

Italian Navy Finds 11 Dead EU-bound Migrants, Saves Hundreds



Rome, May 30 (RHC)-- The Italian Navy says it has found the bodies of 11 dead migrants on Europe-bound boats across the Mediterranean Sea, and saved other 570. A statement on Twitter said that the Italian Navy's patrol vessel Bettica rescued 86 migrants from two inflatable boats in the Mediterranean on Friday. It said that the dead bodies were discovered after the rescue operation.

It is not clear why the migrants had died. However, dehydration, asphyxiation, extreme temperatures and violence are known to have previously claimed the lives of migrants during the perilous journeys they make through the Mediterranean.

Meanwhile, another patrol ship managed to rescue of two other migrant boats with 484 people aboard. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that more than 40,400 migrants attempting the Mediterranean journey have arrived in Italy since the beginning of 2015. However, at least 1,770 people have died or been lost, the IOM report said.

On April 29 alone, more than 800 people died after a single migrant boat capsized in what was described as the deadliest incident recorded in the Mediterranean by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

In response to an international outcry over the plight of migrants, ministers of the European Union (EU) approved plans for a military operation to eradicate human trafficking in the Mediterranean.

Meanwhile, the European Commission (EC) intends to make the entire 28-nation EU share the burden of migrants and help the frontline states such as Italy, Greece and Malta. However, some countries, including Britain, have refused to take part in the EU's migrant resettlement plan.

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