







*From the Commission for Justice, Peace, and Integrity  
of Creation of the USG/UISG Secretariat*

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**cc for information:**

-  Secretariat of State/Vatican
-  Embassies to the Holy See
-  EU Parliamentarians
-  All Generalates of USG-UISG

We the Co-presidents of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission of the Union of Superior Generals (USG) and the Union of the International Superior Generals (UISG), representing over 30,000 religious men and women serving the poor around the world, are writing to you to express our distress – preoccupation – concern regarding the recent tragedy (April 19, 2015) in which more than 900 people drawn in the Mediterranean sea. We all know that this is not the first time that such event has occurred. Still fresh in our memories is the event that took place on October 3, 2013 during which 368 people lost their lives.

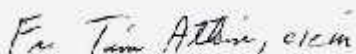
We address this letter to you Parliamentarians at the European Union so that through your voice and capacity you may ask your individual governments, and indeed within the circles of the European Union Parliament, to rescue the poor people running away from poverty, hunger, war and persecution. We denounce and condemn all those who trade and speculate on the poor and defenseless (women, men children and old people) because of human dignity which derives its origin to God the Creator of all regardless of their ethnicity, religion or social status.

As we all know, the problems that induce people to venture into such dangerous journeys need to be addressed if we have to end such tragedies. It is a matter of political and economic willingness of the International community. Recent events of massive perish of innumerable lives are bringing to light the seriousness and the complicated nature of the problem and the need for international collaboration. Regional conflicts big and small; the war in Iraq and Syria, Terrorism; radicalized persecution of minority groups of societies in the middle East, North Africa, Somalia and north Nigeria just to mention few. According to media sources, last week tragedy was the most serious that refugees and migrants have ever experienced in the Mediterranean Sea. If the European Union does not act now, more thousands of people will continue to lose their lives in the near future. In 2014 approximately 219,000 people crossed the Mediterranean and about 3,500 lives perished. Europe cannot continue to evade its responsibility of putting in place a working plan for rescue.

In the name of these poor people, we religious men and women plead you to intervene by deploying major search and rescue mission in the Mediterranean Sea, as well as seeking the creation of legal channels and processes by which migrants fleeing conflicts and persecution can do so through proper means. We also ask you to use bilateral and multilateral diplomacy to go deep into the root causes of those problems that make people to flee from their motherlands to emigrate.

May Jesus of Nazareth who himself was a refugee in Egypt assist your efforts and sustain our hope that the cry of the migrants will be heard and soon a lasting solution will be worked out.

On behalf of Superior Generals of USG – UISG



Fr. Tim Atkin, CICM

Co-President, JPIC Commission



Sr. Maria Theresia Hornermann, SSpS

Co-President, JPIC Commission