



CIO-SPP-IR Ops Team
1st Floor, Zone N
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Advice on Individual Rights in Europe

8 May 2013

Re. Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write this letter requesting the following information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, as regards a Libyan boat that received minimal assistance from NATO forces in the Mediterranean Sea leading to the deaths of most of those on board. This boat later went on to be called the 'left to die boat' by the press. A priest with whom the migrants were in contact brought the boat's existence to the attention of the maritime councils in Rome.

The questions that we would like to put to the Ministry of Defence are as follows:

1. Were any British helicopters involved in the fly over of the migrants' boat?
2. Did those helicopters provide biscuits and water to the migrants' boat?
3. Did any British ships receive the successive distress signals that were sent from Rome?
4. If not, why not; as all NATO naval assets in the area should be equipped to receive such signals?
5. Upon becoming aware of the migrants' situation, how far away were all British vessels from the migrants' boat?
6. Where were the HMS Westminster and HMS Cumberland from 27 March 2011-April 10 2011?
7. Did the British armed forces take any picture of the migrants' boat?
8. What was the British military policy towards the migrants' boat?
9. Were British naval or aerial assets aware of the migrants' boat drifting back to Libya?
10. Did any British aerial assets provided to supplement the AWACS detect the migrants' boat at any time?
11. Were any British naval assets carrying army helicopters before June?
12. Were there any Westland Lynx helicopters deployed by the British forces during the period 27 March-April 10 2011?
13. Which NATO vessel conducted the first assessment of the migrants' vessel?
14. Were all NATO assets in the area informed of the results of the first assessment?
15. What information on the migrants' boats was shared by NATO command with British military assets in the area?

Thank you for your time and assistance in responding to these questions, if I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me at caseworker12@airecentre.org

Yours faithfully,

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