



## IOM Welcomes EU Council Decision on Migrants in Mediterranean

Posted on Friday 24 April 2015

IOM has welcomed the decision of the Special European Council of Heads of State and Government to put saving lives at the heart of the European response to ending the unbearable loss of lives of migrants in the Mediterranean sea.

"IOM believes that the primary objective of any action has to be saving lives, and we very much look forward to seeing the strengthening in that direction of current operations at sea, in order to fulfill the international community's moral obligation to safeguard and protect the fundamental human rights of all migrants," said Director General William Lacy Swing.

Calling the situation in the Mediterranean "a tragedy," the EU said it would "mobilize all efforts at its disposal to prevent further loss of life at sea and to tackle the root causes of the human emergency," adding "Our immediate priority is to prevent more people from dying at sea."

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Survivors of multiple tragedies in the Mediterranean continue to arrive in Sicily. (File photo). © Francesco Malavolta/IOM 2015

## Joint Statement on Mediterranean Crossings

Posted on Friday 24 April 2015

*Director-General of the International Organization for Migration William Lacy Swing*

*UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein*

*UN High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres*

*Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for International Migration and Development, Peter Sutherland*

A tragedy of epic proportions is unfolding in the Mediterranean. We, the undersigned\*, strongly urge European leaders to put human life, rights, and dignity first today when agreeing upon a common response to the humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean.

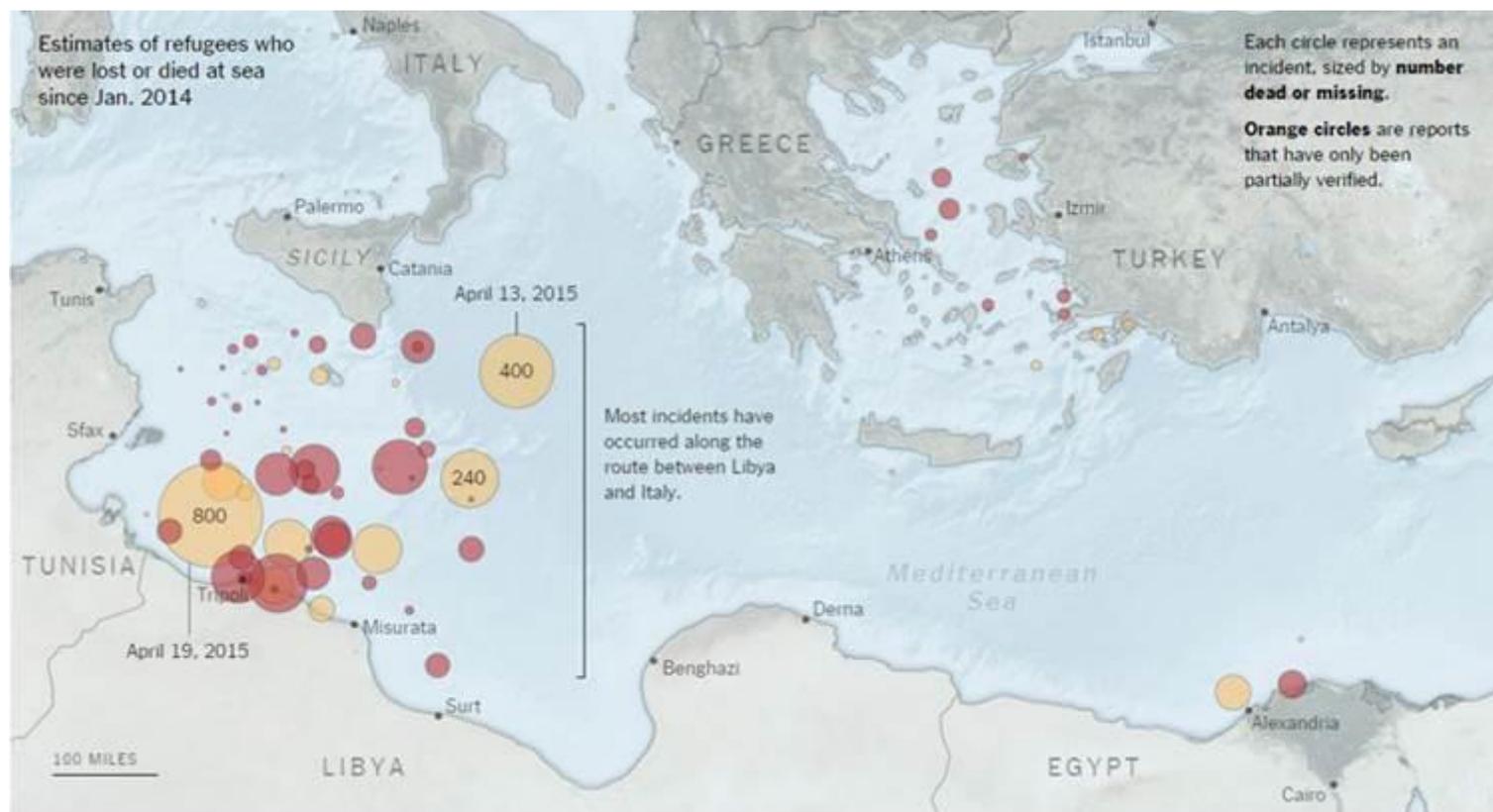
The European Union is founded on the fundamental principles of humanity, solidarity and respect for human rights. We urge EU Member States to demonstrate moral and political leadership in adopting a holistic and forward-looking action plan centered upon these values.

The European Union response needs to go beyond the present minimalist approach in the 10 Point Plan on Migration, announced by the EU on Monday, which focuses primarily on stemming the arrival of migrants and refugees on its shores.

As a paramount principle, the safety, protection needs, and human rights of all migrants and refugees should be at the forefront of the EU response. EU leaders must look beyond the present situation and work closely with transit and origin countries both to alleviate the immediate plight of migrants and refugees and address in a more comprehensive way the many factors that drive them to resort to such desperate journeys by sea. Enforcement alone will not solve the issue of irregular migration, but could increase the risks and abuse faced by migrants and refugees.

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# The New York Times: Deaths at Sea



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## The Names Behind the Statistics

Posted on Friday 24 April 2015

**By Itayi Viriri**

Twenty Eight! That is how many people survived what may be the worst tragedy in living memory involving migrants crossing the Mediterranean from North Africa last weekend. The 28 migrants had been traveling on a wooden fishing boat carrying over 800 people when it capsized near Libya.

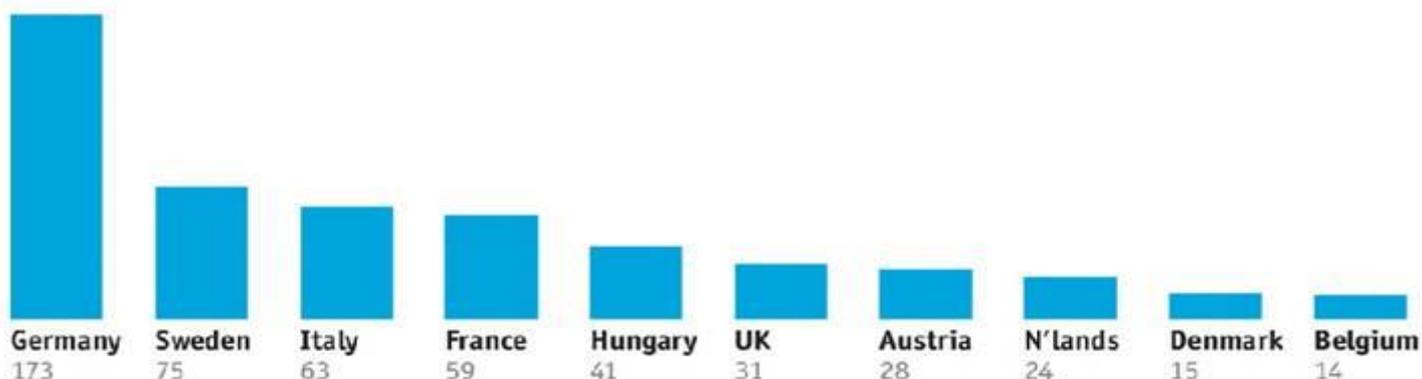
IOM spoke to two of the 28. This is their story.

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## Asylum seekers to the European Union

### Top destination countries

Number of submitted asylum applications, 2014, '000



### Main Mediterranean migration routes

- Western
- Central
- Eastern



### Top origin countries

Border crossings by sea, number of illegal detections, 2014, '000



Sources: I-Map; Frontex; UNHCR

\*Unspecified sub-Saharan nationals

Economist.com

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