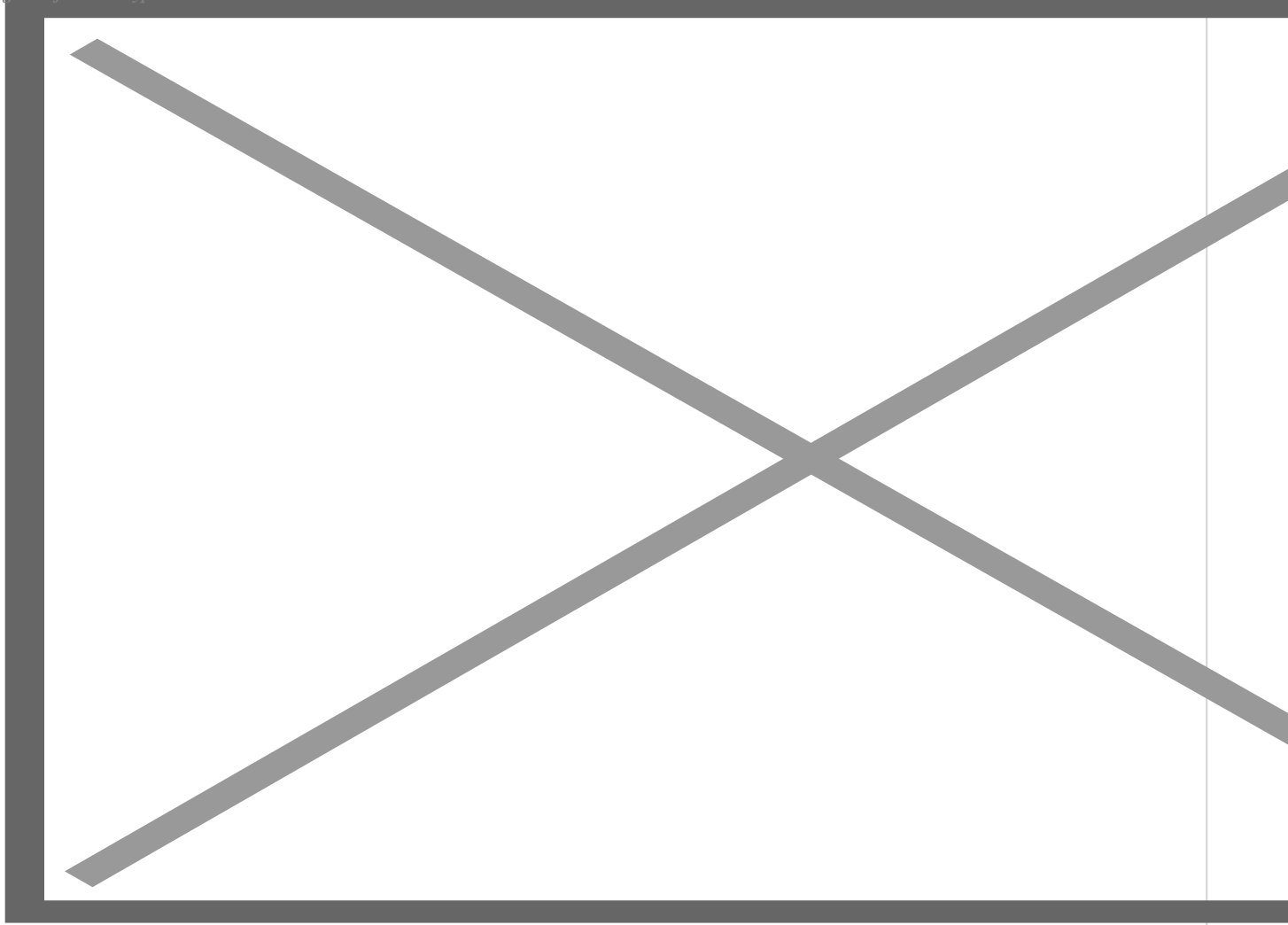


# *Italy charges humanitarian workers who helped rescue refugees in Mediterranean*

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**Italy charges humanitarian workers who helped rescue refugees in Mediterranean**

Rome, March 6 (RHC)-- In Italy, dozens of humanitarian aid workers have been charged with complicity in human smuggling after saving thousands of refugees from drowning in the Mediterranean as they

attempted to reach European soil.

The charges against over 20 humanitarian aid workers, with groups including Doctors Without Borders and Save the Children, come after a four-year investigation by the Italian government, which in recent years has increasingly criminalized both refugees and rescuers. The charges carry a sentence of up to 20 years in prison.

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