



smuggling of migrants — global news september 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.

GENERAL

Eight migrants die every day trying to reach richer countries, study reveals – 29 September 2014

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/sep/29/europe-deadliest-destination-migrants-report>

Migrants trying to reach more prosperous countries have died at a rate of eight every day for the past 14 years, the majority of them trying to get to Europe, according to the most comprehensive ever tally of migrant deaths.

AFRICA

ERITREA

One man's hellish journey from Eritrea terror to UK sanctuary – 6 September 2014

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/sep/06/eritrea-dangerous-trek-to-britain-slavery-trafficking>

Solomon's story, far from unique, is a very modern tale of migration, his journey articulating the increasingly desperate scramble from one of the world's most rapacious regimes to a place that Eritreans regard as the promised land.

World's most dangerous journey? Eritreans risk life and limb to get to UK – interactive – 6 September 2014

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/ng-interactive/2014/sep/06/world-most-dangerous-journey-eritreans-uk-interactive>

Every month, up to 4,000 Eritreans flee the country in search of a new home, travelling along routes notorious for human trafficking. Here, we follow the journey of a refugee as he makes the three-year trek

AMERICAS

EL SALVADOR

Coyote: 'If you turn yourself in to immigration, there is no problem' – 10 September 2014

<http://america.aljazeera.com/watch/shows/fault-lines/FaultLinesBlog/2014/9/10/coyote-if-you-turn-yourself-into-immigration-there-is-no-problem.html>

We met this guide—also known as a “coyote” or “pollero”—in a home in San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador, during the shooting of Fault Lines’ latest investigation, “No Refuge: Children at the Border.” (The episode airs Saturday, September 13 at 7 pm Eastern/4 pm Pacific on Al Jazeera America.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Fourth person charged with smuggling Armenians into U.S. via Mexico – 9 September 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-armenian-smuggling-ring-20140909-story.html>

A fourth person has been charged with being part of what federal prosecutors in San Diego say was an international ring devoted to smuggling Armenian nationals into the United States without proper documents.

Why are so many children trying to cross the US border? – 30 September 2014

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-28203923>

President Barack Obama is under pressure to fix the immigration crisis growing on the south-west border of the United States, as thousands of children enter the country unaccompanied.

ASIA-PACIFIC

PAKISTAN

Shrinking asylum space for Pakistan's Hazaras – 12 September 2014

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/09/shrinking-asylum-space-pakistan-hazaras-201493104919129128.html>

Australia's tough policies have not stopped Pakistan's asylum seekers from making the journey in search of a new life.

MIDDLE EAST

PALESTINE

Gaza war spurs more Palestinians to risk dangerous migration to Europe – 19 September 2014

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-gaza-migration/gaza-war-spurs-more-palestinians-to-risk-dangerous-migration-to-europe-idUSKBN0HD1HL20140918>

A devastating war with Israel has swollen the number of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip joining a perilous exodus of migrants fleeing the Middle East and Africa in search of a better life in Europe.

EUROPE

GENERAL

Mapping Mediterranean migration – 15 September 2014

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-24521614>

In the space of a week, at least 750 migrants are feared to have died crossing the Mediterranean Sea.

Smugglers Rammed Migrants' Boat, Sinking It, Group Says – 15 September 2014

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/world/europe/smugglers-rammed-migrants-boat-sinking-it-group-says.html>

Human traffickers rammed a boat filled with migrants they were smuggling from North Africa to Europe, making it sink in the open sea and “deliberately drowning” hundreds of the migrants, the International Organization for Migration said Monday.

Desperate Syrian refugees risk all in bid to reach Europe – 18 September 2014

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/sep/18/desperate-syrian-refugees-europe-mediterranean>

The process of illegally crossing the Mediterranean is frightening and bewildering. The cost varies between \$2,000 (£1,225) and \$3,500 per person. The money is kept with a third party, trusted by both passenger and smuggler, until the former sends confirmation of their safe passage.

Mass murder on the Mediterranean high seas – 21 September 2014

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/09/murder-mediterranean-high-seas-201492183913428968.html>

Greece is a major entry point for people - mostly from war-torn countries in the Middle East and Africa - seeking a better life in Europe. Migrants typically pay smuggling gangs to clandestinely ferry them to Greek islands, frequently risking their lives in unseaworthy craft.

Mediterranean Sea the world's deadliest migrant crossing, report says – 29 September 2014

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/9/29/migrant-deaths-report.html>

With over 3,000 migrant fatalities this year and climbing, Europe is the most dangerous destination for “irregular” migration in the world, according to a new report from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

GREECE

Greece's migrant fruit pickers: 'They kept firing. There was blood everywhere' – 1 September 2014

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/01/greece-migrant-fruit-pickers-shot-they-kept-firing>

Is a man worth nothing when he is branded illegal? Tipu Chowdhury has spent the past 17 months wondering. The answer has not been easy. Even now, after being forced to endure subhuman living conditions, after being starved and worked like a slave, the Bangladeshi does not speak ill of Greece. Instead of anger, there is resignation, an almost fatalistic acceptance that this is the life meted out to those who go “undocumented”.

MALTA

Palestinian migrants fleeing Gaza Strip drown in Mediterranean Sea – 14 September 2014

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/9/14/gaza-migrants-boat.html>

Fifteen Palestinian migrants attempting to flee the besieged and war-torn Gaza Strip died Saturday after their boat capsized in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of northern Egypt, media sources said.

Migrant boat was 'deliberately sunk' in Mediterranean sea, killing 500 – 15 September 2014

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/15/migrant-boat-capsizes-egypt-malta-traffickers>

About 500 migrants are feared to have drowned after the boat carrying them from Egypt to Malta was apparently rammed and deliberately sunk by people-traffickers, an intergovernmental group has said.

100 children among migrants 'deliberately drowned' in Mediterranean – 16 September 2014

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/16/migrants-children-drowned-boat-mediterranean>

Up to 100 children may have been among about 500 migrants who drowned in the Mediterranean when their boat was sunk by people smugglers, an intergovernmental group has said after further interviews with survivors.

They laughed as they left 500 to die, migrant shipwreck survivors reveal – 18 September 2014

<http://www.scmp.com/news/world/article/1594770/they-laughed-they-left-500-die-migrant-shipwreck-survivors-reveal>

Survivors of Europe's most deadly migrant shipwreck in years have described the horrifying moment traffickers capsized their boat and left them to drown, as the EU cried murder and vowed to step up the fight against people smugglers.

Fleeing Gaza, Only to Face Treachery and Disaster at Sea – 19 September 2014

https://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/20/world/middleeast/fleeing-gaza-only-to-face-treachery-and-disaster-at-sea.html?_r=0

The recent war between Israel and Hamas, the militant group that dominates Gaza, prompted a wave of attempts by Palestinians to reach Europe with the aid of Egyptian smugglers, despite — or perhaps because of — Israeli and Egyptian restrictions on regular movement in and out of the Palestinian coastal enclave.

'Treated like dogs': Migrants speak of horror at sea off Malta – 20 September 2014

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-29279074>

When at least 300 migrants drowned off Malta's coast on 12 September it was different from previous migrant tragedies in the Mediterranean.

Ramming of migrant boat an act of 'mass murder' – 20 September 2014

<http://www.scmp.com/news/world/article/1596458/ramming-migrant-boat-an-act-mass-murder>

People smugglers who allegedly sank a boat killing up to 500 migrants are probably guilty of "mass murder" and should be brought to justice, the UN's new rights chief said yesterday.

UNITED KINGDOM

Dover-bound migrants scale Calais security fence – 4 September 2014

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-29060096>

Migrants in Calais have been filmed scaling a 5m high (16ft) security fence, giving them access to lorries already through customs.

British government pledges £12m to tackle 'illegal immigration' from Calais – 20 September 2014

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/sep/20/uk-government-illegal-migrants-calais-twelve-million>

The UK government has pledged £12m to help France tackle the problem of 'illegal immigrants' trying to enter Britain through Calais.

London to pay HK\$190 million to help stem flow of migrants through Calais – 22 September 2014

<http://www.scmp.com/news/world/article/1597483/london-pay-hk190-million-help-stem-flow-migrants-through-calais>

Britain has bowed to French pressure to help foot the bill for migrants flooding into the northern port of Calais in a bid to reach Britain.