

A Humanitarian call by the families of Zwara boat victims

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On Sunday **24 August, 2014** Zwara boat sank near the Italian coasts. Out of the 712 people who were on the boat, the Italian authorities stated that they saved, thankfully, 488 people and pulled out 24 dead body while 200 people are still missing.

According to survivors' testimonies, the main reason behind this high number of victims is the Italian coast guard's poor interest in the rescue mission where they threw only one net to one side of the boat. The people who were on the boat jostled to grab the net and, consequently, the boat turned upside down.

After the boat turned upside down, three boats and one helicopter came to rescue the people who drowned which raises notable doubts over the 200 who are missing and the inability even to find their bodies.

No humanitarian or political factions have delivered any kind of aids to the victims and their families. Also, the Italian authorities are dealing with issue in an unethical manner as it refuse to publish what information and pictures of dead bodies it have in order for the victims' families to recognize their beloved ones. Furthermore, the Italian authorities say that one of the victim's relatives has to come to Italy and check with the Italian authorities before they give him the body. This almost impossible for the victims' families considering the extreme difficulty to acquire a Schengen visa for Syrians nowadays.

We, the victims' families, demand, via [SNHR](#), an immediate action to press on the Italian authorities in order to publish the pictures of victims and all the information it possess. Also, all the detainees should be released in case they aren't yet. Furthermore, the Syrian opposition should pay greater attention to the issue and work on opening an investigation to find out the fate of the missing. Moreover, UNHCR should try its best to address this issue properly. The international community should act upon its responsibilities in regard to the Syrian refugees who tried to escape death in Syria to face another death.