



According to the latest official statistics (HCR, IOM, UNICEF), during the first six months of 2016, **2,856** migrants\* drowned in the Mediterranean, of which 32% (**913**) were children, 19% (**542**) were women and 49% (**1,399**) were men.

We read the news as if these were anonymous deaths, people without a name, just a figure, **2,856**, a number. That is why we are going to count them, one by one.

«Counting lives is not enough. We must act», said IOM Director W. Lacy Swining, and I am aware of that. But I also know that in order to act, the first condition is to know, and in order to know, information has to circulate.

Today we have the opportunity to do this in public once again, although we can't name them, although all we know about them is that they died suffering, in anguish, desperate, drowned in our "marvellous" *Mare Nostrum* (*Our sea*) trying to reach Europe. This Europe that this year is celebrating its culture in San Sebastian - nourished, enriched by so many emigrants, let's not forget it- cannot distance itself from this drama, as this drama is also European.

Maybe by reciting this sorrowful litany we may feel more responsible, it might also increase our capacity for mobilisation to, finally, bring about a change to the EU's policy with regard to emigration, as those who survive also need our help.

\* In 2015, 3,500 people drowned in the Mediterranean and in 2015, 3,771

