



Migrant Deaths Soar in Mediterranean

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As landings of rescued migrants surge in Southern Italy, IOM teams continue to gather evidence of at least 400 presumed fatalities earlier this week.

"While the number of arrivals this year is similar to that registered during the period in 2014, so many arrivals in so few days is unprecedented," said Federico Soda, Director of the IOM Coordination Office for the Mediterranean.

Italian maritime forces carried out rescue operation of migrants in distress on the Mediterranean Sea throughout the day on Thursday 16 April, with landings recorded at the ports of Augusta and Trapani, where Italian authorities brought in 600 and 580 migrants, respectively.

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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?

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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
Total	10,165	8,591	672	902	289	613

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

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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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