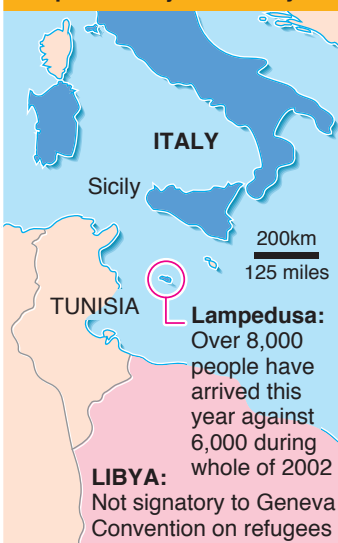


Italy under fire over migrant deportations

Silvio Berlusconi's government faces growing criticism for deporting illegal immigrants without giving them time to apply for asylum. He says swift repatriation will discourage migrants from setting off, but the UN, human rights groups and opposition politicians argue it is unlawful

At least 1,000 people deported to Libya after up to 1,700 had arrived on tiny island of Lampedusa in just five days



*Deportations made possible
after Italy helped persuade EU
to lift economic embargo on
Libya last month*

***Around 950 would-be migrants
have drowned since mid-2001
while attempting to reach Italy***

