



# BIWEEKLY ANALYTICAL UPDATE Joint Operation Triton 2014

Weeks 1 & 2 (29 December 2014 - 11 January 2015)

## **Key Points**

- 165% increase in the number of arrivals over the last 4 weeks, compared to the same period of 2013/2014
- Apart from other types of vessels arriving from Turkey, so far 12 incidents have involved cargo vessels, 7 in December alone
- Libya is very active 9 boats in week 2, mainly inflatable dinghies with West-Africans on board

## General Information<sup>1</sup>

The JO Triton 2014 was launched on 1 November 2014 and is scheduled to conclude on 31 January 2015. The operational aim of the joint operation is the implementation of coordinated operational activities for the purpose of controlling and curbing irregular migration flows and other cross border crimes from Algeria, Egypt, Greece, Libya, Tunisia and Turkey towards the Pelagic Islands, Sicily and Sardinia as well as the south coast of the mainland of Italy.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Disclaimer: All the figures in this report including those in the tables and charts are based on validated incident reports of the JORA system up to the day this report was written and finalised (15 January 2015, 10:20h). Discrepancies may arise on account of incidents that are pending validation within JORA.

# 2. Statistics<sup>2</sup>

## In 2015 (1 to 11 January)

- 12 Incidents occurred related to illegal border-crossing.
- 1 310 Irregular migrants were apprehended.
  - Top five nationalities SYR (383), SEN (203), GMB (170), MLI (145) & ERI (116).
  - 0 Facilitators were arrested in 0 incidents.
  - 0 Fatalities were reported in 0 incidents.
  - 0 Incidents related to the prevention of departure.
  - 0 Irregular migrants were prevented from departure.
  - 0 Incidents related to the smuggling of goods.
  - 0 Smugglers were arrested.
  - 0 Incidents related to illegal fishing.
  - 0 Persons were arrested for illegal fishing.
  - 0 Incident related to pollution.

### Since the beginning of the operation on 1 November 2014

- 133 Incidents have occurred related to illegal border-crossing.
- 16 880 Irregular migrants have been apprehended.
  - 57 Facilitators have been arrested in 27 incidents.

    The main countries of departure have been Libya (10 219), Turkey (5 548) & Egypt (472).

    Top nationalities SYR (5 894), GMB (2 106), SEN (1 447), MLI (1 120) & NGA (948).
  - 26 Fatalities have been reported in 5 incidents.
  - ~75% Of detections have been recorded outside the operational area, ~25% inside.
  - ~84% Of incidents have been reported as SAR operations.

## During the reporting period between 29 December 2014 - 11 January 2015,

- 13 Illegal border-crossing incidents occurred.
- 2 102 Irregular migrants were apprehended.
  - 4 Facilitators were arrested in 1 incident.

    The main countries of departure were Turkey (1 152), Libya (924) and Tunisia (26).

    The main nationalities were SYR (1 054), SEN (203), GMB (170) and MLI (145).
  - 0 Fatalities were reported in 0 incidents.
- ~77% Of detections were recorded outside the operational area while ~23% occurred inside.
- ~92% Of incidents were reported as SAR operations.

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 $<sup>^2</sup>$  The statistics of non-Triton periods include the figures of Hermes and Aeneas, with regard to their operational areas. In this release the numbers of weeks 51 and 52 of 2014 might be involved or referred to, where indicated.

# 4. Overview of the period under analysis<sup>3</sup>

**Between 15 December 2014 and 11 January 2015**, 44 incidents were reported involving the apprehension of 5 427 irregular migrants. The following table comprises the figures of apprehensions over the last four weeks broken down by countries of departure:

Weeks	GRC	LBY	TUN	TUR	Total	
2014_51	3/86	5/598		2/803	10/1 487	
2014_52	1/16	17/1 786	3/36		21/1 838	
2015_01				2/1152	2/1 152	
2015_02		9/924	2/26		11/ 950	
Incident/Migrant	4/102	31/3 308	5/62	4/1 955	44/5 427	

Table 1: Apprehensions over the last four weeks by countries of departure

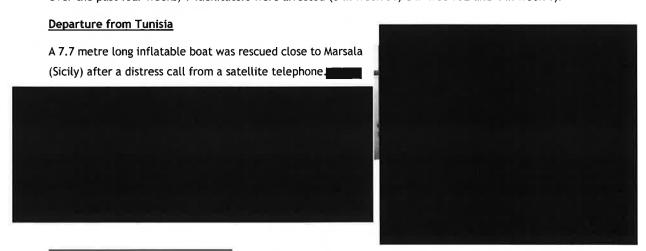
In relation to the weekly totals as illustrated in table 1, it appears that there was a stable trend in the region; however, when analysing the countries of departure, it can be established that from Libya there was a lower number of migrants departing in week 51 and no arrivals in week 1 at all; from Turkey there were 2 boats intercepted in week 51 and week 1, but no arrivals in week 52 and week 2. With regard to arrivals from Greece and Tunisia, different patterns were also observed.

Regarding the trend over these 4 weeks compared to the trend at the end of 2013/beginning of 2014, there was a 165% increase (5 427 arrivals) during this four week period compared with one year previous (2 046 arrivals). The trend from Libya in itself shows a 72% increase (one year ago there were no arrivals from Turkey in this period).

Unless the situation changes in the last departure countries, an increased flow of irregular migrants is expected when weather conditions improve.

With regard to the main nationalities detected over the past four weeks, 1 904 Syrian, 685 Gambian, 636 Senegalese and 516 Malian migrants were apprehended. 1 688 Syrians arrived from Turkey, 156 from Libya and 60 from Greece. From Turkey (besides the 1 688 Syrians) mainly Palestinians (139), Iraqis (68) and Afghans (27) arrived, whereas from Libya the main nationalities were Gambian, Senegalese and Malian (in the number mentioned above). 300 Somali and 240 Eritrean migrants also arrived from Libya.

Over the past four weeks, 9 facilitators were arrested (3 in week 51, 2 in week 52 and 4 in week 1).



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> For the purposes of this chapter the weeks 51 and 52 of the year 2014 were also taken into consideration

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## Departures from Libya

The main departure points in Libya were Tripoli (Tajoura and Qerqarish beach), Zuwara and Gasr Garabulli. The majority of the migrants were West-Africans and some from the Horn of Africa.

Of the 31 vessels only 6 were wooden; the rest (25) were inflatable dinghies (see Figure 2).

## Departures from Turkey

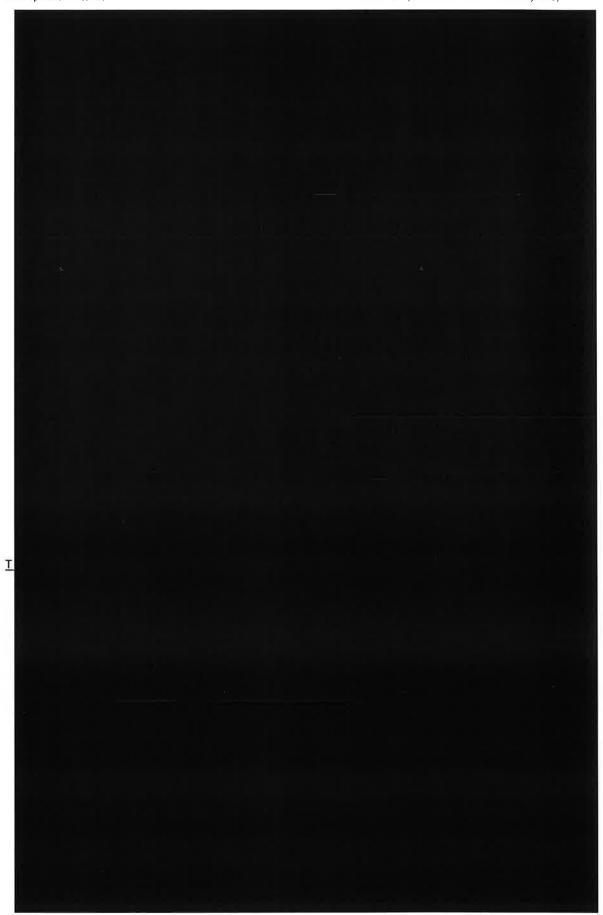
Four vessels arrived in Italy from Turkey during the four weeks to 11 January, all of them were steel cargo boats:

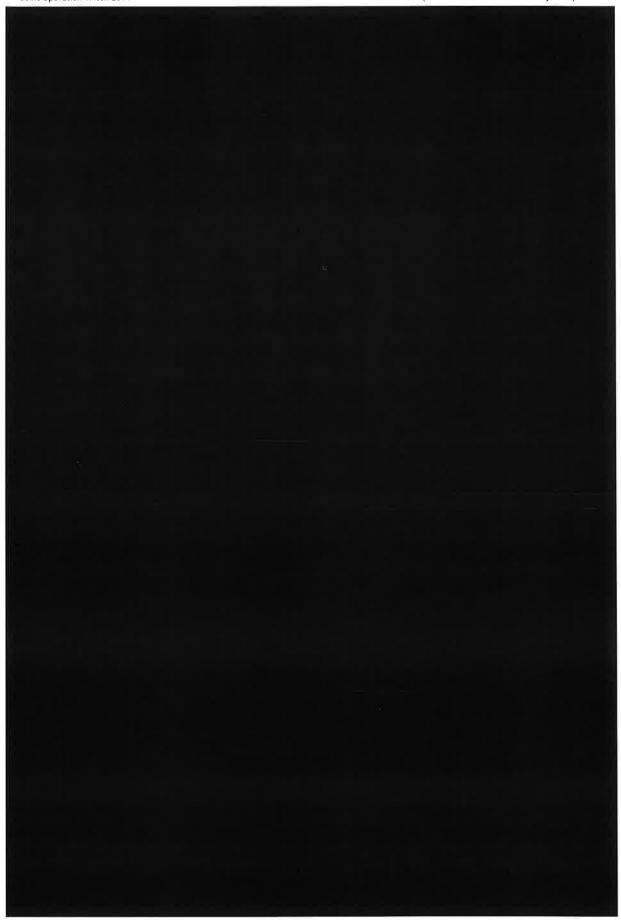


5. Findings during the period under analysis



Ref 965/2015 5/12







# 6. Updated general information about vessels from Turkey

### General information:

- In 2014, 53 vessels were intercepted near the Italian coast travelling from Turkey, transporting some 10 279 irregular migrants. This constitutes a sharp increase compared to 2013. Of this total,
  - The majority, some 7 837 migrants (76%), was reported during the period from October to December. All of them had departed from Mersin (Turkey).
  - Twelve were cargo vessels, which had primarily begun their journey from Mersin to Italy, with
     4 933 irregular migrants on board.
  - 41 were other types of vessels (fishing boats, yachts and sailing boats) involving 5 346 irregular migrants.



## Reasons for the increasing numbers from Turkey:

 During 2014, Algeria became one of the main transit countries used by Syrian nationals intending to reach Europe from the North African coast. Syrian migrants travelled by air to Algiers and by car or taxi to Libya.

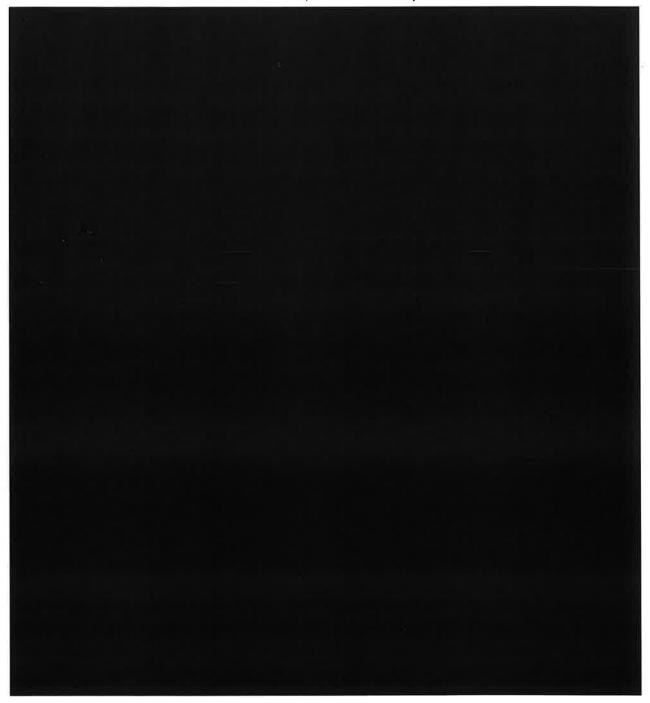


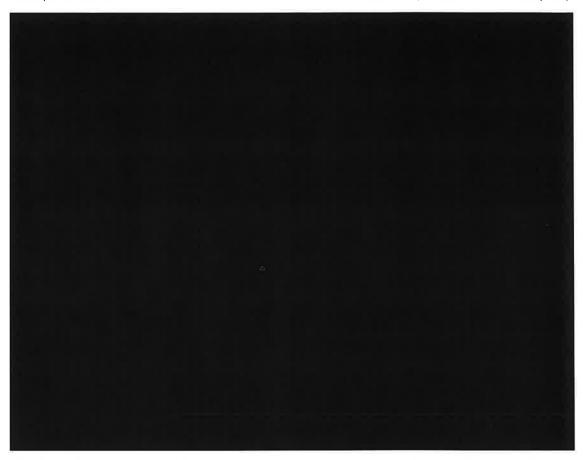
Ref 965/2015 8/12



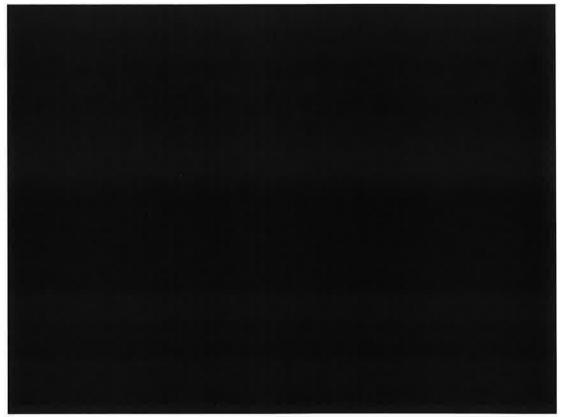
## The set-up of the trips using cargo ships:

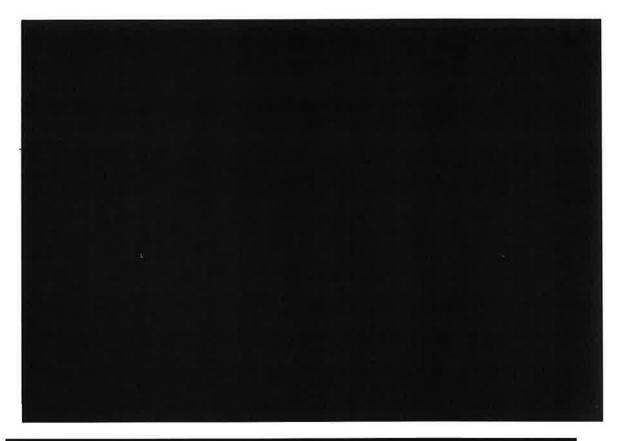
- Syrian and Palestinian nationals arrive mostly from all areas of Syria, especially from the cities located in the western part of Syria.
- Facilitators in Mersin are said to be Turkish, Turkish Kurds and Syrian nationals.

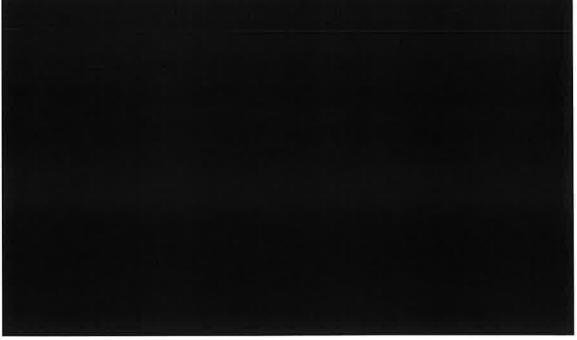




# 7. Annex







	Types of vessels by last places of departure in Turkey											
	Aegean Region of Turkey				South Eastern Turkey				Unknown			
	Izmir		Bodrum		Didim		Antalya		Mersin		Unknown	
	Incidents	Migrants	Incidents	Migrants	Incidents	Migrants	Incidents	Migrants	Incidents	Migrants	Incidents	Migrants
Cargo							1	192	9	3589	2	1152
Motor boat/yacht	1	84	1	91	1	89			4	636	3	162
Sailing boat	6	297									2	127
Fishing boat	3	318							8	1693	1	169
Other	3	211							1	223	4	766
Unknown									3	480		
Total	13	910	1	91	1	89	1	192	25	6621	12	2376

Table 2: number of vessels and migrants from Turkey to Italy by place of departure and by type of vessels

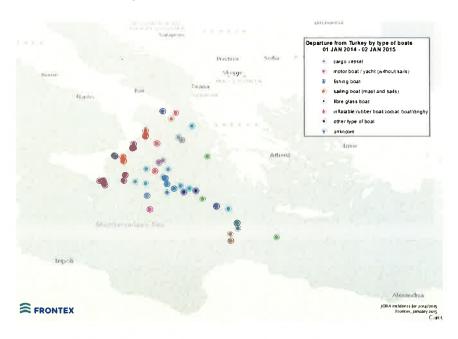
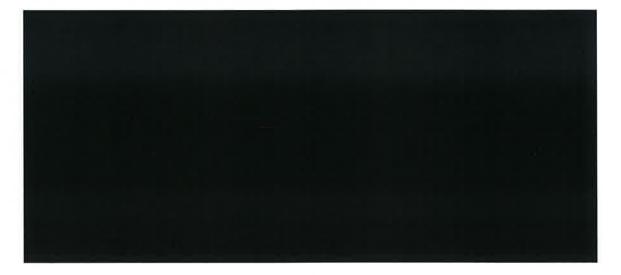


Figure 9: Map of detections of vessels from Turkey by types of vessels, 1 January 2014 - 2 January 2015



Ref 965/2015 12/12



# BIWEEKLY ANALYTICAL UPDATE Joint Operation Triton 2014

Weeks 3 & 4 (12 - 25 January 2015)

## **Key Points**

- 1 033% increase compared to the same period of 2014, with Libya the main last departure country
- 2 fatalities were reported, with possible further deaths during rescue by a civilian vessel investigations are ongoing
- Changes in the composition of migrants may indicate a change in the main purpose why migrants travel to Europe

# 1. General Information<sup>1</sup>

The JO Triton 2014 was launched on 1 November 2014 and is scheduled to conclude on 31 January 2015. The operational aim of the joint operation is the implementation of coordinated operational activities for the purpose of controlling and curbing irregular migration flows and other cross border crimes from Algeria, Egypt, Greece, Libya, Tunisia and Turkey towards the Pelagic Islands, Sicily and Sardinia as well as the south coast of the mainland of Italy.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Disclaimer: All the figures in this report including those in the tables and charts are based on validated incident reports of the JORA system up to the day this report was written and finalised (27 January 2015, 11:10 hrs.). Discrepancies may arise on account of incidents that are pending validation within JORA.

## 2. Statistics

### In 2015 (1 to 25 January)

- 30 Incidents occurred related to illegal border-crossing.
- 3 612 Irregular migrants were apprehended.
  - Top five nationalities SYR (762), SEN (459), MLI (459), GMB (455) & SOM (403).
  - 2 Facilitators were arrested in 1 incident.
  - 2 Fatalities were reported in 2 incidents.
  - 0 Incidents related to the prevention of departure.
  - 0 Irregular migrants were prevented from departure.
  - 0 Incidents related to the smuggling of goods.
  - 0 Smugglers were arrested.
  - 0 Incidents related to illegal fishing.
  - 0 Persons were arrested for illegal fishing.
  - 0 Incident related to pollution.

## Since the beginning of the operation on 1 November 2014

- 151 Incidents have occurred related to illegal border-crossing.
- 19 182 Irregular migrants have been apprehended.
  - Facilitators have been arrested in 28 incidents.

    The main countries of departure have been Libya (12 241), Turkey (5 622) & Egypt (472).

    Top nationalities SYR (6 273), GMB (2 391), SEN (1 703), MLI (1 434) & NGA (1 046).
  - 28 Fatalities have been reported in 7 incidents.
- ~74% Of detections have been recorded outside the operational area, ~26% inside.
- ~85% Of incidents have been reported as SAR operations.

## During the reporting period between 12 - 25 January 2015,

- 18 Illegal border-crossing incidents occurred.
- 2 302 Irregular migrants were apprehended.
  - 2 Facilitators were arrested in 1 incident.
    The main countries of departure were Libya (2 134), Turkey (74) and Tunisia (51).
    The main nationalities were SYR (379), MLI (314), SOM (308) and GMB (285).
  - 2 Fatalities were reported in 2 incidents.
- ~72% Of detections were recorded outside the operational area while ~28% occurred inside.
- ~89% Of incidents were reported as SAR operations.

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# 3. Overview of the period under analysis

**Between 12 and 25 January 2015**, 18 incidents were reported involving the apprehension of 2 302 irregular migrants, a 1 033% increase compared to the same period of 2014. The number of migrants apprehended over the past two months is illustrated in the following bar chart and is broken down week by week:

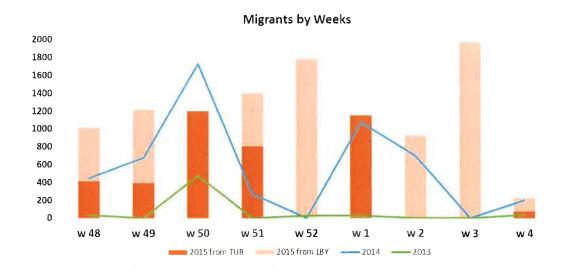


Figure 1: Chart illustrating the weekly number of arrivals over the past 2 months compared to the previous two years.

It can be observed that during the period from week 48 of 2012 to week 4 of 2013, the apprehension figures were very low (green line), before the time when the Mare Nostrum was commenced.



The reason behind the unseasonal figures is twofold. On the one hand we have the **cargo ships from Turkey** carrying thousands of migrants every month to Italy. Frontex reports had forecast that this relatively new *modus operandi* would be used during the winter period, due to the immense profit produced by each trip and, from the migrants' perspective, due to the ability of the cargo ships to safely reach their destination.



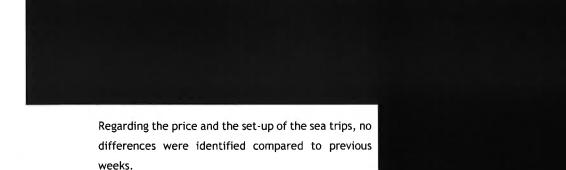
Ref 1711/2015 3/10



## Departures from Libya

In weeks 3 and 4, 2 134 irregular migrants were apprehended arriving from Libya in 14 incidents, a 951% increase compared to the same period of 2014 (203 migrants).

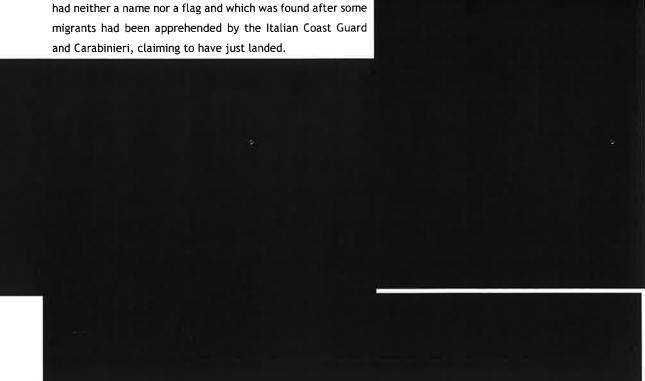
The main nationalities were Syrian (326), Malian (314), Somali (307), Gambian (285) and Senegalese (256).



Thus far in 2015, the Italian authorities have reported **2 fatalities** in weeks 3-4, but some incidents are still under investigation. According to the migrants' statements at least 10 migrants - mainly Western African - drowned during the rescue operation from a partially deflated dinghy besides a corpse found on board on 16 January.

## **Departures from Turkey**

Only one arrival from Turkey was reported in the period under analysis, with 74 migrants apprehended. The main nationalities were Iraqi (44), Afghan (18) and Syrian (10). Apparently they arrived aboard a 13-metre sailing boat which had neither a name nor a flag and which was found after some migrants had been apprehended by the Italian Coast Guard and Carabinieri, claiming to have just landed.

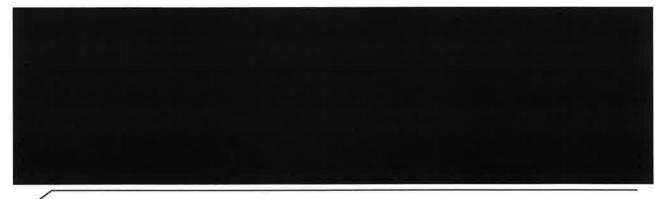


No cargo boats arrived in Italy during weeks 3-4. However, the Italian authorities, in cooperation with the Greek authorities and Frontex, are monitoring several suspicious vessels which might potentially be used for carrying migrants to Italy. Also, reportedly on 19 January off the coast of Mersin the Turkish Coast Guard prevented 333 irregular migrants from departing from Turkish waters aboard a merchant ship. It is suspected that these migrants had intended to reach Europe.

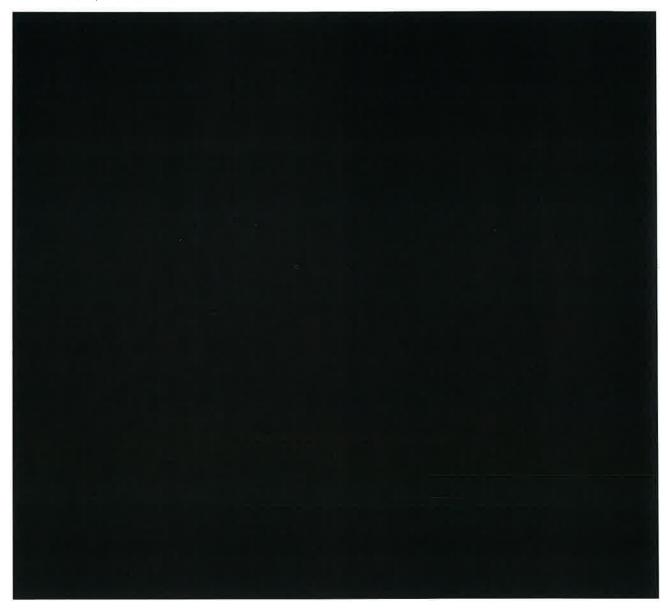
# 4. Findings during the period under analysis

## Iraqi migrants:

 PESHMERGA\* still control southern Kurdistan (Kurdistan of Iraq - Sulaymaniyah), although continued assaults from Islamic State militants "ISIL/Da'ish" are being reported.



Ref 1711/2015 5/10



# 5. Changes in the composition of migrant nationalities

In the Central Mediterranean region the main last departure countries towards Italy, namely Egypt, Libya and Turkey, are used by migrants of various nationalities, some patterns can yet be observed:

From Egypt in the past two years the top two nationalities were Syrian and Egyptian.

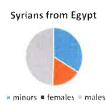
• Egyptians mainly seek job opportunities and therefore 99% of them have been males. Furthermore, in 2014 55% of them were minors (drawing attention to the high number of unaccompanied minors among them, a vulnerability group). Apparently, several young (but adult) migrants claim to be minors so as to avoid instant repatriation with the aim of remaining of remaining in Italy.

Egyptians from Egypt

minors females males

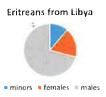
Ref 1711/2015 6/10

• In contrast, most Syrians arriving from Egypt are young or middle aged people travelling together with one child on average (the proportion of females and minors in 2013 was 21% and 34% respectively, in 2014 it was 17% and 34%, respectively). This shows a trend that Syrians are more inclined to travel as a young family with a low number of children on average, the parents being 25-35 years old.



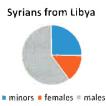
who ranked first in terms of nationality in 2013 and 2014 with Eritreans, followed by West African migrants (mainly from Gambia, Senegal and Mali) and by Nigerians.

respectively, both in 2013 and 2014. This shows that single adult males (several of them were fleeing from forced recruitment by the Eritrean Army) mingle with young couples who have 1 or no children travelling with them. It must also be taken into consideration that for women from the Horn of Africa the journey from Sudan across the Sahara desert is



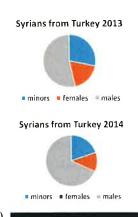
extremely dangerous - several Eritrean females interviewed in 2014 reported sexual abuse or exploitation.

 Regarding Syrian migrants arriving from Libya, in the past two years the proportion of females was 15% whereas that of minors was 30% and 25% in 2013 and 2014, respectively.



From Turkey 51% of the migrants in 2013 and 72% in 2014 were Syrian. With regard to other nationalities, their percentage was much lower than that of Syrians.

The proportion of Syrian minors arriving from Turkey fell from 28% in 2013 to 20% in 2014, and that of females fell from 18% to 12%. That means that the proportion of Syrian adult males increased from 54% to 68% in one year. Because of the fact that about 60% of the irregular Syrian migrants have travelled from Turkey to Italy by cargo boats, it is not surprising to find that a similarly low proportion, namely 11% of the Syrian migrants were females and 22% were minors aboard these cargo vessels. However, it must also be borne in mind that Turkey has a similar character to Libya in relation to Syrians: several Syrian migrants, reportedly, had lived and worked outside Syria for several years (mostly in Turkey, Lebanon or in other Arabic countries).



Besides the observations related to the changes in the pattern of the composition of migrant groups by departure **countries** and nationalities, further trends can be established when analysing the monthly breakdown of arrivals. For example, see figure 8 below:

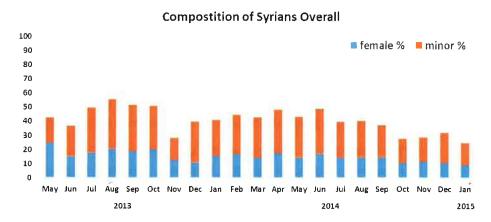


Figure 8: Chart showing the monthly breakdown of the composition of Syrian migrants

The stacked columns indicate the percentage of female and minor migrants with regard to the total (100%). The first and most important observation is that there has been a slight but constant decrease in the overall trend since August 2013 which means that, proportionally, more and more adult male Syrian migrants arrive. Secondly, a clear seasonality in the overall percentages can be observed: in 2013 and 2014 the percentage of female and minor migrants was higher from late spring till the autumn, and during the winter (which is more dangerous for sea travel) mainly male adults arrived.

Breaking down the above chart by the last countries of departure different patterns can be identified:

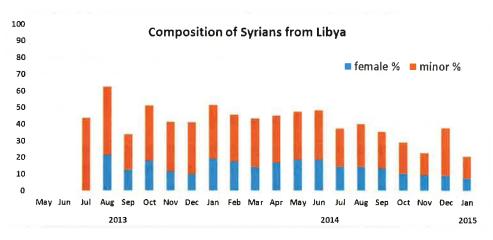


Figure 9: Chart showing the composition of Syrians from Libya

Regarding Libya, the proportion of Syrian females and minors was the highest in August 2013 which stabilised between October 2013 and June 2014; however, since then the proportion of adult males has increased and in January 2015 it reached 80%. The reason for this might be that the vast majority of Syrian migrants who departed from Libya embarked safe wooden fishing boats.

Ref 1711/2015 8/10

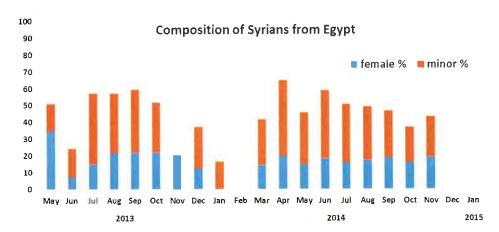


Figure 10: Chart showing the composition of Syrians from Egypt

Egypt has been a main departure country for Syrians since June 2013 as their presence in Egypt has been unwelcome. The high representation of Syrian minors and the relatively low number of females among them lead to the conclusion that mainly single males arrived along with families with 2-3 children on average. The weather had a clear impact on the composition of Syrians migrants from Egypt as well; however, the representation of females and minors is still double the numbers coming from Libya.

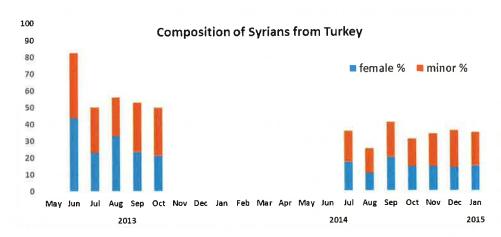


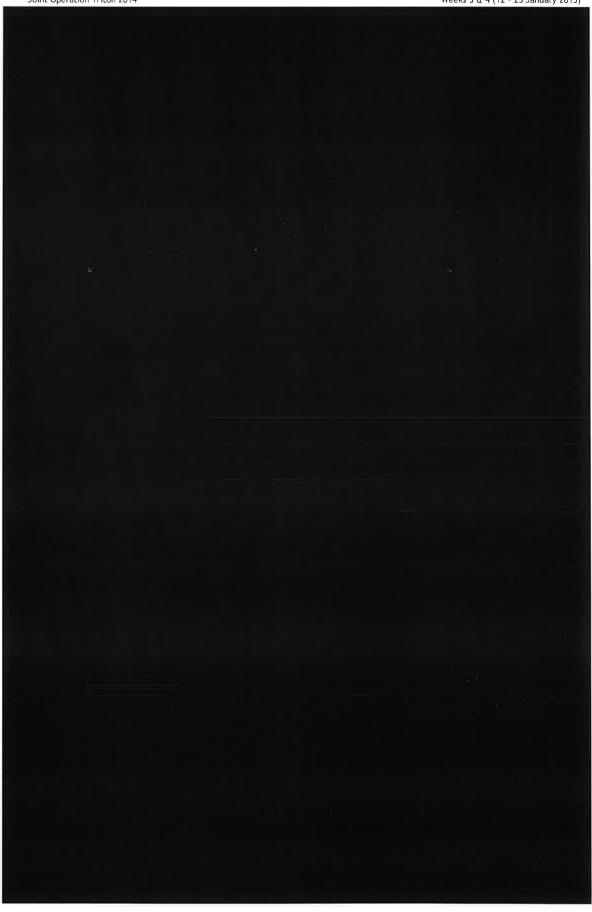
Figure 11: Chart showing the composition of Syrians from Turkey

The long distance between Turkey and Italy used to be a strong deterrent factor for would-be migrants during the wintertime. Nevertheless, in good weather boats kept reaching the Italian coast, and with a high number of migrants and female migrants amongst them. In 2014, however, the *modus operandi* (and the places of departure) changed inside Turkey, which apparently brought about a change in the composition of the Syrian migrants. Over the last four months, the pattern remained relatively unchanged.

## **Synthesis**

The slow but constant increase in the proportion of adult males amongst Syrian migrants could indicate a possible change in the motivation of the migrants. As we saw, the Syrian nationals arriving from Egypt continue to show a relatively stable family unit pattern, whereas those from Libya and Turkey (the two countries where migrants who recently arrived mingle with settled migrants) show a pattern with more young adult males without a family.

Ref 1711/2015 9/10





# BIWEEKLY ANALYTICAL UPDATE Joint Operation Triton 2015

Weeks 5-7 (26 Jan - 15 Feb 2015)

## **Key Points**

- Facilitators were using automatic rifles to intimidate Coast Guard
- Search and rescue of migrants from Libya increases pressure on Italy
- Most SAR operations continue to take place outside the operational area of Triton
- 29 fatalities were reported, with more than 300 migrants missing at sea
- No arrivals from Turkey since the beginning of the Joint Operation. The Turkish authorities have reinforced their measures to control departure of irregular migrants to the EU

# 1. General Information<sup>1</sup>

The JO Triton 2015 was launched on 1 February 2015 and is scheduled to conclude on 31 December 2015.

The operational aim of the joint operation is to control irregular migration towards the territory of the MS of the EU and to tackle cross border crime. In this regard, coordinated operational activities will be implemented at the external sea borders in the Central Mediterranean Sea.

The coordinated operational activities will be implemented in full compliance with relevant EU and international laws, with respect for fundamental rights, in particular, access to international protection and in compliance with the principle of non-refoulement and taking into account the recommendations of the Frontex Consultative Forum.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Disclaimer: All the figures in this report including those in the tables and charts are based on validated incident reports of the JORA system up to the day this report was written and finalised (18 February 2015, 11:00 hrs.). Discrepancies may arise on account of incidents that are pending validation within JORA.

2/7

## 2. Statistics

### In 2015 (1 to 25 January)

- 62 Incidents occurred related to illegal border-crossing.
- 7 303 Irregular migrants were apprehended.
  - Top five nationalities SOM (1 081), SYR (998), SEN (871), GMB (860) & ERI (768).
  - 3 Facilitators were arrested in 2 incidents.
  - 31 Fatalities were reported in 3 incidents.
- ~87% Of detections were recorded outside the operational area while ~8% occurred inside.
- ~92% Of incidents were reported as SAR operations.
  - 0 Incidents related to the smuggling of goods.
  - 0 Smugglers were arrested.
  - 0 Incidents related to illegal fishing.
  - 0 Persons were arrested for illegal fishing.
  - 0 Incidents related to pollution.

## Since the beginning of the operation on 1 February 2015<sup>2</sup>

- 31 Incidents have occurred related to illegal border-crossing.
- 3 692 Irregular migrants have been apprehended.
  - 1 Facilitator has been arrested in 1 incident.

    The main countries of departure have been Libya (3 662) & Greece (29).

    Top nationalities SOM (676), ERI (594), GMB (405), SEN (264) & NGA (193).
  - 29 Fatalities have been reported in 1 incidents.
- ~97% Of detections have been recorded outside the operational area, ~3% inside.
- -94% Of incidents have been reported as SAR operations.

## During the reporting period between 1 - 15 January 2015

- 31 Illegal border-crossing incidents occurred.
- 3 692 Irregular migrants were apprehended.
  - 1 Facilitator were arrested in 1 incident.

The main countries of departure were Libya (3 662) & Greece (29).

The main nationalities<sup>3</sup> were SOM (676), ERI (594), GMB (405), SEN (264) & NGA (193).

- 29 Fatalities were reported in 1 incident.
- -97% Of detections were recorded outside the operational area while -3% occurred inside.
- ~94% Of incidents were reported as SAR operations.

Ref 1710/2015

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> One incident is still pending validation, therefore the final number of incidents and irregular migrants apprehended will increase.

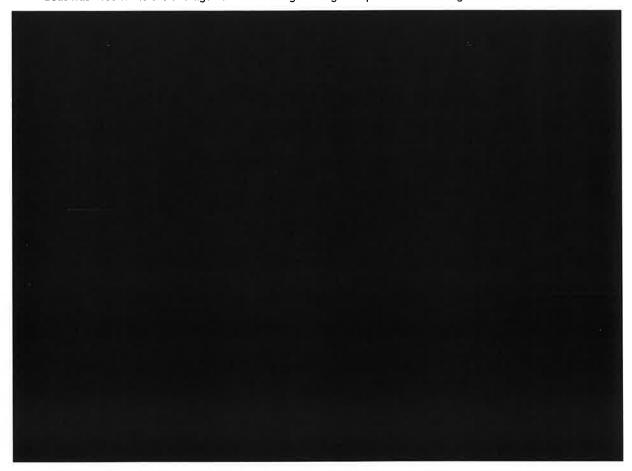
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The screening process is ongoing, therefore the nationality of 707 irregular migrants remain unknown.

# 3. Overview of the period under analysis

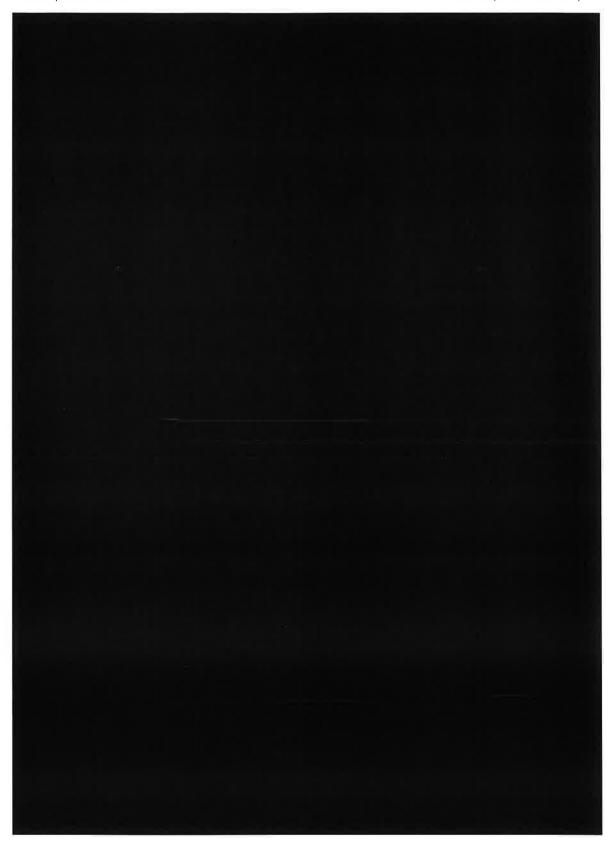
## **Departures from Libya**

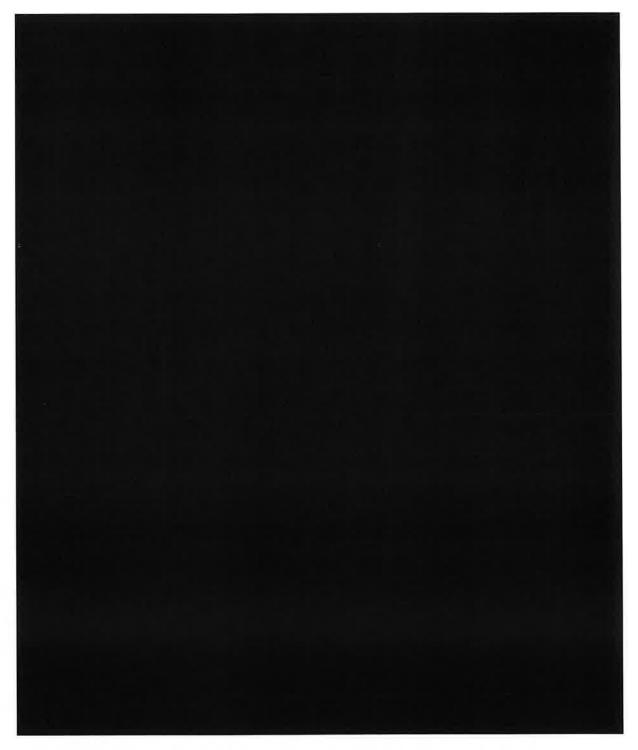
The reporting period has been characterised by an intense flow from Libya which occurred between 8 and 15 February 2015, in which 29 incidents involving 3 510 irregular migrants were reported in the framework of the JO Triton 2015.

The vast majority of the incidents (24) involved irregular migrants from sub-Saharan countries travelling aboard inflatable dinghies and to a lesser extent aboard wooden fishing boats (6) that had departed mainly from the areas of Tripoli, Gars Garabulli, Qerqarish and Tajoura. The average number of migrants per rubber boat was ~100 while the average number of irregular migrants per wooden fishing boat was ~300.



Ref 1710/2015 3/7





# **Departures from Turkey**

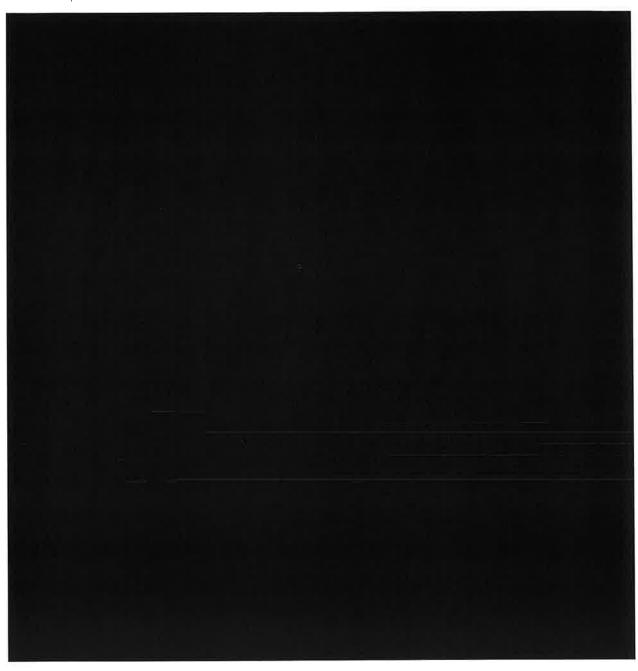
Since the beginning of the JO Triton 2015 **no arrivals** have been reported **from Turkey**. This could be related not only to bad weather conditions in the Mediterranean Sea during February



## **Departures from Greece**

During the reporting period two incidents were reported from the west coast of Greece involving 19 irregular migrants, mainly Somalis. One inflatable speed boat was seized by the Guardia Di Finanza and one Italian people smuggler was arrested while trying to smuggle 15 irregular migrants to Italy from Greece











# BIWEEKLY ANALYTICAL UPDATE Joint Operation Triton 2015 (No.2)

Weeks 8 & 9 (16 February - 1 March 2015)

## **Key Points**

- Good weather and sea conditions could contribute to an increase in the number of vessels departing from Libya
- SAR operations will continue to take place outside the operational area of Triton according to the modus operandi used by smuggling networks: some 6-7 hours after departing from the Libyan coast migrants aboard inflatable dinghies make a distress call to the Italian authorities.
- No arrivals from Turkey since the beginning of the joint operation.
- Departure locations in the areas of Tripoli and Zuwara appear to be under the control of Libyan smuggling networks which have been established for some time in the area.

# 1. General Information<sup>1</sup>

The JO Triton 2015 was launched on 1 February 2015 and is scheduled to conclude on 31 December 2015. The operational aim of the joint operation is to control irregular migration towards the territory of the MS of the EU and to tackle cross border crime. In this regard, coordinated operational activities will be implemented at the external sea borders in the Central Mediterranean Sea.

The coordinated operational activities will be implemented in full compliance with relevant EU and international laws, with respect for fundamental rights, in particular, access to international protection and in compliance with the principle of non-refoulement and taking into account the recommendations of the Frontex Consultative Forum.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Disclaimer: All the figures in this report including those in the tables and charts are based on validated incident reports of the JORA system up to the day this report was written and finalised (4 March 2015, 11:00 hrs.). Discrepancies may arise on account of incidents that are pending validation within JORA.

## 2. Statistics

#### In 2015 (1 January to 1 March)

- 69 Incidents occurred related to illegal border-crossing.
- 7 951 Irregular migrants were apprehended.

Top nationalities - SOM (1 081), SEN (1 022), GMB (906) & SYR (902).

- 5 Facilitators were arrested in 4 incidents.
- 31 Fatalities were reported in 3 incidents.
- 0 Incidents related to the prevention of departure.
- 0 Irregular migrants were prevented from departure.
- 0 Incidents related to the smuggling of goods.
- 0 Smugglers were arrested.
- 0 Incidents related to illegal fishing.
- 0 Persons were arrested for illegal fishing.
- 0 Incident related to pollution.

## Since the beginning of the operation on 1 February 2015

- 39 Incidents have occurred related to illegal border-crossing.
- 4 338 Irregular migrants have been apprehended.
  - 3 Facilitators have been arrested in 3 incidents.

    The main countries of departure have been Libya (4 267), Greece (56) & Tunisia (15).

    Top nationalities SOM (678), ERI (594), SEN (590), Unknown (509) & GMB (450).
  - 29 Fatalities have been reported in 1 incident.
- ~92% Of detections have been recorded outside the operational area, ~8% inside.
- ~90% Of incidents have been reported as SAR operations.

## During the reporting period between 16 February - 1 March 2015,

- 7 Illegal border-crossing incidents occurred.
- 542 Irregular migrants were apprehended.
  - 0 Facilitators were arrested.

The main countries of departure were Libya (500), Greece (27) and Tunisia (15). The main nationalities were SEN (157), NGA (148), SYR (107) and SDN (37).

- 0 Fatalities were reported.
- ~72% Of detections were recorded outside the operational area while ~28% occurred inside.
- ~72% Of incidents were reported as SAR operations.

## 3. Main trends

Thus far in the JO Triton 2015, the majority of apprehended irregular migrants have departed from Libya. The factors influencing this phenomenon are: since the beginning of 2015, the Egyptian route has been inactive and no boats have been reported from Turkey since 20 January. Since the beginning of the JO Triton 2015 on 1 February, there has been a moderate level of irregular migration from Tunisia and Greece (as secondary movements) towards Italy, producing very low numbers in comparison to the number of irregular migrants arriving from Libya: 56 migrants were apprehended coming from Greece in 3 incidents, while only 15 migrants were apprehended coming from Tunisia in 1 incident.

As regards the irregular migratory flow from Libya, the following chart shows the weekly breakdown of arrivals in 2015:

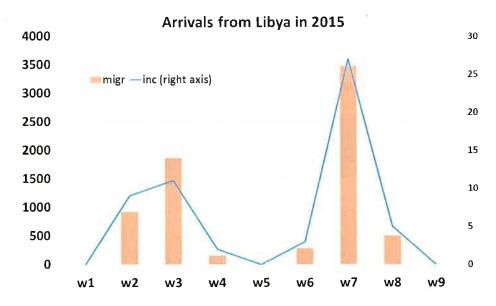


Figure 1: Weekly breakdown of arrivals from Libya to Italy in 2015



Regarding the **trends in profiles**, they are similar to the profiles last year: the number of Syrian and Eritrean migrants is very low compared to the summer and autumn months; West African and Nigerian migrants, however, have arrived in practically every boat from Libya since the beginning of the year.

Ref 1710/2015 3/10

## Main trends by country of departure since the beginning of the year

During the first two months of 2015, all migratory routes from Turkey and Libya have shown an increase in the number of irregular migrants using each route (see map below). Egypt is the only migratory route where no incidents have been reported since the beginning of the year.

- The sharpest increase (+1 450% increase) is highlighted by the number of migrants travelling directly from Turkey to Italy. A total of 434 migrants arrived from Turkey during the first two months of 2015 and the majority of these migrants arrived aboard a cargo ship, which was intercepted on 2 January carrying 360 irregular migrants.
- In relation to Libya, despite the fact that winter is the most perilous time to cross to Italy, the number of irregular migrants has increased by 35% compared to the same period one year earlier. In light of the current level of threat and vulnerability, short-term changes in the trend are unlikely. Thus, the increase is expected to continue in the coming months.
- The number of irregular migrants who arrived from the west coast of Greece remained low during January and February, although figures show a 30% increase compared to the same period last year.

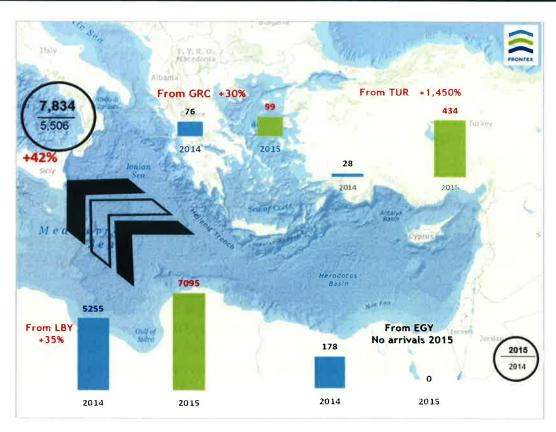


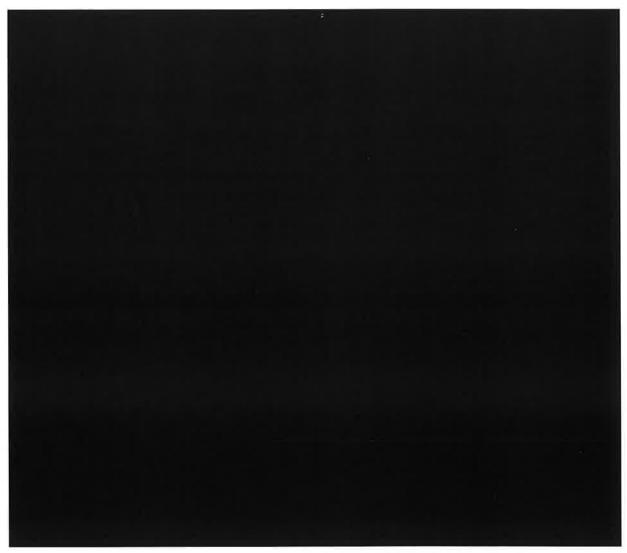
Figure 2: Total number of migrants by departure countries, comparing January and February 2015 to the same period in 2014

Ref 1710/2015 4/10

# 4. Overview of the period under analysis

A total of seven incidents were reported during weeks 8 and 9, involving 542 irregular migrants. All the incidents were reported during week 8, while no vessels were detected in week 9 due to adverse weather conditions in the Central Mediterranean.

A total of six vessels were intercepted in the Central Mediterranean (Sicily and Lampedusa), five vessels departed from Libya (Tripoli area and Zuwara), while one vessel departed from Tunisia (Sfax), involving a total of 515 migrants arriving from Libya (500) and Tunisia (15). Of these six vessels, five were inflatable dinghies and one was a wooden fishing vessel which had departed from Tajoura (in the area of Tripoli). One more incident was reported in Apulia (Lecce province), involving 27 migrants having departed from Greece. The detection of this group of migrants was carried out inland, and no boat was found in the area.



In the operational area of Crotone, the Italian authorities detected a "fake landing" after the apprehension of four Pakistani migrants who claimed to have arrived from Greece on 14 February. After the Italian authorities carried out preliminary investigations, the incident was reported as a "fake landing".

Ref 1710/2015 5/10

## Main nationalities by percentage changes

The top five nationalities reported in the operational area of the JO Triton since January are: Somali (1 081), Senegalese (1 022), Gambian (906) and Syrian (902).

The table below illustrates the increase, in percentage terms, during January and February 2015 over the same period last year with regard to the following nationalities:

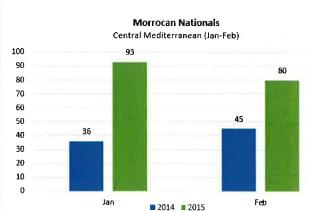
	2015 Jan-Feb	Increase
Sudan	133	850%
Côte d'Ivoire	308	542%
Nigeria	538	236%
Morocco	173	114%
Guinea	176	102%
Senegal	1022	64%

Figure 4: Increasing percentage by nationalities

West African migrants are commonly reported on the migratory route from Libya to Italy. On the contrary, the North African migrants (such as Moroccans and Algerians) from Libya heightens suspicions of possible displacement as their usual route is towards the south of Spain.

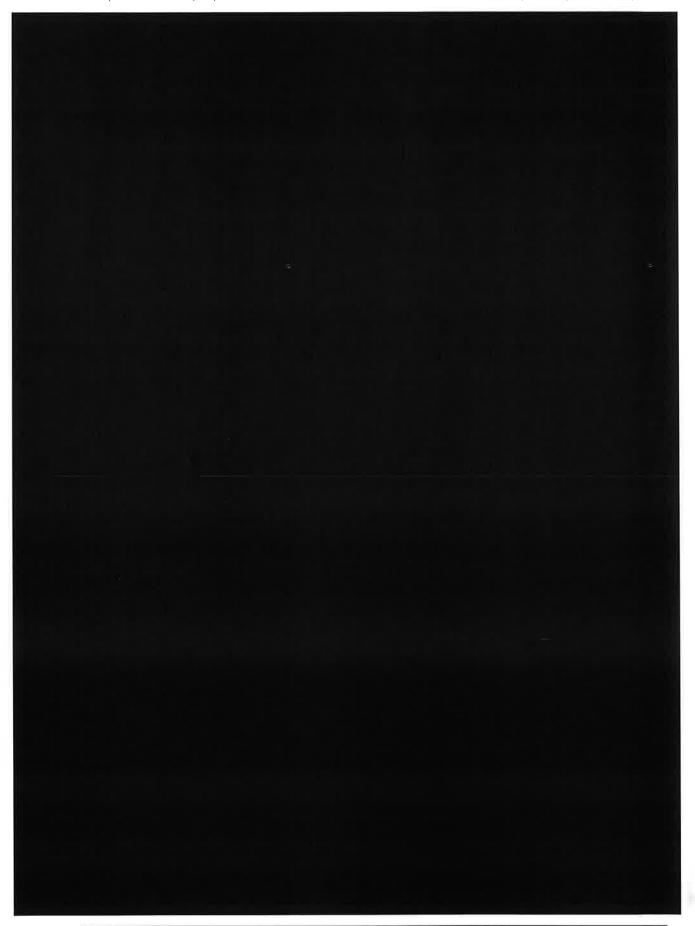
In 2013, 178 Moroccan nationals were apprehended at sea in Italy, while in 2014, 2 312 were apprehended. An increase in the number of Moroccans was reported in April 2014, when Moroccans took advantage of the massive migratory flows departing from Libya. During the first two months of 2015, 173 Moroccans were apprehended in the operational area of the JO Triton, this equates to a 114% increase compared to the same period in 2014.





**Figure 5**: Monthly breakdown of Moroccan nationals apprehended in Italy in January & February 2015, compared to the same period in 2014

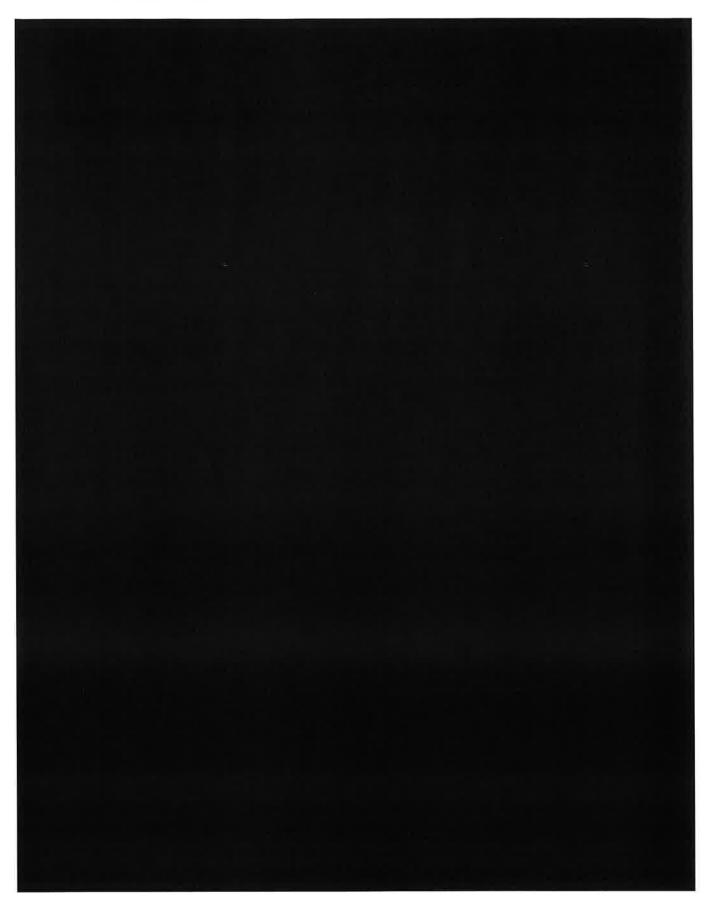
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# West Africans

Most West Africans who arrived in Sicily during the reporting period departed from their country of origin at the beginning of 2014. These migrants needed between 10-12 months to reach northern areas of Libya, due to a lack of finance. At each transit point of their journey towards Libya, West African migrants spent time doing menial jobs - to survive and earn enough money to pay and organise the next leg of the journey.

Ref 1710/2015 8/10

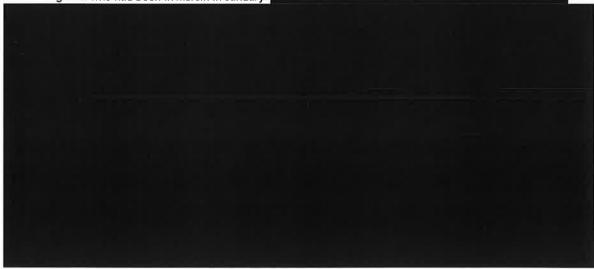


# Departures from Turkey

As stated in the previous biweekly analytical report, **no arrivals** have been reported **from Turkey** since the beginning of the JO Triton 2015 (1 February). The reasons of no arrivals could be related as follows: stormy weather conditions, intensive bilateral talks and cooperation between Italy and Turkey, and the increasing activities of the Turkish authorities is the areas of departure towards the EU.



A ship, which was intercepted in the Black Sea on 28 February (Romanian coast), was carrying Syrian migrants who had been in Mersin in January.







# BIWEEKLY ANALYTICAL UPDATE Joint Operation Triton 2015 (No.3)

Weeks 10 & 11 (2 - 15 March 2015)

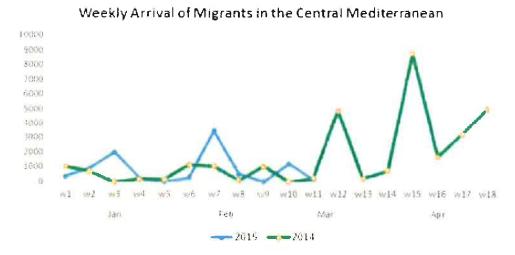
# **Key Points**

- Good weather and sea conditions could contribute to an increase in the number of vessels departing from Libya.
- Migrants continue to make **distress calls** to the Italian authorities while they are still sailing in the **Libyan SAR area** (the call is made some 6-7 hours after departing from the Libyan coast).
- According to actual sources, the migratory pressure continues in the Mersin region (Turkey), and about 1 500 Syrians could remain in that region, although the last cargo ship departed on 2 January.
- On 12 March, one cargo vessel was intercepted by the Turkish authorities with 337 Syrians on board. The vessel departed from Istanbul and the intended final destination was Italy.

# 1. Main trends

During the period under analysis the vast majority of migrants arrived from Libya, mostly sub-Saharan migrants. In this sense there was no change in the migratory pattern in the region. The number of incidents was relatively low compared to the peaks in January and February, mainly due to inclement weather conditions in the Mediterranean Sea. There were no apprehensions of migrants from Turkey (although one cargo vessel was intercepted by the Turkish authorities in their territorial waters); and the Egyptian corridor remains was inactive.

As regards the irregular migratory flow in the region, the following chart shows the weekly breakdown of arrivals in 2015 compared to 2014:



 $\textbf{\textit{Figure 1: Weekly breakdown of irregular migrants reported in the Central Mediterranean since the beginning of the year.}$ 

During week 12 of 2014, extremely high figures were recorded, which were later surpassed by those in week 15. The gaps between the peak figures show the dependence of migrant departure on weather conditions, which gradually disappear by the end of the spring with the improvement of weather conditions, and then continuous departures may take place.



# Frontex Non-Classified Sensitive-Basic Protection Level Releasable to Participating Member States and Schengen Associated Countries

Joint Operation Triton 2015 (No.3)

Weeks 10 & 11 (2 - 15 March 2015)

### 2. Statistics

#### In 2015 (1 January to 15 March)

- 82 Incidents occurred related to illegal border-crossing.
- 9 338 Irregular migrants were apprehended.

Top five nationalities - SEN (1 206), GMB (1 167), SOM (1 100), SYR (984) and ERI (852).

- 12 Facilitators were arrested in 10 incidents.
- 41 Fatalities were reported in 4 incidents.
- 1 Incident related to the prevention of departure.
- 86 Irregular migrants were prevented from departure.
- 0 Incidents related to the smuggling of goods.
- 0 Smugglers were arrested.
- 0 Incidents related to illegal fishing.
- 0 Persons were arrested for illegal fishing.
- 0 Incident related to pollution.

#### Since the beginning of the operation on 1 February 2015

- 52 Incidents have occurred related to illegal border-crossing.
- 5 725 Irregular migrants have been apprehended.
  - 10 Facilitators have been arrested in 9 incidents.

    The main countries of departure have been Libya (5 643), Greece (56) & Tunisia (26).

    Top nationalities SEN (774), GMB (711), SOM (697), ERI (678) & NGA (646).
  - 39 Fatalities have been reported in 2 incidents.
  - 1 Incident related to the prevention of departure.
  - 86 Irregular migrants were prevented from departure.
- -92% Of detections have been recorded outside the operational area, -8% inside.
- -89% Of incidents have been reported as SAR operations.

## During the reporting period between 2 - 15 March 2015,

- 13 Illegal border-crossing incidents occurred.
- 1 387 Irregular migrants were apprehended.
  - ${\bf 7} \quad \text{Facilitators were arrested in 6 incidents.}$ 
    - The main countries of departure were Libya (1 376) and Tunisia (11). The main nationalities were GMB (261), NGA (217), SEN (184) and MLI (113).
  - 10 Fatalities were reported in 1 incident.
  - 1 Incident related to the prevention of departure.
  - 86 Irregular migrants were prevented from departure.
- -93% Of detections were recorded outside the operational area while -7% occurred inside.
- ~86% Of incidents were reported as SAR operations.

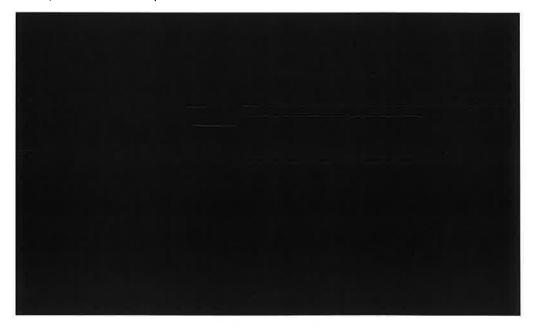
# 3. Overview of the period under analysis

A total of 13 incidents related to illegal border-crossing were reported during weeks 10 and 11, involving 1 387 irregular migrants. Ten incidents were reported in week 10, and three incidents in week 11. Out of the 13 incidents, 11 vessels arrived from Libya involving 1 376 irregular migrants, and two vessels arrived from Tunisia involving 11 irregular migrants.

During the period under review **10 fatalities** were reported 127 NM south of Lampedusa (out of operational area) after an inflatable boat capsized while Italian assets and one merchant vessel approached the location of the boat. In total, 121 migrants were rescued and 10 corpses were recovered from the sea.



The main nationalities apprehended during the reporting period were Gambian, Nigerian, Senegalese and Malian, which are also the top nationalities thus far in 2015.



# Types of vessels

Of the 11 vessels which departed from Libya and which were detected in weeks 10-11 only one was a wooden boat, while 10 were inflatable dinghies. This is in line with the trend over the last 3 months.

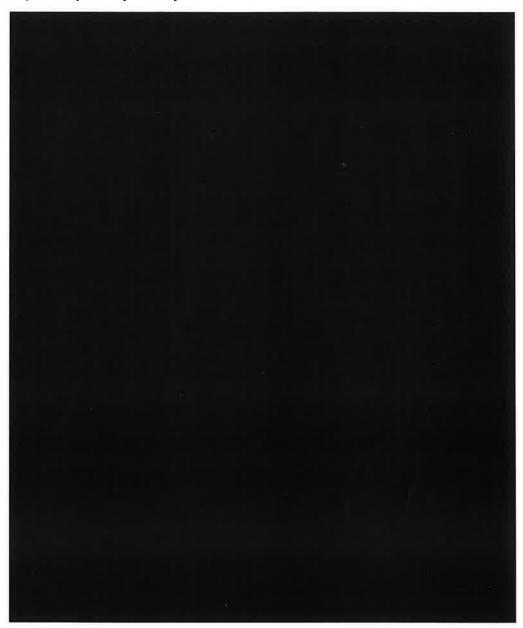
# Place of detection and interception

It is important to stress the **high number of detections** and interceptions of boats **outside of the operational area**, still inside the Libyan SAR area. **Civilian merchant vessels are often involved** in rescuing migrants at sea on account of the obligation to render assistance to vessels in distress. In weeks 10-11, seven boats from Libya were rescued by merchant vessels and five by the assets deployed/co-financed by the JO Triton 2015.

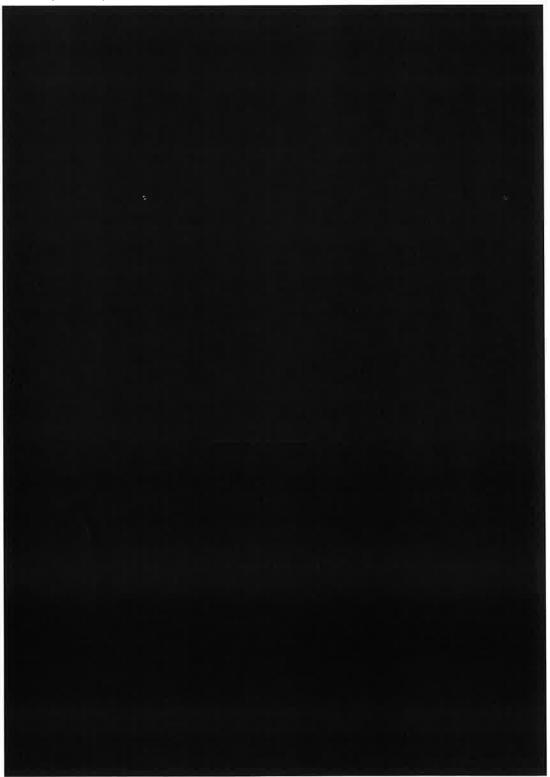


# 4. Main findings during the period under analysis

Departures from Libya to Italy



Departures from Turkey to Italy



Cargo ship "Dogan Kartal" intercepted by the Turkish authorities

On 12 March, the Turkish authorities intercepted a cargo ship named "Dogan Kartal" in the Dardanelles Strait, north of Canakkale province after departing from Istanbul, with around 337 migrants onboard. The intended final destination was Italy, and most of the migrants aboard the vessel were Syrians.

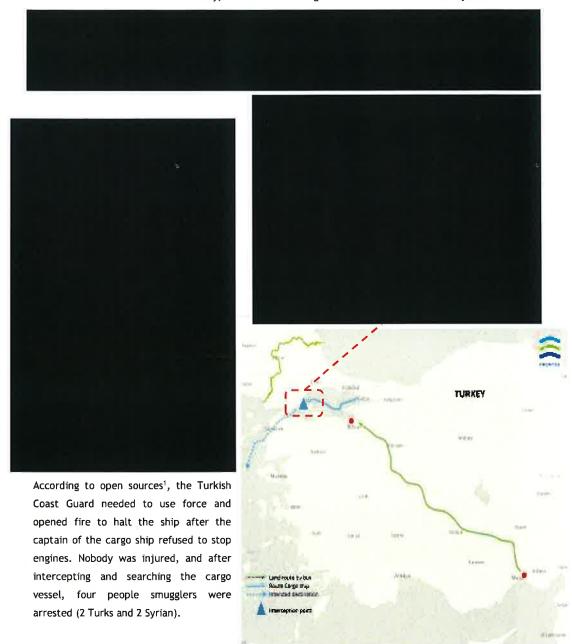


Figure 5: Those Syrians stranded in Mersin, decided to travel by bus from Mersin to Bursa (10 March), before embarking on a cargo ship in the Marmara Sea with the intention of reaching Italy.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/hundreds-of-migrants-captured-off-gallipoli-as-italy-thanks-turkey-forefforts.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79631&NewsCatID=341

# 5. Secondary Movements in the EU

