

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 135,937 in 2017; Deaths Reach 2,655

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Posted: 09/29/17 **Themes:** **Geneva** – IOM, the UN Migration Agency, reports that Humanitarian Emergencies, Missing Migrants, Refugee and Asylum Issues 135,937 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea in 2017 through 27 September, with over 75 per cent arriving in Italy and the remainder divided between Greece, Cyprus and Spain. This compares with 302,803 arrivals across the region through the same period last year.

MEDITERRANEAN DEVELOPMENTS

TOTAL ARRIVALS BY SEA AND DEATHS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN 2016-2017				
Country of Arrival	1 JANUARY – 27 SEPTEMBER 2017		1 JANUARY – 27 SEPTEMBER 2016	
	Arrivals	Deaths	Arrivals	Deaths
Italy	104,082	2,471 (Central Med. route)	132,043	3,055 (Central Med. route)
Greece	19,195 (as of 26/09)	46 (Eastern Med. route)	166,610 (as of 15/09)	386 (Eastern Med. route)
Cyprus	818		345	
Spain	11,842	138 (Western Med. route)	3,805 (as of 31/07)	116 (Western Med. route)
Estimated Total	135,937	2,655	302,803	3,557
<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 Rome reported on Thursday (28 September) that, according to official figures of the Italian Ministry of Interior, 104,082 migrants arrived by sea to Italy this year, or some 21.5 per cent fewer than last year in the same period.

Arrivals by sea in Italy January - September 2017/2016/2015			
<i>(Source: Italian Ministry of Interior)</i>			
	2017	2016	2015
January	4,468	5,273	3,528
February	8,971	3,828	4,354
March	10,853	9,676	2,283
April	12,943	9,149	16,056
May	22,993	19,925	21,231
June	23,524	22,371	22,877
July	11,459	23,552	23,210
August	3,914	21,294	22,610
September	4,955 (as of 27 September)	16,975	15,922

IOM Libya's Christine Petré reported that on 27 September, 228 migrants (including 172 men, 30 women and 26 children) using two rubber boats were rescued/intercepted at sea off Tripoli by the Libyan Coast Guard. Included among

the 26 children were 14 unaccompanied minors. These migrants were transferred to Tajoura detention centre where IOM is distributing non-food aid, including mattresses, pillows and cleaning supplies. The majority of the migrants came from Morocco, Mali and Cote d'Ivoire, Petré said, adding that thus far in 2017, 18,127 migrants have been rescued/intercepted in Libyan waters.

IOM Spain's Ana Dodevska reported Thursday (28 September) that 958 migrants have arrived by sea this month. Sea arrivals have been recorded by Spanish authorities, marking a sharp drop from the numbers arriving in July and August (see chart below), while the total for now has reached 11,861 – compared with just over 8,000 for all of 2016.

SPAIN ARRIVALS BY SEA	
July 2017	1,661
August 2017	1,947
September 2017	958

IOM Spain also released a chart listing nearly 50 separate incidents of sea rescues this month ([chart here](#)), few with as many as 50 arrivals, and several with many in the single digits.

IOM Athens' Kelly Namia on Thursday reported a rescue operation off the coast of Megisti of six migrants (one male adult, two women and three children) while reporting the death of one victim, a nine-year-old girl. Nearby, off the coast of Kastellorizo Island, 20 more migrants (13 men, two women and five children) were identified by the Hellenic Coast Guard and transferred to the island. She added that according to the Hellenic Coast Guard, there were at least three other incidents off the islands of Lesbos and Samos this week that required search and rescue operations. The Hellenic Coast Guard managed to rescue 87 migrants and transferred them to those two islands.

Namia further reported that migrant arrivals to the Greek islands total 4,125 for the first 26 days of September, making this month 2017's busiest on the Eastern Mediterranean Sea route. (See chart below.)

January 2017
1,390
February 2017
1,024
March 2017
1,554
April 2017
1,170
May 2017
2,075
June 2017
1,909
July 2017
2,283
August 2017
3,665
September 2017
4,125

Thus far a total of 19,195 migrants this year have entered Greece by sea, which remains only about 10 per cent of last year's total arrivals and just 2 per cent of 2015's surge.

The death of the child near Megisti brings to nine the number of migrants confirmed dead on the Mediterranean's eastern route since the end of April. Another 38 fatalities from a voyage originating in Turkey, but entering the Black Sea, were recorded by IOM's Missing Migrants Project (MMP) last week, bringing the 2017 total for all deaths by sea in the area to 84. By comparison, nearly 350 men, women and children drowned on eastern sea routes through this same date in 2016.

So far in 2017, 2,471 migrants have been reported lost at sea on the Central Mediterranean route – compared to 3,055 during the same period last year – and 138 on the Western Mediterranean route linking North Africa to Spain. Last year through this date 116 migrants were reported lost on this route, and 128 for the entire year. (See chart below.)

Deaths in the Mediterranean by route, 2017
(Source: Missing Migrants Project)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	TOTAL
Western Mediterranean	28	13	7	4	2	10	56	8	10	138
Central Mediterranean	225	217	290	279	611	537	68	143	101	2,471
Eastern Mediterranean	1	1	11	24	0	0	8	0	1	46
TOTAL	254	231	308	307	613	547	132	151	112	2,655

Worldwide, IOM's Missing Migrants Project (MMP) has recorded 4,439 migrant fatalities in 2017 as of 28 September. Since last week, MMP recorded seven deaths in the Middle East: [three Afghans](#) and [one Syrian](#) died in two separate terrorist attacks near Turkey's southeastern borders, [one Afghan](#) died in a car accident in Iran, and [two Syrian children died](#) while attempting to cross the Syrian-Turkish border. (See chart below.)

On the US/Mexico border, one migrant [drowned](#) while crossing the Río Bravo in Reynosa, Mexico. Last Saturday, 23 September, [one Indonesian woman](#) died after a boat capsized off the coast of Tanjung Balau Johor Bahru in Malaysia.

MMP recorded another incident in Southeast Asia: one boat carrying Rohingya migrants fleeing Myanmar capsized off the coast of Bangladesh on 28 September. Nine children, five women and one man died, 17 were rescued (of which 10 remain hospitalized), and 68 are feared dead. Nearly one month into a mass exodus of people fleeing violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State, dozens have died while fleeing to Bangladesh: IOM's Missing Migrants Project has recorded 161 fatalities since 31 August.

MMP received survey data collected by the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat's [Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative \(4Mi\)](#) in Libya between May and September 2017. The 4Mi project interviews migrants in transit and includes questions on deaths witnessed during their journey. From the findings of the 4Mi surveys in Libya, MMP recorded 97 additional deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa and 102 in North Africa between May and September 2017.

Global Migrant Deaths Jan 1 – September 28 <i>(Source: Missing Migrants Project)</i>		
REGION	2017	2016
Mediterranean	2,655	3,557
Europe	78	41
Middle East	69	89
North Africa	462	1050
Horn of Africa	170	125
Sub-Saharan Africa	366	66
Southeast Asia	207	67
South Asia	1	0
East Asia	1	3
North America	1	0
US/Mexico	267	301
Central America	58	101
Caribbean	104	78
South America	0	29
TOTAL	4,439	5,507

Latest Mediterranean Update

infographic: http://migration.iom.int/docs/MMP/170929_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>

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