



John Vallentine <jvallentine@gmail.com>

Dr Vallentine's Decision

2 messages

John Vallentine <jvallentine@gmail.com>

26 September 2017 at 17:11

To: wsjcontact@wsj.com

Cc: david marr <davidmarr@ozemail.com.au>, Jen <jennifervallentine@gmail.com>, Rosie <rosevallentine@gmail.com>, Roberto Giménez Expósito <robertgim@gmail.com>

Hello Judi and thank you for your letter. Here is my truncated reply, as requested:

“I am the eponymous Dr Vallentine the subject of your article.

Your journalist has misrepresented the moral dilemma. We did not choose to save one life over many.

M/V Golfo Azzurro did not leave those refugees to drown in an effort to save just one man. That would not have not been morally defensible.

The GPS coordinates of that drifting liferaft were known to other rescue vessels in the vicinity besides ours, vessels equally competent to effect rescue.

Please note that the decision to sail north to Lampedusa was taken by Proactiva's head of mission, not me. It was a carefully considered, professional and in my view utterly proper decision. The commitment with which the entire crew of Golfo Azzurro accepted the challenge was moving.

Should our vessel have been on standby off the Libyan coast in the first place? Having stationed ourselves there, should we have taken a 20 hour leave of absence to take this one bloke up to Lampedusa? These are the questions.”

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David Marr <davidmarr@ozemail.com.au>
To: John Vallentine <jvallentine@gmail.com>

27 September 2017 at 00:43

Johnny,

A good letter. What you didn't tell me was there had been hostile internet chatter about the article. That was worth correcting. Nevertheless, it was a heroic article...

Dave.

[Quoted text hidden]