



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 17 April 2006
Programme No. 1005
Duration: 3'21"

LAMPEDUSA – INTERDICTION AT SEA

VIDEO

BOAT WITH PASSENGERS

RESCUED MAN ON-CAMERA

MAN WITH BABY

AUDIO

NARRATION

Passengers in this small boat struggle against the current as they make their way from Libya. Already 3 days at sea, they will most likely perish if they remain here another night. Escaping dire poverty and persecution forced them into making the journey. They hope to be granted asylum once in Europe. (21")

MAN: (In Arabic)

"We hope the Italian government will receive us and give us the possibility to have a better life." (8")

NARRATION

Tighter restrictions by the European Union on asylum and immigration add danger to the crossings. Refugees face increased difficulty on their way to Europe. Many are resorting to alternative and perilous means to find a new life. (16")

WOMEN AND CHILDREN

NARRATION

Despite other clandestine routes, thousands choose to cross by boat to Lampedusa, a tiny island 180 miles from Libya's coast. Refugees who have survived this journey say they've had no choice. Ahmed arrived one year ago. (14")

AHMED ON-CAMERA

AHMED: (In Italian)

"To save my life I made this trip. It is difficult. You can end up dying. It doesn't change anything. I made this trip to save my life." (14.5")

WALTER IRVINE, UNHCR
REPRESENTATIVE, ROME
ON-CAMERA

IRVINE:

"It is very important that the needs of asylum seekers and refugees are considered in all stages of this very difficult journey. ...away from persecution, towards security, asylum and eventually towards the construction of a new life." (17")

COAST GUARD MEETS PEOPLE

NARRATION

Among the 256 brought ashore were 36 women and 20 children. Suffering from exposure they remain traumatized. Thousands of people have died making the journey. (12")

COMMANDER MICHELE NIOSI,
LAMPEDUSA COAST GUARD
ON-CAMERA

NIOSI: (In Italian)

"There have been losses of lives. The recoveries of some bodies are surely a sign of a tragedy that has taken place, but we can't give the numbers." (11")

NARRATION

DOCTORS AT WORK

Those rescued are assisted by Médecins sans Frontières, and later transferred to a centre for review. (6")

WOMAN ON-CAMERA

WOMAN: (In Arabic)

"...thank god that we made it and thanks to the Italians for saving us....". (3")

PASSENGERS LEAVE BOAT

NARRATION

In the first half of 2005, just over 112,000 persons applied for asylum in Europe, a 30 percent reduction from 3 years ago. Europe's increased restrictions on asylum and immigration mean that many more will try to reach the continent illegally. But for those who are running from war or persecution, they are desperate to make the journey to restart their lives. (24")

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Leigh Foster for the United Nations.
