

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

PUBLIC STATEMENT

AI Index: EUR 30/1253/2015

18 March 2015

Amnesty International highlights risk of further deaths of refugees and migrants at sea and urges Italy to stop violating the human rights of Roma

Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Italy

Amnesty International welcomes Italy's acceptance of numerous recommendations made during its review on refugees and migrants -- including on protection, reception conditions and unaccompanied minors -- and calls on Italy to implement these urgently. The organisation regrets Italy's rejection of recommendations to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Since the beginning of this year, over 8,900 refugees and migrants have reached Italy after a dangerous sea crossing, while about 400 have died in the attempt.

In 2014, Italian authorities rescued some 170,000 individuals through Operation Mare Nostrum, and during the interactive dialogue numerous delegations lauded this operation. Yet, shortly after the review in October 2014, Italy ended this life-saving operation. Amnesty International has repeatedly called on Italy – as well as on EU institutions and EU Member States – to ensure that a search-and-rescue operation of at least a comparable scale and mandate to Operation Mare Nostrum is urgently put in place in the central Mediterranean. Amnesty International acknowledges the efforts that the Italian authorities continue to perform to rescue people at sea, even in the absence of an ad hoc operation, but the organisation foresees avoidable tragedies if search-and-rescue efforts are not immediately stepped up.

Amnesty International also welcomes Italy's acceptance of recommendations to strengthen the protection of the human rights of Roma, including by combatting discrimination and racial segregation of Roma and by implementing the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion. Amnesty International remains deeply concerned about violations of the rights of Roma, especially continuing forced evictions, segregation in mono-ethnic camps, and discrimination in access to social housing. The organisation urges Italy to implement the recommendations it has accepted on Roma rights, in particular as regards access to adequate housing without discrimination.

Finally, the organisation regrets Italy's decades-long failure to introduce the crime of torture in accordance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to create a National Human Rights Institution based on the Paris Principles. Amnesty International welcomes Italy's acceptance of the numerous recommendations to remedy these failures and calls for their early implementation.

Background

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Italy on 18 March 2015 during its 28th session. Prior to the adoption of the review outcome, Amnesty International delivered the oral statement above. Amnesty International had earlier submitted information on the situation of human rights in Italy:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur30/006/2014/en/>

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