

# *UN calls Europe to action after Italy refuses to help 500 migrants*

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London, August 15 (RHC)-- Many of the migrants rescued are unaccompanied minors. Two women with health issues and a baby with a respiratory condition have been evacuated with their family to Lampedusa from the Open Arms.

European nations have not been sharing the burden of the migrant crisis. Italy, Spain and Greece that flank the Mediterranean say other EU states have to step up.

Italy's Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, who last year closed the ports to NGO's rescuing migrants, has vowed Italy will not continue to be Europe's refugee camp. His fierce anti-immigration policies have sent his popularity soaring among the electorate.

Italy's crackdown has reduced the number of migrants braving the trip, but the percentage that die along the way has spiked. As many as 14 percent have lost their lives this year. In previous years it was two percent.

The EU has been paying and training the Libyan coastguard to keep migrants off its shores and out of the headlines. Thousands of people are being detained in EU-funded prisons where malnutrition, torture and exploitation are rife. As a result the European Union has been accused of 'crimes against humanity.'

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