

18 September 2018



OSCE/ODHIR

HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING Warsaw 10th-21st September 2018

Thank you.

Our mission is avoiding loss of life at sea of the people in movements and denouncing the violations of their human rights.

The 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants confirms the political will of world leaders to save lives, protect rights and share responsibility on a global scale, and the following Global Compacts on Migrants and Refugees will aim to operationalize these commitments and provide an opportunity for the OSCE to contribute at a regional level.

The situation in the Central Mediterranean Sea about sea rescuing changed drastically recently. We witness a clear and studied violation of norms and international conventions. Moreover, we are witnessing an operation aimed to repress the humanitarian actions in the area created with both formal and informal methods by political and media powers which used normative obstacles and other tools to limit the operational freedom of NGOs. There consequence is a situation of void due to the absence of NGO and any other form of assistance in the central Mediterranean.

In details, we witness:

- Attacks, slanders and lies against the NGO's work by several media and politicians.
- The Italian Maritime rescue Coordination Centre changed its attitude from total collaboration and coordination to hostility, mistrust, and lack of collaboration.
- The criminal behavior of the called Libyan Coast Guard has never been explained by who is in charge to coordinate, train and control them, which are the states that are co-operating on the military EUNAVFOR Med operation Sophia and operation Nauras.
- The closure of Italian harbors happened without any formal administrative order but using communication on social media and without following a normative and formal path.
- the Maltese authorities blocked NGOs ships without any formal communication or using vague forms.

Rescued people must disembark as quick as possible in a safe harbor, but it doesn't work.



From August, no NGO rescue vessel has been in the central Mediterranean, the deadliest border of the world as IOM denounced

There is decrease of arrival, -83% between July 2017 to July 2018 but:

- The loss of life at sea has increased, July +130%
- June: +6% of deaths
- in September, more than 100 people died in shipwreck
- Yesterday the NGO Pilotes Volontaires denounced ppl has been bringing back to Libya which is not a place of safety

We ask on this meeting:

1. To use all its capacity to contribute to stop, prevent and fight the criminalization of human rights defenders.
2. To ensure the right for the people in movement to claim asylum, respect the principle of non-refoulement and the right of the rescued migrant people to disembark as soon as possible to a place of safety
3. To protect and contribute to ensure the continuation of NGO's Search and Rescue activities at sea in the Central Mediterranean.

And

4. We formally ask to the Italian delegation about the need to stop the members of Italian Parliament's members showing to its citizens the false idea of Libya as safe port and place of safety: UNHCR declares Libya a place of high risk for the migrant people, which has been denounced from several NGO's reports as well.

Thank you.