

11.12.2019

Statistics on Search and Rescue Operations in the Mediterranean Sea / Ocean Viking operated in cooperation of Médecins Sans Frontières and SOS MEDITERRANEE

On demand, MSF Finland provides an update on MSF and SOS MEDITERRANEE search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean during the fall of 2019. The update is dated on November 19th 2019.

Since the relaunch of SAR operations, the Ocean Viking has performed a total of:

- 14 rescue operations
- 5 disembarkations: Malta (transfer in international waters), Lampedusa (transfer in territorial waters), Messina (Sicily, in Port), Taranto (Puglia, in port), Pozzallo (Sicily, in port).
- During the last 4 months, the Ocean Viking has rescued 1030 people, whilst almost 700 are known to have died or gone missing this year in the Central Mediterranean. And these are just the people we know about.
- In 2019, for every 18 people that reach Europe, 1 will die trying to cross the Central Mediterranean. Meanwhile, 8,309 others have been intercepted by the Libyan coastguard and forcibly returned to Libya (UNHCR/IOM).
- 2,053 people have been evacuated/resettled out of Libya. Yet for every 1 person evacuated or resettled out of Libya, nearly four times as many are forcibly returned by Libyan coast guard. (UNHCR Libya update)
- With 4,400 people trapped in detention centres in Libya (UNHCR) and more being forcibly returned each day, evacuation and resettlement places will continue to be outstripped by the needs.

Further information:

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