

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 69,574 in 2017; Deaths: 1,569

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Switzerland - IOM, the UN Migration Agency, reports that 69,574 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea in 2017 through 28 May, with over 80 per cent arriving in Italy and the remainder arriving in Greece, Cyprus and Spain. This compares with 198,346 arrivals across the region through 28 May 2016.

MEDITERRANEAN DEVELOPMENTS

TOTAL ARRIVALS BY SEA AND DEATHS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN 2016–2017				
	1 JANUARY–28 MAY 2017		1 JANUARY–28 MAY 2016	
Country of Arrival	Arrivals	Deaths	Arrivals	Deaths
Italy	58,944	1,481 (Central Med. route)	40,671	1,851 (Central Med. route)
Greece	7,043	37 (Eastern Med. route)	156,267	376 (Eastern Med. route)
Cyprus	273 (as of 11/04)		345	
Spain	3,314 (as of 30/04)	51 (Western Med. route)	1,063	40 (Western Med. route)
Estimated Total	69,574	1,569	198,346	2,267
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's Missing Migrants Project (MMP) reported deaths on three Mediterranean Sea routes now top 1,569, with several new reports arriving Monday of remains of migrants discovered in the waters between Libya and Italy.

IOM Rome reported that, through 28 May this year, 58,944 migrants or refugees have landed in Italy. (See chart below).

Arrivals by sea in Italy			
January - December 2017/2016/2015			
<i>(source: Italian Ministry of Interior)</i>			
MONTH	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	21,709 (as of 28 May)	19,925	21,231
June		22,371	22,877
July		23,552	23,210
August		21,294	22,610
September		16,975	15,922
October		27,384	8,916
November		13,962	3,219
December		8,047	9,636

IOM Rome spokesperson Flavio Di Giacomo reported Monday that more than 250 migrants were rescued over the weekend. Operations are still underway. Also on Monday, 29 May, Di Giacomo confirmed that seven corpses were brought to Palermo after being retrieved in recent rescue operations. He said survivors taken to Pozzallo reported at least one recent incident that resulted in 20 drownings.

IOM Libya's Christine Petré reported that on Monday, 29 May, a total of 2,845 migrants were rescued at sea off Libya during the 10-day period beginning 18 May, in 11 different rescue operations off the Western Libyan coastal cities of Az Zawiyah, Zuwara and Tripoli.

Eight rescue operations have taken place off Az Zawiyah, with 1,773 people (1,578 men, 143 women and 52 children) being rescued. All migrants have been taken to Shuhada al Nasr detention centre. IOM staff visited the centre and warned that further support is needed as the detention centre remains heavily overpopulated. IOM has recognized the need for humanitarian assistance including the provision of non-food aid and is assessing an emergency response including psychosocial first aid.

"Usually the migrants who are rescued are found in a very fragile and vulnerable state of mind," explained IOM Libya's Samer Daw. "They build their dreams on going to Europe and when these dreams are shattered, they are left in a terrible situation. Therefore, the psychosocial support activities are a good way for them to relieve some of their stress."

On 26 May, 571 migrants – including 508 men, 55 women and eight children – were rescued in waters off Tripoli, Libya's capital. Four of the women were pregnant. IOM's implementing partner assisted the migrants at the disembarkation point with first aid assistance, primarily burn injuries. Two migrants were also transferred to a health clinic for treatment of skin burns.

"Twelve of the rescued migrants had burns which were treated in collaboration with IMC and Multakana. IOM provided bottles of water and food to the rescued migrants," explained IOM Libya's Moad Laswed. The migrants were of 18 different African

nationalities, with a majority from Guinea Conakry, Nigeria and Senegal. The migrants were initially supposed to be transferred to Mitiga detention centre but, due to space restraints, were instead taken to Trig al Shok detention centre in Tripoli. IOM will visit the detention centre and distribute non-food aid including hygiene kits for the rescued migrants.

During the afternoon of 26 May, 381 migrants (including 53 women and 15 children) were rescued off Zuwara. The boat departed from Subratah with the majority of the migrants coming from Nigeria.

IOM Libya also reported Monday (29 May) that through almost five months into 2017, IOM Libya has assisted 4,030 stranded migrants to return home from Libya through its voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) programme.

The latest return was last Thursday (25 May), when IOM helped 165 stranded migrants – 145 men and 20 women – return home to Nigeria. Among the passengers were three unaccompanied children and two female medical cases.

Also on 25 May, two stranded Ethiopian migrants were also able to return home on commercial flights.

Two days earlier, on 23 May, IOM helped 171 stranded migrants – 166 men and five women – return home to The Gambia from Libya. Among the female passengers were an infant and a child; 133 of the migrants had been in Gharyan Al Hamra detention centre. The remaining 38 migrants previously lived in urban areas.

The charter flights, which departed from Tripoli's Mitiga airport, were coordinated with the Libyan authorities, the Embassies of The Gambia and Nigeria respectively, as well as IOM colleagues in the receiving countries.

Recognizing the high demand for assistance to return home among stranded migrants in Libya, IOM has been scaling up its VHR assistance in 2017. So far this year, IOM Libya has facilitated the VHR of 4,030 stranded migrants in Libya. Of that total, 108 of the assisted migrants were unaccompanied children; 56 were victims of trafficking.

IOM Athens said yesterday (29 May) that Greek authorities reported new arrivals of 376 migrants and refugees between Thursday (25 May) and Sunday (28 May). Since 1 January, a total of 6,043 sea-borne arrivals of irregular migrants have been reported at various Greek islands.

Worldwide, the IOM Missing Migrants Project (MMP) reports that there have been 2,166 fatalities through 28 May (see chart below) with the Mediterranean region accounting for the largest proportion of deaths – about two thirds of the global total.

Since last Friday, MMP has recorded 34 deaths in the Central Mediterranean and also added this year's first migrant death in East Asia of a 38-year-old Bangladeshi man who died trying to enter Hong Kong. MMP notes that, a year ago (25–26 May, 2016), over

800 people drowned in the Central Med, one reason for the great disparity in year-on-year figures reported this week.

Global Migrant Deaths Jan 1 – May 28 (Source: Missing Migrants Project)		
REGION	2017	2016
Mediterranean	1,569	2,267
Europe	20	21
Middle East	18	57
North Africa	221	748
Horn of Africa	65	94
Sub-Saharan Africa	23	34
Southeast Asia	45	35
East Asia	1	0
US/Mexico	90	88
Central America	23	50
Caribbean	90	39
South Asia	1	0
South America	0	10
TOTAL	2,166	3,443

For the latest Mediterranean Update infographic:

http://migration.iom.int/docs/MMP/Mediterranean_Update_170530.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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