Death toll climbs to 62 in migrant smuggling boat wreck on Italian coast

"It's a gruesome sight," said the mayor of a seaside resort city.

The death toll climbed to 62 on Monday after a human smuggling boat packed with migrants slammed into the rocks off the coast of southern Italy on Sunday and "disintegrated" just feet from the shoreline, officials said.

Migrants reportedly from Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan — countries ravaged recently by poverty, natural disasters, conflicts and civil unrest — were crammed aboard the 66-foot-long wooden boat that originated from Turkey and crashed into a rocky shore of eastern Calabria, which forms the tip of Italy's boot shape, according to the Italian Coast Guard.

At least 120 migrants were aboard the vessel, according to the coast guard. Citing rescue workers, Agence France-Presse put the number at more than 200.

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