



smuggling of migrants — global news june 2017

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.

AFRICA

LIBYA

Spanish NGO boat rescues 420 migrants close to Libyan coast – 15 June 2017

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20170615-story.html>

A Spanish aid organization has rescued 420 migrants attempting the perilous crossing of the Mediterranean Sea to Europe in packed smugglers' boats from Libya.

More than 200 migrants rescued off Libyan coast, two dead – 26 June 2017

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-rescues-idUSKBN19H1C8>

Two people were found dead as more than 200 migrants adrift in two dinghies off the Libyan coast were rescued by the Spanish navy on Sunday, the Spanish Defense Ministry said on Monday.

At least 24 migrants die as thousands rescued in seas off Libya – 24 June 2017

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/at-least-24-migrants-die-as-thousands-rescued-in-seas-off-libya/article35482381/>

Red Crescent volunteers recovered the bodies of 24 migrants on Tuesday that were washed up in an eastern suburb of the Libyan capital, Tripoli, as large-scale rescues were made in the Mediterranean.

Irish naval ship 'rescues 712 people' off Libyan coast – 26 June 2017

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/irish-naval-ship-rescues-712-people-libyan-coast-170626071349826.html>

An Irish naval ship has rescued 712 people, including pregnant women and infants, off the coast of the Libyan capital of Tripoli as part of an international migrant-rescue effort, Ireland's Defence Forces say.

NIGER

More than 40 migrants 'die of thirst' in Niger – 1 June 2017

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/40-migrants-die-thirst-niger-170601111717374.html>

Babies and women were among the 44 migrants found dead after their vehicle broke down in the desert of northern Niger while on the way to Libya, local officials said on Thursday.

IOM, Niger authorities rescue 92 abandoned migrants – 14 June 2017

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-af--niger-migrants-rescued-20170614-story.html>

More than 90 West African migrants on their way to Libya have been rescued after being abandoned in the scorching Sahara Desert in Niger, the International Organization for Migration said Wednesday.

Niger army rescues 92 migrants in Sahara Desert – 14 June 2017

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-40271953>

Troops in northern Niger have rescued 92 migrants who were on the brink of death in the Sahara Desert, an army statement has said.

Niger migrants: 52 die during desert crossing – 26 June 2017

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-40408599>

Fifty-two migrants have been found dead in the deserts of central Niger, near Séguédine. A group of 75 set out in three vehicles but were abandoned by traffickers, who feared the security forces.

Dozens abandoned in Niger desert feared dead – 27 June 2017

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/dozens-feared-dead-abandoned-niger-desert-170626213859163.html>

Dozens of people are feared dead after human traffickers abandoned them in Niger's northern desert without food or water, a senior local official said on Monday.

AMERICAS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Alleged smuggler arrested after woman dies hiding in his truck, federal officials say – 21 June 2017

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-man-charged-undocumented-mexican-woman-death-20170621-story.html>

A 26-year-old man was arrested Sunday after a Mexican woman he picked up near the border died while hiding in his truck, authorities said.

Feds will now target relatives who smuggled in children – 30 June 2017

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/feds-seek-to-arrest-relatives-who-smuggled-migrant-children/2017/06/30/225f2144-5d4b-11e7-aa69-3964a7d55207_story.html

The Trump administration said Friday it will begin arresting parents and other relatives who hire smugglers to bring their children into the U.S., a move that sent a shudder through immigrant communities nationwide.

ASIA-PACIFIC

HONG KONG SAR

Boat chase ends in seven caught, including Vietnamese baby girl, over illegal Hong Kong entry – 1 June 2017

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-crime/article/2096220/vietnamese-baby-girl-among-seven-caught-entering-hong-kong>

A boatload of Vietnamese illegal immigrants, including a baby girl, was intercepted by authorities after a brief chase off Sai Kung Country Park on Tuesday morning, according to police.

THAILAND

More than 2,000 workers flee Thailand after labor crackdown – 30 June 2017

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-thailand-migrants-idUSKBN19L150>

More than 2,000 undocumented migrant workers from Myanmar and Cambodia fled from Thailand this week, officials said on Friday, after a decree aimed at managing foreign workers came into effect.

EUROPE

GENERAL

NGOs deny collusion with Mediterranean smugglers – 2 June 2017

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/ngos-deny-collusion-mediterranean-smugglers-170531111554101.html>

Aid workers patrolling the Mediterranean Sea have criticised claims by Italian prosecutors that they are colluding with smugglers to bring refugees and migrants to Europe.

1,000 migrants rescued in Mediterranean; 2 dead – 10 June 2017

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20170610-story.html>

Two migrants died in the Mediterranean Sea on Saturday during a rescue operation that saved more than 1,000 others who were attempting the dangerous crossing to Europe, according to a Spanish aid group.

EU effort to halt migrants founders in Libya's chaos – 26 June 2017

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-libya-idUSKBN19H0MB>

When Libya's coastguard received the first of a long-awaited batch of patrol boats from Italy last month, two of the four vessels still had mechanical problems and one broke down on the way to Tripoli.

AUSTRIA

Migrants risk death with smugglers despite lorry tragedy – 21 June 2017

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-40333111>

The grisly discovery of 71 bodies decomposing in an abandoned lorry on an Austrian motorway marked a turning point in Europe's migrant crisis.

FRANCE

The National Front member who fell in love with Calais Jungle migrant – 5 June 2017

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-40132396>

The 45-year-old had just a couple years previously been a card-carrying member of the far-right National Front (FN), and she was the widow of a policeman who she says was racist. Now here she was helping her migrant lover, Mokhtar, whom she had met in the so-called Jungle migrant camp in Calais, to sneak into Britain. She recounts the story of how her life changed the day she offered a lift to a teenage migrant in a new book titled Calais Mon Amour.

French woman guilty of smuggling migrant partner but spared jail – 27 June 2017

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-40415775>

A woman put on trial in France for helping her romantic partner cross the border from the "Jungle" migrant camp in Calais to the UK has escaped a jail sentence.

HUNGARY

Four go on trial in Hungary over truck deaths of 71 migrants – 21 June 2017

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-hungary-trial-idUSKBN19C0PI>

People-smugglers ignored the cries of 71 migrants as they suffocated in the back of a truck, then dumped it, crammed with corpses, at the side of an Austrian motorway, a murder trial heard on Wednesday.

Trial begins over deaths of 71 migrants in refrigerated lorry – 21 June 2017

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jun/21/trial-begins-over-deaths-of-71-migrants-in-refrigerated-lorry>

Eleven men have gone on trial over the deaths of 71 migrants found in an abandoned truck in Austria nearly two years ago, in one of the most disturbing cases marking Europe's migration crisis.

ITALY

Italy busts ring smuggling migrants from Tunisia in speedboat – 6 June 2017

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-italy-smugglers-idUSKBN18X26J>

Italy broke up a criminal ring smuggling migrants safely to Sicily for about 3,000 euros (\$3,379) on a speedboat capable of making the crossing from Tunisia in less than four hours, magistrates said on Tuesday.

Italy chides EU partners for lack of solidarity in migrant crisis – 20 June 2017

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-refugee-day-italy-migrants-idUSKBN19B281>

Italy on Tuesday said migrant arrivals by sea were up by a quarter this year and chided European Union partners who refused to offer a helping hand to those who flee their troubled homelands.

Italy considers closing its ports to boats carrying migrants – 28 June 2017

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jun/28/italy-considers-closing-its-ports-to-ships-from-libya>

The Italian government is considering blocking boats carrying migrants from landing at its ports after nearly 11,000 refugees arrived on its shores in five days.

Migrant pressures grow; Italy presses EU nations to do more – 29 June 2017

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20170629-story.html>

Italy's leader pressed his European Union allies Thursday to take in more migrants, saying the relentless arrival of tens of thousands on Italy's shores is putting his country under enormous strain. He spoke after 10,000 migrants were pulled to safety from the Mediterranean Sea in the last few days alone and were heading to Italy.

SPAIN

Spain rescues 2 babies and 52 adults crossing Mediterranean – 11 June 2017

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-spain-mediterranean-rescue-20170611-story.html>

Spain's maritime rescue service says it has saved 54 migrants, including two babies, trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea in a smugglers' boat.

UNITED KINGDOM

Eight men charged with Albanian people smuggling plot – 8 June 2017

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-40203326>

Eight men have been charged in relation to a people smuggling plot which brought Albanians into the UK in small boats.