



## **Episodes of Violence by the so-called Libyan Coast Guard and Libyan Coastal Security at sea**

Last Update May 2023

### **I. Submitting organization**

Sea-Watch e.V. is a civil non-profit organisation (NGO) which has conducted search and rescue operations in the Central Mediterranean Sea for over five years, documents human rights violations and reports people in distress using civil reconnaissance airplanes, *Seabird 1* and *Seabird 2*<sup>1</sup>, the previous aircraft was *Moonbird*. Currently Sea-Watch operates the fast rescue asset *Aurora*, the previous assets were *Sea-Watch 1*, *Sea-Watch 2*, *Sea-Watch 3* and *Sea-Watch 4*. The aircrafts are operated together with the Swiss non-profit organisation *Humanitarian Pilots Initiative*.

### **II. Cases**

#### **25.03.2023: Gunshots against NGO vessel and people in distress by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard***

**Location:** international waters

**Date of Incident:** 25.03.2023

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

#### **Summary:**

On 25.03.2023, the initiative *Watch the Med – Alarm Phone* repeatedly informed the authorities and NGOs about a boat in distress in the Libyan SAR zone. The NGO vessel *Ocean Viking*, operated by *SOS Méditerranée*, proceeded towards the distress case. Once on scene, the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* patrol vessel 656 dangerously approached the *Ocean Viking*. All attempts by the bridge's team to contact the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* 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 Coast Guard* continued to fire shots. The civil reconnaissance aircraft *Seabird 2*, operated by the NGO *Sea Watch*, witnessed and documented the incident. After that the NGO vessel left the scene, the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* continued shooting into the water in the direction of the people in distress. Due to the gunshots and the dangerous manoeuvre by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* to stop the rubber boat, people fallen overboard. *Airborne's* ground crew repeatedly called *RCC Malta* and *MRCC Rome* to inform of the dangerous behavior of the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard*, but the European authorities did not intervene to avoid the illegal interception. Shortly after 11 am, after recovering those in the water, approximately 80 people were eventually intercepted by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* and forcibly returned to Libya.

#### **Sources:**

Sea-Watch Italy(2023). 25<sup>th</sup> March. Available at <https://twitter.com/SeaWatchItaly/status/1639701516259868673>

Sea-Watch Italy (2023). 27<sup>th</sup> March. Available at <https://twitter.com/SeaWatchItaly/status/1640346052317397006>

Sos Méditerranée (2023). 25<sup>th</sup> March. Available at <https://twitter.com/SOSMedIntf/status/1639625387519950848>

Sos Méditerranée (2023). SOS MEDITERRANEE condemns Libyan coastguard firing gun shots, deliberately endangering crew and persons in distress in the Mediterranean. Available at <https://en.sosmediterranee.org/news/sos-mediterranee-condemns-libyan-coastguard-firing-gun-shots->

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1 When our aircrafts are in maintenance, Sea-Watch charters a third asset to which we give the name *Seabird 3*

[deliberately-endangering-crew-and-persons-in-distress-in-the-mediterranean/](#)

**Information on primary source:**

*Seabird 2 – Sea-Watch reconnaissance aircraft*

NGO SOS Méditerranée - Crew on board of the *Ocean Viking*

**25.10.2022: Threats of use of SAM missiles against NGO aircraft by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* in international water/ Maltese SAR zone**

**Location:** international waters

**Date of Incident:** 25.10.2022

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

**Summary:**

On 25.10.2022, the initiative *Watch the Med – Alarm Phone* repeatedly informed the authorities and NGOs about a boat in distress in the Libyan SAR zone. At noon, the *Libyan authorities* told *Airborne's* ground crew that they had deployed a so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* patrol boat one hour before to head to the position. But few hours afternoon, *Seabird 3* sighted the persons in the Maltese SAR zone. A merchant vessel was in the vicinity and after being informed by *Seabird 3*, started heading to the case. The NGO vessel *Ocean Viking* was also heading to the people, being around 40 NM away. Less than an hour later, the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* arrived on –scene and told us 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 Coast Guard* 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 have been intercepted and forcibly returned to Libya.

**Sources:**

Sea-Watch International (2022). 26<sup>th</sup> October. Available at [https://twitter.com/seawatch\\_intl/status/1585254002404753414](https://twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1585254002404753414)

AP news (October 2022). NGO: Libyan Coast Guard threatened to shoot down plane. Available at <https://apnews.com/article/europe-middle-east-business-migration-spain-7ec98bcc3c49bae1eb6290c3049ef4f1>

**Information on primary source:**

*Seabird 3 – Sea-Watch reconnaissance aircraft*

**2.06.2022: Gunshots against an Italian fishing boat by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard***

**Location:** international waters

**Date of Incident:** 2.06.2022

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

**Summary:**

On 2.06.2022, the *Italian Navy's frigate ITS “Grecale”* intervened to rescue an Italian fishing boat “*Salvatore Mercurio*” hit by shots fired by a patrol vessel of the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard*.

The intervention of the Italian unit, and probably its helicopter, drove the Libyan Authorities lookout away. A team of marines from the *San Marco brigade* was transferred by helicopter to the fishing boat to secure it. The incident happened off the eastern Libyan coast, inside international waters. The Italian fishing boat found shelter south of Crete. The *Italian Navy's frigate ITS “Grecale”* was in the area as part of the IRINI mission.

**Sources:**

Itamirradar (June 2022). ITS Grecale brought aid to an Italian fishing boat off Libya. Available at <https://www.itamirradar.com/2022/06/03/its-grecale-brought-aid-to-an-italian-fishing-boat-off-libya/>

**19.01.2021: Gunshots against people in the water during interception**

**Location:** international waters

**Date of Incident:** 19.01.2022

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

**Summary:**

On 19.01.2022, the vessel *Louise Michel*, alerted by the initiative *Watch The Med - Alarm Phone*, arrived on the scene of an interception of a rubber boat by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard*. The crew on board of the NGO vessel witnessed members of the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* shooting at people who had jumped into the waters to escape the pushback. Not clear whether there have been any victims.

**Sources:**

Louise Michel (2022). 19<sup>th</sup> January. Available at <https://twitter.com/MVLouiseMichel/status/1483861110470107140>

**24.11.2021: Gunfire and dangerous manoeuvres by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* in the**

### **Maltese SAR zone**

**Location:** international waters/Maltese Search-and-Rescue (SAR) zone

**Date of Incident:** 24.11.2021

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

#### **Summary:**

On 24.11.2021, 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 Coast Guard* been on scene chasing and shooting towards the boat. The so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* intercepted the boat and forcibly returned the people on board of the distress case back to Libya.

#### **Sources:**

Alarm Phone (2021). 24<sup>th</sup> November. Available at [https://twitter.com/alarm\\_phone/status/1463532081393324034](https://twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/1463532081393324034)

### **18.11.2021: Threats of use of force against NGO crew by the *Libyan Navy* in international waters/ Libyan SAR zone**

**Location:** international waters/Libyan Search-and-Rescue (SAR) zone

**Date of Incident:** 18.11.2021

**Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations:** *Libyan Navy*

#### **Summary:**

On 18.11.2021, at 5.30 pm, the patrolling boat 634 *Al Sadada* approached *Sea-Watch 4* while was sailing in international waters in position N 33 38,1 E 012 10,5 at about 40 NM off the Libyan coast. 120 persons, rescued in two different operations few hours before, and the 29 members of the crew were on board of the NGO vessel, 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 *Libyan Navy* that the NGO's ship was sailing in international waters, the Libyan officers repeated several time "to stop engine (...) otherwise we will take you back to Libya – or – you will be shot". Furthermore the Libyan militaries also threatened to arrest the crew if the ship had not changed the 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 NGS vessel activating a loud siren. Some of the Libyan militaries on board of the patrolling boat were wearing uniforms, one of them was standing next to the ship'd machine guns installed on the bow, others were taking picture or recording the scene with their mobile phones. At 6.25 pm, the Libyan vessel deactivated the siren and slowly moved away. They remained in the proximity of *Sea-Watch 4* and then left definitively the scene half an hour later.

#### **Sources:**

Sea-Watch International (2021). 18<sup>th</sup> November. Available at [https://twitter.com/seawatch\\_intl/status/1461436158639067148?s=20](https://twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1461436158639067148?s=20)

Sea-Watch International (2021). 19<sup>th</sup> November. Available at [https://twitter.com/seawatch\\_intl/status/1461725636528164873?s=20](https://twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1461725636528164873?s=20)

#### **Information on primary source:**

*NGO Sea-Watch - Crew on board of the Sea-Watch 4*

### **27.07.2021: Threats of use of force against NGO crew by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* in international waters/ Libyan SAR zone**

**Location:** international waters/Libyan Search-and-Rescue (SAR) zone

**Date of Incident:** 27.07.2021

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

#### **Summary:**

On 27.07.2021, at around 12 pm, while *Sea-Watch 3* was sailing about 27 nautical miles off the Libyan coast in international waters, the Capitan was reached on the on-board satellite phone by the *Libyan MRCC*. The so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* 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 Coast Guard* 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 UNCLOS, accusing *Sea-Watch 3* to violate international laws and to represent a threat to the Libyan state.

*Sea-Watch 3* continued patrolling the international waters in front of the Libyan coasts 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 flag state authorities and to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who referred the case to the German embassy in Tripoli requesting clarification

**Sources:**

Sea-Watch International (2021). 27<sup>th</sup> July. Available at [https://twitter.com/seawatch\\_intl/status/1420001290374074371](https://twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1420001290374074371)  
Sea-Watch Italy (2021). 27<sup>th</sup> July. Available at <https://twitter.com/seawatchitaly/status/1420002316892180492?s=24>

**Information on primary source:**

*NGO Sea-Watch - Crew on board of the Sea-Watch 3*

**30.06.2021: Use of violence and dangerous manoeuvres by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* in the Maltese SAR zone.**

**Location:** international waters/Maltese Search-and-Rescue (SAR) zone

**Date of Incident:** 30.06.2021

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

**Summary:**

On 30.06.2021, *Seabird 1*'s crew overheard a communication on the radio about a position of people in distress. When *Seabird 1* arrived in the area, the Libyan patrol boat 648 *Ras Jadir* was heading at full speed towards the scene. There was a fishing vessel taking the rubber boat to its side. The Maltese authorities were informed on the phone and said that they were "investigating the case", but hung up when the ground crew reminded them about the illegality of a potential pushback. Meanwhile, the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* patrol boat was on-scene. Attempting to stop the boat, the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* 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 *Seabird 1*'s crew urged them on the radio to stop their illegal and dangerous manoeuvres, the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* replied that they "had to rescue as it is bad weather tomorrow". More than an hour after arriving on-scene, the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* started to head south. The 63 people arrived safely and autonomously in Lampedusa, Italy.

**Sources:**

Sea-Watch (2021). Airborne Monthly Factsheet - June 2021. Available at [https://sea-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Airborne\\_Factsheet\\_June-2021.pdf](https://sea-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Airborne_Factsheet_June-2021.pdf)  
Sea-Watch International (2021). 30<sup>th</sup> June. Available at [https://twitter.com/seawatch\\_intl/status/1410271976216748035](https://twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1410271976216748035)  
Sea-Watch International (2021). 1<sup>st</sup> July. Available at [https://twitter.com/seawatch\\_intl/status/1410584003065884677](https://twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1410584003065884677)  
Times of Malta (July 2021). Watch: Libyan coastguard opens fire, rams boat, in pushback claim off Malta. Available at <https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/watch-libyan-coastguard-open-fire-ramsboat-in-pushback-claim-off.883456>  
Aljazeera (July 2021). Caught on camera: Libyan coastguard shoots at migrant boat. Available at <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/1/caught-on-camera-libyan-coast-guard-shoots-at-migrantboat>

**Information on primary source:**

*Seabird 1 – Sea-Watch reconnaissance aircraft*

**Regarding the violent attempted interception – 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 migrants in danger. It is the first time a European country has launched an investigation against the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard*, who have faced numerous accusations of alleged collusion with people smugglers and of mistreating asylum seekers. On 1.07.2021, 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. It is unsure whether this statement will be followed up.

**Sources:**

The Guardian (July 2021). Italy to investigate Libyan coastguard's 'attempted shipwreck' of migrant boat. Available at <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/jul/05/italy-to-investigatelibyan-coastguard-for-attempted-shipwreck-of-migrant-boat>  
Nikolaj Nielsen (2021). 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Available at <https://twitter.com/NikolajNielsen/status/1410923978366013447>

**6.05.2021: Gunfire by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* against Italian fisherman boat, one injured**

**Date of Incident:** 6.05.2021

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

**Summary:**

On 6.05.2021, an Italian fisherman has been injured by gunfire shot by the patrol boat *Ubari 660*, operated by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard*

**Sources:**

Sea-Watch International (2021). 7<sup>th</sup> May. Available at [https://twitter.com/seawatch\\_intl/status/1390656481540837388](https://twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1390656481540837388)  
Dire (May 2021). Guardia costiera libica spara contro peschereccio di Mazara del Vallo: ferito pescatore italiano. Available at <https://www.dire.it/06-05-2021/630629-guardia-costiera-libica-spara-contro-peschereccio-di-mazara-del-vallo-ferito-un-pescatore/>

**30.04.2021: Use of force against persons in distress during interception by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* in international waters/ Libyan SAR zone**

**Location:** international waters/Libyan Search-and-Rescue (SAR) zone – 33d32N, 012d42E

**Date of Incident:** 30.04.2021

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

**Summary:**

On 30.04.2021, at about 8 am, our crew onboard of *Sea-Watch 4* spotted a white rubber boat in Libyan SAR, about 45 nautical miles from the Libyan coast. While our crew was about to launch the rescue operation, the Libyan patrol boat 658 *Fezzan* arrived and ordered *Sea-Watch 4* to leave the scene. Shortly after, The so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* were observed beating the people on the move with a bullwhip during a violent interception

**Sources:**

Sea-Watch International (2021). 30<sup>th</sup> April. Available at [https://twitter.com/seawatch\\_intl/status/1388171810315902976](https://twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1388171810315902976)

**Information on primary source:**

NGO *Sea-Watch* - Crew on board of the *Sea-Watch 4*

**12.02.2021: the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* intimidated an NGO in the Maltese SAR zone**

**Location:** international waters/Maltese Search-and-Rescue (SAR) zone- 34d22N, 012d2E

**Date of Incident:** 12.02.2021

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

**Summary:**

The civilian aircraft *Moonbird* spotted 45 people in distress in the Maltese Search-and-Rescue (SAR) zone and informed the authorities. Two hours later, the Libyan patrol boat 658 *Fezzan* was observed in the Maltese SAR zone. The patrol boat found itself patrolling in the same area than the NGO vessel *Open Arms* which had deployed its RHIBs to look for the people in distress. *Moonbird* observed how the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* intimidated the NGO's crew, especially sailing near one RHIB performing dangerous manoeuvres. After twenty minutes, the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* headed south. The people were in the end rescued by the NGO vessel *Open Arms*.

**Sources:**

Sea-Watch International (2020). 12<sup>th</sup> February. Available at: [https://twitter.com/seawatch\\_intl/status/1360232914735296514?s=20](https://twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1360232914735296514?s=20)

Open Arms ENG (2020). 12<sup>th</sup> February. Available at: [https://twitter.com/openarms\\_found/status/1360302512079798283?s=20](https://twitter.com/openarms_found/status/1360302512079798283?s=20)

**Information on primary source:**

*Moonbird* - *Sea-Watch* reconnaissance aircraft

**10.01.2020: shooting of the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* upon disembarkation and death of one person**

**Location:** port of Tripoli, Libya

**Date of Incident:** 11.01.2020

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

**Summary:**

According to testimonies and the UNHCR, around 60 persons were brought pushed back to the port of Tripoli by a commercial vessel. As they refused to disembark, the IOM staff was asked to leave the disembarkation point, the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* shot the people, killing at least one Sudanese person. The fate of another person is still unclear.

**Sources:**

Alarm Phone (2020). 11<sup>th</sup> January. Available at: [https://twitter.com/alarm\\_phone/status/1216042802699739136](https://twitter.com/alarm_phone/status/1216042802699739136)

Msehli Safa (2020). 11<sup>th</sup> January. Available at: <https://twitter.com/msehliisafa/status/1216011868755709954>

Der Spiegel (2020). "Gibt es für Europa überhaupt eine rote Linie?". Available at: <https://www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/libyen-gibt-es-fuer-europa-ueberhaupt-eine-rote-linie-interview-mit-vincent-cochetel-unhcr-a-ab7c4a88-1d8e-4aef-a1c3-f49573574f80>

**25.06.2020: dangerous manoeuvres of the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* endangering lives of migrants in international waters**

**Location:** international waters/Libyan Search-and-Rescue (SAR) zone - 34d12N, 014d04E

**Date of Incident:** 25.06.2020

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

### Summary:

On 25.06.2020 *Moonbird's* crew spotted a boat in distress with 70 persons onboard and witnessed dangerous maneuvers of the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* 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 Coast Guard*, presumably from previous interceptions. The so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* 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. When *Moonbird* left the scene because of another ongoing case, the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* had not yet intercepted the boat in distress. The people were pulled back to Libya by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard*.

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 Coast Guard* patrol boat hit theirs. The person further stated that only 2 persons were recovered from the sea.

### Sources:

Sea-Watch, (2020). Airborne Monthly Factsheet June 2020. Available at: [https://sea-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2006-sea\\_watch\\_airborne-factsheet.pdf](https://sea-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2006-sea_watch_airborne-factsheet.pdf)

Vice News (2020). Europe Is Keeping Refugees Trapped in Libya, Where They're Tortured and Exploited. Available at: [https://www.vice.com/en/article/889dmb/libya-eu-refugees-loophole?fbclid=IwAR1Uwb\\_ynZddcJLvgzmON-sOxdfG7axeo7OdIqhiJIONW29H1Q2UvRlvk](https://www.vice.com/en/article/889dmb/libya-eu-refugees-loophole?fbclid=IwAR1Uwb_ynZddcJLvgzmON-sOxdfG7axeo7OdIqhiJIONW29H1Q2UvRlvk)

### Information on primary source:

*Moonbird* - Sea-Watch reconnaissance aircraft

### 23.07.2020: people intercepted shot by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* upon disembarkation

**Location:** disembarkation point of Al-Khums, Libya

**Date of Incident:** 23.07.2020

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

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

### Source:

IOM (2020). IOM Deplores Killing of Two Migrants Returned from Sea to Libya. Available at: <https://www.iom.int/news/iom-deplores-killing-two-migrants-returned-sea-libya>

UNHCR (2020). UNHCR urges investigation following deadly incident at Libya disembarkation point. Available at: <https://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 and date of incident:**

Libyan Search-and-Rescue (SAR) zone - 34d15N, 012d25E on 29.06.2020  
Libyan Search-and-Rescue (SAR) zone - 34d00N, 012d05E on 30.07.2020

Libyan Search-and-Rescue (SAR) zone - 34d20N, 012d18E on 2.07.2020 (same as the first one)

Libyan Search-and-Rescue (SAR) zone - 33d42N, 012d04E on 9.07.2020 (same as the first one)

Libyan Search-and-Rescue (SAR) zone - 33d37N, 012d11E on 11.07.2020 (same as the first one)

Libyan Search-and-Rescue (SAR) zone - 33d25N, 015d15E on 21.07.2020

**Total number of casualties:** 3 deceased persons

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

### Summary:

During the June and July missions, *Moonbird* and *Seabird 1's* crew spotted 3 bodies. One, near a half-deflated rubber boat - likely not retrieved during an interception -, was even documented on 4 occasions before - 29.06., 02.07., 09.07. and 11.07. Both of the other bodies were spotted on 30.06. and 21.07. The authorities were alerted but did not provide any further information. To our knowledge, no actions were taken in order to retrieve these bodies and show them a last sign of dignity. *Airborne* was not able to reconstruct from which case(s) they came.

### Sources:

Al Jazeera (2020). 'EU dignity has drowned': Body left in the sea despite NGO pleas. Available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/7/17/eu-dignity-has-drowned-body-left-in-the-sea-despite-ngo-pleas>

Sea-Watch (2020). Airborne Monthly Factsheet June 2020. Available at: [https://sea-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2006-sea\\_watch\\_airborne-factsheet.pdf](https://sea-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2006-sea_watch_airborne-factsheet.pdf)

Sea-Watch (2020). Airborne Monthly Factsheet July 2020. Available at: [https://sea-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2007-sea\\_watch\\_airborne-factsheet.pdf](https://sea-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2007-sea_watch_airborne-factsheet.pdf)

Sea-Watch Italy (2020). 30<sup>th</sup> June. Available at: <https://twitter.com/seawatchitaly/status/1277981666682605573?s=21>.

Sea-Watch (2020). 14<sup>th</sup> July. Available at: [https://twitter.com/seawatch\\_intl/status/1283070535514169345?s=21](https://twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1283070535514169345?s=21).

**Information on primary source:**

*Moonbird* and *Seabird 1* - *Sea-Watch* reconnaissance aircrafts

**23.08.2020: dead bodies on deck of patrol boats of the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* in international waters**

**Location:** international waters/ Libyan Search-and-Rescue (SAR) zone - 33d52N, 012d39E

**Date of Incident:** 23.08.2020

**Total number of casualties:** at least 5 persons

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

**Summary:**

On 23.08.2020, *Moonbird's* crew spotted 2 so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* 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 (2020). Airborne Monthly Factsheet August 2020. Available at: [https://sea-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Airborne\\_Monthly\\_Factsheet\\_August\\_2020.pdf](https://sea-watch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Airborne_Monthly_Factsheet_August_2020.pdf)

**Information on primary source:**

*Moonbird* - *Sea-Watch* reconnaissance aircraft

**25.09.2020: the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* refused to retrieve one body, at least 15 persons drowned**

**Location:** international waters/Libyan Search-and-Rescue (SAR) zone - 34d17N, 014d03E

**Date of Incident:** 25.09.2020

**Total number of casualties:** at least 15 persons

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

**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 Coast Guard* that 1 person was in the water. The so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* 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 Coast Guard* 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 Coast Guard* confirmed on the radio that there were 2 other dead persons. The people were pulled-back to Libya. 15 persons drowned.

**Sources:**

Sea-Watch Italy (2020). 25<sup>th</sup> September. Available at: <https://twitter.com/SeaWatchItaly/status/1309492977656627201?s=20>  
Sea-Watch International (2020). 26<sup>th</sup> September. Available at: [https://twitter.com/seawatch\\_intl/status/1309820827530137600?s=20](https://twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1309820827530137600?s=20)  
International Organization for Migration (2020). 26<sup>th</sup> September. Available at: [https://twitter.com/IOM\\_Libya/status/1309778520609038337?s=20](https://twitter.com/IOM_Libya/status/1309778520609038337?s=20)

**Information on primary source:**

*Seabird 1* - *Sea-Watch* reconnaissance aircraft

**26.10.2019: armed threats against NGO Vessel *Alan Kurdi* and NGO aircraft *Moonbird* by Zuwara Coastal Security in international waters**

**Location:** international waters/Libyan Search-and-Rescue zone - 33d16N, 012d01E

**Date of Incident:** 26.10.2019

**Alleged perpetrator(s) affiliations:** Libyan militias/Zuwara Coastal Security<sup>2</sup>

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2 Libya has several "law enforcements" operating at sea working under different Ministries: the (so-called) Libyan Coast Guard (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 coast guard officials. 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 respond reports directly to Libya's Tripoli-based presidential council and is not subject to EU and U.N. scrutiny.  
AP (2022). A new Libyan force emerges, accused of abusing migrants. Available at <https://apnews.com/article/middle-east-africa-libya-migration-7ec5d993bffc1dff597ccd1697a85b5d>  
The Guardian (2020). Revealed: the great European refugee scandal. Available at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/12/revealed-the-great-european-refugee-scandal>  
Infomigrants (2019). When helping hurts – Libya's controversial coast guard, Europe's go-to partner to stem migration. Available at <https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/18196/when-helping-hurts-libya-s-controversial-coast-guard-europe-s-go-to-partner-to-stem-migration>

### Summary:

On 26.10.2019 the initiative *Watch The Med - Alarm Phone* informed the authorities and the NGO vessel *Alan Kurdi*, operated by the NGO *Sea Eye*, of a rubber boat in distress in international waters off Libya. The first to arrive on the scene was the *Sea-Watch's* monitoring aircraft, *Moonbird*. While the rescue operation by *Alan Kurdi's* crew was ongoing, *Moonbird* spotted two heavily armed Libyan patrol boats approaching, escorting another boat with around 30 persons onboard. Both Libyan flagged speed boats threatened *Alan Kurdi's* crew and interrupted and endangered the rescue operation. *Moonbird* 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 manoeuvre 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. After nearly a week stranded at sea, the *Alan Kurdi* was granted with the permission to dock in Taranto, Italy.

### Sources:

Times Malta (2019). Migrant rescue ship Alan Kurdi 'threatened' by Libya militants. Available at: [https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/migrant-rescue-ship-alan-kurdi-threatened-by-libya-coastguards.744984#\\_ga=2.172619683.1693275906.1611426273-862955246.1610127115](https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/migrant-rescue-ship-alan-kurdi-threatened-by-libya-coastguards.744984#_ga=2.172619683.1693275906.1611426273-862955246.1610127115)

Infomigrants, (2019). German migrant rescue boat carrying 88 people allowed to dock in Italy. Available at:

<https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/20569/german-migrant-rescue-boat-carrying-88-people-allowed-to-dock-in-italy>

Sea-Watch International (2019). 26<sup>th</sup> October. Available at: [https://twitter.com/seawatch\\_intl/status/1188069822128676864](https://twitter.com/seawatch_intl/status/1188069822128676864)

Sea Eye (2019). 26<sup>th</sup> October. Available at: <https://twitter.com/seaeyeorg/status/1188174916463538177>

### Information on primary source:

*Moonbird* - *Sea-Watch* reconnaissance aircraft

### 19.09.2019: shooting of the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* upon disembarkation and death of one person

**Location:** Abusitta Disembarkation point in Tripoli

**Date of Incident:** 19.09.2019

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

### Summary:

On 19.09.2019, a Sudanese Migrant died from a bullet wound, hours after being returned to shore by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard*. 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 (2019). September 2019. IOM Deplores Death of Migrant, Killed Thursday upon Disembarkation in Tripoli. Available at <https://www.iom.int/news/iom-deplores-death-migrant-killed-thursday-upon-disembarkation-tripoli>

ECRE (September 2019). EU Praise of Libyan Coast Guard out of Touch with Reality. Available at <https://ecre.org/eu-praise-of-libyan-coast-guard-out-of-touch-with-reality/>

ECRE (2019). September 2019. Available at <https://twitter.com/ecre/status/1176053424837799937>

### 10.05.2017: Dangerous manoeuvres and interception by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* in international waters during rescue operation by the NGO *Sea-Watch*

**Location:** 20 nautical miles off the Libyan coast

**Date of Incident:** 10.05.2017

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

### Summary:

On 10.05.17, the *Sea-Watch 2* was alerted by the *Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre* in Rome (IMRCC) of a boat in distress. *Sea Watch* had already begun the rescue operation, sending the first dinghy to distribute the life jackets. It was at this point that 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 Coast Guard* would have run the operation.

### Sources:

Vita (2017). Così la Libia ha trasformato un salvataggio in una deportazione. Available at: <http://www.vita.it/it/article/2017/05/16/cosi-la-libia-ha-trasformato-un-salvataggio-in-una-deportazione/143383/>



Vita (2017). Amnesty: l'Italia aiuta la Libia ad intercettare i migranti in mare. Available at: <http://www.vita.it/it/article/2017/05/23/amnesty-litalia-aiuta-la-libia-ad-intercettare-i-migranti-in-mare/143488/>

Human Rights Watch (2017). EU: Shifting Rescue to Libya Risks Lives. Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/19/eu-shifting-rescue-libya-risks-lives>

### **23.05.2017: shooting of the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* 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:** 23.05.2017

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

#### **Summary:**

On 23.05.17, the *Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre* in Rome (IMRCC) alerted the *Aquarius* vessel, operated by MSF and SOS MEDITERRANEE, to the presence of 9 inflatable boats and 2 wooden boats in distress. While the *Aquarius* vessel was rescuing two of the vessels in distress, the fast boat "Tileel 267" from the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* approached the scene at high speed 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 Coast Guard* 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. According to the testimony of the crew on board the *Aquarius*, the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* asked them if they wanted to rescue the persons left on the rubber boat or if they should take them back to Libya.

#### **Sources:**

Sarobmed (2017). SOS Mediterranee/MSF: Libyan Coast Guard stole valuables of migrants. Available at: <https://sarobmed.org/incident/sos-mediterranee-msf-23-05-2017/>

Médecins Sans Frontières (2017). MSF accuses Libyan coastguard of endangering people's lives during Mediterranean rescue Available at: <https://www.msf.org/msf-accuses-libyan-coastguard-endangering-people%E2%80%99s-lives-during-mediterranean-rescue>

Vita (2017). Giorgia Linardi (MSF): Così i libici aprono il fuoco in mare Available at: <http://www.vita.it/it/article/2017/05/25/giorgia-linardi-msf-cosi-i-libici-aprono-il-fuoco-in-mare/143522/>

### **23.05.2017: the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* fired towards the Italian Coast Guard asset CP 288**

**Location:** 13 nautical miles off the Libyan coast

**Date of Incident:** 23.05.2017

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

#### **Summary:**

On 23.05.2017, off the coast of Libya, the Italian patrol boat CP 288 of the *Italian Coast Guard* was subjected to several gunfire from a similar vessel of the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard*. 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 (Maricogecap) received a call of apologies from the Libyan authorities which admitted that the Libyan military mistook the Italian vessel for a boat carrying immigrants.

#### **Sources:**

Avvenire (2017). Guardia costiera libica spara contro motovedetta italiana. Available at: <https://www.avvenire.it/attualita/pagine/guardia-costiera-libica-spara-contro-vedetta-italiana>

GrNet (2017). Difesa: unità navale libica spara contro motovedetta della Guardia Costiera italiana. Nessun ferito. Available at: <https://www.grnet.it/difesa/marina/15-difesa-unita-navale-libica-spara-contro-motovedetta-della-guardia-costiera-italiana-nessun-ferito/>

Human Rights Watch (2017). EU: Shifting Rescue to Libya Risks Lives. Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/19/eu-shifting-rescue-libya-risks-lives>

### **07.08.2017: the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* fired warning shots at the *Open Arms* vessel**

**Location:** 13.5 nautical miles off the Libyan coast

**Date of Incident:** 07.08.2017

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

#### **Summary:**

The Libyan navy fired two warning shots 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 Coast Guard* asset approaching around 0.8 miles away. 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 Coast Guard's* search and rescue operation and asked the boat to leave. When it didn't, they opened fire into the air. The so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* said the *Open Arms* ship had been "wishing for a precious trophy" of illegal immigrants.

**Sources:**

The Intercept (2017). Europe's plan to close its sea borders relies on Libyan's Coast Guard doing its dirty work, abusing migrants. Available at: <https://theintercept.com/2017/11/25/libya-coast-guard-europe-refugees/>  
CNN (2017). Libyan coast guard fires warning shots as rescue boat patrols off coast. Available at: <https://edition.cnn.com/2017/08/08/europe/libya-italy-mediterranean-migrant-crisis/index.html>

**15.08.2017: *Open Arms'* ship seized for two hours by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard***

**Location:** 20 nautical miles off the Libyan coast

**Date of Incident:** 15.08.2017

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

**Summary:**

*Golfo Azzurro*, the vessel of the Spanish NGO *Proactiva Open Arms*, was seized for two hours by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* 20 miles from Libya, in international waters and forced, at gunpoint, to head into Libyan waters.

**Sources:**

Open Arms, (2017). 15<sup>th</sup> August. Available at: [https://twitter.com/openarms\\_fund/status/897496658295963648](https://twitter.com/openarms_fund/status/897496658295963648)  
Vita (2017). Mediterraneo: tutti gli attacchi della Guardia costiera libica alle Ong. Available at: <http://www.vita.it/it/article/2017/11/08/mediterraneo-tutti-gli-attacchi-della-guardia-costiera-libica-alle-ong/145042/>

**26.09.2017: Dangerous manoeuvres by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* and boarding of the NGO's *Mission Lifeline* asset**

**Location:** 19 nautical miles off the Libyan coast

**Date of Incident:** 26.09.2017

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

**Summary:**

On 26.09.2017, an asset of the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* approached a vessel run by the NGO *Mission Lifeline* through a dangerous manoeuvre 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 (2017). Rescue ship says Libyan coast guard shot at and boarded it, seeking migrants. Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-libya-ngo-idUSKCN1C12I4>  
Amnesty International (2017). Libya's Dark Web of Collusion: Abuses Against Europe-bound Refugees and Migrants. Available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5a2fa1cb4.html>

**06.11.2017: use of force against persons in distress and NGO crew by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* in international waters/ Libyan SAR zone**

**Location:** International waters - North of Tripoli

**Date of Incident:** 06.11.2017

**Total number of casualties:** at least 5 persons

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

**Summary:**

On 06.11.2017, when *Sea-Watch's* vessel, the *Sea-Watch 3*, arrived on-scene to a boat in distress as ordered by the Italian authorities, the scLYCG tried to take over the rescue. The so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* were observed beating 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 Coast Guard* 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 (2017). Breaking: Dramatic first rescue operation for Sea-Watch 3. Available at: <https://sea-watch.org/en/dramatic-rescue-operation-sea-watch-3/>  
Forensic Architecture (2018). Sea Watch vs The Libyan Coast Guard. Available at: <https://forensic-architecture.org/investigation/seawatch-vs-the-libyan-coastguard>  
The New-York Times (2018). 'It's an Act of Murder': How Europe Outsources Suffering as Migrants Drown. Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/12/26/opinion/europe-migrant-crisis-mediterranean-libya.html>

**Information on primary source:**

NGO *Sea-Watch* - Crew on board of the *Sea-Watch 3*

**24.04.2016: NGO vessel *Sea-Watch 2* intercepted and shot by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard***

**Location:** 15 nautical miles off the Libyan coast

**Date of Incident:** 24.04.2016

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

**Summary:**

On 24.04.2016, *Sea Watch 2* received a call for the IMRCC for a rescue mission near Libyan territorial sea. When *Sea Watch's* ship was at 15 Nautical Miles from the shore of Libya a fast boat bearing the flag of the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* 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 *Sea Watch* explained that they were heading for a rescue operation, the Libyan officials demanded *Sea Watch's* retreat from the area and they even fired deterrent shots into the air.

**Sources:**

Sarobmed (2016). *Sea Watch: Shots fired by the Libyan Coast Guard*. Available at: <https://sarobmed.org/incident/sea-watch-shots-fired-by-the-libyan-coast-guard/>

Sarobmed (2016). *Sea Watch: Interception of the Libyan Coast Guard*. Available at: <https://sarobmed.org/incident/sea-watch-interception-of-the-libyan-coast-guard/>

**17.08.2016: NGO vessel *Bourbon Argos* was shot at (causing holes in the ship) by Libyan militias in international waters**

**Location:** around 24 NM north of the Libyan coast

**Date of Incident:** 17.08.2016

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

**Summary:**

On 17.08.2016, while conducting search and rescue operations off the Libyan coast, the MSF rescue vessel *Bourbon Argos* was approached and attacked by a group of armed men onboard an unidentified speedboat. The attack occurred at 9:15 am, at 24 nautical miles north of the Libyan coast. 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 MSF team took the precautionary measure to move to the designated safe area inside the vessel. Luckily there were no rescued people onboard. The 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. The damage to the ship was minimal, with signs of at least 13 bullets shot.

**Sources:**

Médecins Sans Frontières (2016). *MSF condemns attack on rescue vessel*. Available at: <https://www.msf.org/central-mediterranean-msf-condemns-attack-rescue-vessel>

Sarobmed (2016). *MSF: Bourbon Argos hit in armed raid*. Available at: <https://sarobmed.org/incident/msf-bourbon-argos-hit-in-armed-raid/>

**21.10.2016: violent behaviour against NGO crew and people at sea by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* in international waters**

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

**Date of Incident:** 21.10.2016

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

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

**Summary:**

On 21.10.2016, the crew of the *Sea-Watch 2* was involved during an attack perpetrated by the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* against a rubber boat with 150 refugees on board, of which four dead and most probably 15-25 more victims. Indeed, a boat from the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* boarded a fully occupied rubber boat at 14,5 nautical miles from the Libyan coast, during a rescue mission. They hit migrants 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 Coast Guard* 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 migrants could be rescued to the *Sea-Watch 2* ship. The approach of the so-called *Libyan Coast Guard* led to the death of many persons.

**Sources:**

Sea-Watch (2016). Sea-Watch is pressing charges against Libyan Coast Guard. Available at: <https://sea-watch.org/en/sea-watch-is-pressing-charges-against-libyan-coast-guard/>

**Information on primary source:**

*NGO Sea-Watch* - Crew on board of the *Sea-Watch 2*