

**Declaration of the Scalabrinian Missionaries in Europe and Africa,
after another massacre of migrants at sea.**



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«Contra factum non valet argumentum». The Latins said this and they meant that against the proof of the facts no argument can have value. Instead, the umpteenth massacre of migrants killed in the Mediterranean on Saturday night at the end of February 2023 seems to convey the opposite message, namely: we are not interested in the fact that dozens of people have died, among them many women and children, but our explanations. And while crocodile tears are shed, the instrumental arguments about the Migrants and their tragedies chase each other and cancel each other out.

And it's a hodgepodge of ideological and misleading claims: if they died, "it's the boatmen's traffickers fault" (and implicitly the migrants who depend on them); to avoid deaths, "you have to fight against the boatmen (and the NGOs!), preventing the migrants from leaving"; to prevent the migrants leave, "the countries of origin and transit must be paid to detain them in their territories"; or in the opposite camp it is argued: if they die, "it is the fault of the governments that do not organize rescue operations at sea and instead fight against those who do"; "it is the fault of the governments that build walls and barriers against migrants"; "it is the EU's fault that it does not prepare a migratory policy and effective reception"... and so on...

In the end, nobody cares about the dead, these and the 25,000 that preceded them in the "cemetery Mediterranean": who are they, who are they leaving behind, what are they looking for, what do they bring with them: what dreams, hopes, aspirations..., why do they decide to put their lives and the loved ones at risk... these questions are like annoying insect bites for the easy weepers who, faced with the harshness of the facts, they continue undaunted mechanically repeating their absurd plot refrains.

What to do then? If politicians and politics do not see beyond petty partisan interests, it is up to civil society to assume the responsibility of putting the dignity of the human person, the dignity of migrants, the dignity of citizens who do not want to deny the reality, harshness and complexity of current migrations (which are not different from those past).

Let us build new "policies" capable of guaranteeing, as Saint John the Baptist said Scalabrini, "freedom to emigrate YES, but NO freedom to make emigrate", but above all let's do it aware that thousands of emigrants continue and will continue (when they do not perish in the

obstacle course that we have prepared) coming to our cities and countries in search of dignity, respect and welcome that we cannot deny them by saying that "they should not have come".

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