



## Migrant Deaths Soar as Mediterranean Sees Worst Tragedy in Living Memory

Posted on Sunday 19 April 2015

Italy – IOM is calling for swift action from the European Union following the worst tragedy in living memory involving migrants crossing the Mediterranean from north Africa. Up to 700 migrants are missing and feared drowned after the wooden fishing boat on which they were crammed, capsized near Libya as a cargo vessel was coming to its aid. By late Sunday night, one of the survivors was reported to have informed Italian authorities that there may have been up to 950 on board.

“The world needs to react with the conviction with which it eliminated piracy off the coast of Somalia a few years ago. All of us, especially the EU and world's powers can no longer sit on the sidelines watching while tragedy unfolds in slow motion. Well over 1,500 have drowned since the beginning of January.”

IOM is asking the EU to once again support life-saving operations on the scale of the Italian run Mare Nostrum program shut down late last year on the grounds that it was encouraging irregular migrants to take to the seas.

Ambassador Swing pointed to the success of the Task Force 120 that successfully got rid of Somali piracy as an example for the EU to follow in both saving lives and preventing criminal smuggling gangs from operating.

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## Wave of Migrants to Europe is “Not an Invasion”



IOM Director General William Lacy Swing tells CNN's Christiane Amanpour that we're in a period of "unprecedented human disasters."

[Watch the full interview](#)

## Migrant crisis in the Mediterranean: What can be done?

Posted on Friday 17 April 2015

By Carolina Montenegro and Kristy Siegfried (IRIN)

LAMPEDUSA/OXFORD, 15 April 2015 (IRIN) - With Italian authorities rescuing 8,500 migrants in the Mediterranean over the weekend and reports up to 400 may have perished, there can be no doubt that an unprecedented summer surge in migrant sea crossings is already under way.

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ARRIVALS BY SEA IN ITALY (JANUARY - MARCH 2015)						
Main Nationalities	#	Men	Women	Minors	AM	UAM
Gambia	1,413	1,270	8	135	4	131
Senegal	1,187	1,143	1	43	1	42
Somalia	1,107	715	210	182	47	135
Syria	1,056	769	109	178	171	7
Mali	991	926	4	61	2	59
Eritrea	906	588	184	134	17	117
Nigeria	873	771	78	24	4	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,165</b>	<b>8,591</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>613</b>

## Out Now: Migration Policy Practice (Volume V, Number 1, February–March 2015)

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For the latest issue of Migration Policy Practice, which includes articles by the IOM Deputy Director General on Changing Public Perceptions of Migration, Stefanie Grant on Migrant Deaths at Sea, Khalid Koser and Katie Kuschminder on return and reintegration schemes, the government of Australia’s innovative research programme on irregular migration, and Jan Niessen on using indexes to measure migration policy.

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## In the News

Posted on Sunday 19 April 2015

CNN's Christiane Amanpour spoke with IOM Director General Swing about the migrants coming to Europe and the situation in the Mediterranean. The DG said that we are in a period of "unprecedented human disasters and emergencies" and proposed multiple solutions. CNN's Ben Wedeman cited IOM estimates of 22,000 people who have died fleeing across the Mediterranean since 2000. BBC reported that the shipwreck was caused by excitement at the sight of rescuers and quoted IOM's Joel Millman saying that at least a third were women and children.

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[MissingMigrants.iom.int](http://MissingMigrants.iom.int)

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