

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 8,807 in 2018; Deaths Reach 411

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Geneva – IOM, the UN Migration Agency, reports that 8,807 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea through seven weeks of 2018. This compares with 13,156 arrivals across the region through the same period last year.

MEDITERRANEAN DEVELOPMENTS

TOTAL ARRIVALS BY SEA AND DEATHS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN 2017-2018				
	1 JANUARY – 18 FEBRUARY 2018		1 JANUARY – 18 FEBRUARY 2017	
Country of Arrival	Arrivals	Deaths	Arrivals	Deaths
Italy	4,864	315 (Central Med. route)	10,057	229 (Central Med. route)
Greece	1,902	0 (Eastern Med. route)	2,050	2 (Eastern Med. route)
Cyprus	25		N/A	
Spain	2,016 (as of 19/02)	96 (Western Med. route)	1,049 (as of 31/01/2017)	39 (Western Med. route)
Estimated Total	8,807	411	13,156	270
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.				

On Monday (19 February) IOM Rome reported official figures from Italy's Ministry of Interior (MOI) show 4,864 irregular migrants have arrived by sea this year: 51.64 per cent lower than the total last year in the same period, when MOI figures show 10,057 arrived. (See chart below)

IOM's Flavio Di Giacomo added 276 migrants were rescued on Sunday by the Italian Coast Guard and by the NGO Pro Activa Open Arms in three separate rescue operations. Migrants were being brought to Italian ports late Monday, Di Giacomo said.

IOM Greece's Kelly Namia reported no landings of irregular migrants by sea during the days 13-14 February, or over the holiday weekend that ended Monday (19/02).

Greece: Arrivals by Sea
2014-2018

Country	1 Jan – 31 Dec 2014	1 Jan – 31 Dec 2015	1 Jan – 31 Dec 2016	1 Jan – 31 Dec 2017	1 Jan – 14 Feb 2018
Greece	34,442	853,650	173,614	29,501	1,902

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

IOM Libya's Christine Petré reported that on Monday (19 February) IOM provided food and emergency medical assistance to 117 migrants, who had been returned to Libyan shores by the Libyan Coast Guard after attempting the journey to Italy across the Mediterranean

Sea.

According to testimonies from survivors, she explained, these migrants embarked on their journey in the western coast city of Azzawya; their rubber boat started taking on water after six hours at sea. Among the migrants were five women, 84 men and 28 children (all males), as well as one pregnant woman.

IOM is following up with psychosocial support to the surviving migrants.

IOM Spain's Ana Dodevska reported that total arrivals at sea in 2018 have reached 2,016 men, women and children who have been rescued in Western Mediterranean waters through 18 February, about twice the number arriving through this date in 2017. The 616 arrivals this month already have exceeded all those of the full months of February in each of the last three years (see charts below).

SPAIN - SEA AND LAND ARRIVALS - 2018			
Month	Sea	Land	Total
January	1,400	782	2,182
February	616	0	616
TOTAL	2,016	782	2,798

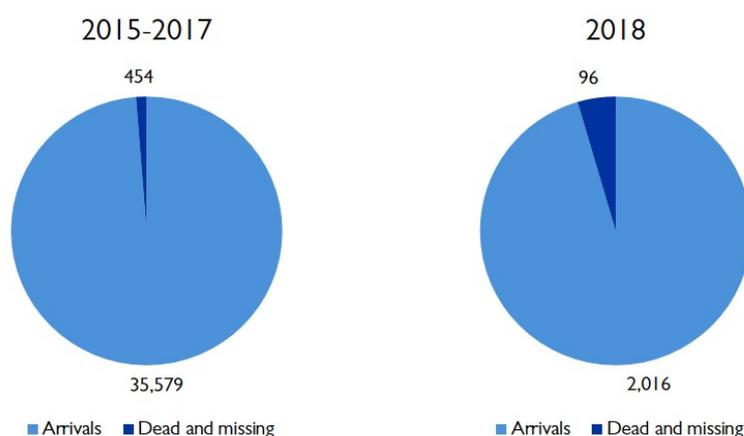
* Last update: 19/02/2018

Dodevska also shared the following data from Spain's Ministry of Interior for Sea Arrivals since 2015:

MONTHLY BREAKDOWN - SEA ARRIVALS IN SPAIN 2015, 2016, 2017				
	2018	2017	2016	2015
January	1,400	1,049	492	264
February	616	535	222	44

While arrivals on this western route are even fewer than those IOM is seeing off Greece, the western route is much more deadly. No reports of a migrant dying at sea have been reported on the Eastern Mediterranean route in 2018; the remains of 96 men, women and children have been recorded in the waters between North Africa and Spain this year. This route is almost three times as lethal for migrants as it has been over the previous three years (see chart below).

Western Mediterranean Route



Fatalities for all the Mediterranean through 18 February stand at 411 men, women and children – compared with 270 at this time last year, an increase of just over 50 per cent.

Most recently, seven deaths were recorded on the Western Mediterranean route between Algeria and Spain. The remains of three migrants were found off the coast of Ain Témouchent last week: on 14 February, the bodies of two Sub-Saharan young men were recovered in Plage de Sassel and Plage Sbiat, while one day after, on 15 February, another body was found near Plage Bouzedjar.

Remains of three more migrants were recovered west of Oran: on 15 February, two bodies were recovered from Plage des Andalouses; on 16 February another body was found in Plage de Madagh. On Saturday, 17 February, the remains of another migrant were found 10km off the coast of Chlef province, near Mostaganem.

In the past four weeks, 18 of some 96 people who have died trying to reach Spain from North Africa this year were found in or near Algerian coastal waters.

IOM Algeria Chief of Mission Pascal Reyntjens said: “The increase of the number of fatalities recorded and reported on the Algerian shores shows a drastic increase” says Pascal Reyntjens, Chief of Mission of IOM in Algeria. “The reasons behind this growing visibility needs to be further analyzed at this stage. While in the past, sea crossing of “harragas” were mainly taking place from the Eastern side of Algeria, it seems that recently there has been a shift towards the Western shores of the country.”

In terms of type of migrants, it appears that the majority are Algerian citizens, he explained, adding: “We cannot exclude that a new trend of irregular migration organized by smugglers will also allow other nationalities – such as sub Saharans – to attempt this dangerous crossing.”

Worldwide, IOM’s Missing Migrants Project (MMP) has recorded 637 migrant fatalities in 2018 (see chart below).

The MMP team recorded three deaths on the US/Mexico border over the past few days. On 15 February, US Border Patrol agents discovered skeletal remains in a ranch in Brooks County, near Falfurrias, Texas. On 14 February, a 33-year-old Mexican national was found

dead at the bottom of Pump Canyon in Val Verde County, Texas, near the border with Mexico. On 18 February, a young man drowned in the Río Bravo while attempting to reach the United States. His body was recovered from a small island in the river near Guerrero, Tamaulipas, by Mexican civil protection authorities.

In the area MMP designates as “Central America” – Mexico and the republics of Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama and Belize – one person was killed by a freight train, on 18 February near Atitalaquia, Mexico. MMP 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 missing migrants 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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Global Migrant Deaths Jan 1 – Feb 18 <small>(Source: Missing Migrants Project)</small>		
REGION	2018	2017
Mediterranean	411	270
Europe	7	10
Middle East	24	3
North Africa	27	142
Horn of Africa	55	27
Sub-Saharan Africa	9	12
Central Asia	52	-
Southeast Asia	4	44
South Asia	-	-
East Asia	-	-
North America	-	-
US/Mexico border	23	64
Central America	4	10
Caribbean	18	71
South America	3	-
TOTAL	637	653