

This fact sheet documents violent incidents perpetrated by the so-called Libyan coastguard and other Libyan militias in the central Mediterranean Sea since 2016. Since 2016, the European Union and several of its member states have supported different Libyan militias and groups through funding, training, and equipment, with the aim of disguising them as a coastguard and thereby preventing people from reaching Europe by sea. However, since Libya can not be considered a safe place for people rescued at sea, each “rescue” by these actors and subsequent deportation to Libya, is illegal. This cooperation has continued despite consistent reports of violence, abuse, illegal interceptions and deportations to unsafe places carried out by Libyan actors at sea¹. Since 2016, more than 169,000 people have been intercepted and illegally brought back to Libya², with the real figures likely to be much higher. Each of these interceptions constitutes a violation of fundamental rights and is embedded in a system that amounts to crimes against humanity³. These interceptions mean that people are forced back into a system that has been described by the UN Fact Finding Mission on Libya as an “abhorrent cycle of violence”⁴. They happen always under force, often under violence. Due to the lack of oversight and accountability for these crimes, many remain unreported. The incidents collected in this document stand out of the daily illegal forcible interceptions by the level of violence that has been documented. This includes maneuvers intended at or risking to push people into the water, the use of sticks, guns or other means to inflict physical harm and verbal attacks that threaten the use of violence. They stem from reports by NGO vessels, NGO aircraft, or news articles following reports by people on the move who made it to Europe.

There are several limitations and biases that affect the documentation of these incidents. First of all, most interceptions happen without any oversight, and once people are returned to Libya, they are brought to detention camps where they have no access to communication or reporting mechanisms. Even if reported, testimonies by people from marginalized groups are often dismissed or not taken seriously — a form of testimonial injustice. Additionally, documenting

¹ Libya has several “law enforcements” operating at sea working under different Ministries: the (so-called) Libyan coastguard (LCGPS) and Libyan Navy under the Minister of Defense and the General Administration for Coastal Security (GACS) under the Minister of Interior. Moreover, some militia members are on government payrolls and are supported directly or indirectly by EU missions seeking to train and equip border police and coastguard officials.

² For 2016-2019, see UN-HCR; for 2020-2025 see IOM Libya

³ See: https://www.ecchr.eu/fileadmin/Publikationen/NO_WAY_OUT_Migrants_and_refugees_trapped_in_Libya_face_crimes_against_humanity_EN.pdf

⁴ See Report of the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya - 27 March 2023: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/libya/index>

these events from the air or from a ship in the distance, as we and other NGOs try to do, faces significant challenges.

As a result, many violent incidents against people on the move remain undocumented and are therefore not included in this fact sheet, while violent incidents against NGO crews are much better documented and represented here. **It must be emphasized however, that people on the move are by far those most effected by the violence conducted by the so-called Libyan coastguard.**

Incidents of violence by the so-called Libyan coastguard and other Libyan militias

Cases sorted by year

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About Sea-Watch

Sea-Watch e.V. is a non-profit organisation (NGO). Besides operating search and rescue vessels at sea, Sea-Watch conducts aerial monitoring flights with the aim to document human rights violations in the central Mediterranean Sea and to report people in distress to support their rescue. Sea-Watch currently operates the airplanes *Seabird 1*, *Seabird 2* and *Seabird 3*, and previously the aircraft *Moonbird*. The aircraft are operated together with the Swiss non-profit organisation Humanitarian Pilots Initiative (HPI). Currently Sea-Watch operates the fast rescue vessel *Aurora*, and the *Sea-Watch 5*. The previous assets were *Sea-Watch 1*, *Sea-Watch 2*, *Sea-Watch 3* and *Sea-Watch 4*.

2025

The so-called Libyan coastguard chased a boat in distress instead of retrieving persons in the water; in the end, one person drowned

Location: international waters, Libyan search and rescue (SAR) zone

Date of the incident: 28 September 2025

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: so-called Libyan coastguard patrol boat TS-LCG-300

Summary: The so-called Libyan coastguard was on-scene a boat in distress, at risk of capsizing due to weather conditions. Instead of retrieving persons in the water, as urged by the civilian aircraft *Seabird 2*, they chased the boat in distress. Meanwhile, several persons were recovered onboard the merchant vessel *Maridive 704*. Facing difficulties with the transshipment, the so-called Libyan coastguard eventually intercepted survivors and pulled them back to Libya. At least one person drowned, as witnessed by *Seabird 2*.

Source: Sea-Watch www.x.com/seawatch_intl/status/1972595550416675232

So-called Libyan coastguard on EU donated boat fires shots in the direction of Sea-Watch 5

Location: international waters

Date of the incident: 26 September 2025

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: so-called Libyan coastguard

Summary: During a rescue by the NGO vessel *Sea-Watch 5*, a vessel of the so-called Libyan coastguard appeared on scene and demanded the ship to leave the scene and head north. After the NGO crew had finished the rescue and moved all survivors inside, the so-called Libyan coastguard fired a shot in the direction of the ship. The so-called Libyan coastguard ship was the Ubari 660 Corrubia Class vessel, that was handed over to the so-called Libyan coastguard by Italy in 2018.

Source: Sea-Watch www.sea-watch.org/en/libyan-militia-fires-on-rescue-ship-sea-watch-5/

One person handcuffed on the deck of a so-called Libyan coastguard patrol boat

Location: international waters, Libyan SAR zone

Date of the incident: 23 September 2025

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: so-called Libyan coastguard, Corrubia Class patrol boat

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Summary: The civilian aircraft *Seabird 2* observed the *so-called* Libyan coastguard alongside a deflated rubber boat in the Libyan SAR zone. One person was in the water being retrieved, while several others were already on the deck of the patrol boat, potentially following the interception. *Seabird 2* documented one person handcuffed and lying face-down at the front of the patrol boat. The persons were brought back to Libya.

Source: Sea-Watch www.instagram.com/p/DPMbdeskYaN/?igsh=MTEyejk3aHp0ODkwnNw==

Unidentified Libyan actors shot at a boat in distress in the central Mediterranean Sea

Location: central Mediterranean Sea, between Libya and Lampedusa

Date of the incident: beginning of September 2025

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: unspecified Libyan actors

Summary: According to ANSA, a group of Egyptian and Somali people who arrived to Lampedusa reported that unspecified Libyan authorities had fired on them during the crossing. The large Libyan vessel approached and opened fire on them about 30 minutes after leaving Zahra.

Source: ANSA www.ansa.it/english/news/general_news/2025/09/08/libyans-fired-at-us-migrants-after-landing-in-lampedusa_a4b76796-36fa-483e-9d61-0beb04509ad1.html?fbclid=IwDGRjcAMtDDljbGNrAy0LYWV4dG4DYWVtAjExAAEe89hPd7Q9wBdPWN71-VKGjh5ICQIRVRymKn48Mc9I77ywTEDkwXe__sb4zr0_aem_IVbWnloeT8aX5r0oGK1cKA

The so-called Libyan coastguard shot at an NGO ship for over 20 minutes, especially targeting its bridge

Location: international waters, Libyan search and rescue (SAR) zone, 40nm north of Libya

Date of the incident: 24 August 2025

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: While the NGO ship *Ocean Viking* was engaged in searching for a boat in distress, as authorized by the Italian authorities, it was approached by a *so-called* Libyan coastguard patrol boat, which told the ship to leave the area. Then, without warning, two men from the Libyan vessel opened fire on the ship, circling around the ship and targeting people on board the NGO vessel. This lasted for at least 20 minutes. The NGO ship had 87 survivors on board from previous rescues. The attack caused bullet holes at head

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height, the destruction of multiple antennas, four broken windows on the Bridge, and several bullets struck and damaged the three RHIBS (fast rescue boats), along with other rescue equipment.

Source: SOS Mediterranee www.sosmediterranee.org/sos-med-libyan-attack/

The so-called Libyan coastguard chased people in distress for over an hour, engaging in dangerous maneuvers, leading to people falling into the water

Location: international waters, Libyan SAR zone

Date of the incident: 08 June 2025

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: so-called Libyan coastguard patrol boat *Houn*

Summary: As documented by the civil monitoring airplane *Seabird*, the so-called Libyan coastguard patrol boat *Houn* chased a fiberglass boat with 30 persons on board for over one hour. While the people on the fiberglass boat urgently tried to escape, about 15 people fell into the water. Calls by *Seabird* to the so-called Libyan coastguard vessel were ignored. Eventually, all people were intercepted and illegally pulled back to Libya.

Source: Sea-Watch www.instagram.com/p/DKrk8SKR9Gs

During a rescue operation, the NGO ship *Solidaire* was threatened by the so-called Libyan coastguard and told to leave the area

Location: international waters, Libyan SAR zone

Date of the incident: 18 April 2025

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: so-called Libyan coastguard

Summary: As documented by the civil monitoring airplane *Seabird* 3, during the rescue operation of a rubber boat with 38 people on board, the crew of the NGO vessel *Solidaire* was shouted at by the so-called Libyan coastguard via radio communication, which mistakenly demanded the *Sea-Watch* 5 to leave the area. Nevertheless, *Solidaire* was able to conduct the rescue of all 38 persons and to bring them safely to Italy.

Source: Sea-Watch quarterly factsheet April June 2025 (upcoming)

Militiamen shot around persons in distress

Location: unknown, eastern coast of Libya

Date of the incident: 17 April 2025

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: unknown, Libyan militia men

Summary: Along the eastern coast of Libya, militiamen, armed with

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Kalashnikov rifles, maneuvered violently around persons in distress, shouted at them to turn off the engine. The outcome of the episode remains unclear.

Source: Refugees in Libya www.x.com/RefugeesinLibya/status/1913182856060280852

The so-called Libyan coastguard threatened the NGO vessel *Aita Mari* with an automated weapon in international waters

Location: international waters

Date of the incident: 12 April 2025

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard patrol boat 648, *Ras Jadir*

Summary: While the NGO vessel *Aita Mari* was searching for a distress case in its close proximity, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard - aboard patrol boat 648 *Ras Jadir*, donated by Italy in May 2017 - approached the NGO vessel. According to *Aita Mari*, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard shouted "go home" while pointing an automatic weapon at the NGO crew, threatening them in order to prevent the rescue. Shortly after, the patrol boat 648 intercepted all persons on board of the rubber boat.

Source: Salvamento Marítimo Humanitarios www.facebook.com/share/p/18ubrVj3SQ/

2024

Armed masked men intercepted women and children at gun point, threatened other persons in distress and shot in the air

Location: international waters

Date of the incident: 28 November 2024

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: unknown armed men on a fast boat

Summary: The NGO ship *Geo Barents* arrived to an ongoing interception of a boat in distress. The interception was conducted at gunpoint by unknown armed men, who threatened the people on the rubber boat and shot in the air. 70 people in distress jumped in the water and were rescued by the NGO ship. The Libyan fast boat left scene with 29 women and children to bring them back to Libya, tearing families apart.

Source: MSF www.x.com/MSF_Sea/status/1862609984686616579

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The so-called Libyan coastguard fired on people in distress

Location: international waters, Libyan SAR zone at the boundary with the Maltese SAR zone

Date of the incident: 21 September 2024

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard patrol boat *Murzuq*

Summary: On 21 September, *Seabird*'s crew sighted an interception in the Maltese SAR zone by the *so-called* Libyan patrol boats *Murzuq* and *Gharyan*. Both were later sighted pursuing a boat in distress within the Libyan SAR zone, at the boundary with the Maltese SAR zone. While *Seabird* was on scene, the crew of the *so-called* Libyan coastguard patrol boat *Murzuq* fired shots at the boat in distress – before intercepting the people. Frontex was on-scene with both boats in distress.

Source: Sea-Watch www.x.com/seawatch_intl/status/1838267250861563998, www.sea-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Sea-Watch-Quarterly-Factsheet.pdf

5 Since late 2021, the Stability Support Agency (SSA) became a prominent actor at sea with the task of patrolling and intercepting boats trying to cross the Mediterranean. The SSA reports directly to Libya's Tripoli-based presidential council and is not subject to EU and U.N. scrutiny. See:

AP <https://apnews.com/article/middle-east-africa-libya-migration-7ec5d993bffc1dffa597ccd1697a85b5d>

Amnesty International <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/05/libya-hold-stability-support-authority-militia-leaders-to-account/>

The so-called Libyan coastguard threatened an NGO rescue operation

Location: international waters

Date of the incident: 19 September 2024

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard patrol boat *Gharyan*

Summary: At the end of a rescue, conducted by the NGO vessel *Geo Barents*, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard patrol boat *Gharyan* arrived on-scene, threatened to use firearms and performed dangerous maneuvers around the people in distress in an attempt to intimidate the people as well as the crew of the NGO ship.

Source: MSF www.msf.org/italian-authorities-punish-geo-barents-rescue-ship-two-detention-orders
Sea-Watch www.sea-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Sea-Watch-Quarterly-Factsheet.pdf

A rescue operation by the NGO ship *Geo Barents* was interrupted by the Libyan militia Stability Support Apparatus, leading to people falling into the water

Location: international waters

Date of the incident: 10 July 2024

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: Libyan Stability Support Apparatus⁵ patrol boat *Al Qyaid Saqar*

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Summary: During an ongoing rescue operation by the NGO vessel *Geo Barents*, the patrol boat *Al Qyaid Saqar* from the Libyan Stability Support Apparatus undertook dangerous maneuvers close to the boat in distress, causing panic on board. At least 6 persons jumped into the water. Despite the life threatening situation created by the patrol boat, the NGO ship was still able to recover all people from the water and successfully conclude the rescue operation.

Source: Sea-Watch www.x.com/seawatch_intl/status/1811460663325184316, www.sea-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Sea-Watch-Quarterly-Factsheet.pdf
MSF www.x.com/MSF_Sea/status/1811101993449976253

The so-called Libyan coastguard beat rescued persons with a stick during an illegal transshipment

Location: international waters

Date of the incident: 18 June 2024

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard patrol boat

Summary: On June 18, an illegal transshipment of approximately 60 people from the *Maridive Zhor 1* merchant vessel to a patrol boat of the *so-called* Libyan coastguard, was conducted, despite operational NGO vessels being in the vicinity. During the transshipment, the captain mentioned towards the crew of *Seabird*, that he and his crew would be arrested if they didn't comply with the order to transship the people. After the transshipment, a crew member of the *so-called* Libyan coastguard beat rescue persons with a stick. The people were subsequently illegally broad back to to Libya.

Source: Sea-Watch www.x.com/seawatchcrew/status/1803482811485024713; www.sea-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Sea-Watch-Airborne-Quarterly-Factsheet_April-to-June-2024.pdf

The so-called Libyan coastguard shot in the water and in the air, threatening an NGO ship during a rescue operation

Location: international waters

Date of the incident: 04 April 2024

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard patrol boat 658 *Fezzan*

Summary: During a rescue initiated by the NGO ship *Mare Jonio*, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard approached the scene at high speed, having already people on board from an earlier interception, and threatened the *Mare Jonio*'s crew to leave the boat in

distress. Members of the *so-called* Libyan coastguard vessel shot in the air and later towards the RHIBs, causing panic among the people on board of the Libyan vessel and the boat in distress, and leading to several people in the water. The crew of the *Mare Jonio* managed to retrieve all people visibly in the water and from the boat in distress, while those people still on board of the Libyan vessel were illegally brought back to Libya.

Source: Mediterranean Saving Humans <https://mediterranearescue.org/en/news/criminals-against-humanity>; www.x.com/RescueMed/status/1776164352002818247; <https://www.ilpost.it/2024/04/05/mediterranea-mare-jonio-migranti-spari-guardia-costiera-libica/>

The so-called Libyan coastguard interfered in a rescue operation of the NGO vessel by blocking the RHIBs with dangerous manoeuvres and severely endangered the people in distress

Location: international waters

Date of the incident: 16 March 2024

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: After already being on scene during a first rescue by the NGO ship *Geo Barents*, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard was closely following the RHIBs of the NGO ship during a second subsequent rescue. It then started to do dangerous manoeuvres, chasing one of the RHIBs of *Geo Barents* and trying to embark it. The *so-called* Libyan coastguard hindered the RHIBs to perform and complete the rescue operation. It positioned their boat between the NGO ship and the boat in distress and for more than 2 hours disturbed the rescue operation by trying to prevent the embarkation of all people in distress to the *Geo Barents*. Eventually, the ship's crew of *Geo Barents* managed to take all people on board.

Source: MSF www.x.com/MSF_Sea/status/1769357500992696728; Sea-Watch www.x.com/seawatch_intl/status/1769770748510380505; www.sea-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Sea-Watch-Airborne-Quarterly-Factsheet_January-to-March-2024.pdf

The so-called Libyan coastguard attempted to interrupt a rescue operation in an threatening manner

Location: international waters

Date of the incident: 07 March 2024

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: two *so-called* Libyan coastguard patrol boats

Summary: During an advanced stage of an ongoing rescue opera-

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tion by *Sea-Eye 4*, two vessels of the *so-called* Libyan coastguard appeared on scene and ordered *Sea-Eye* to cancel the operation. The *so-called* Libyan coastguard aimed weapons at the crew of the ship. The crew of *Sea-Eye* managed to deescalate and complete the rescue operation.

Source: Sea-Eye www.x.com/seaeyeorg/status/1765813174106816581; www.sea-eye.org/en/italy-escalates-sanctions-against-rescue-ship-sea-eye-4/

Several dangerous interference by the so-called Libyan coastguard while NGO vessel *Humanity 1* was on scene, leaving at least one person missing

Location: international waters

Date of the incident: 02 March 2024

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: When the NGO vessel *Humanity 1* arrived on scene of a boat in distress with around 50 people on board, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard was already with the boat in distress. *Humanity 1* offered its ability to rescue and assist the people in distress in accordance with international law but the *so-called* Libyan coastguard started an attempt to take the people from the boat in distress on board their vessel, leading to people in the water. The *so-called* Libyan coastguard ordered *Humanity 1* to proceed north and threatened to shoot them with a gun if they would not leave with full speed. *Humanity 1* therefore had to leave the scene.

Later that afternoon, *Humanity 1* was close to three boats in distress at the same time. Shortly after *Humanity 1* had launched its RHIBs, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard arrived on the scene ordering *Humanity 1* to proceed north and threatening again to shoot if *Humanity 1* would not comply. *Humanity 1* repeated several times that they were in the middle of a rescue operation and that they would comply once the rescue was completed. The *so-called* Libyan coastguard also deployed a RHIB and approached the boat in distress and the rescue boats of *Humanity 1* in a dangerous maneuver. At least one officer boarded the distress vessel and directed it towards the patrol boat. This caused panic and several persons fell or jumped into the water. The *so-called* Libyan coastguard then fired shots in the water, close to the people in the water. The people in the water were partly recovered by the Libyan patrol boat and partly by *Humanity 1*. From two of the distress cases people were therefore partly intercepted by *so-called* Libyan coastguard and partly rescued by *Humanity 1*. At

least one person was reported missing and probably drowned.

Source: SOS Humanity www.x.com/soshumanity_en/status/1764369643492257957;
Sea-Watch www.x.com/seawatch_intl/status/1764305838246625295; www.sea-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Sea-Watch-Airborne-Quarterly-Factsheet-January-to-March-2024.pdf

The so-called Libyan coastguard aggressively ordered the NGO ship *Ocean Viking* to leave scene

Location: international waters

Date of the incident: 06 February 2024

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: so-called Libyan coastguard

Summary: While the NGO vessel *Ocean Viking* was preparing to assist one boat in distress, a ship of the so-called Libyan coastguard aggressively ordered the ship to leave the scene. Having had previous experience with violent encounters with the so-called Libyan coastguard, the NGO vessel followed the instructions and began to leave the scene.

Source: SOS Mediterranee www.sosmediterranee.it/2024/02/10/comunicato-stampa-le-bugie-della-guardia-costiera-libica-costano-il-terzo-fermo-amministrativo-alla-ocean-viking/

The so-called Libyan coastguard intimidated and conducted dangerous maneuvers around the NGO ship *Humanity 1*

Location: international waters, Libyan SAR zone

Date of the incident: 31 January 2024

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: so-called Libyan coastguard

Summary: A so-called Libyan coastguard patrol boat set off at full speed on a collision course with the NGO ship *Humanity 1*, crossed its bow, and then circled her for minutes at a distance of less than 50 meters.

Source: SOS Humanity www.x.com/soshumanity_en/status/1752714665329602927

2023

The so-called Libyan coastguard shot at an empty boat after an interception

Location: international waters, Libyan SAR zone

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Date of the incident: 25 December 2023

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: After an interception in the Libyan SAR zone, a *so-called* Libyan coastguard patrol boat shot at an empty boat, as witnessed by Sea-Watch's aircraft *Seabird 1*.

Source: Sea-Watch www.x.com/seawatch_intl/status/1739949733399892203

Dangerous maneuvers by the so-called Libyan coastguard, with people jumping in the water and one person going missing

Location: international waters

Date of the incident: 24 October 2023

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: The *so-called* Libyan coastguard harassed a boat in distress, persons escaped and jumped or fell in the water. The NGO ship *Sea-Eye 4*, that was present, managed to rescue some of the people. However, some persons went missing.

Source: Sea-Eye www.x.com/seaeyeorg/status/1718299832002003420; www.sea-eye.org/bericht-von-bord-erschuetternde-geschehnisse-auf-der-letzten-rettungsmission/

Dangerous interception by the so-called Libyan coastguard

Location: international waters, in the Libyan SAR zone

Date of the incident: 29 September 2023

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard *Fezzan*

Summary: As witnessed by the NGO aircraft *Seabird*, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard patrol boat *Fezzan* launched a RHIB and drove it into the boat in distress, despite calls from the aircrew to stop this dangerous behavior. The boat in distress eventually deflated, leaving all of the people in the water. Given the severity of the situation, *Seabird's* crew sent out several mayday relays. The *Fezzan* intercepted all persons in distress and pulled them back to Libya.

Source: Sea-Watch www.sea-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/09-Airborne_Monthly_Factsheet_September.pdf; www.x.com/seawatch_intl/status/1707803433145680293
ANSA www.ansa.it/ansamed/it/notizie/rubriche/cronaca/2023/09/29/ong-guardia-costiera-libica-sperona-e-affonda-barcone_19fae213-32f3-40ac-a1d6-325d70557f3d.html;

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The so-called Libyan coastguard engaged in dangerous maneuvers closed to a boat in distress

Location: international waters, in the Libyan SAR zone

Date of the incident: 26 August 2023

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: Libyan coastguard patrol boat 658

Summary: The *so-called* Libyan coastguard engaged in dangerous maneuvers with a RHIB close to a boat in distress in international waters. This was witnessed by NGO aircraft *Seabird 2*. The *so-called* Libyan coastguard eventually boarded the boat in distress and directed it to the patrol boat, in order to complete the interception and pullback to Libya.

Source: Sea-Watch https://x.com/seawatch_intl/status/1696564775185011000

The so-called Libyan coastguard intimidated the NGO vessel *Geo Barents* during a rescue operation

Location: international waters

Date of the incident: 17 August 2023

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard patrol boat 662

Summary: During a rescue carried out by the NGO vessel *Geo Barents*, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard approached the rescue vessel and tried to intimidate it into leaving the area. The vessel used by the *so-called* Libyan coastguard bore the number 662 and was donated by Italy. Following the initial encounter, the Libyan coastguard re-approached the *Geo Barents* and trailed the vessel. This created panic amongst the rescued people.

Source: MSF www.x.com/MSF_Sea/status/1692127365495681241?s=20

***So-called* Libyan coastguard threatened the NGO vessel *Open Arms* and told them to leave**

Location: international waters

Date of the incident: 02 August 2023

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: When the NGO vessel *Open Arms* arrived to a boat in distress, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard set fire to an empty boat and threatened the *Open Arms* to leave the area.

Source: Open Arms www.x.com/openarms_found/status/1686770201033895937

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The so-called Libyan coastguard shot at and boarded an Italian fishing vessel, stealing personal belongings of the crew

Location: international waters

Date of the incident: 18 July 2023

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: According to media reports, an Italian fishing boat was attacked with machine gun fire by a vessel of the *so-called* Libyan coastguard, some 94 miles north of the Libyan city of Misrata. After firing, people from the *so-called* Libyan coastguard vessel boarded the fishing vessel and took the SIM cards of the fisherman. The ship's rubber was damaged, leaving the boat adrift, and the captain suffered a shock reaction and required medical attention. The attacking vessel was probably donated to the Libyan actors by Italy.

Sources: Reuters www.reuters.com/world/europe/italian-fishing-boat-attacked-by-libyan-coastguard-ship-owners-group-2023-07-18/,
Sergio Scandura www.x.com/scandura/status/1681261799566352384?s=20;
Itamilradar www.itamilradar.com/2023/07/18/italian-fishing-vessel-attacked-by-the-libyan-coast-guard/;
Il Manifesto www.ilmanifesto.it/assaltati-dai-libici-sotto-shock-i-pescatori-siciliani

Shooting against NGO vessel during a rescue operation

Location: international waters

Date of Incident: 07 July 2023

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: During a rescue operation conducted by the NGO vessel *Ocean Viking*, a vessel of the *so-called* Libyan coastguard arrived at high speed and started to fire multiple shots at close range. The gunshots were fired less than 100 meters from the RHIB with the rescue crew and the shipwrecked persons, as they were trying to reach the mother ship *Ocean Viking*.

Source: SOS Mediterranee www.sosmediterranee.org/sos-mediterranee-and-ifrc-call-upon-all-governments-to-ensure-humanitarians-can-provide-lifesaving-support-at-sea-without-risking-their-lives/

Gunshots against NGO vessel and people in distress by the so-called Libyan coastguard

Location: international waters

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Date of Incident: 25 March 2023

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: During a rescue conducted by the NGO ship *Ocean Viking*, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard patrol vessel 656 dangerously approached the *Ocean Viking*. All attempts by the bridge's team to contact the *so-called* Libyan coastguard via VHF went unanswered while the crew of the patrol vessel started behaving aggressively, threatening with guns and firing gunshots in the air in direction of the NGO vessel. Since its crew was under threat, the *Ocean Viking* was forced to sail away from the scene, while the *so-called* Libyan coastguard continued to fire shots. The civil reconnaissance aircraft *Seabird 2*, operated by the NGO Sea-Watch, witnessed and documented the incident. After the NGO vessel left the scene, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard continued shooting into the water in the direction of the people in distress. Due to the gunshots and the dangerous maneuver by the *so-called* Libyan coastguard, people fallen overboard. After recovering those in the water, approximately 80 people were eventually intercepted by the *so-called* Libyan coastguard and forcibly returned to Libya.

Sources: Sea-Watch www.twitter.com/SeaWatchItaly/status/1639701516259868673; www.twitter.com/SeaWatchItaly/status/1640346052317397006; SOS Mediterranee www.twitter.com/SOSMedIntl/status/1639625387519950848; <https://www.sosmediterranee.org/sos-mediterranee-condemns-libyan-coastguard-firing-gun-shots-deliberately-endangering-crew-and-persons-in-distress-in-the-mediterranean/>

A boat was chased and shoot at by a Libyan flagged vessel in the Maltese SRR

Location: international waters, in the Maltese SAR zone

Date of the incident: 18 March 2023

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: Libyan flagged vessel

Summary: A boat with 110 persons left from Lebanon. Once in the Maltese SAR zone, they were chased and shot at by a Libyan flagged vessel. They unsuccessfully tried to reach the Greek SAR zone. Relatives later reported that they were intercepted and brought to Libya.

Source: Alarm Phone www.x.com/alarm_phone/status/1692531350354407697?s=20; www.orient-news.net/ar/news_show/205157; www.alarmphone.org/en/2023/08/20/110-people-escaping-lebanon-abducted-to-libya/?post_type=release_type=post

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The so-called Libyan coastguard intervened during a rescue operation and posed severe risks to NGO teams and the survivors with dangerous maneuvers

Location: international waters

Date of Incident: 25 January 2023

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliation: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: During an ongoing rescue operation conducted by the NGO ship *Ocean Viking*, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard interfered and prevented the RHIB from returning to the mothership for a while.

Sources: SOS Mediterranee www.x.com/SOSMedIntl/status/1618324728179232768?s=20

2022

So-called Libyan coastguard threatened NGO aircraft with use of SAM missiles in international water

Location: international waters, Maltese SAR zone

Date of Incident: 25 October 2022

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: The NGO aircraft *Seabird* was on scene of a boat in distress, when the *so-called* Libyan coastguard arrived. They told the aircraft to “get out of Libyan territorial”. When they were reminded that they were in European SAR area, not the Libyan territorial waters, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard replied “leave territorial otherwise we’ll shoot you”, “get away from Libyan territorial otherwise we’ll shoot you by SAM missiles”. The people on board of the distress case were intercepted and forcibly returned to Libya.

Sources: Sea-Watch www.twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1585254002404753414;

AP News www.apnews.com/article/europe-middle-east-business-migration-spain-7ec98bcc3c49bae1eb6290c3049ef4f1

Gunshots against an Italian fishing boat by the so-called Libyan coastguard

Location: international waters

Date of Incident: 02 June 2022

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: After being hit by shots fired from a patrol vessel of the *so-called* Libyan coastguard, the Italian fishing vessel *Salvatore*

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Mercurio needed support by the Italian navy. A team of marines was transferred by helicopter to the fishing boat, to secure it. The incident happened off the eastern Libyan coast, inside international waters.

Sources: Itamirradar www.itamirradar.com/2022/06/03/its-grecale-brought-aid-to-an-italian-fishing-boat-off-libya/

Gunshots against people in the water during interception

Location: international waters

Date of Incident: 19 January 2022

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: When the NGO vessel *Louise Michel* arrived on the scene of an interception of a rubber boat by the *so-called* Libyan coastguard, the crew witnessed members of the *so-called* Libyan coastguard shooting at people who had jumped into the waters to escape the pushback. It remains unclear if people went missing.

Sources: Louise Michel www.twitter.com/MV Louise Michel/status/1483861110470107140

2021

Gunfire and dangerous maneuvers by the so-called Libyan coastguard in the Maltese SAR zone

Location: international waters, Maltese SAR zone

Date of Incident: 24 November 2021

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: The initiative *Watch the Med – Alarm Phone*, contacted by the people on board of a boat in distress in the Maltese SAR zone, reported the *so-called* Libyan coastguard been on scene chasing and shooting towards the boat. The *so-called* Libyan coastguard intercepted the boat and forcibly returned the people on board of the distress case back to Libya.

Sources: Alarm Phone www.twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/1463532081393324034

Threats of use of force against NGO crew by the Libyan Navy in the Libyan SAR zone

Location: international waters, Libyan SAR zone

Date of Incident: 18 November 2021

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: Libyan Navy

Summary: The Libyan patrol boat 634 *Al Sadada* approached the

Sea-Watch 4 while the NGO vessel was sailing in international waters, about 40 NM off the Libyan coast. *Sea-Watch 4* had 120 persons, rescued in two different operations a few hours before, and the 29 members of the crew on board of the *Sea-Watch 4*, while the Libyan officers, who identify themselves as the Libyan Navy, threatened the captain to “open fire if the engines were not turned off”. Although the captain of *Sea-Watch 4* reminded to the *so-called* Libyan coastguard that the NGO ship was sailing in international waters, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard repeated several times “to stop engine (...) otherwise we will take you back to Libya – or – you will be shot”. Furthermore they threatened to arrest the crew if the ship would not change course.

In the mean time, in order to intimidate *Sea-Watch 4*'s crew, the Libyan vessel 634 *Al Sadada* arrived less than 20 meters away from the NGO vessel activating a loud siren. Some of the Libyan officers on board of the patrolling boat were wearing uniforms, one of them was standing next to the ship's machine guns installed on the bow, others were taking picture or recording the scene with their mobile phones. The Libyan vessel eventually deactivated the siren and slowly moved away. They remained in the proximity of *Sea-Watch 4* and then left the scene half an hour later.

Sources: Sea-Watch www.twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1461436158639067148?s=20; www.twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1461725636528164873?s=20

Threats of use of force against NGO crew by the so-called Libyan coastguard in the Libyan SAR zone

Location: international waters, Libyan SAR zone

Date of Incident: 27 July 2021

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: While *Sea-Watch 3* was sailing about 27 nautical miles off the Libyan coast in international waters, the captain was reached on the on-board satellite phone by the *so-called* Libyan coastguard. The *so-called* Libyan coastguard threatened to send patrol boats to arrest the *Sea-Watch 3*'s crew if the NGO vessel had not left the area defined in the communication as "Libyan economic waters". Furthermore, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard said that they were ready to use "any means" if *Sea-Watch 3* did not comply with their demands. In one of the two calls, the Libyan military made direct reference to Article 19

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UNCLOS, accusing *Sea-Watch 3* of violating international laws and representing a threat to the Libyan state. *Sea-Watch 3* continued patrolling the international waters in front of the Libyan coast and did not receive any further communication from the Libyan MRCC. In order to ensure the safety of the crew and to denounce what happened, Sea-Watch provided all relevant details to the relevant German authorities.

Sources: Sea-Watch www.twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1420001290374074371; www.twitter.com/seawatchitaly/status/1420002316892180492?s=24

Use of violence and dangerous maneuvers by the so-called Libyan coastguard in the Maltese SAR zone

Location: international waters, Maltese SAR zone

Date of Incident: 30 June 2021

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: so-called Libyan coastguard

Summary: A fishing vessel was taking a rubber boat in distress to its side, when the Libyan patrol boat *648 Ras Jadir* headed to the scene full speed. Attempting to stop the boat in distress, the so-called Libyan coastguard fired into the water, circled the people who were trying to flee, attempted to deploy a rope to catch the boat and also attempted to ram the boat, approaching it too fast and too close. When the NGO aircraft *Seabird's* crew urged them on the radio to stop their illegal and dangerous maneuvers, the so-called Libyan coastguard replied that they "had to rescue as it is bad weather tomorrow". More than an hour after arriving on-scene, the so-called Libyan coastguard started to head south. The 63 people arrived safely and autonomously in Lampedusa, Italy.

Sources: Sea-Watch www.sea-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Airborne_Factsheet_June-2021.pdf, www.twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1410584003065884677 Times of Malta www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/watch-libyan-coastguard-open-fire-ramsboat-in-pushback-claim-off.883456

Follow up on this case – reactions at Italian and International levels:

After receiving a complaint from Sea-Watch, which contained footage and photos of the incident, the Chief Prosecutor of Agrigento decided to investigate the Libyan officials for "attempted shipwreck", and will look at whether the incident put the lives of the people in distress in danger. It is the first time a European country

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has launched an investigation against the *so-called* Libyan coastguard, who have faced numerous accusations of alleged collusion with people smugglers and of mistreating asylum seekers.

In July 2021, the Libyan Navy opened an internal investigation and wrote in a press note that their patrol boat "appears in the case of chasing an illegal immigration boat carrying migrants on board and endangering their lives, as well as those of the crew members of the patrol boat itself, as safety measures were not followed and warning shots were also used". This investigation will most probably not lead to anything and it was rather just the result of international pressure. Also the EU Commission announced the launch of an investigation related to this episode. So far, there has not been any follow up on this.

Sources: The Guardian www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/jul/05/italy-to-investigate-libyan-coastguard-for-attempted-shipwreck-of-migrant-boat
 Nikolaj Nielsen www.twitter.com/NikolajNielsen/status/1410923978366013447

Gunfire by the *so-called* Libyan coastguard against Italian fisherman boat, one injured

Date of Incident: 6 May 2021

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: An Italian fisherman has been injured by gunfire shot by the patrol boat Ubari 660, operated by the *so-called* Libyan coastguard.

Sources: Sea-Watch www.twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1390656481540837388

Dire www.dire.it/06-05-2021/630629-guardia-costiera-libica-sparaccontro-peschereccio-di-mazara-del-vallo-ferito-un-pescatore/

Use of force against persons in distress during interception by the *so-called* Libyan coastguard in international waters

Location: international waters

Date of Incident: 30 April 2021

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: While the crew of the NGO vessel *Sea-Watch 4* was preparing to launch a rescue operation, the Libyan patrol boat 658 *Fezzan* arrived and ordered *Sea-Watch 4* to leave the scene. Shortly after, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard were observed beating the

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people on the move with a bullwhip during a violent interception.

Sources: Sea-Watch www.twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1388171810315902976

The so-called Libyan coastguard intimidated an NGO in the Maltese SAR zone

Location: international waters, Maltese SAR zone

Date of Incident: 12 February 2021

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: While the RHIBs of the NGO vessel *Open Arms* were deployed to look for a boat in distress, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard intimidated the crew, especially sailing near one RHIB performing dangerous maneuvers. After twenty minutes, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard headed south. The people were in the end rescued by the NGO vessel *Open Arms*.

Sources: Sea-Watch www.twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1360232914735296514?s=20
 Open Arms www.twitter.com/openarms_found/status/1360302512079798283?s=20

2020

The so-called Libyan coastguard refused to retrieve one body, at least 15 persons drowned

Location: international waters

Date of Incident: 25 September 2020

Total number of casualties: at least 15 persons

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: On 25.09.20, *Seabird 1*'s crew overheard the merchant vessel *Cape Guinea* via radio, sheltering a distress case and informing the *so-called* Libyan coastguard that 1 person was in the water. The *so-called* Libyan coastguard ordered the vessel to leave the scene as their patrol boat was approaching. Once *Seabird 1* was on scene, the crew spotted the boat with 2 persons in the water and 1 dead body. Later they observed how the *so-called* Libyan coastguard intercepted the boat, took the 2 persons in the water on board but refused to recover the dead body. After completing the interception, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard confirmed on the radio that there were 2 other dead persons. The people were pulled-back to Libya. It was later reported that 15 persons

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drowned, when the rubber boat started to deflate.

Sources: Sea-Watch www.twitter.com/SeaWatchItaly/status/1309492977656627201?s=20, www.twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1309820827530137600?s=20
IOM www.twitter.com/IOM_Libya/status/1309778520609038337?s=20

Dead bodies on deck of patrol boats of the so-called Libyan coastguard in international waters

Location: international waters

Date of Incident: 23 August 2020

Total number of casualties: at least 5 persons

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: On 23.08.2020, *Moonbird's* crew spotted 2 *so-called* Libyan coastguard patrol boats heading towards one another in the Libyan SAR zone. At the time of the first spotting, 1 boat had approximately 5 bodies on board, lying on top of one another. We assume that they were recovered bodies from a shipwreck. When *Moonbird's* crew spotted these patrol boats again, both boats were heading to Tripoli.

Sources: Sea-Watch www.sea-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Aiborne_Monthly_Factsheet_August_2020.pdf

People intercepted shot by the so-called Libyan coastguard upon disembarkation

Location: disembarkation point of Al-Khums, Libya

Date of Incident: 23 July 2020

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: 70 persons were intercepted at sea by the *so-called* Libyan coastguard. Upon disembarkation, as some people tried to escape, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard shot them. Three Sudanese persons died, two other persons were injured.

Source: IOM www.iom.int/news/iom-deplores-killing-two-migrants-returned-sea-libya
UNHCR www.unhcr.org/news/press/2020/7/5f2021f24/unhcr-urges-investigation-following-deadly-incident-libya-disembarkation.html

Dead bodies spotted at sea, likely not retrieved during interceptions in the Libyan SAR zone in 2020

Location: international waters

Date of incident: 29 June to 21 July 2020

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

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Summary: During the June and July missions, the NGO aircraft *Moonbird* and *Seabird's* crew spotted 3 bodies. One, near a half-deflated rubber boat - likely not retrieved during an interception -, was documented on several occasions. While the authorities were alerted, there has not been any actions undertaken to retrieve these bodies in a last show of dignity.

Sources: Al Jazeera www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/7/17/eu-dignity-has-drowned-body-left-in-the-sea-despite-ngo-pleas

Sea-Watch www.sea-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2007-sea_watch_airborne-factsheet.pdf

Sea-Watch www.twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1283070535514169345?s=21

Dangerous maneuvers of the so-called Libyan coastguard endangering lives of people in distress in international waters

Location: international waters

Date of Incident: 25 June 2020

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: The NGO aircraft *Moonbird's* crew spotted a boat in distress with 70 persons onboard and witnessed dangerous maneuvers of the *so-called* Libyan coastguard in an attempted interception. The situation was extremely volatile as *Moonbird* arrived on-scene: in addition to the boat in distress, some persons were in the water and a large number of persons were already onboard the vessel of the *so-called* Libyan coastguard, presumably from previous interceptions. The *so-called* Libyan coastguard engaged in dangerous maneuvers - navigating between the persons in the water, who were not wearing any life vests and were at high risk of drowning, and the persons in the boat in distress who were attempting to escape. The people were pulled back to Libya by the *so-called* Libyan coastguard. A survivor of the incident later reached out to the initiative *Watch the Med - Alarm Phone*, speaking of 4 people who fell overboard of the rubber boat when the *so-called* Libyan coastguard patrol boat hit theirs. The person further stated that only 2 persons were recovered from the sea.

Sources: Sea-Watch www.sea-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2006-sea_watch_airborne-factsheet.pdf

Vice News www.vice.com/en/article/889dmb/libya-eu-refugees-loophole?fbclid=IwAR1Uwb_ynZddcjLvqzrnON-sOxdfG7axeo7OdllqhiJIONW29H1Q2UvRivk

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Shooting of the so-called Libyan coastguard upon disembarkation and death of one person

Location: port of Tripoli, Libya

Date of Incident: 11 January 2020

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: According to testimonies and the UNHCR, around 60 persons were pushed back to the port of Tripoli by a commercial vessel. As they refused to disembark, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard fired shots at the people, killing at least one Sudanese person. The fate of another person remains unclear.

Sources: Alarm Phone www.twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/1216042802699739136

Msehli Safa www.twitter.com/msehlisafa/status/1216011868755709954

Der Spiegel <https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/libyen-gibt-es-fuer-europa-ueberhaupt-eine-rote-linie-interview-mit-vincent-cochetel-unhcr-a-ab7c4a88-1d8e-4aef-a1c3-f49573574f80>

2019

Armed threats against NGO Vessel *Alan Kurdi* and NGO aircraft *Moonbird* by Zuwara Coastal Security in international waters

Location: international waters

Date of Incident: 26 October 2019

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: Zuwara Coastal Security

Summary: During an ongoing rescue operation by the NGO ship *Alan Kurdi*, two heavily armed Libyan patrol boats were approaching, escorting another boat with around 30 people on board. Both Libyan flagged speed boats threatened *Alan Kurdi*'s crew and interrupted and endangered the rescue operation. The NGO aircraft *Moonbird*'s crew spotted people in the water trying to reach *Alan Kurdi*'s rescue boats while the speedboats flying a Libyan flag took up position between the distress case and the *Alan Kurdi*. After threatening by radio to point weapons at the NGO asset, the Libyans fired "warning shots" into the air and water where several people had fallen in. Even though the *Alan Kurdi* was unable to maneuver because it was surrounded by the Libyan patrol boats, the crew managed to complete the rescue. In the end, the Libyans were only able to confiscate the empty dinghy and leave, while *Alan Kurdi*'s crew rescued 90 persons safely onboard.

Sources: Times Malta www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/migrant-

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rescue-ship-alan-kurdi-threatened-by-libya-coastguards.744984#_ga=2.172619683.1693275906.1611426273-862955246.1610127115
 Infomigrants, www.infomigrants.net/en/post/20569/german-migrant-rescue-boat-carrying-88-people-allowed-to-dock-in-italy
 Sea-Watch www.x.com/seawatch_intl/status/1188069822128676864
 Sea Eye www.twitter.com/seaeyeorg/status/1188174916463538177

Shooting of the so-called Libyan coastguard upon disembarkation and death of one person

Location: Abusitta Disembarkation point in Tripoli

Date of Incident: 19 September 2019

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: A Sudanese person died from a bullet wound, hours after being returned to shore by the *so-called* Libyan coastguard. This occurred at Abusitta Disembarkation point in Tripoli as many of the 103 migrants returned to shore were resisting being sent back to detention centers. IOM staff who were on the scene reported that armed men began shooting in the air when several migrants tried to run away from their guards. The person injured was struck by a bullet in the stomach. Despite receiving medical aid on the spot by an IOM doctor and then being transferred to a nearby clinic, he died two hours after admission.

Sources: IOM www.iom.int/news/iom-deplores-death-migrant-killed-thursday-upon-disembarkation-tripoli

ECRE www.ecre.org/eu-praise-of-libyan-coast-guard-out-of-touch-with-reality/

ECRE www.twitter.com/ecre/status/1176053424837799937

2018

So-called Libyan coastguard intervenes in ongoing rescue and causing panic among the people in distress, leading to many people in the water

Location: international waters

Date of Incident: 25 May 2018

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: When the *so-called* Libyan coastguard intervened in an ongoing *Sea-Watch 3* rescue operation, a large group of panicking refugees jumped from a rubber boat onto a floating rescue device and into the water. The most catastrophic consequences could

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only be avoided by a retreat of the Libyan vessel and determined action by the Sea-Watch rescue crew. But as the crew found out in a survey among the survivors, still five people went missing in the incident.

Sources: www.sea-watch.org/en/five-people-gone-missing-in-eu-supported-pull-back-attempt/

For the year 2018, only very little cases are documented, which is mainly due to the fact that in this time, Malta and Italy both declared their ports closed for NGO ships. This led to situations in which ships with rescued people on board had to wait sometimes for weeks, until they could enter port and disembark people. Combined with increased criminalisation, this led to less operational days and therefore even less possibilities to document violent incidents at sea.

2017

Use of force against persons in distress and NGO crew by the so-called Libyan coastguard in international waters/ Libyan SAR zone

Location: international waters

Date of Incident: 06 November 2017

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: When the NGO vessel *Sea-Watch 3* arrived to a boat in distress, the *so-called* Libyan coastguard tried to take over the rescue. The *so-called* Libyan coastguard beat the people on the move with a bullwhip and threatening the crew of the NGO vessel, all under the coordination of an Italian helicopter. The *so-called* Libyan coastguard continued to take people on-board their vessel while at the same time people jumped back into the water. The *Sea-Watch 3* rescued 58 persons. At least 5 people died during this operation and others were pulled back to Libya.

Sources: Sea-Watch www.sea-watch.org/en/dramatic-rescue-operation-sea-watch-3/

Forensic Architecture www.forensic-architecture.org/investigation/seawatch-vs-the-libyan-coastguard

The New-York Times www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/12/26/opinion/europe-migrant-crisis-mediterranean-libya.html

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Dangerous maneuvers by the so-called Libyan coastguard and boarding of the NGO's Mission Lifeline asset

Location: international waters

Date of Incident: 26 September 2017

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: An asset of the *so-called* Libyan coastguard approached a vessel run by the NGO Mission Lifeline through a dangerous maneuver and fired one shot, before two Libyan officials jumped on board the NGO ship and said they wanted to take those rescued back to Libya. The NGO crew explained that they could not comply with the request because they were bound by the principle of non-refoulement. The Libyan officials threatened that they would sink the ship the next time they found it in "their waters".

Sources: Reuters www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-libya-ngo-idUSKCN1C12I4

Amnesty International www.refworld.org/docid/5a2fa1cb4.html

Open Arms' ship seized for two hours by the so-called Libyan coastguard

Location: international waters

Date of Incident: 15 August 2017

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: The NGO vessel *Golfo Azzurro* was seized for two hours by the *so-called* Libyan coastguard 20 miles from Libya, in international waters and forced, at gunpoint, to head into Libyan waters.

Sources: Open Arms www.twitter.com/openarms_fund/status/897496658295963648

Vita www.vita.it/it/article/2017/11/08/mediterraneo-tutti-gli-attacchi-della-guardia-costiera-libica-alle-ong/145042/

The so-called Libyan coastguard fired warning shots at the Open Arms vessel

Location: international waters, 13.5 nautical miles off the Libyan coast

Date of Incident: 07 August 2017

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: The Libyan navy fired two shots in the air, after the *Open Arms* asset was seen near Libyan waters on Monday. The crew on board of the *Open Arms* vessel saw the *so-called* Libyan coastguard asset approaching. They shot in the air in direction of

the NGO's vessel. In a statement, the Libyan navy said the *Open Arms* rescue boat was within the remit of the *so-called* Libyan coastguard's search and rescue operation and asked the boat to leave. When it didn't, they continued firing into the air. The *so-called* Libyan coastguard said the *Open Arms* ship had been "wishing for a precious trophy of illegal immigrants".

Sources: The intercept www.theintercept.com/2017/11/25/libya-coast-guard-europe-refugees/
 CNN www.edition.cnn.com/2017/08/08/europe/libya-italy-mediterranean-migrant-crisis/index.html

The so-called Libyan coastguard fired towards the Italian coast-guard asset CP 288

Location: international waters, 13 nautical miles off the Libyan coast

Date of Incident: 26 May 2017

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: An Italian patrol boat CP 288 of the Italian coastguard was subjected to several gunfires from a similar vessel of the *so-called* Libyan coastguard. The Libyan patrol boat, after ordering the Italian vessel to stop by radio, fired a warning shot into the left stern of the Italian patrol boat, which managed to get away. Afterwards, the General Command of the Harbour Offices (Mari-cogecap) received a call of apologies from the Libyan authorities which admitted that the Libyan military mistook the Italian vessel for a boat carrying potential persons in distress.

Sources: Avvenire www.avvenire.it/attualita/pagine/guardia-costiera-libica-spara-contro-vedetta-italiana
 GrNet www.grnet.it/difesa/marina/15-difesa-unita-navale-libica-spara-contro-motovedetta-della-guardia-costiera-italiana-nessun-ferito/
 Human Rights Watch www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/19/eu-shifting-rescue-libya-risks-lives

Shooting of the so-called Libyan coastguard during a rescue operation undertaken by the team of the NGO vessel *Aquarius*

Location: 12 Nautical Miles off the coast of Sabratha

Date of Incident: 23 May 2017

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: While the NGO vessel *Aquarius* was rescuing two out of nine vessels in distress, the fast boat *Tileel 267* from the *so-called* Libyan coastguard approached the scene at high speed

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issuing warning shots into the water and in the air. The crew of the *Aquarius* had already distributed life vests to one of the dinghy and evacuated 20 people from it. While the rescue team was assisting the second boat that was in a more critical situation, two Libyan officers jumped in the first dinghy at gunpoint and took all valuables from the persons still onboard, such as money and mobile phones, and shot in the air. The panic caused more than 60 people to jump into the water. Because the life vests had been distributed prior to this incident, nobody drowned. The *so-called* Libyan coastguard boarded another boat and took all the persons onboard back to Libya. The intention would have been the same for the dinghy on which the two officers had boarded but, after they had fired their shots into the air, there were only 38 people left on board.

Sources: Sarobmed www.sarobmed.org/incident/sos-mediterranee-msf-23-05-2017/

MSF www.msf.org/msf-accuses-libyan-coastguard-endangering-people%E2%80%99s-lives-during-mediterranean-rescue

Vita www.vita.it/it/article/2017/05/25/giorgia-linardi-msf-cosi-i-libici-aprono-il-fuoco-in-mare/143522/

Dangerous maneuvers and interception by the *so-called* Libyan coastguard in international waters during rescue operation by the NGO *Sea-Watch*

Location: international waters

Date of Incident: 10 May 2017

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: While the NGO vessel *Sea Watch 2* started to send a RHIB to distribute life jackets to a boat in distress, a Libyan-flagged boat arrived at full speed, cutting off *Sea-Watch 2*. The Libyan boat headed towards the overloaded wooden distress vessel. The captain of *Sea-Watch 2* tried several times to contact the Libyan vessel, but received no reply. The crew of the *Sea-Watch 2* was informed by the IMRCC that the *so-called* Libyan coastguard would have run the operation.

Sources: Vita www.vita.it/it/article/2017/05/16/cosi-la-libia-ha-trasformato-un-salvataggio-in-una-deportazione/143383/;
www.vita.it/it/article/2017/05/23/amnesty-litalia-aiuta-la-libia-ad-intercettare-i-migranti-in-mare/143488/

Human Rights Watch www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/19/eu-shifting-rescue-libya-risks-lives

Sea-Watch www.x.com/seawatchcrew/status/862372863755644928;

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www.sea-watch.org/sea-watch-fordert-unabhaengige-untersuchung-der-illegalen-rueckfuehrung-eines-vollbesetzten-holzbootes/

2016

Violent behavior against NGO crew and people at sea by the so-called Libyan coastguard in international waters

Location: International waters, 14,5 nautical miles from the Libyan coast

Date of Incident: 21 October 2016

Total number of casualties: at least 4 persons (most probably 15-25 more victims)

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: During an ongoing rescue mission of a rubber boat with around 150 people on board by the NGO vessel *Sea-Watch 2*, a vessel of the *so-called* Libyan coastguard arrived and boarded the boat in distress. They hit the people on board with sticks and kept the Sea-Watch's crew from distributing life jackets and continuing in the process of support. The violent behaviour of the assumed Libyan coastguard caused a mass panic; all of the 150 passengers fell into the water and a two-digit number drowned. The Sea-Watch's crew was able to salvage four dead people. Four unconscious people were medically treated on our ship. 120 people could be rescued to the *Sea-Watch 2* ship. The approach of the *so-called* Libyan coastguard led to the death of many persons.

Sources: Sea-Watch www.sea-watch.org/en/sea-watch-is-pressing-charges-against-libyan-coast-guard/

NGO vessel *Bourbon Argos* was shot at (causing holes in the ship) by Libyan militias in international waters

Location: international waters

Date of Incident: 17 August 2016

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: *so-called* Libyan coastguard

Summary: The NGO vessel *Bourbon Argos* was approached and attacked by a group of armed men onboard an unidentified speedboat. After having spotted the boat, given the lack of clear identification and communication or any radio answer from the speedboat while approaching the *Bourbon Argos*, the crew took the precautionary measure to move to the designated safe area inside the vessel. There were no rescued people onboard at that time. The

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attack began when armed men on board the speedboat fired shots toward the *Bourbon Argos* from a distance of 400 to 500 metres and then boarded the vessel. The armed men boarded the *Bourbon Argos* and moved around, leaving after approximately 50 minutes, without stealing or removing anything. There were signs of at least 13 bullets shot at the vessel.

Sources: MSF www.msf.org/central-mediterranean-msf-condemns-attack-rescue-vessel

Sarobmed www.sarobmed.org/incident/msf-bourbon-argos-hit-in-armed-raid/

NGO vessel *Sea-Watch 2* intercepted and shot by the so-called Libyan coastguard

Location: international waters, 15 nautical miles off the Libyan coast

Date of Incident: 24 April 2016

Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations: so-called Libyan coastguard

Summary: When the NGO vessel *Sea-Watch 2* was at 15 Nautical Miles from the shore of Libya, following a call by the Italian MRCC for a boat in distress, a fast boat bearing the flag of the so-called Libyan coastguard approached the starboard side of the *Sea-Watch 2*. The Libyan asset refused to communicate on the radio, but they gestured towards the crew of the *Sea-Watch 2*, indicating that they expected them to stop the ship. Despite the fact that the crew explained that they were heading for a rescue operation, the Libyan officials demanded *Sea-Watch*'s retreat from the area and even fired deterrent shots into the air.

Sources: Sarobmed www.sarobmed.org/incident/sea-watch-shots-fired-by-the-libyan-coast-guard/; www.sarobmed.org/incident/sea-watch-interception-of-the-libyan-coast-guard/