

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 40,073 in 2018; Deaths Reach 857

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4. Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 40,073 in 2018; Deaths Reach 857

Posted:

06/19/18

Themes:

Humanitarian Emergencies, Missing Migrants

Geneva – IOM, the UN Migration Agency, reports that 40,073 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea through the first 24 weeks of 2018.

That total compares to 80,683 at this time last year, and over 215,000 at this time in 2016.

MEDITERRANEAN DEVELOPMENTS

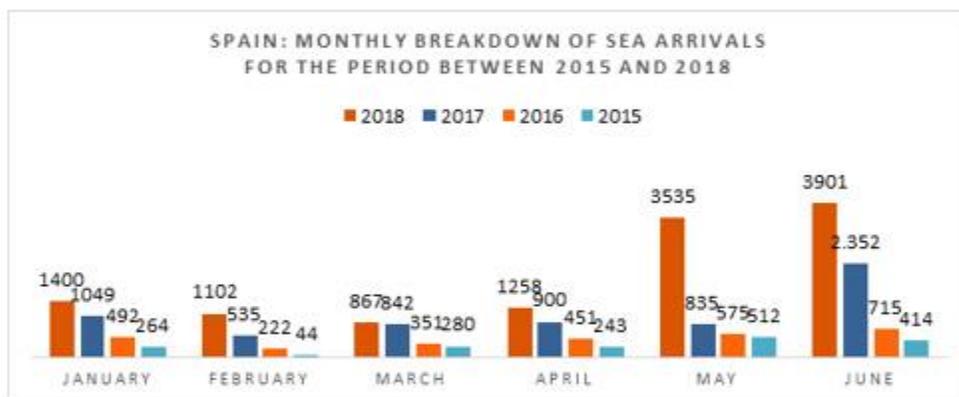
TOTAL ARRIVALS BY SEA AND DEATHS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN 2017-2018					
	1 JANUARY – 17 JUNE 2018		1 – 17 JUNE 2018	1 JANUARY – 17 JUNE 2017	
Country of Arrival	Arrivals	Deaths	Arrivals	Arrivals	Deaths
Italy	15,610	520 (Central Med. route)	2,180	68,272	2,001 (Central Med. route)
Greece	12,353	45 (Eastern Med. route)	1,273	7,967	37 (Eastern Med. route)
Cyprus	47		0	273	
Spain	12,063 (as of 18/06)	292 (Western Med. route)	3,901 (as of 18/06)	4,161 (as of 31/05)	68 (Western Med. route)
Estimated Total	40,073	857	7,354	80,683	2,106
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.					

In other words: Mediterranean arrivals at this point in 2018 are running at under half last year's level on this date, and about 18 per cent of 2016's volume at this point in the year. Deaths, too, are much lower than at comparable periods of the past two years. In 2017, IOM's Missing Migrants Project

reported 2,106 deaths through 19 June; at this time in 2016 the figure was 2,999 – or over three times 2018’s estimated total of 857.

This past weekend saw a surge of activity in Spanish waters, which so far this year have seen the arrival of 12,063 men, women and children, reports IOM Madrid’s Ana Dodevska. Spanish arrivals in June are now nearly 4,000, by far the heaviest volume of the year so far (see charts below).

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	1,258	448	1,706
May	3,535	414	3,949
June	3,901	0	3,901
TOTAL:	12,063	2,477	14,540



MONTHLY BREAKDOWN - SEA ARRIVALS IN SPAIN 2017 - 2018				
	2018	2017	2016	2015
January	1,400	1,049	492	264
February	1,102	535	222	44
March	867	842	351	280
April	1,258	900	451	243
May	3,535	835	575	512
June	3,901	2,352	715	414

Dodevska reported the following developments between Friday and Monday (15-19 June):

- **15 June:** 682 people rescued on the Western Mediterranean Route.
- **16 June:** 304 people rescued on Western Mediterranean Route.
- **17 June:** A total of 934 arrivals, including the 630 people travelling on the Aquarius. Another 152 individuals (146 men, 3 women and 3 minors) were rescued on the Western African Route and were transferred to Arguineguín (Canary Islands). The remaining 152 were rescued by Salvamento Marítimo on the Western Mediterranean Route and disembarked on the ports of Almería, Motril and Melilla.
- **18 June:** A total of 419 individuals arrived on the Spanish coast during the first day of this week. Some 379 were rescued by Salvamento Marítimo and other 41 arrived by their own means at the Alboran Island. The last update was done at 18:30h.

She also reported these points from the arrival of the rescue vessel Aquarius on 17 June:

- Five members from the IOM office in Madrid travelled to Valencia to assist on the arrival.
- The first ship ("Datillo") arrived around 06:30 on the Port of Valencia with **274** migrants. The Aquarius ship carrying **106** individuals (the most vulnerable from a health point of view), arrived in Valencia few hours later (around 1100h). The third ship was the Italian naval vessel "Orion" with **250** people on board. According to the information provided by the Spanish Ministry of Interior, there were 26 different nationalities on board. The 10 main nationalities were from Sudan, Nigeria, Eritrea, South Sudan, Algeria, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Gambia.

IOM Libya's Christine Petré reported that on Sunday the Libyan Coast Guard returned to Libyan shores 76 migrants (62 men, 12 women, two children) who received emergency primary health assistance including pregnancy care for two women. Food was also provided at the disembarkation point and all migrants were registered by the Libyan Coast Guard. The migrants, the majority from Nigeria, Guinea and Senegal, departed from Azzawiyah in one rubber boat. Following the assistance, the migrants were transferred to Tajoura detention centre, where IOM will follow up with further assistance including protection and Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) screenings.

No fatalities were reported. Petré said that so far this year, 7,243 migrants have been returned to Libyan shore by the Libyan Coast Guard and added that last Thursday (14 June), IOM assisted 157 stranded migrants returning home to Nigeria on one chartered flight. Among the migrants were 14 medical cases and one unaccompanied migrant child. IOM Libya has assisted 14,785 since the scale-up phase started 28 November 2017 and a total of 27,916 migrants have returned home from Libya with IOM's assistance since 1 January 2017.

Nonetheless, the Mediterranean remains a dangerous place for irregular migrants. In 2018, some 857 people have lost their lives at sea since the beginning of January.

In the Central Mediterranean, the NGO Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) reported that two people went missing in the rescue conducted by the Aquarius ship off the coast of Libya on the night of 9 June. MSF staff interviewed survivors and learned that two young men, a Senegalese and a Nigerian, were lost at sea during a complicated rescue in which one of the boats broke apart.

While the Aquarius was sailing to the Spanish port of Valencia, the Guardia Costiera vessel “Diciotti” disembarked 937 survivors and the remains of two migrants in Catania, Italy on 11 June.

On 12 June, the US Navy ship “Trenton” rescued 41 people from a boat in distress off the coast of Libya, and observed approximately 12 bodies in the water which, unfortunately, could not be recovered during the rescue operation. The 41 survivors were transferred to an Italian Coast Guard ship on 17 June and will disembark in Italy soon. Additionally, the Italian Coast Guard ship “Dattilo” arrived to Catania on 17 June and disembarked 523 migrants and the remains of one person who had died after being rescued off the coast of Libya.

In the Western Mediterranean, at least 48 people lost their lives since last Thursday. On 14 June, the Spanish maritime safety agency, Salvamento Marítimo, recovered the body of a young man and rescued 11 survivors in the Gibraltar Strait. On Friday, the remains of four migrants were retrieved during multiple rescue operations conducted in the Gibraltar Strait. On Sunday, four migrants were rescued from a sinking boat 18 miles south of Cabo de Gata, Almería. According to their testimonies, 47 people were on the boat when they departed from Morocco. A merchant vessel retrieved one body in the Alboran sea on Sunday evening; therefore, an estimated 42 people remain missing and are presumed dead.

IOM Greece’s Antigoni Avgeropoulou reported Monday that over five days (13-17 June) the Hellenic Coast Guard reported at least seven incidents requiring search and rescue operations off the islands of Lesbos and Samos. The Hellenic Coast Guard rescued 137 migrants off the island of Samos and 100 migrants off the island of Lesbos, and rescued a total of 237 migrants and transferred them to those respective islands.

Avgeropoulou reported that besides those 237, another 191 irregular migrants arrived during the five days, landing in Chios, Rhodes, Oinouses and Kos, bringing to 12,353 the total number of irregular migrants entering Greece via sea since 1 January – an average of around 74 persons per day (see charts below).

Global Migrant Deaths January 1 – June 17 (Source: Missing Migrants Project)		
REGION	2018	2017
Mediterranean	857	2,106
Europe	39	34
Middle East	69	46
North Africa	51	323
Horn of Africa	118	103
Sub-Saharan Africa	88	155
Central Asia	52	-
Southeast Asia	46	45
South Asia	4	1
East Asia	3	1
North America	-	1
US/Mexico border	121	150
Central America	31	35
Caribbean	19	92
South America	10	-
TOTAL	1,508	3,092

Worldwide, IOM's Missing Migrants Project has recorded 1,508 people who died or went missing while migrating in 2018.

There were several additions to the [Missing Migrants Project](#) database since last week's update. On the US/Mexico border, three people drowned in the Rio Grande while trying to cross into the US from Mexico: on 10 June, the remains of a man were found near Campo Las Águilas in Piedras Negras, Coahuila, while on 13 June another body was recovered in Piedras Negras, near Éjido El Moral. Mexican civil protection authorities recovered the remains of another migrant on 17 June near International Bridge III in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas.

In southwest Texas, at least five people were killed and several others injured in a vehicle accident on Sunday, 17 June. Four migrants died in the crash, which took place near Big Wells, Dimmit County, about 50 miles from the border with Mexico. A fifth person died later at the hospital.

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 migrants' deaths and disappearances are collected, click [here](#).

Arrivals by Sea

Country	1 Jan – 31 Dec 2014	1 Jan – 31 Dec 2015	1 Jan – 31 Dec 2016	1 Jan – 31 Dec 2017	1 Jan – 17 Jun 2018
Greece	34,442	853,650	173,614	29,501	12,353

* 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	2,428
Land Borders	1,327
April 2018	
Blue borders	3,034
Land Borders	3,975
May 2018	
Blue borders	2,848
Land Borders	1,954
June 2018	
Blue Borders	1,273
Land Borders	n/a

Download the 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>

For more information, please contact:

Joel Millman at IOM HQ, Tel: +41 79 103 8720, Email: jmillman@iom.int

Flavio Di Giacomo, IOM Coordination Office for the Mediterranean, Italy, Tel: +39 347 089 8996, Email: fdigiaco@iom.int

Hicham Hasnaoui, IOM Morocco, Tel: + 212 5 37 65 28 81, Email: hhasnaoui@iom.int

Kelly Namia, IOM Greece, Tel: +30 210 991 2174, Email: knamia@iom.int

Ivona Zakoska, IOM Regional DTM, Austria, Tel: + +43 1 5812222, Email: izakoska@iom.int

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

Christine Petré, IOM Libya. Tel. +216 29 240 448 Email : chpetre@iom.int

Ana Dodevska, IOM Spain, Tel: +34 91 445 7116, Email: adodevska@iom.int

Myriam Chabbi, IOM Tunisia, Mobile: +216 28 78 78 05, Tel: +216 71 860 312 (Ext. 109), Email: mchabbi@iom.int