



## smuggling of migrants — global news october 2016

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This monthly newsletter summarises news items and media commentary from some of the world's leading media outlets. The Migrant Smuggling Working Group takes no responsibility for the content and accuracy of the information provided in these news items.

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### AFRICA

#### GENERAL

##### ***Africa's population boom fuels 'unstoppable' migration to Europe – 13 October 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-africa-analysis-idUSKCN12D1PN>

When German Chancellor Angela Merkel toured three African nations this week for talks on curbing migration to Europe, the leader of the world's poorest country, Niger, suggested it would take a "Marshall Plan" of massive aid to stop people coming.

#### CHAD

##### ***Chad president says EU needs broader approach to curb migration – 12 October 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-africa-chad-idUSKCN12C1ZN>

The European Union must seek a deal with countries across Africa's desert Sahel region if it wants to curb an influx of migrants, rather than focusing on bilateral deals with individual countries, the president of Chad said on Wednesday.

#### EGYPT

##### ***Egypt passes law to curb trafficking of migrants bound for Europe – 17 October 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-egypt-idUSKBN12H1QK>

Egypt passed legislation on Monday to crack down on people traffickers linked to a major surge in the numbers of migrants departing from the country's Mediterranean coast on often disastrous sea journeys to Europe.

#### LIBYA

##### ***3,300 migrants rescued off Libyan coast – 22 October 2016***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/10/22/world/libya-migrants-mediterranean/index.html>

Rescuers came to the aid of 3,300 migrants and refugees off the coast of Libya in 24 operations Friday, the Italian coast guard said.

### **Seven migrants die on day of 'Libyan Coast Guard' attack – 21 October 2016**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-libya-attack-idUSKCN12L1KJ>

The crew of a speedboat labeled "Libyan Coast Guard" attacked a migrant boat packed with some 150 migrants, beating them with sticks and causing many to fall into the water and at least four to drown, humanitarian group Sea-Watch said on Friday.

### **German group: Migrants die amid Libya 'coast guard' attack – 21 October 2016**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--germany-libya-migrants-20161021-story.html>

At least four people died off the coast of Libya and more were missing after a rubber boat carrying around 150 migrants was attacked Friday by a group aboard a speedboat labeled as belonging to Libya's coast guard, a German aid group said.

### **Inside the Libyan Detention Centers Where Humanity Ceases to Exist – 21 October 2016**

<http://time.com/4538519/libya-human-trafficking/?id=sr-link2>

The good news is that Africa has people who want to work. In fact, according to the International Monetary Fund, by 2035 the number of people reaching working age in Africa will exceed the number in the rest of the world combined. But Africa is not where the jobs are. And so every year, hundreds of thousands of migrants set off across the Sahara toward the promised land of Europe. The journey takes them to Libya, where aspiration verging on desperation meets laissez-faire economics at its most brutal.

### **Libya's Migrant Economy Is a Modern Day Slave Market – 21 October 2016**

<http://time.com/4538445/libyas-migrant-economy-is-a-modern-day-slave-market/?iid=sr-link4>

For migrants from sub-Saharan Africa, Libya was a destination even before Muammar Qaddafi fell in 2011, and the country turned itself in a boat launch to Europe.

### **Four dead after 'Libyan Coast Guard' vessel attacks migrant boat – 21 October 2016**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-37731094>

At least four migrants have died after a speedboat labelled "Libyan Coast Guard" attacked a dinghy, according to a migrant rescue organisation.

### **Libya naval forces deny charges of attack on migrant boat – 22 October 2016**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-libya-idUSKCN12M067>

Libyan naval forces have denied accusations by a rescue organization that one of their crew had attacked a migrant boat packed with around 150 people, causing many to fall into the sea and at least four to drown.

MALI

### **Germany's Merkel, on first leg of Africa trip, pledges help for Mali – 9 October 2016**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mali-germany-merkel-idUSKCN1290XW>

German Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged more support to fight against drug and people smuggling from Mali, on the first day of a trip to Africa where she will try to work toward curbing future waves of migration and to repair her reputation at home.

MOROCCO

**Refugees in Morocco set sights on Europe – 22 October 2016**

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/inpictures/2016/10/refugees-morocco-set-sights-europe-161018090016758.html>

Hundreds of people in the Bolingo camp are waiting for their chance to cross the Mediterranean Sea.

NIGER

**Merkel pledges support for Niger to fight human traffickers, militants – 10 October 2016**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-merkel-africa-idUSKCN12A1OL>

German Chancellor Angela Merkel promised cash and military vehicles on Monday to help Niger fight human traffickers and militant Islamists, trying to bolster a country that is a key staging post for migrants trying to reach Europe.

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AMERICAS

CANADA

**B.C. supreme court hears testimony in human smuggling case – 27 October 2016**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/bc-supreme-court-hears-testimony-in-human-smuggling-case/article32561843/>

A man who travelled to Canada on a migrant ship six years ago says he paid \$5,000 to board and was desperate to get on the boat.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**As U.S. Watches Mexico, Traffickers Slip In From Canada – 16 October 2016**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/17/us/northern-border-illicit-crossing.html>

An hour before sunset, Miguel Ramos waited in his gray minivan for three Guatemalans to walk undetected across the Canadian border and make illicit entry into the United States.

**Haitians vulnerable on Mexico-U.S. border as migrant crisis escalates – 19 October 2016**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-immigration-mexico-haitians-idUSKCN12J2CE>

Camped in migrant centers, broken-down rooms of a dingy, semi-derelict hotel and on church floors, thousands of Haitians desperate to enter the United States are in limbo and exposed to crime in dangerous border neighborhoods of Mexico.

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EUROPE

GENERAL

**UN authorizes EU to stop migrant-smuggling vessels off Libya – 6 October 2016**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/un-authorizes-eu-to-stop-migrant-smuggling-vessels-off-libya/2016/10/06/477525dc-8c13-11e6-8cdc-4fbb1973b506\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/un-authorizes-eu-to-stop-migrant-smuggling-vessels-off-libya/2016/10/06/477525dc-8c13-11e6-8cdc-4fbb1973b506_story.html)

The U.N. Security Council adopted a resolution Thursday authorizing the European Union and individual countries to seize migrant-smuggling vessels on the high seas off Libya for another year.

### **Police find travel agency for traffickers, drug hauls in European raids – 19 October 2016**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europol-crime-idUSKCN12J0M6?il=0>

Police detained more than 300 suspects and seized tonnes of cocaine during a week-long operation against drugs, people-smuggling and cyber crime networks across Europe and beyond, the EU's policing agency said on Wednesday.

### **EU police agency: 314 arrested in organized crime raids – 19 October 2016**

[http://www.theindependent.com/news/world/eu-police-agency-arrested-in-organized-crime-raids/article\\_95958bba-f36d-5753-9aaa-623112eedc6d.html](http://www.theindependent.com/news/world/eu-police-agency-arrested-in-organized-crime-raids/article_95958bba-f36d-5753-9aaa-623112eedc6d.html)

Police and other law enforcement organizations around the world cooperated in a massive weeklong operation targeting organized crime that led to 314 arrests, the seizure of 2.4 tons of cocaine and interception of hundreds of migrants, European Union police agency Europol announced Wednesday.

### **The dangerous migrant road to Europe – 21 October 2016**

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2016/10/daily-chart-13>

Migrants have been making their way on boats to Europe for more than a decade. During the past few years, however, their numbers have soared. In 2015 over 1m crossed the Mediterranean.

### **14 Mediterranean migrants die; 6,100 survive – 23 October 2016**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-tns-bc-europe-migration-20161023-story.html>

Fourteen bodies have been recovered and about 6,100 people have been saved in migrant rescues in the Mediterranean Sea over the weekend, the Italian coast guard said on Sunday.

### **Mediterranean three times more deadly than 2015: U.N. – 25 October 2016**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-un-idUSKCN12P130>

The death toll on the Mediterranean has nearly matched that of all last year, with more than 3,740 migrants and refugees having drowned on their way to Europe, and perilous winter months still to come, aid agencies said on Tuesday.

### **'The Worst We Have Ever Seen': Fewer Migrants, More Death – 25 October 2016**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/26/world/europe/migrants-mediterranean-deaths-united-nations.html>

The harrowing journey across the Mediterranean from North Africa to Europe has become increasingly deadly for asylum seekers desperate to find a better life.

### **Migrant crisis: Mediterranean to have 'deadliest year ever' – 25 October 2016**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-37763052>

This year is set to be the deadliest for migrants and refugees crossing the Mediterranean to Europe, the UN refugee agency says.

### **UN refugee agency: 2016 deadliest year in Mediterranean for migrants – 26 October 2016**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-europe-migrants-20161026-story.html>

The U.N. refugee agency said Wednesday that at least 3,800 migrants have died in the Mediterranean Sea so far this year in an attempt to reach Europe, making 2016 the deadliest year on record.

## ***Why This Has Been the Deadliest Year Yet for Migrants Crossing the Mediterranean – 26 October 2016***

<http://time.com/4546300/migrant-crisis-mediterranean-deadliest-2016/?iid=sr-link1>

This year has become the deadliest on record for migrants crossing the Mediterranean for a better life in Europe, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), despite an overall decrease in the number of people making the crossing compared to 2015.

AUSTRIA

## ***Police recount journey of 71 migrants who died in Austria as investigation ends – 12 October 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-austria-bodies-idUSKCN12C1V9>

In late August of last year, 71 refugees from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan were crammed into the back of a small lorry that left the Serbian-Hungarian border and drove toward Budapest.

FRANCE

## ***A French Underground Railroad, Moving African Migrants – 4 October 2016***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/05/world/europe/france-italy-migrants-smuggling.html>

A local hero to some, a scofflaw to others, Mr. Herrou, who was arrested in August, had helped his guests — all migrants from Africa — to cross the border into France illegally. He planned to sneak them to a train station so they could continue their journey. Some might stay in France, but most wanted to get to Britain or Germany.

## ***Child migrants in Calais seeking smugglers as "Jungle" camp set to close – 13 October 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/europe-migrants-calais-idAFL8N1CI3Y8>

The fate of up to 1,000 children living without families in the "Jungle" migrant camp that is set for demolition within days remains uncertain with some seeking smugglers to take them to Britain, according to residents and charity groups.

## ***U.N. refugee agency says it welcomes demolition of Calais 'Jungle' – 14 October 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/europe-migrants-calais-un-idUSL8N1CK3SS>

The United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) said on Friday it welcomed plans to demolish a migrant camp in Calais in northern France, but raised fears lone children were at risk of trafficking if not adequately supported during the transition.

## ***UN welcomes demolition of Calais 'Jungle' – 15 October 2016***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/welcomes-demolition-calais-jungle-161014153810381.html>

The United Nations refugee agency, the UNHCR, said on Friday that it welcomed plans to demolish a refugee camp in Calais in northern France, but raised fears that lone children were at risk of trafficking if not adequately supported during the transition.

## ***French candidate Alain Juppé: Move UK border from France to Britain – 21 October 2016***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/10/21/europe/france-uk-jungle-migrants-juppe/index.html>

A leading French presidential candidate says he will move his country's border with Britain to the UK, amid concerns about the backlog of British-bound illegal migrants on French soil.

### ***The 'Left Behind' Refugees of the Jungle in Calais – 21 October 2016***

<http://time.com/4541541/calais-jungle-refugee-camp-asylum/?iid=sr-link3>

After months of squabbling between the British and French officials over which country holds responsibility for the refugees hunkered down in Calais, both governments are now scrambling to shut the Jungle, leaving the fate of the camp's 1,000 or so youth younger than 18—children under the law—in legal limbo.

### ***France moving more than 6,000 migrants from makeshift camp – 24 October 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--france-migrants-20161024-story.html>

France began the mass evacuation Monday of the makeshift migrant camp known as "the jungle," a mammoth project to erase the humanitarian blight on its northern border, where thousands fleeing war or poverty have lived in squalor, most hoping to sneak into Britain.

### ***Workers wield sledgehammers to tear down Calais "Jungle" – 25 October 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-calais-idUSKCN12P0P1>

French workers began demolishing the "Jungle" shanty town in Calais on Tuesday, wielding sledgehammers to tear down makeshift dwellings as their former residents - migrants seeking entry to Britain - were moved out.

### ***Underage refugees in Calais running out of options – 28 October 2016***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2016/10/underage-refugees-calais-running-options-161027110023422.html>

As the French government dismantles the Calais camp many don't know where to go next.

GREECE

### ***Greece: Afghan refugees in Elliniko face camp closure – 4 October 2016***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2016/10/greece-afghan-refugees-elliniko-face-camp-closure-161003090329416.html>

As EU prepares for Brussels Afghanistan conference, Afghan refugees weigh returning to homeland consumed by violence.

### ***Greece holds Syrian wanted in Belgium for migrant smuggling – 14 October 2016***

<http://www.bigstory.ap.org/article/fc54ad4bc07a4ee48bb747b06d0605db/greece-holds-syrian-wanted-belgium-migrant-smuggling>

Greek police say they have arrested a Syrian man on the island of Crete who is wanted in Belgium for alleged involvement in a migrant-smuggling ring.

### ***Italy police bust Nigerian smuggling and prostitution ring – 24 October 2016***

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/046744ee371a495889c556dfb3a5a8d9/italy-police-bust-nigerian-smuggling-and-prostitution-ring>

Police in Italy have arrested 11 Nigerians for allegedly trafficking young women and girls from Nigeria to exploit them as sex slaves.

HUNGARY

***Hungary: 8 suspects held for deaths of 71 migrants in truck – 12 October 2016***

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/1c6290824a474600a94ba8c9516c3626/hungary-8-suspects-held-deaths-71-migrants-truck>

Various murder and smuggling charges will be recommended against one Afghan and seven Bulgarian suspects for the deaths last year of 71 migrants who suffocated in the back of a refrigerated truck found in Austria, Hungarian police said Wednesday.

ITALY

***At Italy's 'Mini-Calais', migrants dream of life in France – 5 October 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-france-italy-idUSKCN1251KE>

Far from the crowded 'Jungle' camp in Calais where migrants try to smuggle themselves aboard trucks bound for Britain, hundreds more are risking their lives to enter the other end of France from northern Italy.

***Italy police arrest people smuggler at French border after chase – 20 October 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-italy-chase-idUSKCN12K1EL>

Italian police stopped and arrested a 39-year-old Italian man who was driving a refrigerated minivan packed with 17 migrants after a high-speed chase at the French border, the police said on Thursday.

SERBIA

***Migrants march toward Hungary border to demand its opening – 4 October 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20161004-story.html>

Hundreds of migrants stranded in Serbia set off on foot from Belgrade toward the border with Hungary on Tuesday to protest its closure for most people trying to reach the European Union.

***Protesting migrants end march, returning to Serbian capital – 5 October 2016***

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/cb869b497d554d73832bc5cb224542f9/protesting-migrants-end-march-returning-serbian-capital>

Desperate and cold after spending the night out in the open, more than 100 migrants who set off on foot toward the Hungarian border to protest EU's closed borders agreed Wednesday to end their march and return to the Serbian capital of Belgrade.

***Trapped in Serbia, migrants seek refuge in derelict warehouse – 28 October 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-serbia-idUSKCN12S1ZF>

More than 1,000 migrants, trapped in Serbia after fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and Central Asia, have occupied a derelict warehouse in the capital Belgrade, where they are preparing to tough out a bitter Balkan winter.

SLOVAKIA

***Slovak police charge five with smuggling migrants to Germany, Italy – 14 October 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-slovakia-trafficking-idUSKBN12E1D4>

Five Slovaks are facing charges of smuggling at least 300 illegal migrants last year from Hungary to western Europe, mostly to Germany and Italy, Slovakian police said on Friday.

UNITED KINGDOM

***Britons jailed for cross-channel people smuggling attempt – 15 October 2016***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-37665514>

Two men who tried to smuggle 13 men and a child in a boat across the English Channel into the UK have been jailed.

***Two Britons jailed for cross-Channel people smuggling attempt – 15 October 2016***

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/15/two-britons-jailed-for-cross-channel-people-smuggling-attempt>

Two Britons who attempted to smuggle 13 Albanian men and a child across the Channel in a small motor boat have been jailed.