



## smuggling of migrants — global news november 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

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

##### ***Path for Cuban baseball players beset by risks – 6 November 2014***

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/chi-cuba-baseball-players-us-mlb-20141107-htmstory.html>

For Cuban baseball players, getting into Major League Baseball can be a dangerous process that involves paying smugglers to shuttle them into different countries before entering the United States. Despite the risks, there are more than three times as many Cubans in the majors than there were three decades ago.

##### ***From Honduras to California, a wave of migrants – 7 November 2014***

<http://www.latimes.com/la-year-of-the-surge-20141024-htmstory.html>

This was the year three words entered the national immigration debate — "unaccompanied minors" and "surge." It also was the year of an appropriately brutal name — "La Bestia" or "the Beast." Together, they captured the drama of thousands of migrants crossing the Southwest border, and the dilemma facing U.S. officials struggling to stem the tide. As the months passed, some migrant families were reunited, some were separated, and the chances of Congress passing an immigration bill were dead before the end of summer.

##### ***Federal Indictment of Alleged Smugglers – 7 November 2014***

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/chi-federal-indictment-of-alleged-smugglers-20141107-htmstory.html>

##### ***Description of Smuggling Operation – 7 November 2014***

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/chi-description-of-smuggling-operation-20141107-htmstory.html>

##### ***Jose Abreu's mysterious journey – 8 November 2014***

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/ct-abreu-chicago-cuba-spt-1102-20141107-story.html>

Jose Abreu's harrowing journey to the White Sox began last year on a small boat on the shores of Cuba.

##### ***Federal judge strikes down Arizona immigration law – 8 November 2014***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-arizona-immigration-20141108-story.html>

A federal judge has struck down a 2005 Arizona law that made smuggling immigrants a state crime, saying it conflicted with federal laws governing immigration.

### ***Arizona Law on Immigrant Smuggling Is Struck Down – 8 November 2014***

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/09/us/immigrant-smuggling-law-in-arizona-is-struck-down.html>

A federal judge here has struck down a state law against smuggling immigrants into the United States, the latest state-enacted measure against illegal immigration in Arizona to be thwarted in court.

### ***US to offer refugee status to some undocumented child migrants – 14 November 2014***

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2014/nov/14/us-offer-refugee-status-illegal-child-immigrants-central-america>

The United States will soon offer refugee status to some undocumented youths from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras as part of a wider immigration reform effort.

### ***President Obama's immigration plans hard to block, legal experts say – 18 November 2014***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-1119-immigration-legal-basis-20141119-story.html>

Just a year ago, President Obama was among those who doubted he had the power to halt deportations of millions of immigrants living in the country illegally.

### ***Those huddled masses – 20 November 2014***

<https://www.economist.com/blogs/democracyinamerica/2014/11/illegal-immigration>

LET'S put aside the political, legal and constitutional implications of the executive action on immigration that the president will announce tonight for a moment and look at the problem that Barack Obama is trying to address. Here are all the numbers you need to have a well-informed argument about illegal immigration and deportation in America.

### ***Border authorities fear immigration action might spark second 'surge' – 21 November 2014***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-immigration-texas-border-20141121-story.html>

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson warned would-be migrants Friday that President Obama's action to defer deportations was not an endorsement of illegal immigration, and he pledged to beef up already tight security on the U.S.-Mexico border.

### ***Middle Easterners crossing border from Mexico? It's rare – 25 November 2014***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-jordanian-us-border-20141116-story.html>

For months, some conservative members of Congress and their allies have warned that people from the Middle East could use the Mexican border to gain illegal entry to the U.S. and pose a terrorist threat. Obama administration officials have said such a scenario is unlikely and border agents are prepared to respond if it does happen.

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## ASIA-PACIFIC

### CHINA

### ***China rebukes Turkey for offer to shelter Uighur refugees – 28 November 2014***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-turkey-thailand/china-rebukes-turkey-for-offer-to-shelter-uighur-refugees-idUSKCN0JCOX920141128>

China on Friday lashed out at Turkey for offering shelter to roughly 200 Uighurs from the western Chinese region of Xinjiang who were rescued from a human-smuggling camp in Thailand.

## MICRONESIA

### ***Asylum seeker boat lands on tiny Micronesian island of Yap – 21 November 2014***

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/nov/21/asylum-seeker-boat-lands-on-tiny-micronesian-island-of-yap>

A boatload of asylum seekers believed to be on their way to Australia have shown up on a tiny Micronesian island about 2,000km north of Papua New Guinea.

## MYANMAR

### ***Myanmar Policy's Message to Muslims: Get Out – 6 November 2014***

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/07/world/asia/rohingya-myanmar-rakhine-state-thailand-malaysia.html>

The Myanmar government has given the estimated one million Rohingya people in this coastal region of the country a dispiriting choice: Prove your family has lived here for more than 60 years and qualify for second-class citizenship, or be placed in camps and face deportation.

### ***Thai fishermen convert boats to cash in on human-smuggling – 20 November 2014***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-thailand-rohingya/thai-fishermen-convert-boats-to-cash-in-on-human-smuggling-idUSKCN0J40P120141120>

The smuggling of Rohingya Muslims fleeing persecution in Myanmar is so lucrative that Thai fishermen are converting their boats to carry humans, police, locals and officials in southern Thailand said.

### ***Myanmar says plight of Rohingya minority a media fabrication – 21 November 2014***

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-rohingya/myanmar-says-plight-of-rohingya-minority-a-media-fabrication-idUSKCN0J516T20141121>

Myanmar President Thein Sein has denied that minority Muslim Rohingya are fleeing “torture” in western Rakhine state, telling the Voice of America Burmese Service such media reports were fabrication.

### ***Exclusive: Poor and besieged, Myanmar's Rakhine join Rohingya exodus – 27 November 2014***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-economy-rakhine/exclusive-poor-and-besieged-myanmars-rakhine-join-rohingya-exodus-idUSKCN0JA27020141126>

For years, tens of thousands of Rohingya Muslim boat people have fled this remote corner of western Myanmar for nearby countries. But another huge exodus has grabbed far fewer headlines.

## THAILAND

### ***Fears for more than 100 suspected Uygurs who fled Thai detention – 13 November 2014***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1638419/fears-more-100-suspected-uygurs-who-fled-thai-detention>

More than 100 migrants thought to be from China's Uygur minority have escaped from shelters in Thailand, with authorities fearing they have fallen into the hands of a human trafficking ring, an official said yesterday.

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## EUROPE

## GENERAL

### ***Operation Triton: Europe's Mediterranean border patrol – 13 November 2014***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-30039044>

New maritime patrols aimed at stemming the flow of African migrants making the dangerous Mediterranean crossing to Europe are taking over from the Italian navy. But with a smaller budget there are concerns the operation could lead to more migrant deaths, writes the BBC's Rob Brown.

***Traffickers turn to teenagers to drive migrant boats across Mediterranean – 18 November 2014***

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/nov/18/people-trafficking-teenagers-migrant-boats-mediterranean>

Traffickers in Egypt and Libya are increasingly using children to drive boats of migrants to Italy. Many of these teenagers are then detained and imprisoned by the Italian authorities, facing up to 15 years in jail and fines of hundreds of thousands of euros.

FRANCE

***Calais migrant crisis: Sending UK police ruled out – 5 November 2014***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-29902959>

The government has ruled out sending British police to Calais to help solve the port's "tremendous problem" with illegal immigration.

GREECE

***War refugees caught in a no man's land – 27 November 2014***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/11/war-refugees-caught-no-man-land-20141126123829148141.html>

An estimated 30,000 "irregular" migrants, mostly Syrian war refugees, are expected to cross into Greece on their way to central Europe this year - a twofold increase from last year's figure.

ITALY

***Italy to end sea rescue mission that saved 100,000 migrants – 1 November 2014***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-migrants-eu/italy-to-end-sea-rescue-mission-that-saved-100000-migrants-idUSKBN0IK22220141031>

Italy said on Friday it would close a sea rescue mission that has saved the lives of more than 100,000 migrants from Africa and the Middle East, a move one rights group warned could lead to a "surge of deaths" in the Mediterranean.

***Bangladeshi migrants eke out a living in Rome – 7 November 2014***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/11/bangladeshi-migrants-italy-boat-economy-201411611232371682.html>

Italy has second largest Bangladeshi community in Europe after Britain, many of whom have been smuggled or trafficked.

TURKEY

***Smuggling boat sinks off Turkey, killing at least 24 migrants – 3 November 2014***

<http://www.latimes.com/world/middleeast/la-fg-turkey-boat-sinks-20141103-story.html>

At least 24 refugees died in chilly, choppy waters off the Turkish coast after a smuggling vessel transporting them sank at the confluence of the Bosphorus strait and the Black Sea, Turkish media reports said.

***Turkey migrant boat sinks in Bosphorus, killing 24 – 3 November 2014***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-29878188>

At least 24 people have been killed and scores are missing after a boat said to be carrying migrants sank off the north coast of Turkey, officials say.

UNITED KINGDOM

***Eastbourne immigration officers arrest 14 after boat tries to dock – 16 November 2014***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-sussex-30073721>

Thirteen Albanian men and a boy have been detained trying to get into the UK on a boat that attempted to dock in Sovereign Harbour in Eastbourne.