

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 12,381; Deaths: 272

Home › Press Room › Press Releases › Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 12,381; Deaths: 272

Posted: 02/17/17 **Region-Country:** Europe and Central Asia / Switzerland
Switzerland - IOM reports that 12,381 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea in 2017 through 15 February – just under 9,500 to Italy, just under 2,000 to Greece, and 1,000 to Spain. This compares with 84,645 arrivals during the first seven weeks of 2016 – 90 percent of whom arrived in Greece.

Today's numbers show a significant increase in arrivals to Italy compared with the same period last year – 9,448, up from 6,123 – while the traffic to Greece has practically dried up. IOM Athens reports daily average arrivals in Greece of 42 in 2017 - compared with nearly 1,500 during the same period last winter.

TOTAL ARRIVALS BY SEA AND DEATHS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN 2016-2017				
	1 JANUARY – 15 FEBRUARY 2017		1 JANUARY – 15 FEBRUARY 2016	
Country of Arrival	Arrivals	Deaths	Arrivals	Deaths
Italy	9,448	232 (Central Med. route)	6,123	90 (Central Med. route)
Greece	1,933	2 (Eastern Med. route)	78,522	320 (Eastern Med. route)
Cyprus	n.a.		na	
Spain	1,000	38 (Western Med. route)	na	7 (Western Med. route)
Estimated Total	12,381	272	84,645	417
<small>Data on deaths of migrants compiled by IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre All numbers are minimum estimates. Arrivals based on data from respective governments and IOM field offices.</small>				

IOM's Missing Migrants Project reports an estimated 272 deaths at sea on various Mediterranean routes this winter, compared with 417 at this time last year.

It is important to note that 2016's Mediterranean death toll at this point was mostly on the eastern route. Some 320 people – three quarters of the total – died between Turkey and Greece. This winter, the route has accounted for just two fatalities.

The central Mediterranean route between Libya to Italy has recorded 232 fatalities through February 15.

Another 38 deaths have been recorded on the western route between North Africa and Spain. Last year only seven people died on this route.

During the whole of 2016, Missing Migrants recorded a total of 70 deaths along this route, which means that 2017's total already has passed last year's half-way mark after just seven weeks.

Missing Migrants has reported three incidents since January 30 – including two this week – that have resulted in 14 fatalities along this route.

On 30 January, three migrants were reported missing, while 11 were rescued by Guardia Civil units off Almeria. On 12 February three migrants landed on the Spanish coast at Tarifa, telling authorities two other members of their party

drowned when their small craft foundered. Then on Wednesday (15/2), nine migrants were reported lost in the Strait of Gibraltar. Two were rescued in that incident.

No landings have taken place in Italy since Sunday. But Italy's Ministry of Interior has released data on the top nationalities arriving by sea as irregular migrants through January. (See chart below.)

Of the top ten sender countries, all but two – Iraq and Bangladesh – are from Africa, with all but one of those African countries – Morocco – considered Sub-Saharan. Cote d'Ivoire, with 839 arrivals reported the highest tally, followed by Guinea (796), Nigeria (483), Senegal (431), The Gambia (359) and Mali (282). Morocco (257), Bangladesh (224), Iraq (131) and Cameroon (117) surpassed more traditional senders like Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia and the Sudan. Many Eritreans and Ethiopians have been recorded as fatalities this year, so it is somewhat surprising that relatively few people from these countries arrived in Italy this year.

Arrivals by sea in Italy - Main Countries of Origin Total 2017/2016 Comparison <i>(Source: Italian Ministry of Interior)</i>		
Main Countries of Origin	January 2017	January 2016
Cote d'Ivoire	839	332
Guinea	796	504
Nigeria	483	905
Senegal	431	493
The Gambia	359	676
Mali	282	393
Morocco	257	483
Bangladesh	224	N.A.

Iraq	131	N.A.
Cameroon	117	96
Total All Countries of Origin	4,467	5,273

In terms of the number of worldwide migrant deaths, IOM's Missing Migrants Project reports that 2017's total of 435 men, women and children is just over half of 2016's total through February 16. This appears to be a statistical anomaly that may be due to a lack of data coming from key spots like the Horn of Africa and North Africa's Sahara Desert, rather than changes in migration patterns.

With nearly 110 migrant deaths reported in the Americas – compared to 78 a year ago at this time – IOM has noted that accurate data collection often is a function of proximity to large population centres, while the deaths themselves occur in remote places and are therefore reported weeks or months after the fact.

Deaths of Migrants and Refugees: 1 Jan - 16 Feb 2016/2017

Region	2017	2016
Mediterranean	272	417
Europe	9	10
Middle East	10	27
North Africa	0	179
Horn of Africa	0	49
Sub-Saharan Africa	0	18
Southeast Asia	36	35
East Asia	0	0
US/Mexico	38	29

Central America	2	12
Caribbean	68	27
South America	0	10
Total	435	813

For the latest Mediterranean update

infographic: http://migration.iom.int/docs/MMP/170216_Mediterranean_Update.pdf

For latest arrivals and fatalities in the Mediterranean, please

visit: <http://migration.iom.int/europe>

Learn more about the Missing Migrants Project at: <http://missingmigrants.iom.int>

For further information please contact:

Joel Millman at IOM Geneva, Tel: +41.79.103 8720, Email: jmillman@iom.int

Flavio Di Giacomo at IOM Italy, Tel: +39 347 089 8996,

Email: fdigiaco@iom.int

Sabine Schneider at IOM Germany, Tel: +49 30 278 778 17

Email: sschneider@iom.int

IOM Greece: Daniel Esdras, Tel: +30 210 9912174, Email: iomathens@iom.int or

Kelly Namia, Tel: +30 210 9919040, +30 210 9912174, Email: knamia@iom.int

Julia Black at IOM GMDAC, Tel: +49 30 278 778 27, Email: jblack@iom.int

Mazen Aboulhosn at IOM Turkey, Tel: +9031245-51202,

Email: maboulhosn@iom.int

IOM Libya: Othman Belbeisi, Tel: +216 29 600389, Email: obelbeisi@iom.int or

Maysa Khalil, Tel: +216 29 600388, Email: mkhalil@iom.int

Hicham Hasnaoui at IOM Morocco, Tel: + 212 5 37 65 28 81,

Email: hhasnaoui@iom.int

For information or interview requests in French:

Florence Kim, IOM HQ, Tel: +41 79 103 03 42, Email: fkim@iom.int

Flavio Di Giacomo, IOM Rome, Tel: +39 347 089 8996, Email: fdigiaco@iom.int