

Press release from the 17. Juli 2024

## **Rescue at the last moment: RESQSHIP takes 21 people onboard after migrant boat sinks**

### **The crew of Nadir rescues 21 people drifting at sea after their boat sunk and supports another 60 people hours later**

*On the night of Tuesday 16 July to Wednesday 17 July, the crew of the sailing vessel Nadir from RESQSHIP e.V. rescued 21 people who had been in the water after their boat sank from drowning. Only a few hours later, another distress alert reached the ship, and the Nadir proceeded to support another unseaworthy vessel with 60 people on board. The crew informed all relevant authorities and provided the people with life jackets. Shortly after, the Italian Coast Guard evacuated the 60 people, as well as six persons with serious medical conditions from the prior shipwreck. The Nadir is now on its way to Lampedusa with the remaining 15 survivors. On Tuesday evening, the crew of the Nadir was alerted by the civilian emergency hotline Alarm phone about a boat in distress. When they reached the position around 3am, they found all people in the water – no boat in sight. The boat in which they had set off from Libya two days earlier had already sunk. The crew utilized all available rescue equipment to provide the best possible assistance. All 21 individuals were successfully rescued from the water.*

“When we arrived on the scene, we saw a small light. There was no boat to be seen, all the people were in the water. The boat had already sunk before we arrived. They were holding a light out of the water so we could see them,” reports Rachel (crew member) on the Nadir. “We are glad to have reached the site just in time. The people were completely exhausted from fighting the drowning. If we had arrived later, they would be dead now.”

The survivors confirmed that there were no missing persons. Many of the survivors had suffered fuel burns and almost everyone had jellyfish stings from their time in the water and some have serious chronic illnesses that need medical support. Everyone received medical treatment on board the Nadir.

When the crew of the Nadir was underway to bring the people to Lampedusa, they got informed about another unseaworthy boat with around 60 people in distress. In accordance with the authorities, the crew headed towards that position and distributed life jackets. They accompanied the boat until the Italian Coast Guard arrived to evacuate the 60 people and took over six people in urgent need of medical care from the Nadir. With the

remaining 15 survivors, the Nadir is now on its way to the closest port of safety, Lampedusa, with an estimated arrival time in the afternoon.

The two cases from tonight add to an intense fourth rotation this year. In the past 10 days, the crew of the Nadir already supported 183 people in distress.

***About RESQSHIP:***

***Resqship e. V. is sailing observatory missions in the Central Mediterranean since 2019 to draw attention to the precarious situation of people on the move and to document human rights violations. In an emergency, the crews provide support measures for sea rescue and thus fulfil their maritime duty to help.***

Further Information about RESQSHIP: <https://resqship.org/>

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