](http://viedifuga.org/?p=9896&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+viedi+fuga%2Fnews+%28Vie+di+fuga+%C2%BB+News%29)  
[http://viedifuga.org/?p=9512&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+viedi+fuga%2Fnews+%28Vie+di+fuga+%C2%BB+News%29](http://viedifuga.org/?p=9512&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+viedi+fuga%2Fnews+%28Vie+di+fuga+%C2%BB+News%29)  
<http://www.corrieredellemigrazioni.it/2013/11/25/milo-dopo-le-rivolte-la-disperazione/>  
<http://www.corrieredellemigrazioni.it/2013/12/01/dal-cie-di-modena-brevi/>  
<http://www.meltingpot.org/Bologna-18-12-tutti-davanti-al-Cie-perche-non-riapra-mai.html#.UrLKzCeGdRp>

For more information about the condition in Italian detention and elsewhere, you may consult the report "At the limen", that borderline-europe has created in cooperation with European partners in Italy, Spain and Cyprus; it will be available on the homepage from the beginning of February 2014: [www.bordeline-europe.de](http://www.bordeline-europe.de).

### **2.1 Detention centres in Sicily**

- There are (still) two detention centres in Sicily: CIE Trapani-Milo and CIE Contrada Pian del Lago, Caltanissetta.

#### **a) CIE Milo, Trapani**

- Only two areas are open; the others are closed, because of renovation measures, since it has to become a Hot-Spot.
- Up until last month, many people have escaped the centre (as for October 2015).

- It is run by the cooperation *Badiagrande*.
- Was often in the headlines because of poor reception conditions and tragic events:
  - Because it is overcrowded, there are constantly tensions;
  - Because of the bad reception conditions, some of the occupants committed suicide, like for instance in April 2013; a Tunisian migrant throw himself out of the window;
  - Lots of protests from the occupants, who would sometimes destroy parts of the facility in order to create awareness on the grievances; the facility has not been replaced, which has led to deterioration of the reception conditions;
  - As in all CIE, occupants have no activities during the day;
  - Unacceptable conditions: no blankets, no good food, bad sanitation facilities;
  - Sometimes, only one doctor is available in the facility for heavily traumatized migrants, because the remaining doctors went on strike due to the poor conditions (around February 2013).
  - From MEDU's press release (Doctors for Human Rights), which has visited Milo on the 24/01/2014: "For newcomers, there is either no or only very limited first aid and no or very little laundry. Furthermore, the facility lacks of medicines and medical instruments, like for instance insulin syringes. A prisoner, who had to be brought to the hospital, received the receipt for the ambulance". MEDU had the possibility to speak with some migrants and noticed that several vulnerable persons (e.g. with severe mental health problems) lived in Milo. "Among them, a 53-year-old Tunisian who looked completely unkempt and psychologically broken, so that he could no longer take care of his own welfare." According to MEDU, this man has been held there for more than 17 months, of which 11 in Milo, and four months in other detention centres. Furthermore, MEDU reports that a 30-year-old Tunisian, cannot use three fingers of his left hand, which forces him to always ask other inmates to help him out with the daily chores. During the three months of his presence in Milo he has already tried to commit suicide three times.

**For more details read the following articles (Italian):**

<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2014/01/cie-di-milo-chiuso-per-lavori-di.html>  
<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2013/07/diritti-sotto-sequestro-dal-documento.html>  
<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2013/05/dieci-immigrati-fuggono-dal-cie-tre.html>  
<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2013/04/milo-tunisino-si-lancia-dal-2-piano.html>  
<http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2013/02/cie-di-milo-trapani-lorore-continua.html>  
<http://www.corrieredellemigrazioni.it/2013/11/25/milo-dopo-le-rivolte-la-disperazione/>  
<http://www.mediciperidiritiumani.org/centri-di-identificazione-ed-espulsione-da-trapani-milo-ponte-galeria-chiudere-delle-strutture-gravemente-inadeguate/>

## **b) CIE Contrada Pian del Lago, Caltanissetta**

- It is located inside the facility of the CARA Pian del Lago.
- Officially 96 people can be accommodated in it; in November 2013, 78 people were being detained.
- It is run by the cooperative "Auxilium", which also runs the CARA Pian del Lago.
- The average period of detention is of six months; this detention period caused some disorders in the CIE, since the confinement to determine the identity was previously limited to a maximum of four months and was extended by the new magistrate of Caltanissetta to six months.

**For more details read the following articles (German):**

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2013/11/caltanissetta-borderline-sicilia.html>

**Visit of the representatives of the campaign *LasciateCIEntrare* and *Borderline Sicilia* on the 19/09/2014 in the CIE in Caltanissetta:**

<http://www.lasciatecienrare.it/j25/italia/news-italia/117-19-settembre-campagna-lasciatecienrare-ha-visitato-il-cara-ed-il-cie-di-pian-del-lago-a-caltanissetta>

### **3. On the rescue of migrants at sea**

- 116 944 refugees have arrived in Italy crossing the sea, from August 2013 to the end of July 2014, of which 62,982 were rescued within the operation *Mare Nostrum* (which started only on the 18.10.2013).
- 97.038 of these refugees arrived in Sicily. <http://www.tp24.it/2014/09/26/immigrazione/sicilia-al-via-una-task-force-per-i-migranti-status-di-rifugiato-solo-per-uno-su-dieci/86299>
- Fundamental to the rescue at sea are the international sea conventions. The Mediterranean Sea is divided in SAR (Search and Rescue) – zones, which are meant to regulate the responsibilities for rescue operations of various countries – within this framework there is rivalry over competences with Malta and questions arise about rescue operations by the Libyan Navy in the Libyan SAR zone.

#### **3.1 About the ended operation *Mare Nostrum***

- The Mission: *"A military and humanitarian mission, which official goal is to rescue irregular migrants, so to prevent the recurrence of tragedies like that on the 03/10/2013 off the coast of Lampedusa."*
- For this reason patrols have to cruise as close as possible to the North African coast.
- Beginning: 18/10/2013; responsible for this are diverse ministries; Navy, Army, Coast Guard, Carabinieri, Guardia di Finanza (Customs patrol) Police forces are used; Budget: approximately EUR 9 million a month.
- Since 28.11.2013 there is an agreement between Libya and Italy for border security: also Libyan officials can now cruise on ships alongside Italian police officers.
- Identification of refugees can directly take place on board of the ship working for *Mare Nostrum* by the attending police officers (currently the "San Giusto", as for September 2014).
- The Italian Refugee Council (Consiglio Italiano per i Rifugiati) published on 26/09/2014 a dispatch according to which since the start of the operation, about 80,000 people who had been collected in the Mediterranean by Italian ships, were brought to Italy.
  - The operation has to be replaced in November 2014 under the leadership of the EU border protection agency Frontex, by the operation 'Frontex Plus' (Triton). The consequence would be a reduction of the area of operation and a decrease of the

available resources. In addition, 'Frontex Plus' would not have humanitarian purposes, but it is meant to serve as border patrol.

- According to a dispatch of the Italian Refugee Council, the Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi pleaded on 28.09.2014 to the UN General Assembly, for an extension of the operation - with or without European support - [http://www.cir-onlus.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1434:cir-bene-renzi-su-mare-nostrum&catid=13&Itemid=143&lang=it](http://www.cir-onlus.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1434:cir-bene-renzi-su-mare-nostrum&catid=13&Itemid=143&lang=it) (in Italian, requested on 28.09.2014).

**For more details read the following articles:**

Dossier about Mare Nostrum by borderline-europe, August 2014.

German:

[http://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/readingtips/2014\\_08\\_b-e\\_Dossier%20Mare%20Nostrum\\_Deutsch.pdf](http://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/readingtips/2014_08_b-e_Dossier%20Mare%20Nostrum_Deutsch.pdf)

English:

[http://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/readingtips/2014\\_08\\_b-e\\_Dossier%20Mare%20Nostrum%20%281%29%20%281%29.pdf](http://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/readingtips/2014_08_b-e_Dossier%20Mare%20Nostrum%20%281%29%20%281%29.pdf)

## 3.2 The no-rescues in October 2013

### a) October, the 3rd

- A boat sinks, less than a kilometre away from the coast of Lampedusa, because the captain started a fire as he wanted to draw attention on himself and the Eritrean refugees, who were on board.

- More than 360 die, only 155 people survive.

- **Uncertainties:** What happened to the radar? Why and which boats, were cruising around in the dark, as it was testified by the survivors, and why did those not do anything? Who was it? Why did the Coast Guard came only after 45 minutes the call by Italian rescuers (private persons on a boat) had been made, although the accident site was not far from the harbour?

- **Scandalous:**

- The rescued Eritreans were detained for weeks in the centre of Lampedusa, although it was overcrowded -> this meant that they had to sleep outside despite the rain; they could not apply for asylum, and did not receive any psychological care;
- It was not until the 12.11, after more than a month, that two-thirds of the survivors were brought to Rome, where, according to press release, they left the reception centre on the 19.11;
- More refugees were transferred only after the video scandal in December 2013;
- The last seven survivors were being held 101 days on the island "for legal reasons"; after being transferred to Sicily and after the hearing and further transport to another first reception centre (not a CARA), they left; their whereabouts are unclear;
- **Dealing with the families:** in the first days after the accident, there was absolute

chaos in the police station of Agrigento (which is responsible for Lampedusa): no information was given out to relatives; in the following days, *one* employee of the police sat at *one* computer to help all the relatives, who had come to Italy, looking for their relatives;

- The identification of the victims by means of photos of the corpses proceeded rather slowly, complicated by the presence of Eritrean informers loyal to the state;
- Until today (as for January 2014), there is no clarity as to how identification takes place by DNA analysis; relatives have left samples for their DNA in Palermo and Agrigento, but it remains unclear whether and how a comparison with the tissue samples taken from the corpses can take place;
- Result: great mental tension and despair among the relatives.

**For more details read the following articles:**

German:

<https://www.blaetter.de/archiv/jahrgaenge/2013/november/lampedusa-europas-schande>

<http://www.profil.at/articles/1351/982/371015/lampedusa-ende>

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2014/01/von-lampedusa-nach-pozzallo-die.html>

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2014/01/die-eritreer-des-3-oktober-werden-nach.html>

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2013/10/fluchtlingdrama-vor-italien.html>

<http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2013/10/das-meer-vor-lampedusa-gibt-weiter.html>

English:

<http://www.indepthnews.info/index.php/global-issues/1855-the-lampedusa-tragedy-why-sons-could-not-mourn-their-mothers>

## **b) October, the 11th**

- About 450-480 Syrians and Palestinians as well as a few Tunisians are fired at, two hours after their departure from Zuwarah, Libya, by Libyan Berber militias (Amazigh) after not accepting the request to return to Zuwarah.
- The refugee's ship goes on and gets finally in distress, because of the water that continues running into the ship through the shot holes.
- The people on board call Italy for help, the rescue headquarters in Rome refer them to Malta, since the boat is in the Maltese SAR zone (see point 3), although the boat is closer to Lampedusa as it is to Malta.
- *borderline-europe*, watch the med and the Italian journalist Fabrizio Gatti have reconstructed the events of the accident, through the testimonies of the survivors (212 of the 500 people, who were on board).
- From the first call for help with a satellite phone to Italy and later to Malta till the "rescue", more than six hours pass, the boat eventually sinks, and in the meanwhile a Maltese aircraft observes the whole scene from above; Maltese rescue boats arrive only after the boat has sunk, just as the Italian ships which had been called for help first.
- This was all due to rivalry over competences: since Malta was responsible, Maltese forces should have asked Italy for help, the whole six hours there was an Italian warship near the accident site, but it never received the order to intervene.
- The Maltese Navy (AFN, Armed Forces of Malta) refuses to give information about the course of events of the rescue operation.

For more information about the course of events of the accident:

Press release 29.11.13:

[http://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/background/2013\\_11\\_29\\_Bootstragoedie\\_11-10-2013.pdf](http://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/background/2013_11_29_Bootstragoedie_11-10-2013.pdf)

Chronik von watch the med: <http://www.watchthemed.net/reports/view/32>

Espresso-Artikel von Fabrizio Gatti: <http://espresso.repubblica.it/internazionale/2013/11/28/news/lampedusa-il-naufragio-e-la-nave-italiana-cosi-abbiamo-lasciato-annegare-268-persone-1.143230>

**For more details read the following articles:**

English:

<http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/en/newsdetails/news/national/AFM-turns-down-complaint-on-refusal-to-disclose-Lampedusa-rescue-mission-timeline-20140113>

<http://m.maltatoday.com.mt/newsdetails/news/national/Delays-that-could-have-cost-lives-in-Lampedusa-tragedy-20131203>

Deutsch:

<http://www.fr-online.de/lampedusa/fluechtlinge-vor-lampdeusa-vergebliche-hilferufe,24939044,25500072.html>

<http://www.neues-deutschland.de/artikel/916688.italiens-kuestenwache-liess-200-fluechtlinge-ertrinken.html>

After the non-rescues of 3:10 and 11:10. Watch The Med Alarm Phone was launched. A phone number, which refugees who are on boats in distress, can call. This number is constantly reachable. The incoming calls are notified to the competent coast guard. In case the people in distress do not receive immediate help, or if ships pass by without offering help, as it has, as mentioned previously, already occurred, the refugees can again call the Alarm Phone. The organization will then put pressure on the authorities. One hopes to prevent by this type of monitoring, new cases of no-rescue, because this way no one can state to have not know about an emergency.