

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 23,715 in 2018; Deaths Reach 619

Geneva – IOM, the UN Migration Agency, reports that 23,715 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea through the first 125 days of 2018, with about 39 per cent arriving both in Italy and Greece, with the remainder arriving in Spain (20%).

This compares with 49,807 arrivals across the region through the same period last year and about 185,000 at this time in 2016. In other words: Mediterranean arrivals at this point in 2018 are running at under half last year's level on this date, and about 13 per cent of 2016 arrivals at this point in the year.

TOTAL ARRIVALS BY SEA AND DEATHS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN 2017-2018					
	1 JANUARY – 6 MAY 2018		1 – 6 MAY 2018	1 JANUARY – 6 MAY 2017	
Country of Arrival	Arrivals	Deaths	Arrivals	Arrivals	Deaths
Italy	9,567	383 (Central Med. route)	100	41,165	1,049 (Central Med. route)
Greece	9,174 (as of 5 May)	19 (Eastern Med. route)	909 (as of 5 May)	5,316	37 (Eastern Med. route)
Cyprus	47		N/A	N/A	
Spain	4,927	217 (Western Med. route)	527	3,326 (as of 30 April)	57 (Western Med. route)
Estimated Total	23,715	619	1,536	49,807	1,143
<p>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.</p>					

IOM Rome's Flavio Di Giacomo reported that 9,567 migrants and refugees reported arrived in Italy in 2018 represent nearly a 76 per cent decline from the 41,165 arriving to this point in 2017.

Di Giacomo reported that over 160 migrants had been rescued at sea over the weekend in the waters between Italy and Libya. The most important rescue operation was carried out by the NGO Open Arms vessel "Astral," which rescued a dinghy carrying 105 people coming from several West and North African countries.

Di Giacomo noted that in these months rescue operations also have been carried out by the Libyan Coast Guard, calculating that one out of three migrants departing from Libya this year is met by the Libyan Coast Guard and turned back. As already stated in the past, IOM has welcomed the strengthening of Tripoli's Coast Guard with the expectation that this will further the emergence of an efficient rescue system capable of rescuing boats in difficulty even close to the African coastline, where European vessels often cannot arrive in time to mitigate shipwrecks.

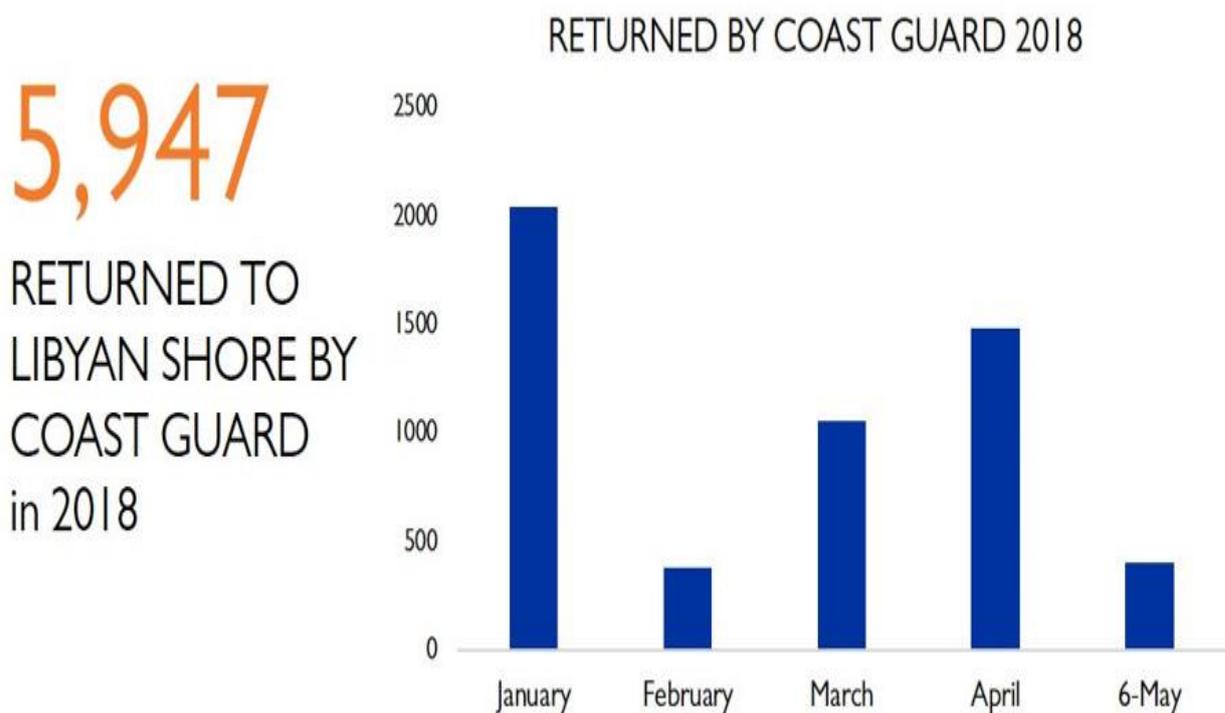
At the same time, IOM has emphasized there must also be an adequate reception system on shore that complements the efforts of authorities' rescue capacity at sea. The current reception system, despite recent improvements, remains unacceptable as migrants remain in detention after being returned. IOM advocates the establishment of open centres, where women and children can be separated from men and where migrants' conditions of vulnerability can be thoroughly assessed.

IOM Libya's Christine Petré reported that on Sunday (6 May) more than 400 migrants were returned to Libyan shore by the Coast Guard in four different search and rescue operations. IOM provided migrants with emergency humanitarian assistance including basic health and protection screenings with phone calls to loved ones, as well as food, water and juice. Four migrants were transferred immediately to hospital for further medical treatment; in addition, among the women were several pregnancy cases. Among the migrants was also one dead body.

All migrants were transferred to Tajoura, Sabratha and Souq al Khamis detention centres where IOM assistance continues.

On Monday (7 May), 488 migrants (including more than 20 children) were returned to Libyan shore by the coast guard in two different search and rescue operations. IOM provided migrants with emergency humanitarian assistance including basic health and protection screenings, as well as food, water and juice.

So far this year, more than 5,947 migrants have been returned to Libyan shore by the Libyan Coast Guard (see chart below).



IOM's Missing Migrants Project reported on Monday (7 May) that in the Mediterranean alone, 619 migrants are estimated to have died this year, 383 on the Central Mediterranean route linking North Africa to Italy. Most recently, the Libyan Coast Guard reported that four migrants died during a

rescue operation on Sunday. The body of a man from Africa was recovered, but three other migrants remain lost at sea.

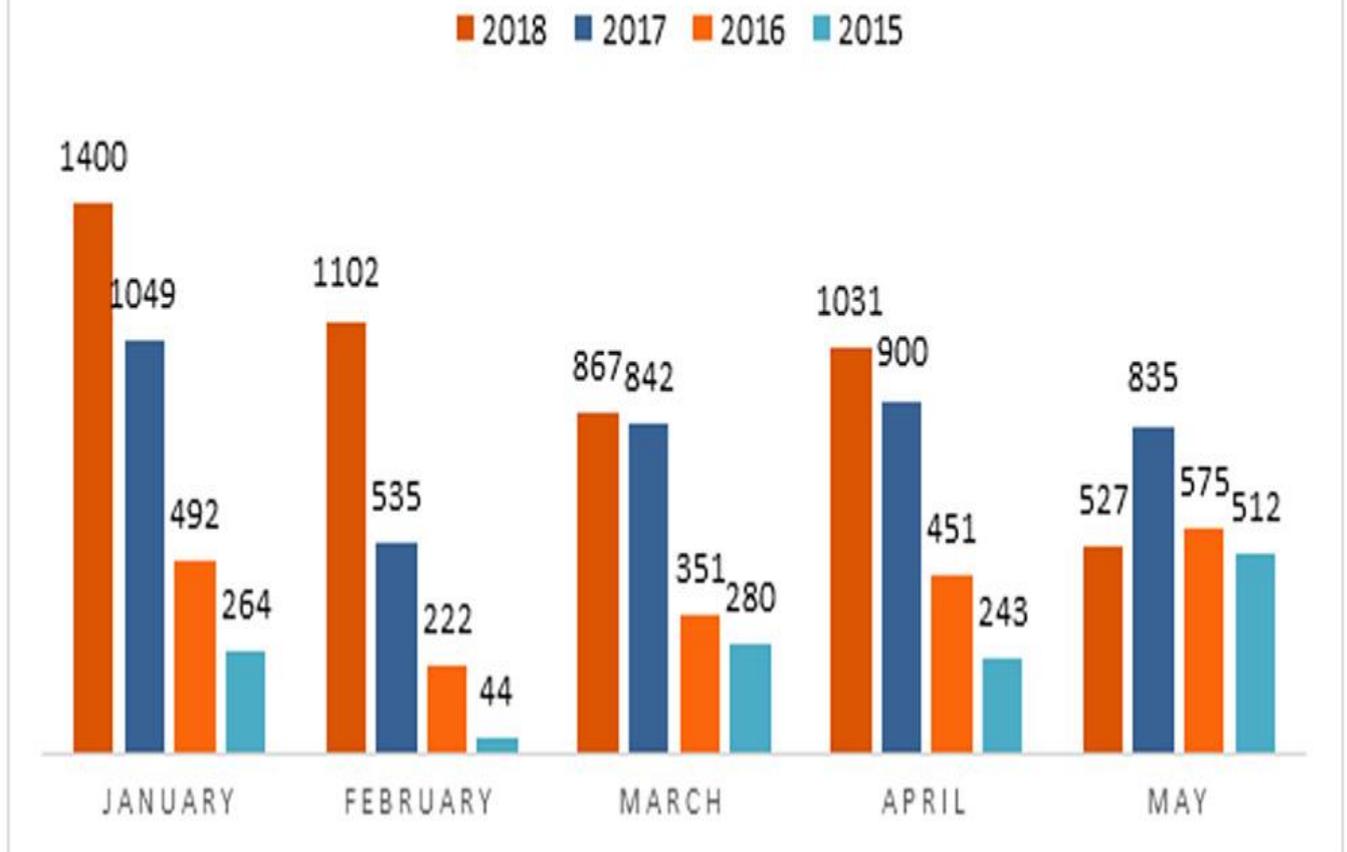
In Spanish waters so far, this year IOM Madrid's Ana Dodevska reports that according to information published this week by Salvamento Maritimo, in the first seven days of May, a total of 527 migrants have been rescued on the Western Mediterranean route bringing to 4,927 the total number of men, women and children have been rescued trying to enter Spain by sea through 6 May this year. That compares with 4,161 through all of May last year and 2,091 through the first five months of 2016 (see charts below).

Of the total rescued in May so far, nine were transferred to Ceuta and the rest (518) were transferred to the ports of Andalusia (Tarifa: 55, Barbate: 96, Almeria: 129, Malaga: 111, Motril: 127).

MMP reports that 217 sea fatalities have been reported this year on the Western Mediterranean route, compared with 224 fatalities recorded on this same route through 12 months of 2017.

SPAIN SEA AND LAND ARRIVALS 2018			
Month	Sea	Land	Total
January	1,400	782	2,182
February	1,102	416	1,518
March	867	417	1,284
April	1,031	207	1,238
May	527	-	527
TOTAL:	4,927	1,822	6,749

SPAIN: MONTHLY BREAKDOWN OF SEA ARRIVALS
FOR THE PERIOD BETWEEN 2015 AND 2018



MONTHLY BREAKDOWN - SEA ARRIVALS IN SPAIN 2015-2018				
	2018	2017	DIF.	%
January	1,400	1,049	351	33
February	1,102	535	567	106
March	867	842	25	3
April	1,031	900	131	15
May	527 (as of 06.05)	835 (entire month)	-308	-37

IOM Greece's Kelly Namia reported Monday that over four days (2-5 May), the Hellenic Coast Guard reported at least three incidents requiring search and rescue operations off the island of Lesbos and Chios. The Coast Guard rescued 105 migrants and transferred them to these two islands.

Namia reported that along with other landings on Lesbos and Chios – as well as the islands of Kos, Farmakonisi and Samos – another 553 migrants landed in the Aegean these four days bringing to 9,174 the total number of irregular migrants entering Greece via sea since January 1– for an average of just over 70 persons per day.

April saw 3,083 migrant arrivals via the Eastern Mediterranean. Already over 900 irregular migrants have landed on these shores in May – just five days into the month (see charts below).

Arrivals by Sea in Greece

Country	1 Jan – 31 Dec	1 Jan – 05 May			
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Greece	34,442	853,650	173,614	29,501	9,174

** Unofficial data collected by IOM Greece and the Greek authorities of arrivals by sea.*

Arrivals in Greece by Sea and Land

January 2018	
Blue borders	1,585
Land Borders	393
February 2018	
Blue borders	1,185
Land Borders	425
March 2018	
Blue borders	2,412
Land Borders	n/a
April 2018	
Blue borders	3,083
Land Borders	n/a
May 2018	
Blue borders	909
Land Borders	n/a

Worldwide, IOM's Missing Migrants Project has recorded 1,076 people who died or disappeared during migration thus far in 2018 (see chart below).

On Friday, a man drowned trying to cross the Río Bravo/Rio Grande in an effort to reach the US; it was the 23rd death in the border river recorded this year and the third in the last week. MMP recorded 22 drownings along the Texas-Mexico border through this date in 2017.

Another migrant was killed on Friday after he fell from a freight train in Queretaro, Mexico. The dangers of travelling north on such trains are so notorious that migrants have nicknamed them 'La Bestia' – the Beast. Friday's accident was the 11th train-related death recorded in Mexico this year – a rate of almost one fatality every ten days.

In addition, the Missing Migrants Project recorded the deaths of three refugee children in Uganda after their bus travelling from the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo crashed. Two children, aged 4 and 8, died at the site of the crash, while another passed away in a nearby hospital

the next morning. At least 56 Congolese nationals have died while attempting to flee violence in their home country in 2018 alone.

Global Migrant Deaths 1 January – 6 May (Source: Missing Migrants Project)		
REGION	2018	2017
Mediterranean	619	1,143
Europe	17	21
Middle East	52	28
North Africa	35	251
Horn of Africa	62	103
Sub-Saharan Africa	60	20
Central Asia	52	-
Southeast Asia	46	45
South Asia	4	-
East Asia	3	-
North America	-	-
US/Mexico border	71	108
Central America	26	30
Caribbean	19	91
South America	10	-
TOTAL	1,076	1,840

Missing Migrants Project data are compiled by IOM staff but come from a variety of sources, some of which are unofficial. To learn more about how data on migrant deaths and disappearances are collected, click [here](#).

Latest Mediterranean Update infographic [here](#)

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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