



Observation Missions in the Central Mediterranean Sea

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Shipwreck: *Nadir* crew grieves 23 deaths and provides aid to over 300 people in distress at sea

Nightly rescue mission of RESQSHIP ends with 2 bodies on board of the sailing vessel - for a total of 23 people, any help comes too late

Last night the crew of the ship *Nadir* of RESQSHIP encountered 24 people who had been floating helplessly in the water for 2 hours. The crew was able to rescue 22 survivors and recover two bodies. Approximately 20 people drowned in the incident. In the previous 48 hours, the crew of the *Nadir* already provided assistance to 7 boats in distress with a total of more than 300 people - of which one person could only be recovered dead.

During the night of Easter Sunday, the Italian Coast Guard asked the sailing vessel *Nadir* of the German NGO RESQSHIP for help in the search for shipwrecked migrants on the route from Tunisia to Lampedusa. The boat had capsized, and an unknown number of people were in the water. After an hour of searching in the dark, the people were found, moved far apart from each other by the wind. The crew of the *Nadir* immediately initiated all necessary rescue measures and was able to rescue 22 survivors despite adverse conditions and recover two bodies - for them any help came too late. In the afternoon, the sailing vessel with the survivors aboard reached the island of Lampedusa, where all were able to disembark.

"We couldn't see them at all in the darkness, we only perceived them through their desperate cries for help," Martin Kolek, a crew member aboard the *Nadir*, describes the situation at sea. The survivors report that they had already left Tunisia in the early hours of Saturday morning and that their boat capsized two hours before the *Nadir* arrived.

Among the survivors are relatives of the deceased, who gathered around their family members on the deck of the *Nadir* during the hours-long journey to Lampedusa. "After several hours in the water, all people showed clear fear of death. The added hypothermia led to pronounced disorientation with severe physical weakness and lack of circulatory stability," said Katja Friedel, a doctor aboard the *Nadir*. A pregnant woman, who has been in critical condition for hours, barely survived the battle against the water. She now needs urgent medical assistance ashore.

The *Nadir* is currently on its first observation mission this year. This was already her eighth rescue operation within 48 hours. In a short period of time, the crew of the *Nadir*, in cooperation with the Italian Coast Guard, had already saved over 300 people from death in the Mediterranean Sea as they fled, witnessing a death just a few hours earlier. As Europe celebrates Easter, one tragedy in the Mediterranean follows another. As the crew of the *Nadir*

reports, the Italian coast guard is completely overloaded, due to the many people embark in sea-unworthy boats for the life-threatening journey across the Mediterranean to Europe. Meanwhile, new maritime emergencies are reported every hour. The Nadir is the only ship of a civilian organization currently operating in the Central Mediterranean.

About RESQSHIP:

Resqship e. V. has been sailing observation missions in the Central Mediterranean since 2019 to draw attention to the dangerous situation of people fleeing their homes and to document human rights violations. In case of emergency, the crews provide supportive measures for sea rescue and thus fulfill their maritime duty to help.

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