



## smuggling of migrants — global news august 2017

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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

#### EGYPT

##### ***Germany and Egypt agree deal to stem migrant flow – 28 August 2017***

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-germany-egypt/germany-and-egypt-agree-deal-to-stem-migrant-flow-idUSKCN1B815J>

Germany said on Monday it had reached a deal with Egypt to stem the flow of migrants from the Arab country, part of a broader push by Berlin to head off waves of migrants that have stoked domestic political tensions.

#### LIBYA

##### ***Italy to deploy naval ships to Libya as migration crisis grows – 2 August 2017***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/08/02/europe/italy-to-send-military-ships-to-libya/index.html>

Italy will deploy two military ships to Libya in an effort to deter illegal migration and human smuggling into Europe, the Italian government announced Wednesday.

##### ***Libyan coast guard fires warning shots as rescue boat patrols off coast – 8 August 2017***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/08/08/europe/libya-italy-mediterranean-migrant-crisis/index.html>

The Libyan navy fired two warning shots after a migrant rescue ship was seen patrolling near Libyan waters on Monday.

##### ***Doctors Without Borders Suspends Migrant Rescue Patrols Off Libyan Coast – 12 August 2017***

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/12/world/europe/doctors-without-borders-suspends-migrant-rescue-patrols-off-libyan-coast.html>

The medical aid group Doctors Without Borders said Saturday that it was temporarily suspending the operations of its ship used to rescue migrants because of what it said were threats from Libya's Coast Guard.

##### ***Doctor Without Borders suspends rescue ship off Libya over security concerns – 12 August 2017***

<http://www.latimes.com/world/la-fg-libya-migrants-20170812-story.html>

Doctors Without Borders said Saturday that it is temporarily suspending the activity of its rescue ship due to alleged threats from Libya's coast guard, which has become more aggressive in patrolling the coasts where human traffickers launch boats crowded with migrants desperate to reach Europe.

***NGOs halt migrant rescue operations, citing Libya 'threat' – 13 August 2017***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/08/13/europe/mediterranean-libya-migrant-rescues-suspended/index.html>

Two non-governmental organizations have said they are suspending migrant search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean because they feel threatened by the Libyan authorities.

***Second group suspends migrant rescues in Mediterranean due to Libyan threats – 13 August 2017***

<https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/second-group-suspends-migrant-rescues-in-mediterranean-due-to-libyan-threats/article35977745/?ref=http://www.theglobeandmail.com&>

A second humanitarian group in two days has reluctantly decided to suspend migrant rescues in the Mediterranean Sea due to Libyan threats, and other charities with rescue ships on Sunday were considering doing the same.

***MSF suspends Mediterranean rescues as migrant dispute mounts – 13 August 2017***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-msf/msf-suspends-mediterranean-rescues-as-migrant-dispute-mounts-idUSKBN1AS0L1>

Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said on Saturday it was suspending its migrant rescues in the Mediterranean because it felt threatened by the Libyan coastguard and the Italian government's policies have made its job harder.

***More NGOs follow MSF in suspending Mediterranean migrant rescues – 14 August 2017***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-ngo/more-ngos-follow-msf-in-suspending-mediterranean-migrant-rescues-idUSKCN1ATOIZ>

Two more aid groups have suspended migrant rescues in the Mediterranean, joining Doctors Without Borders, because they felt threatened by the Libyan coastguard.

***Three NGOs halt Mediterranean migrant rescues after Libyan hostility – 14 August 2017***

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/aug/14/three-ngos-halt-mediterranean-migrant-rescues-after-libyan-hostility>

Three NGOs have suspended migrant rescues in the Mediterranean because of the increasingly hostile stance of the Libyan authorities and coastguard.

***Libyans 'threatened' Med migrant aid boat Golfo Azzurro – 16 August 2017***

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/world-europe-40948222>

A Spanish migrant aid group is deciding whether to continue its Mediterranean rescue mission after it said its boat was targeted by Libya's coastguard.

***Report: An Armed Group Is Stopping Migrants From Leaving Libya – 22 August 2017***

<http://time.com/4910469/libya-armed-group-migrants/?iid=sr-link9>

A gun-toting group of civilians, policemen and soldiers in Libya has been preventing migrants from embarking across the Mediterranean to Italy, Reuters reports. It is believed to have caused the sudden fall in departures from Libya in July.

***Italy's interior minister meets Libyan mayors over people smuggling – 27 August 2017***

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-libya/italys-interior-minister-meets-libyan-mayors-over-people-smuggling-idUSKCN1B60JY>

Italian Interior Minister Marco Minniti met Libyan mayors on Saturday to renew a commitment to fight people trafficking as part of an agreement signed earlier this year between Rome and Tripoli.

NIGER

***Niger smugglers take migrants on deadlier Saharan routes: U.N. – 9 August 2017***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-niger-migrants/niger-smugglers-take-migrants-on-deadlier-saharan-routes-u-n-idUSKBN1AO25O>

Traffickers in Niger are taking African migrants dreaming of reaching Europe on more dangerous routes through the Sahara desert in order to avoid detection after a government crackdown on smuggling, the U.N. migration agency said on Tuesday.

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## AMERICAS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

***Big Rigs, a Human Smuggling Mainstay, Often Become Rolling Traps – 1 August 2017***

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/30/us/truck-human-smuggling-immigrants.html>

Hundreds of migrants every year are caught inside tractor-trailers, and hundreds more are believed to be cruising in undetected. Even though President Trump's tough stance on illegal immigration has slowed the flow of border crossers, many are still trying to slip past the Border Patrol in the back of eighteen-wheelers.

***Police: 16 immigrants locked inside rig at Texas truck stop – 14 August 2017***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-texas-truck-stop-immigrants-20170814-story.html>

Police in Texas acting on a tip found 16 immigrants locked inside a tractor-trailer parked at a gas station about 20 miles from the border with Mexico, less than a month after 10 people died in the back of a hot truck in San Antonio.

***Texas police find 16 immigrants in locked tractor-trailer at gas stop just miles from Mexico border – 15 August 2017***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/world/united-states-canada/article/2106799/texas-police-find-16-immigrants-locked-tractor>

Police in Texas acting on a tip found 16 immigrants locked inside a tractor-trailer parked at a gas station about 20 miles (30 kilometres) from the border with Mexico, less than a month after 10 people died in the back of a hot truck in San Antonio.

***Driver in fatal human smuggling operation is indicted in Texas – 16 August 2017***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/nationnow/la-na-texas-smuggling-indictment-20170816-story.html>

The driver of a tractor-trailer packed with people illegally entering the United States in an alleged human smuggling operation was indicted Wednesday on charges related to the deaths of 10 people inside.

***Truck driver formally indicted for 10 immigrant deaths in Texas – 17 August 2017***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-texas-bodies/truck-driver-formally-indicted-for-10-immigrant-deaths-in-texas-idUSKCN1AX03N>

A truck driver accused of smuggling immigrants inside a packed and sweltering tractor-trailer through Texas, 10 of whom died, was formally indicted by a federal grand jury on Wednesday on charges that can carry the death penalty, prosecutors said

***Sixty migrants found locked in icy truck on US-Mexico border – 22 August 2017***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-41007194>

Sixty undocumented migrants from Central America were discovered locked inside a food truck by US officials as they tried to cross the border.

***Refrigerated truck with ice-covered broccoli found packed with 60 immigrants in Texas – 22 August 2017***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/world/united-states-canada/article/2107708/refrigerated-truck-ice-covered-broccoli-found-packed>

Sixty immigrants have been found in a load of ice-covered broccoli in a refrigerated trailer that was searched at a South Texas border checkpoint, federal officials said on Monday.

***30 detained at cross-border tunnel in Otay Mesa – 26 August 2017***

<http://www.latimes.com/local/sd-me-border-tunnel-20170826-story.html>

Border Patrol agents found a cross-border tunnel in Otay Mesa early Saturday after dozens of people emerged from it, federal authorities said.

***Smuggling tunnel found in San Diego, 30 people detained – 27 August 2017***

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/news/nation/2017/08/27/smuggling-tunnel-found-san-diego-people-detained/FMeBM1s037rxHa88UUvuTN/story.html>

Authorities have found a smuggling tunnel that carried dozens of people across the border from Mexico into the United States.

***U.S. border agents find smuggling tunnel in San Diego – 27 August 2017***

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-san-diego/u-s-border-agents-find-smuggling-tunnel-in-san-diego-idUSKCN1B700N>

Border Patrol agents discovered a tunnel running under the U.S.-Mexico border Saturday in San Diego, California apparently used for illegal immigration, authorities said.

***Illegal immigrants arrested after cross-border tunnel found in San Diego – 27 August 2017***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/08/27/us/san-diego-immigrant-smuggling-tunnel/index.html>

US agents have arrested 30 illegal immigrants thought to have crossed into San Diego through a cross-border smuggling tunnel from Mexico, US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) said.

***Driver accused of human smuggling in Texas pleads not guilty – 28 August 2017***

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/driver-accused-of-human-smuggling-in-texas-pleads-not-guilty/2017/08/28/da4308e2-8c22-11e7-9c53-6a169beb0953\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/driver-accused-of-human-smuggling-in-texas-pleads-not-guilty/2017/08/28/da4308e2-8c22-11e7-9c53-6a169beb0953_story.html)

The driver of a semitrailer that was transporting people into the U.S. through Texas in an alleged human smuggling operation has pleaded not guilty to federal charges against him.

***Chinese migrants lead US agents to San Diego border tunnel – 28 August 2017***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-us--border-tunnel-chinese-migrants-20170828-story.html>

Dozens of migrants fleeing from Border Patrol agents led authorities to a surprising discovery over the weekend: A tunnel under the US-Mexico border in San Diego used to bring Chinese nationals illegally into the United States.

***Mexican smuggler who hit US agent with rock gets 8-year term – 29 August 2017***

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/sns-bc-us--border-agent-struck-20170829-story.html>

A notorious Mexican human smuggler who hit a U.S. Border Patrol agent in the face with a rock two years ago after a foiled smuggling attempt in Southern California was sentenced Monday to more than eight years in prison.

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ASIA-PACIFIC

INDONESIA

***Police foil attempt to traffic 16 people to Malaysia – 16 August 2017***

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2017/08/16/police-foil-attempt-to-traffic-16-people-to-malaysia.html>

The West Kalimantan Police have foiled an alleged attempt to traffic 16 people – 14 men and two women – from East Nusa Tenggara to Sarawak, Malaysia.

***Batam Navy foils human smuggling attempt – 25 August 2017***

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2017/08/25/batam-navy-foils-human-smuggling-attempt.html>

The Western Fleet Quick Response (WFQR) unit from the Batam Navy Base in Riau Islands foiled on Tuesday an attempt to smuggle undocumented workers into Malaysia.

MYANMAR

***Torched villages, dead civilians, squalid refugee camps: Myanmar's Rakhine state is caught in a cycle of horrific violence. Here's why – 30 August 2017***

<http://www.latimes.com/world/asia/la-fg-myanmar-rohingya-violence-2017-story.html>

Since Friday, at least 18,500 Rohingya, a Muslim minority in the country's conflict-ridden Rakhine state, have fled a surge of violence by crossing into Bangladesh, according to the International Organization for Migration.

***Rohingya women, children die in desperate boat escape from Myanmar – 31 August 2017***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-rohingya-boat/rohingya-women-children-die-in-desperate-boat-escape-from-myanmar-idUSKCN1BB2GH?il=0>

The group, all Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar, were found washed up on the shore on Thursday by villagers from Shah Porir Dwip island in Bangladesh, a short distance from the mouth of the Naf river that separates the two countries.

## THAILAND

### ***Thailand 'preparing to receive' those fleeing Myanmar violence – 29 August 2017***

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-rohingya-thailand/thailand-preparing-to-receive-those-fleeing-myanmar-violence-idUSKCN1B9164>

Thailand is preparing to receive people fleeing fighting in Myanmar and send them back “when they are ready”, the prime minister said on Tuesday, following a series of attacks by Rohingya Muslim insurgents on Myanmar security forces last week.

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## MIDDLE EAST

## YEMEN

### ***Smuggler 'deliberately drowned' dozens of migrants off Yemen coast – 9 August 2017***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-tns-bc-yemen-migrants-20170809-story.html>

A smuggler "deliberately drowned" dozens of migrants from Ethiopia and Somalia by pushing them from a boat off the coast of southern Yemen on Wednesday, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said in a statement.

### ***At Least 50 Migrants Drown as Smuggler Throws Them Into Sea – 9 August 2017***

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/09/world/africa/migrants-drown-yemen.html>

The migrants — average age 16 — were fleeing two desperate places, Ethiopia and Somalia. They were headed to the shores of another, Yemen. But early Wednesday morning, as they were about to reach land, they were thrown into the Arabian Sea by a boatman they had paid to take them across the water, according to the United Nations migration agency.

### ***Teenage migrants 'deliberately drowned' by smugglers in Yemen – 9 August 2017***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40878389>

At least 29 teenage migrants were deliberately drowned by a people smuggler in Yemen, the UN's migration agency says.

### ***UN: Smugglers throw some 280 migrants into the sea off Yemen – 10 August 2017***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-dead-migrants-20170810-story.html>

Smugglers have thrown some 280 migrants into the sea off the coast of Yemen in the last two days, causing more than 50 to drown and leaving over 30 missing, the U.N. migration agency said Thursday.

### ***Why thousands of teenagers are fleeing to war-torn Yemen – 10 August 2017***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/08/10/africa/yemen-african-teenagers/index.html>

Refugees and migrants hoping to reach oil-rich Gulf countries -- many of them teenagers -- are increasingly traversing a dangerous sea route to Yemen, despite the conflict raging there.

### ***Up to 50 African migrants 'deliberately drowned' by smugglers, UN says – 10 August 2017***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/08/09/africa/africa-migrants-feared-dead/index.html>

A smuggler "deliberately drowned" up to 50 Somali and Ethiopian migrants in the sea off Yemen's coast, the United Nations migration agency said.

***Scores of Teenage Migrants Were 'Deliberately Drowned' by Smugglers off the Coast of Yemen – 10 August 2017***

<http://time.com/4894933/yemen-coast-drowned-migrants/?iid=sr-link4>

As many as 50 Somali and Ethiopian migrants, many of them teenagers, are believed to have been "deliberately drowned" when a human smuggler in charge of a boat forced more than 120 people into the sea off the coast of Yemen, according to the U.N. agency on migration.

***Yemen migrants killed in 'second deliberate drowning' – 10 August 2017***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40887454>

At least 19 migrants have died after being deliberately drowned, the UN's migration agency says.

***At least 55 people feared drowned off Yemen after being forced from boat – 10 August 2017***

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/aug/10/yemen-55-people-feared-drowned-after-being-forced-from-boat>

At least 55 people are feared to have drowned off the coast of Yemen after being forced from a migrant boat by smugglers in the second such incident in two days, the UN migration agency has said.

***Up to 50 refugees 'deliberately drowned' off Yemen: UN – 10 August 2017***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/08/50-refugees-deliberately-drowned-yemen-170809204210883.html>

Up to 50 refugees and migrants from Somalia and Ethiopia were "deliberately drowned" when a smuggler forced them into the sea off Yemen's coast, the UN migration agency said on Wednesday, calling the drownings "shocking and inhumane".

***29 migrants drown after smugglers pushed them into the sea off Yemen: IOM – 10 August 2017***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/world/middle-east/article/2106169/29-migrants-drown-after-being-pushed-sea-yemen-smugglers-iom>

Smugglers forced more than 120 Somali and Ethiopian migrants into rough seas off Yemen on Wednesday, leaving 29 dead and 22 missing, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said.

***Over 150 refugees 'thrown' into Yemen sea, 13 missing – 11 August 2017***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/08/200-refugees-thrown-yemen-sea-50-missing-170810104006798.html>

More refugees and migrants have been "deliberately drowned" by human smugglers for the second time in 24 hours off the coast of Yemen, according to the United Nations migration agency.

***The African Migration Tragedy in Yemen – 16 August 2017***

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/16/opinion/african-migration-yemen.html>

The narrow strait that separates the Horn of Africa from the Arabian Peninsula is so treacherous it is called Bab el Mandeb — "gateway of grief." It's earned its miserable name lately as African migrants try to pass through war-torn Yemen to flee dire poverty and hunger and reach Saudi Arabia, and jobs.

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## EUROPE

### GENERAL

#### ***Eight migrants die in Mediterranean: aid group – 2 August 2017***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-casualties/eight-migrants-die-in-mediterranean-aid-group-idUSKBN1AH4PO>

Eight migrants died in the Mediterranean and 375 were rescued from small boats on Tuesday, aid group Proactiva Open Arms said.

#### ***Migrant rescue NGO says boat drifting after Italy and Malta refuse access – 8 August 2017***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-italy-libya/migrant-rescue-ngo-says-boat-drifting-after-italy-and-malta-refuse-access-idUSKBN1AO1KE>

A Spanish aid group operating in the Mediterranean said on Tuesday one of its boats had been barred by Italy and Malta from disembarking migrants rescued two days ago.

#### ***Facebook removes posts made by people smugglers aiming to lure migrants – 25 August 2017***

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/aug/25/facebook-removes-posts-made-by-people-smugglers-aiming-to-lure-migrants>

Facebook has removed several posts made by people smugglers openly advertising to attract migrants seeking passage to Europe.

#### ***Merkel wants to work with African leaders on migration – 27 August 2017***

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/merkel-work-african-leaders-migration-49451965>

German Chancellor Angela Merkel says she wants to work more closely with Libya's government to curtail illegal migration from Africa to Europe.

#### ***Europe-Africa summit yields new approach to asylum claims – 28 August 2017***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20170828-story.html>

The leaders of France, Germany, Italy and Spain agreed Monday on a new policy to grant asylum to vulnerable migrants who apply for protection while in Africa instead of their destination countries.

#### ***Migrant crisis: Macron unveils plans after meeting – 28 August 2017***

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/world-europe-41071796>

French President Emmanuel Macron has announced a plan to curb migration across the Mediterranean after meeting African and European leaders.

#### ***African and European leaders agree action plan on migration crisis – 28 August 2017***

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/aug/28/emmanuel-macron-hosts-summit-to-tackle-migration-crisis>

Seven African and European leaders have met in Paris to try to build a new relationship aimed at cutting migration into Europe from northern Africa in return for aid.

#### ***Europe's migrant crisis isn't going away, but it is changing – 29 August 2017***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/08/17/europe/mediterranean-migrant-crisis-2017/index.html>

Much has changed since the height of the refugee crisis that gripped Europe in the summer of 2015. Since the shocking images of drowned Syrian toddler Alan Kurdi went viral, the crisis has largely been out of international headlines. But it doesn't show any signs of stopping.



***Europeans, Africans agree renewed push to tackle migrant crisis – 29 August 2017***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-europe-summit/europeans-africans-agree-renewed-push-to-tackle-migrant-crisis-idUSKCN1B8238>

Europe's "big four" continental powers and three African states agreed a plan on Monday to tackle illegal human trafficking and support nations struggling to contain the flow of people across the desert and Mediterranean sea.

FRANCE

***France, Facing Criticism, Promises the Bare Essentials for Migrants – 1 August 2017***

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/01/world/europe/france-migrants-calais.html>

After banking on neglect, hostility and mistreatment to discourage a steady trickle of migrants, the new French government was ordered by France's highest administrative body to do better this week and at least provide water and toilets to the people.

***French Farmer Who Aided Migrants Says Court Might as Well Lock Him Up – 8 August 2017***

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/08/world/europe/france-farmer-migrants-asylum.html>

A French farmer who smuggled migrants across the Italian border was sentenced on Tuesday to a suspended four-month prison term in a case that has shone a light on the government's immigration policies.

GERMANY

***Syrian people traffickers jailed in Germany – 11 August 2017***

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/world-europe-40899132>

A German court has jailed two Syrian people traffickers over the deaths of 13 migrants in the Mediterranean in 2015.

***German court sentences three Syrian smugglers over migrant deaths – 12 August 2017***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-germany-trial/german-court-sentences-three-syrian-smugglers-over-migrant-deaths-idUSKBN1AR1KN>

A German court sentenced three Syrian men on Friday for running a smuggling ring from Turkey to Europe over the deaths of 13 migrants in the Mediterranean two years ago.

ITALY

***How Not to Solve the Refugee Crisis – 1 August 2017***

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/07/31/how-not-to-solve-the-refugee-crisis>

A case of mistaken identity put the wrong man in jail. Now it highlights the failure of prosecutions to tackle a humanitarian disaster.

***Thousands if by sea: Italy's immigration – 1 August 2017***

<https://espresso.economist.com/212ab20dbdf4191cbcdf015511783f4>

Italian lawmakers are due to be asked today to back the boldest effort yet to halt people-smuggling from Libya. Last week, responding to a request from Libya's UN-backed government, Paolo Gentiloni, the prime minister, said he would deploy naval vessels that could operate inside Libyan territorial waters.

***Italy Has a Controversial New Plan to Stop Migrants Crossing the Mediterranean Sea – 3 August 2017***

<http://time.com/4885415/italy-naval-mission-migrant-smuggling/?iid=sr-link6>

Italy approved a controversial new naval mission to stop migrant smuggling boats from leaving Libya on Wednesday, in an effort to curb the numbers of migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean.

***Italy minister sees light at the end of the tunnel on migrant flows – 16 August 2017***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-italy/italy-minister-sees-light-at-the-end-of-the-tunnel-on-migrant-flows-idUSKCN1AV1PQ>

Italy's interior minister said on Tuesday he saw light at the end of the tunnel for curbing migrant flows from Libya after a slowdown in arrivals across the Mediterranean in recent months.

***Eritrean priest in Italy denies 'people smuggling' – 16 August 2017***

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/world-africa-40949062>

A Catholic priest under investigation for people smuggling has told the BBC that politicians are trying to criminalise people helping refugees.

***Flow of Migrants to Italy Slows, but Nobody Knows Why – 18 August 2017***

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/18/world/europe/migrant-crisis-italy-libya.html>

The main route to Europe is experiencing one of its longest lulls since the migration crisis began in 2014.

***Why are fewer irregular migrants arriving in Italy? – 28 August 2017***

<https://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2017/08/economist-explains-22>

RECENT weeks have seen an abrupt shift in the pattern of irregular migration in the Mediterranean. A deal last year between the European Union and Turkey all but sealed the eastern sea route to Greece. Italy then received the lion's share of arrivals, with more than 100,000 people entering the EU in 2016 from the south, most having set off from Libya. Now that route appears to have been disrupted too. Arrivals in July were down more than 50% on last year.

***Italy Denies Supporting Libyan Traffickers to Stop Migrants – 31 August 2017***

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-libya-italy/italy-denies-supporting-libyan-traffickers-to-stop-migrants-idUSKCN1BA2EV>

Italy denied on Wednesday that it supported a deal to pay armed groups implicated in human trafficking to prevent migrants crossing the Mediterranean.

SPAIN

***101 arrested over people smuggling ring in Spain – 3 August 2017***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/08/03/europe/smuggling-spain-europol/index.html>

More than 100 people have been arrested in Spain after police busted a criminal network responsible for smuggling Iranian nationals into the UK on commercial flights, Europol said in a statement on Thursday.

***Spain police bust huge Iran-UK immigration ring – 3 August 2017***

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/world-europe-40812309>

Police in Spain say they have broken up a large immigration ring that smuggled Iranians as young as five into the UK.

***Trafficking gang smuggling Iranians to Britain caught in Europe – 4 August 2017***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-britain-trafficking-gangs/trafficking-gang-smuggling-iranians-to-britain-caught-in-europe-idUSKBN1AJ2XV>

European authorities have smashed a human trafficking gang smuggling Iranians, some as young as five, into Britain, making more than 100 arrests, the European police agency Europol said on Thursday.

***Spain rescues 339 migrants from seven boats in Mediterranean – 16 August 2017***

<https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/spain-rescues-339-migrants-from-seven-boats-in-mediterranean/article35997382/?ref=http://www.theglobeandmail.com&>

Spain's maritime rescue service says it has picked up 339 migrants from seven boats trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea from Morocco.

***Spain rescues 600 migrants in Mediterranean in 24 hours – 17 August 2017***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20170817-story.html>

Spain's maritime rescue service has saved more than 600 migrants trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea from Morocco in the past 24 hours, making it one of its busiest days so far this year.

***Migrants on flimsy boats leave Tangier coast for Spain – 17 August 2017***

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/world-europe-40958797>

More migrants are choosing to set sail for Spain from Morocco immediately to the east and west of the city of Tangier.

***Migrant crisis: Spain rescues 600 people in busiest day – 17 August 2017***

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/world-europe-40957089>

Spain's coastguard says it has rescued 600 migrants crossing from Morocco in a 24-hour period, amid a spike in the number of migrant arrivals.

UNITED KINGDOM

***Eurotunnel migrant smuggling: Pregnant mum found guilty – 8 August 2017***

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/uk-england-kent-40864530>

A woman has been found guilty of trying to smuggle 12 Vietnamese migrants into the UK in a van loaded with tyres.

***Birmingham gang smuggled people in car boots – 14 August 2017***

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/uk-england-birmingham-40930858>

Six members of a people smuggling gang from Birmingham are facing jail after two groups of Albanian nationals were found by border officials in car boots.

***'People smuggler' who hid five in cupboards jailed – 31 August 2017***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-humber-41112246>

A man who tried to smuggle people into the UK by concealing them in cupboards has been jailed for three and a half years.