



smuggling of migrants — global news may 2014

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

Migrants die as hundreds left in Libya desert – 1 May 2014

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/04/migrants-die-as-hundreds-left-libya-desert-2014430174113140224.html>

Nine immigrants have died among around 300 abandoned by smugglers in the scorching Sudanese-Libyan desert, with the others in poor condition, Khartoum's army says.

Libya: The migrant trap – 8 May 2014

<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/peopleandpower/2014/05/libya-migrant-trap-20145483310400633.html>

People and Power investigates how migrants trying to reach Europe fall into the hands of Libya's militias.

Europe-Bound Migrants Killed When Boat Capsizes Off Libya – 11 May 2014

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/12/world/middleeast/europe-bound-migrants-killed-when-boat-capsizes-off-libya.html>

Libyan officials said Sunday that the bodies of at least 24 migrants trying to make it to Europe had been found after a boat carrying 130 people capsized over the weekend off the country's shores.

NIGER

Migrant dreams turn into Sahara sex work – 6 May 2014

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-27282888>

Thousands of African migrants are stuck in the Nigerien town of Agadez - the gateway to the Sahara - as they battle to fulfil their dream of reaching Europe. The BBC's Thomas Fessy met some of them during a visit to the town.

Niger: Bodies of 13 Migrants Found – 9 May 2014

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/10/world/africa/niger-bodies-of-13-migrants-found.html>

The bodies of at least 13 migrants from Niger who were abandoned by smugglers in the Sahara last week have been found in southern Algeria, several officials said Friday.

Special Report: Despite deaths, crackdown, Sahara migrant trail thrives – 15 May 2014

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-immigration-niger-specialreport/special-report-despite-deaths-crackdown-sahara-migrant-trail-thrives-idUSBREA4E08W20140515>

After 92 people died of thirst attempting to cross the Sahara in late September, the government of Niger moved to shut down its decades-old desert migrant routes.

Human smugglers of the Sahara – 25 May 2014

<https://widerimage.reuters.com/story/human-smugglers-of-the-sahara>

Perched on the southern rim of the Sahara, the city of Agadez (pictured above) has served for years as a hub in the networks that smuggle people, guns, drugs and food across the desert.

AMERICAS

HAITI

Haiti migrants risk sea journey for better prospects – 28 May 2014

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-27469513>

Every year thousands of Haitians risk their lives trying to make the perilous sea voyage from their country to one of its wealthier Caribbean neighbours in a bid for a better life.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Crash of suspected smuggling van in Utah: 4 dead, 4 injured, 1 missing – 16 May 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-utah-immigrants-van-crash-20140516-story.html>

A van believed to be involved in a human-smuggling operation crashed near the Utah-Colorado border early Friday morning, killing four and injuring four others. Authorities were searching for one passenger who fled.

Waves of immigrant minors present crisis for Obama, Congress – 28 May 2014

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-children/waves-of-immigrant-minors-present-crisis-for-obama-congress-idUSKBN0E814T20140528>

Tens of thousands of children unaccompanied by parents or relatives are flooding across the southern U.S. border illegally, forcing the Obama administration and Congress to grapple with both a humanitarian crisis and a budget dilemma.

U.S. and Arizona Yield on Immigration – 30 May 2014

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/31/us/us-and-arizona-yield-on-immigration.html>

The Obama administration has moved to drop its legal fight against what is arguably the most controversial provision of Arizona's sweeping immigration law, the so-called show-me-your-papers provision permitting police officers to pull over people based on the suspicion that they are in the country illegally.

MIDDLE EAST

JORDAN

Jordan opens desert camp for Syrian refugees – 1 May 2014

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-syria-crisis-jordan/jordan-opens-desert-camp-for-syrian-refugees-idUKKBN0DG1S020140501>

The opening of the Azraq camp in a desolate area close to the border with Iraq comes after Amman closed off unofficial crossings near the Syrian city of Deraa, where refugees only had to walk a few hundred metres (yards) to shelter in Jordan.

EUROPE

FRANCE

French riot police bulldoze Calais migrant camps – 28 May 2014

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/28/french-riot-police-clear-calais-migrant-camps>

French authorities have bulldozed three makeshift migrant camps that had been sheltering hundreds of refugees at the port of Calais, citing health concerns following an outbreak of scabies and increasing violence.

GREECE

Undocumented migrants die in boat accident on Aegean Sea – 5 May 2014

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/5/5/greece-migrants-capsizedaegeansea.html>

A yacht and a dinghy crammed with immigrants trying to enter Greece capsized Monday in the eastern Aegean Sea, leaving at least 22 dead, including four children, with several more missing, in the third such fatal accident in the area this year.

SPAIN

Hundreds breach Spain enclave border – 28 May 2014

<http://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-africa-27601215/hundreds-breach-spain-enclave-border>

At least 1,000 migrants have tried to storm the border fence between Morocco and the Spanish enclave of Melilla, officials say.