



## smuggling of migrants — global news march 2014

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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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### AMERICAS

#### CANADA

##### ***Canadian sentenced in U.S. to two years for Tamil Tigers conspiracy – 25 March 2014***

[https://beta.theGlobeandmail.com/news/national/canadian-sentenced-in-us-to-two-years-for-tamil-tigers-conspiracy/article17662834/](https://beta.the Globeandmail.com/news/national/canadian-sentenced-in-us-to-two-years-for-tamil-tigers-conspiracy/article17662834/)

A Canadian man has been sentenced in Brooklyn, N.Y., to two years for terrorism offences in connection with the Tamil Tigers.

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

##### ***Authorities rescue 108 people from squalid Houston stash house – 19 March 2014***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-houston-immigration-smuggling-raid-100-20140319-story.html>

Houston police and federal immigration authorities rescued 108 people held against their will for several days in a squalid suspected stash house in south Houston, officials said Wednesday.

##### ***Texas: 100 people found in suspected human trafficking stash house – 20 March 2014***

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/20/texas-100-people-found-human-trafficking-stash-house>

A house overflowing with more than 100 people presumed to be in the US illegally was uncovered just outside Houston on Wednesday, a police spokesman said.

##### ***Five men charged with hostage-taking after 115 people found in Texas house – 25 March 2014***

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/25/five-men-charged-hostage-taking-texas>

Five men, at least two of them from Mexico, are accused of using guns and threats to hold 115 people hostage in a small Houston house unless they paid ransom to continue their illegal entry into the United States.

##### ***California border officer gets prison time for helping smugglers – 25 March 2014***

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-border-patrol-smugglers-20140325-story.html>

SAN DIEGO — A veteran U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer was sentenced Monday to 7½ years in federal prison after being convicted of helping smugglers bring marijuana and undocumented immigrants into the U.S. for a decade.

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## ASIA-PACIFIC

### GENERAL

#### ***For Myanmar Muslim Minority, No Escape From Brutality – 14 March 2014***

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/15/world/asia/trapped-between-home-and-refuge-burmese-muslims-are-brutalized.html>

Violence by the Rakhine ethnic group, driven by an extreme Buddhist ideology, has led tens of thousands of Rohingya to flee in the last 18 months through smuggling rings that pledge to take them to Malaysia, a Muslim country that quietly accepts the desperate newcomers.

### MALAYSIA

#### ***Exclusive: Trafficking abuse of Myanmar Rohingya spreads to Malaysia – 6 March 2014***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1441815/trafficking-abuse-myanmar-rohingya-spreads-malaysia>

Human traffickers have kept hundreds of Rohingya Muslims captive in houses in northern Malaysia, beating them, depriving them of food, and demanding a ransom from their families, according to detailed accounts by the victims.

### THAILAND

#### ***Thai police find secret camp of 200 suspected 'Turkish refugees' – 13 March 2014***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1448003/thai-police-find-secret-camp-200-turkish-refugees>

Thai police have discovered about 200 suspected Turkish refugees at a secret camp in the country's deep south, officials said yesterday, describing the case as "unprecedented".

#### ***Suspected Uighurs rescued from Thai trafficking camp – 14 March 2014***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-thailand-uyghur/suspected-uyghurs-rescued-from-thai-trafficking-camp-idUSBREA2D0A920140314>

Police rescued about 200 people believed to be Muslim Uighurs from a human smuggling camp in southern Thailand, police sources said on Friday, in the latest crackdown on a burgeoning trafficking network in Southeast Asia.

#### ***Thailand fines suspected Uyghur asylum seekers – 16 March 2014***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1449385/thailand-fines-suspected-uyghur-asylum-seekers>

Thailand yesterday fined dozens of asylum seekers thought to be from China's Uyghur minority for illegal entry, an official said, despite a US appeal for their protection.

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## MIDDLE EAST

### YEMEN

#### ***Scores of African migrants drown off Yemen – 10 March 2014***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/03/scores-african-migrants-drown-off-yemen-201439225338349870.html>

At least 42 African migrants have drowned after their boat overturned off Yemen's southern coast, the defence ministry has said.

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## EUROPE

### ITALY

***Italy rescues more than 4,000 migrants at sea in four days – 20 March 2014***

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/3/20/italy-migrants-fromsyrialibya.html>

Italian authorities say they have rescued more than 4,000 migrants at sea over the past four days as the war in Syria and instability in Libya spawn new waves of refugees.