



On board Mediterranea  
Aprile 23, 2015  
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**Press release n.20**

**Progetto Mediterranea thanks the Italian Navy and the Corps of Harbour Masters and Coast Guard for their heroic rescue operations of migrants crossing the Mediterranean and support their candidacy to the Nobel Peace Prize.**

The Italian scientific and cultural expedition “Progetto Mediterranea”, that set sail on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from San Benedetto del Tronto, supports the candidacy of Italian Navy and the Corps of Harbour Masters and Coast Guard to the Nobel Peace Prize.

“200,000 people escaping certain death had been rescued by the Italian military Mare Nostrum search-and-rescue operation and now in the framework of European Triton operation for monitoring Schengen external borders, with the limits it implies. And thousands more people are on the way. A massacre anyway, but without the help of the Italian Coast Guard and Navy it would be an unprecedented massacre, like many genocides in our History” – Simone Perotti said, writer and sailor, founder of Progetto Mediterranea.

“Men and women, sailors, who make huge efforts every day to save life in high seas, under the most ancient ritual of the beautiful human law of the sea: a man in trouble must be saved, a simple century-old law, that unites any seaman, any sailor, any cabin boy, any commander” – Simone Perotti stated.

“It is not just a matter of duty” – as added by a few members of Mediterranea, including Giuliana Rogano, official photographer of the expedition and author of the cover picture. “Commanders take decisions and men act every day to prevent men, women, children to drown with all their dreams, hopes, passions and fears. They often report stories and testimonies of abuses of power, violence and wars, and thanks to their survival we get to know them. Human beings and affairs that other human beings give back to life.”

Perotti continued, “They deserve much more than a mere mention in some dreary and belated ceremony. The General Command of the Italian Corps of Harbour Masters and Coast Guard and the Italian Navy ought to be awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize straight away. They are more deserving than many others already awarded.

To them, from every seaman: thank you.”

