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The relatives of the migrants died at sea looking for, but it is often a hopeless struggle

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Our Service Detail Cornelia I. Toelgyes St. Helens, July 30, 2014 More than seventy-five migrants / asylum seekers have tried to reach the shores of southern Europe in the early months of this year, dilapidated and overcrowded boats. Not all make it. Second UNHCR estimates the dead would be eight hundred, but now we must add the hundred and fifty who drowned yesterday night at a hundred miles from the shores of Tripoli. Yet another disaster.



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The preparation of Africa-Express receives almost daily requests for help from family members who believe, fear that a loved one is drowned, died during the crossing. Just today, a relative of the two boys told us by phone: "I do not know where they are. They called his mother shortly before embarking June 28, 2014. Since then we have more news. They paid one thousand seven hundred dollars apiece to get from Khartoum in Libya. Then they were seized. For their liberation we paid five thousand dollars for each of them, over one thousand seven hundred dollars apiece for the crossing. Where they are, help us to understand. "

A husband and father, Japheth Isaias Andebrhan who has not heard from his wife and daughter, they had to embark on June 28, we wrote: "Help me to translate. I do not understand Italian. The e-mails that arrive by the Italian authorities or by CRI are written in Italian and google-translator is not as accurate, then do not we all have a pc available. Many have only a cell phone to communicate and is already a lot. I am now in Khartoum with my other daughter. We were supposed to join my wife and little, as soon as I had the money. "

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Last week, twenty-nine are dead on arrival, suffocated in the holds of boats for the fumes, another sixty, who tried to climb to avoid choking, have been thrown into the sea. Several have disappeared, never to be heard no more of them. They called relatives just before boarding and then nothing. Probably lie in the bottom of the sea. Difficult for family members to obtain information, to understand what really happened to their loved ones.



There is a system to identify drowned, yesterday denounced IRIN (a service of the UN, which deals with humanitarian news and analysis). Often migrants traveling without documents, other times not even inform their families of their movement so as not to create additional anxieties and concerns.

After the massacre of Lampedusa last October 3, migrants, their families and human rights organizations to put pressure on governments: it is their right to know if the spouse is deceased. When there is a body, when the son, brother, husband disappears into the sea, it is impossible to perform DNA analysis and the task to provide answers to the families is even more difficult.

coffins for babies
Simon Robins researcher at the University of York's Centre for Applied Human Rights and Iosif Kovras Queen's University, Belfast argue that it is imperative, from the point of view of the human and moral, as well as a duty from the legal point of view, to identify the bodies recovered from the guard coastal and give him a proper burial. But, there is a big but: there is no item of expenditure in the accounts of the EU accounting for the funeral of migrants / asylum seekers who died during the sea crossing. So the bodies or what is left, is buried in unmarked graves and family will never cry over the grave of your loved one.

Robins adds that it is important to try to reconstruct the generality where there is a body. Many others will never be found. Their grave will remain the eternal sea, although you could easily rebuild the wreck where it happened, who traveled in the same boat.



bodies in bodybag The International Organization for Migration (IOM) interview the survivors once you arrive in Italy. His men try to figure out who was in the same boat with them, and transmit the data to the competent authorities. Simona Moscarelli, a lawyer for Human Rights IOM Rome, reports IRIN "As soon as the family members are aware of a new wreck, contact us immediately."

Today, after more than nine months after the disaster of Lampedusa, fifty percent of the more than 350 who died has not yet been identified, although the personnel has collected the equipment required to perform the DNA test, but it lacks that of a close family member, impossible to make a comparison to determine whether the body belongs to the joint. Nameless dead. Twice dead. Whole families and desperate mothers, who continue to live with doubt, doubt that kill the body and soul.



camped Last November, the International Red Cross has organized a conference on the theme of the identification of the bodies of migrants died at sea. Missing a database for unidentified bodies, but what is worse, there is no communication between the competent national and regional authorities. Now the rules have been established to standardize the collection of data of the deceased.



Even if it is of tasks to be carried out by local authorities, it is necessary to involve the EU with regard to the necessary resources.

Secure channels , just died at sea. Just nameless bodies, just desperate relatives searching for their family members, who had to leave their country to war, persecution, misery. Just add pain to pain.