

# *Nearly 3,000 Migrants Have Died This Year in Mediterranean*

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Brussels, July 23 (RHC)-- Europe has been facing an unprecedented influx of refugees who are fleeing conflict zones in Africa and the Middle East. Nearly 3,000 migrants have died in the Mediterranean in the first six months of 2016, while almost 250,000 have reached Europe, according to the International Organization for Migration, the IOM.

IOM spokesman Joel Millman told reporters that the death toll stands at an estimated 2,977, adding that the 3,000 benchmark had been reached earlier than in previous years of this four-year crisis.

Europe has been facing an unprecedented influx of refugees who are fleeing conflict zones in Africa and the Middle East, particularly Syria. Most of the conflicts are fueled by support that some Western countries and their regional allies give to militants operating in those countries.

The European Union signed a deal with Turkey earlier this year to deport refugees from Greece. However, asylum seekers continue reaching European coasts, mainly landing in Greece and Italy. The IOM says at least 20 migrants are dying everyday in the Mediterranean.



**Radio Habana Cuba**