

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

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Amnesty International comment on Council of Europe report on Libya migrants boat deaths

Amnesty International specialists in Brussels and London are available for interview on the damning report issued today by a Council of Europe Parliamentary Committee into the deaths at sea of 63 migrants and asylum-seekers fleeing Libya.

The report suggests that NATO and some European countries may have failed to take actions which could have averted the deaths.

In reaction to the report, Nicolas Beger, Director of Amnesty International's European Institutions Office said:

"This report makes clear in shocking detail that the deaths of these men, women and children could have been prevented at many stages."

"All parties involved in this tragic incident must co-operate fully with this investigation. Whoever is responsible must be held to account."

"This damning report must pave the way to a more effective search and rescue system. While officials quibble over who's responsible for search and rescue, we're wasting precious time and more people's lives are being jeopardized."

"European countries and the EU must boost their efforts to comply with their international legal obligations on search and rescue. Saving lives must be the absolute priority."

Spokespeople:

In London: Sherif Elsayed-Ali, Head of Amnesty International's Refugee and Migrant Rights team is available for interview in English or Arabic. Contact the Amnesty International Press Office (+44 20 7413 5566, Email: press@amnesty.org)

In Brussels: Nicolas Beger, Director of Amnesty International's European Institutions Office (English and German), and Anneliese Baldaccini (English and Italian), who has interviewed some of the survivors of the boat tragedy, are available for interview. Contact: Peter Clarke, Tel: +32 (0) 2 548 2773, pclarke@amnesty.eu

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