

*Example of email to send to Vroon (info@vroon.nl)*

Dear reader,

Last Monday, a ship from your company, the Vos Triton, has illegally sent back migrants to Libya. Such 'illegal pushbacks' violate international human right agreements.

Libya is an extremely dangerous country for migrants. Migrants are getting detained in inhumane detention centres, tortured, extorted and raped. The people that manage to escape these centres live in poverty and constantly have to flee armed militias. Your company has directly cooperated with the horrifying detention and deportation regime of the EU and the Libyan government by sending these people back. The Libyan coastguard is made up of armed militias that do not shy away from using violence. Once people fall into their hands, they are sent to the aforementioned detention centers, where a terrible fate awaits them.

Last Monday, the Vos Triton was in the Mediterranean where it encountered a boat carrying 180 migrants. Only after a very long time did the crew of your ship decide to take people on board, while it was clear from the first moment that they were in mortal danger. Instead of taking the migrants to European borders – they were already in European water after all – contact was made with the Libyan coastguard and the migrants were handed over to them. Not only is this in violation of international treaties and the principle of non-refoulement, it is also inhumane to return migrants to the appalling conditions in Libya where they are imprisoned and where torture and rape are the order of the day.

It is unacceptable that Vroon cooperates with the detention and deportation machine of the European Union and sends migrants back to unsafe Libya. We demand that you take responsibility for your actions and never cooperate on pushbacks again. Stop cooperating with the inhumane European border policy and show your human side by immediately taking migrants with you and taking them to safe havens. As a company operating in the Mediterranean, you bear responsibility, and we demand that you take it from now on. Safe havens for everyone, and no more pushbacks to Libya.

All the best,