



MEDITERRANEAN

SEA-WATCH

©Federica Mameli
parallelozero



DURING A BREAK FROM THE RESCUE
OPERATION THE CREW CHECK THE
EQUIPMENT ON BOARD THE SEA-WATCH



HARALD HOPPER - A 43-YEAR OLD MERCHANT AND ENTREPRENEUR FROM BERLIN - AFTER YET ANOTHER TRAGEDY IN THE SICILIAN CHANNEL, HAS DECIDED THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO STAND BY AND WAIT ACTIONLESS ANY LONGER.

HE ORGANIZED A FUND RAISING OPERATION BACK IN GERMANY THAT ALLOWED HIM TO BUY A BLUE FISHING BOAT WHICH HE TRANSFORMED INTO A FIRST AID AND RESCUE VESSEL - AND SET SAIL TO THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA. TOGETHER WITH SPECIALIZED VOLUNTEERS PATROL TEAM, HE STARTED TO OPERATE IN THE SUMMER OF 2015 IN THE LIBYAN TERRITORIAL WATERS TO SEARCH AND HELP MIGRANTS IN DISTRESS. THE PROJECT WAS CREATED IN RESPONSE TO INADEQUATE EU POLICIES AND HAS THE STRENGTH OF A SPONTANEOUS COLLABORATION BETWEEN PRIVATE CITIZENS WHO COMMIT THEIR TIME AND RESOURCES IN THE SEARCH AND RESCUE OF THOSE WHO, FROM LIBYA, TRY TO CROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN IN WHAT IS CONSIDERED THE MOST DANGEROUS OF THE ROUTES OF MIGRANTS AT SEA TODAY. THE LEGAL BASIS ON WHICH SEA-WATCH WORK AND OPERATES IS THE ARTICLE 98 OF THE UE CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA WHICH REQUIRES SIGNATORY STATES THE OBLIGATION TO PRODUCE ASSISTANCE TO ANYONE IN DANGEROUS CONDITIONS AT SEA.

ON AUGUST 17TH, AN UNIDENTIFIED SPEEDBOAT ATTACKED AND SHOT GUNFIRE AGAINST THE BOURBON ARGOS, ONE OF THE SHIPS THAT MSF USES TO CARRY OUT SEARCH AND RESCUE ACTIVITIES IN THE CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN SEA. THE ATTACK TOOK PLACE IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, 24 NAUTICAL MILES NORTH OF THE LIBYAN COAST: ARMED MEN CAME ON BOARD OF A SPEEDBOAT SHOOTING FROM A DISTANCE TOWARD THE BOURBON ARGOS CREW AND EVEN MADE IT ON BOARD THE SHIP. NEITHER THE CREW NOR THE MSF STAFF MEMBERS WERE INJURED. BUT RIGHT AFTER THE INCIDENT, THE BOURBON ARGOS DECIDED TO SAIL BACK TO SICILY, WHERE IT WILL REMAIN WHILE AUTHORITIES WILL ANALYZE WHAT HAS HAPPENED.

IN THE MEANWHILE AND IN THE VERY SAME WATERS - IN THE SO CALLED SAR AREA - THE SEA-WATCH RESCUE VESSEL WAS OPERATING IN SEARCH OF MIGRANTS IN DANGER. THE GERMAN BOAT HAD DECIDED AS WELL TO RETURN TO THE PORT OF MALTA TO CHECK AND IMPROVE SECURITY PROCEDURES. SO FAR - DURING 2016 ONLY - A TOTAL OF 3,176 MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES HAVE DIED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN TRYING TO REACH EUROPE BY SEA. THE MAJORITY WERE RECORDED DURING THE CROSSING TOWARD ITALY WITH 2,742 DEATHS.

SEA-WATCH LEAVES THE PORT OF MALTA,
DIRECTLY TO THE SAR SEARCH AND
RESCUE OPERATION AREA





THE CREW OF SEA-WATCH HAVE LUNCH ON THE DECK DURING THE DEBRIEFING HELD BY INGO - HEAD OF MISSION - AT THE END OF THE RESCUE OPERATION

CAPTAIN JOHN CASTLE
CHECKS THE HORIZON IN
SEARCH OF BOATS



MIGRANTS FROM AFRICA, PILED
ON A RAFT RESCUED BY THE
SEA -WATCH OFF THE LYBIAN COAST



GIORGIA LINARDI, LEGAL ADVISOR AND
MISSION COORDINATOR OF THE SEA -WATCH
DURING A MISSION OFF THE LIBYAN COAST



INGO, HEAD OF MISSION OF THE SEA
-WATCH, SUPERVISES THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE RESCUE OPERATION



RESCUE OPERATION OF A RAFT
PARTIALLY DEFLATED. SOME OF THE
MIGRANTS HAVE FALLEN INTO THE
WATER. MANY OF THEM CANNOT SWIM



MIGRANTS FROM AFRICA, PILED
ON A RAFT RESCUED BY THE SEA
-WATCH OFF THE LYBIAN COAST





MIGRANTS FROM AFRICA, PILED
ON A RAFT RESCUED BY THE SEA
-WATCH OFF THE LYBIAN COAST

SYRIAN FAMILIES REST ON THE DECK OF THE SEA-WATCH AFTER THE RESCUE. THEY TRAVELED IN 46 ON BOARD A WOODEN BOAT FLOATING IN LIBYAN WATERS ON THEIR WAY TO EUROPE





SYRIAN FAMILIES REST ON THE DECK OF THE SEA-WATCH AFTER THE RESCUE. THEY TRAVELED IN 46 ON BOARD A WOODEN BOAT FLOATING IN LIBYAN WATERS ON THEIR WAY TO EUROPE

GEORGIA LINARDI, LEGAL ADVISOR AND
MISSION COORDINATOR OF THE SEA-WATCH
DURING A MISSION OFF THE LIBYAN COAST



DIEGO, 22, THE YOUNGEST OF THE CREW
- TAKES A SHOWER ON DECK AT SUNSET



REPAIRING THE ENGINE OF THE
TENDER ON BOARD OF THE SEA-WATCH





SEA-WATCH

parallelozero

PARALLELOZERO, VIA DONATELLO 19/A, MILAN
INFO@PARALLELOZERO.COM
WWW.PARALLELOZERO.COM
+39.02.89281630