

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 5,757 in 2019; Deaths Reach 207

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Geneva – IOM, the UN Migration Agency, reports that 5,757 migrants and refugees have entered Europe by sea through the first 27 days of 2019, a slight increase over the 5,502 arriving during the same period last year. Deaths on the three main Mediterranean Sea routes through almost four weeks of the new year are at 207 individuals, compared with 242 deaths during the same period in 2018.

TOTAL ARRIVALS BY SEA AND DEATHS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN 2019-2018				
Country of Arrival	1 – 27 JANUARY 2019		1 – 27 JANUARY 2018	
	Arrivals	Deaths	Arrivals	Deaths
Italy	155	143	3,176	214
Malta	49	(Central Med. route)	N/A	(Central Med. route)
Greece	1,660	2	1,089	0
Cyprus	84	(Eastern Med. route)	0	(Eastern Med. route)
Spain	3,809	62	1,237	28
		(Western Med. route)		(Western Med. route)
Estimated Total	5,757	207	5,502	242

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.

IOM Italy

IOM Rome's Flavio Di Giacomo on Monday reported that the NGO ship "Sea-Watch 3," which rescued 47 migrants last Saturday (19 January), is now in Italian waters – about one mile off the coast of Siracusa, Sicily, as of Friday night. The vessel had yet to receive authorization to land.

The boat approached Sicily several days ago, seeking shelter from adverse weather conditions currently affecting the Mediterranean.

Di Giacomo called the situation "very critical, given the difficult winter period with low temperatures and rough seas and the fact that the ship is not sufficiently equipped to host people for so many days on board." He added: "The space inside is insufficient, and some people are forced to remain outside on the bridge."

IOM also has learned that many of the migrants on board reported both to the "Sea-Watch 3" crew and to visiting members of the Italian Parliament, who also boarded, that they had been victims of abuse and violence during their stay in Libya.

Di Giacomo noted that among the vessel's passengers are 13 unaccompanied minors, whose condition is of particular concern. He said adequate protection and safeguarding measures must be taken for them as soon as possible, in line with international conventions.

IOM's Federico Soda, Director of the IOM Coordination Office for the Mediterranean, noted that the denial of a safe port to vessels that have rescued migrants in distress is reoccurring and an indication of a deteriorating situation in the Mediterranean. "It is increasingly urgent that, in order to put an end to this current ad hoc approach to life-saving operations, all Mediterranean countries start working together to establish a safe and orderly disembarkation mechanism," he explained.

IOM Spain

IOM Spain's Ana Dodevska reported that through Sunday (27 January) 3,809 men, women and children have arrived as irregular migrants this month, or more than the 1,400 arriving through all of January last year. Through this period, irregular migrant arrivals by sea to Spain are 66 per cent of all Mediterranean arrivals of this type; moreover, that total through just under four weeks of 2019 is just over 800 arrivals shy of the total through the first four months of 2018, a period during which IOM reported 4,627 irregular migrant arrivals to Spain by sea (see chart below).

MONTHLY BREAKDOWN: ARRIVALS BY SEA TO SPAIN 2015-2019					
Month	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
January	3.809 (as of 27/01)	1.400	1.049	492	264
February		1.102	535	222	44
March		867	842	351	280
April		1.258	900	451	243
May		3.523	835	575	512
June		6.926	2.352	715	414
July		7.855	2.164	458	409
August		6.406	2.203	934	417
September		8.054	1.486	1.248	621
October		11.010	3.616	1.110	1.059
November		5.111	4.061	854	557
December		5.013	2.065	752	492
TOTAL	3.809	58.525	22.108	8.162	5.309

IOM Greece

IOM Greece's Antigoni Avgeropoulou said on Monday (28 January) that from Friday (25 January) to Monday, the Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG) reported at least two incidents requiring search and rescue operations off the islands of Farmakonisi and Chios. The HCG rescued a total of 80 migrants and transferred them to those islands.

Those 80 arrivals were among some 111 IOM recorded in the four days between 24 and 27 January arriving at the islands of Farmakonisi, Lesvos and Chios and bringing to 1,660 the total number of sea arrivals to Greece this year (see chart below).

Arrivals by Sea to Greece

Country	01 Jan – 31 Dec 2014	01 Jan – 31 Dec 2015	01 Jan – 31 Dec 2016	01 Jan – 31 Dec 2017	01 Jan – 31 Dec 2018	01 Jan – 23 Jan 2019
Greece	34,442	853,650	173,614	29,501	32,742	1,660

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

Missing Migrants Project

2019 is the fifth year of IOM's efforts to systematically record deaths on migration routes worldwide through its Missing Migrants Project (MMP). Since the beginning of 2014, the Project has recorded the deaths of 30,602 people, and yet due to the challenges of collecting information about these people and what happened to them, the true number of deaths during migration is likely much higher.

So far in 2019, Missing Migrants Project has recorded the deaths of 226 people, 207 of those on one of three Mediterranean Sea routes.

Most recently, two young Algerian men lost their lives in the Western Mediterranean. It is believed they left from Spain's North African enclave Ceuta with two others on 14 January. They left in a small inflatable boat without an engine. The four Algerians have been residing at Ceuta's Temporary Residence Centre, where many migrants are detained after attempting to reach the European mainland via Spain. After several days at sea, the boat in which the four men were travelling started taking on water.

The Spanish Guardia Civil was able to rescue two of the men and brought them back to Ceuta, but the others remained missing. Their bodies washed up on Algerian shores a few days later: on 21 January, the remains of one were found near Béni-Saf, in the Algerian province of Ain Témouchent; on 24 January, the body of the other missing man washed up on El Ain beach, in the same province.

A few days before, on 22 January, the body of a 40-year-old woman had washed up on Bahara beach, in Algeria's province of Mostaganem – this appears to be an unrelated incident.

In the Central Mediterranean, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) reported that 106 migrants had disembarked in Khoms from a commercial ship on 21 January. An MSF team was present during their disembarkation and reported that a 15-year-old boy died in the hospital, shortly after being taken from the ship.

Elsewhere, Missing Migrants Project documented the deaths of four people crossing the Río Bravo that makes up the Texas-Mexico border.

On 22 January, an unidentified man was swept away by currents of the Río Bravo while he tried to cross from the Mexican town of Nuevo Laredo into Texas. On 23 January, US Border Patrol agents retrieved the body of a man near Minas del Seco, in Maverick County. A day later, Mexican civil protection authorities found the body of a man near the municipality of Reynosa Díaz, in Mexico's northern province of Tamaulipas. On Saturday, 26 January, the remains of another man, believed to be of Ukrainian nationality, were recovered from the Río Bravo near La Playita, Reynosa, Mexico.

In Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, a 24-year-old Guatemalan woman and her son, who was five years old, were killed in a car crash on 24 January. She was eight months pregnant when she died. In Mexico's southern province of Veracruz, a 40-year-old man from El Salvador

died in a hospital in Oluta on 21 January, from the injuries he sustained after falling from a freight train. On 24 January, a man who was travelling on top of a freight train was killed after falling from the cargo train near San Mateo Ixtacalca, Cuautitlán, Mexico.

Late Monday MMP received reports of a shipwreck near Capurganá, Colombia, from which between 20 and 27 migrants were said to be missing. Initial reports were that the victims were African, identified as “from the Congo.” Media in the region indicate several survivors have been found but no bodies after a small motorboat foundered in the waters linking Colombia to Panamá.

Global Migrant Deaths
Jan 1 – Jan 27
 (Source: Missing Migrants Project)

REGION	2019	2018
Mediterranean	207	242
Europe	1	6
Middle East	0	3
North Africa	0	62
Horn of Africa	0	31
Sub-Saharan Africa	0	22
Central Asia	0	52
Southeast Asia	0	1
South Asia	0	2
East Asia	0	0
North America	0	0
US/Mexico border	12	20
Central America	5	4
Caribbean	0	18
South America	1	4
TOTAL	226	467

Missing Migrants Project data are compiled by IOM staff based at its [Global Migration Data Analysis Centre](#) 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](#).

For latest arrivals and fatalities in the Mediterranean, click [here](#). Learn more about the [Missing Migrants Project](#).

See contacts [here](#).