



## smuggling of migrants — global news october 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.

---

### AMERICAS

#### CANADA

##### ***Top court to give new scrutiny to human smuggling cases – 9 October 2014***

<https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/top-court-to-give-new-scrutiny-to-human-smuggling-cases/article21006156/>

The Supreme Court said Thursday it plans to look at a number of cases calling into question the depth and breadth of Canada's human smuggling laws.

##### ***Canadian border agency pondered putting detained immigrants in prisons – 13 October 2014***

<https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/canadian-border-agency-pondered-putting-detained-immigrants-in-prisons/article21079572/>

Canada's border agency pursued the idea of putting immigrant detainees in federal prison despite concerns about locking up newcomers with violent offenders.

##### ***Has Canada seen the last of the boat people? – 17 October 2014***

<https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/has-canada-seen-the-last-of-the-boat-people/article21153005/>

Since the arrival of the 76 Tamils on the Ocean Lady (just five months after Sri Lankan forces had brutally ended a 26-year civil war that had claimed up to 100,000 lives) and another 492 the following August, Ottawa has made drastic changes to its immigration-and-refugee policy.

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

##### ***Tracing a Smuggled Girl's Three-Nation Odyssey – 6 October 2014***

<https://www.nytimes.com/times-insider/2014/10/06/tracing-a-smuggled-girls-three-nation-odyssey/>

Damien Cave and Frances Robles, two Times correspondents, worked together on today's article about the struggles of Cecilia, a 16-year-old girl from Guatemala who had crossed two borders to get to the United States this year. They discuss their reporting experiences and how they collaborated on the story.

##### ***History Repeats Itself With Cuba's Migrants – 9 October 2014***

<https://www.nytimes.com/times-insider/2014/10/09/history-repeats-itself-with-cubas-migrants/>

Frances Robles is a correspondent in Miami. Her article today, about the influx of Cubans making their way to Miami on makeshift boats, is a replay of something she saw two decades earlier.

---

## ASIA-PACIFIC

### GENERAL

#### ***Special Report: Traffickers use abductions, prison ships to feed Asian slave trade – 22 October 2014***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-thailand-trafficking-specialreport/special-report-traffickers-use-abductions-prison-ships-to-feed-asian-slave-trade-idUSKCN0IB0A320141022>

Testimonies from Bangladeshi and Rohingya survivors provide evidence of a shift in tactics in one of Asia's busiest human-trafficking routes. In the past, evidence showed most people boarded smuggling boats voluntarily. Now people are being abducted or tricked and then taken to larger ships anchored in international waters just outside Bangladesh's maritime boundary.

### MALAYSIA

#### ***Malaysia discovers 155 Uighurs crammed into two apartments – 4 October 2014***

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-malaysia-china-xinjiang-uighers/malaysia-discovers-155-uighurs-crammed-into-two-apartments-idUKKCN0HT09020141004>

Malaysian authorities have detained 155 Uighurs, more than half of them children, who were found crammed into two apartments in the capital Kuala Lumpur, immigration officials said.

#### ***Rights group urges Malaysia not to deport Uygur migrants to China – 6 October 2014***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1610573/rights-group-urges-malaysia-not-deport-uygur-migrants-china>

A Malaysian human rights group called on the government on Sunday not to forcibly deport 155 Chinese ethnic Uygurs reported to be in the country illegally, amid concerns for their fate in China.

### SINGAPORE

#### ***Custody battle: Lifetime entry ban for 2 foreigners who smuggled Mongolian woman into Singapore – 13 October 2014***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/custody-battle-lifetime-entry-ban-for-2-foreigners-who-smuggled-mongolian-woman-into>

Two foreigners who smuggled a Mongolian woman into Singapore by yacht to snatch her two-year-old son from his paternal grandparents have been banned from entering Singapore for life.

### THAILAND

#### ***Kidnapped Rohingya were smuggled to Thailand rubber plantation – 13 October 2014***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1615439/kidnapped-rohingya-were-smuggled-thailand-rubber-plantation>

People-smugglers kidnapped dozens of Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh after duping them with fake job offers, and trafficked them to a rubber plantation in southern Thailand, officials said yesterday.

#### ***More Bangladeshis found in Thailand on human trafficking route – 14 October 2014***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-thailand-myanmar-rohingyas-bangladesh/more-bangladeshis-found-in-thailand-on-human-trafficking-route-idUSKCN0I21AJ20141013>

Thai police found scores of sick and exhausted boat people hiding on a remote island on Monday, and all but one of the 79 suspected human-trafficking victims were from Bangladesh, according to local officials.

### ***Terrified victims of Thai trafficking face uncertain future – 18 October 2014***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-29673120>

For at least five years, the Andaman coast of Thailand has been the scene of some horrific abuses, mainly against ethnic Rohingyas, a Muslim minority group fleeing persecution in Myanmar, also known as Burma.

---

## EUROPE

### GENERAL

#### ***Mediterranean people-smuggling disaster: a survivor's story – 1 October 2014***

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/oct/01/mediterranean-people-smuggling-disaster-survivor-story>

A migrant from Gaza describes how he was recovered after hundreds died at sea after their vessel was rammed.

#### ***Devil and the deep blue sea: how Mediterranean migrant disaster unfolded – 1 October 2014***

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/oct/01/-sp-sea-mediterranean-migrant-disaster>

Desperate migrants from Gaza and Syria tell how they put themselves at the mercy of people smugglers – and hundreds died at sea.

#### ***'It opens your eyes to human tragedy': on board the warship rescuing refugees – 2 October 2014***

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/oct/02/italian-warship-san-giusto-mediterranean-programme-prevent-lampedusa-style-tragedy>

For the past year, the San Giusto has been taking turns as the command and control vessel in Italy's Mare Nostrum operation, a €9m-a-month search and rescue programme aimed at preventing another disaster like the one off the coast of Lampedusa a year ago on Friday. More than 360 people died when the boat carrying them from north Africa caught fire and capsized.

#### ***European leaders hold summit on world's deadliest migrant crossing – 10 October 2014***

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/10/10/migration-eu-libyaitaly.html>

A year after a boat carrying more than 500 North African migrants sank off the Italian island of Lampedusa, European leaders held a summit Friday in Luxembourg to plan ways to avert similar tragedies.

#### ***Thousands of African child migrants feared in thrall to Italian traffickers – 17 October 2014***

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/oct/17/african-child-migrants-italian-traffickers-forced-labour-sexual-exploitation>

Thousands of migrant children are disappearing after arriving in mainland Europe, triggering concerns that they are falling prey to a new and thriving market for child trafficking and forced labour.

#### ***EU launches Operation Mos Maiorum – 13 October 2014***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/10/eu-launches-operation-track-down-migrants-2014101214057473720.html>

A massive police operation was launched by 25 European countries on Monday seeking to detect, detain and possibly deport tens-of-thousands of so-called "irregular" migrants.

***Migrants' tales: 'I feel for those who were with me. They got asylum in the sea' – 20 October 2014***

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/oct/20/-sp-migrants-tales-asylum-sea-mediterranean>

Who are the people who die in the Mediterranean on an almost daily basis? And why don't we care? The Guardian has worked with a team of reporters from five other European newspapers to track a very 21st-century odyssey.

***UK axes support for Mediterranean migrant rescue operation – 27 October 2014***

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2014/oct/27/uk-mediterranean-migrant-rescue-plan>

Britain will not support any future search and rescue operations to prevent migrants and refugees drowning in the Mediterranean, claiming they simply encourage more people to attempt the dangerous sea crossing, Foreign Office ministers have quietly announced.

***UK opposes future migrant rescues in Mediterranean – 28 October 2014***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-29799473>

The UK would not support future search and rescue operations to prevent migrants drowning in the Mediterranean Sea, the Foreign Office has said.

***Home Office defends decision for UK to halt migrant rescues – 28 October 2014***

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/oct/28/home-office-defends-uk-migrant-pull-factor>

The Home Office has defended its decision to end British support for search-and-rescue operations for migrants in danger of drowning in the Mediterranean, after criticism that it marked an ethical nadir for Britain.

FRANCE

***Calais 'Jungle': Migrants hit dead end in journey to UK – 9 October 2014***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-29551012>

As war and economic crises engulf nations around the world, migrants flee in search of a better life. But when they arrive at the Port of Calais, northern France, they find camps as hopeless as the countries they came from.

MALTA

***Shipwreck Was Simple Murder, Migrants Recall – 20 October 2014***

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/21/world/europe/shipwreck-survivors-recount-a-deadly-journey-from-middle-east-to-europe.html>

At least 300 people, trying to reach Europe, are estimated to have died in one of the Mediterranean's worst disasters. For those few who survived, an enduring memory would be the ruthlessness of the smugglers, who extorted money during the land journey out of Gaza and then mocked the migrants as they flailed in the water.

UNITED KINGDOM

***Orford quay people smuggling: Four Ukrainians jailed – 1 October 2014***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-suffolk-29449179>

Four people have been jailed for their part in an operation to smuggle six Ukrainians into the UK via a Suffolk coastal village.