



## smuggling of migrants — global news august 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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### GENERAL

#### ***Libya's most successful people smuggler: 'I provide a service' – 1 August 2014***

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/01/libya-people-smuggle-provide-service>

With a joint of hashish in one hand and a can of Red Bull in the other, one of Libya's most successful people smugglers reclines in his apartment, the rooms strewn with bowls of chocolates, and explains the rationale behind his business. "I am not a criminal," he says. "I provide a service."

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### AFRICA

#### LIBYA

#### ***Eritrean migrants risk detentions and beatings in Libya for a life in Europe – 1 August 2014***

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/01/eritrean-migrants-detention-beating-libya-europe>

Poverty, war and oppression at home as much as collapse of government authority in Tripoli has turned Libya into a conduit for exodus.

#### ***Scores feared dead after boat sinks off Libya – 24 August 2014***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/08/scores-feared-lost-after-boat-sinks-off-libya-201482354229184773.html>

Libyan authorities have recovered at least 20 bodies off the coast of the capital, Tripoli, after a boat carrying up to 200 migrants from sub-Saharan Africa went missing at sea.

#### ***Tunisia recovers 14 bodies from sea near Libya – 30 August 2014***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/middle-east/tunisia-recovers-14-bodies-from-sea-near-libya>

Tunisian rescuers Friday recovered the bodies of at least 14 people from the sea near Libya's maritime border, in an area that has seen many boatloads of illegal migrants capsize.

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## AMERICAS

### GENERAL

#### ***E-coyotes: The Central American people smugglers who 'Like' Facebook – 5 August 2014***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-socialmedia-insight/e-coyotes-the-central-american-people-smugglers-who-like-facebook-idUSKBN0G50AM20140805>

Social media like Facebook and Skype are changing, and in some cases accelerating, the decades-old northward migration of Central Americans, U.S. and Honduran officials said, by providing crowd-sourced information on the risks and rewards of making the journey.

#### ***Insight - Brutality and 'The Beast': why child migration to U.S. is slowing down – 12 August 2014***

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-usa-immigration-decline-insight/insight-brutality-and-the-beast-why-child-migration-to-u-s-is-slowing-down-idUKKBN0GC09A20140812>

The number of unaccompanied children caught along the southwest U.S. border almost halved in July from a month earlier to 5,508, or around 177 a day, according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The numbers still remain high versus previous years.

### CAYMAN ISLANDS

#### ***Cuban migrant boat turned away from Caymans despite rough seas – 29 August 2014***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-cayman-cuba/cuban-migrant-boat-turned-away-from-caymans-despite-rough-seas-idUSKBN0GS2MF20140828>

A small, homemade aluminum boat carrying 16 Cuban migrants sought refuge from rough seas in Grand Cayman on Thursday but local officials prevented a landing, citing a migration agreement with Cuba.

### MEXICO

#### ***Exploitation awaits migrant children on Mexico's southern edge – 2 August 2014***

<http://www.latimes.com/world/mexico-americas/la-fg-mexico-migrants-20140802-story.html>

The northward passage of Central American children, many without their parents, is a familiar sight along Mexico's southern border with Guatemala. Though the exodus has been dominating U.S. headlines of late, tens of thousands of youngsters have waded the Suchiate River or floated across it on inner-tube rafts annually for many years.

#### ***Mexico to monitor satellite images of 'La Bestia' trains used by migrants – 26 August 2014***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-mexico/mexico-to-monitor-satellite-images-of-la-bestia-trains-used-by-migrants-idUSKBN0GQ01N20140826>

Mexico said on Monday it would use satellite imagery to monitor key railway lines running toward the U.S. border to ensure the safety of the tracks and to help stem the flow of illegal immigrants heading north for the United States.

#### ***Mexico plans boost to the Beast to discourage Central American migrants – 26 August 2014***

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/26/mexico-the-beast-discourage-central-american-migrants>

The government of Mexico has announced a plan to modernise the freight railway that runs through the country in an effort to discourage Central American migrants from riding the trains on their way to the US border.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

***Texas Bolsters Border Patrol With Its Own – 6 August 2014***

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/07/us/texas-is-accused-of-overreaching-and-overspending-to-police-border.html>

Along the Rio Grande here, the suspected smugglers trying to slip into the United States have certainly noticed their adversaries on the water: burly commandos in black-and-white boats mounted with .30-caliber machine guns and bulletproof shields. The patches on the officers' camouflage fatigues identify them not as federal Border Patrol agents but as another breed of law enforcement entirely.

***Beyond the border: A partnership between The Texas Observer and the Guardian – 6 August 2014***

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/ng-interactive/2014/aug/06/-sp-texas-border-deadliest-state-undocumented-migrants>

Texas has become the deadliest state in the US for undocumented immigrants. In 2012, 271 migrants died while crossing through Texas, surpassing Arizona as the nation's most dangerous entry point.

***Obama vow to speed deportation of children at odds with public opinion – 11 August 2014***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-children/obama-vow-to-speed-deportation-of-children-at-odds-with-public-opinion-idUSKBN0GB0AJ20140811>

President Barack Obama's pledge to fast-track the deportation of migrant children from Central America is out of step with the opinion of a majority of Americans, who say the children should be allowed to stay in the United States, at least for a while.

***Two Mexican nationals found dead in car's trunk trying to cross border – 12 August 2014***

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-two-dead-trunk-20140812-story.html>

Two Mexican nationals died after being found "unconscious and not breathing" Tuesday in the trunk of a car attempting to cross into the U.S. from Mexico, the Border Patrol said.

***Men found dead in trunk at U.S. border likely smuggled, officials say – 13 August 2014***

<http://www.latimes.com/la-me-ln-dead-men-car-trunk-us-border-smuggled-20140813-story.html>

A 41-year-old driver faces possible criminal charges after U.S. Border Patrol agents in San Ysidro discovered two Mexican nationals dead in the trunk of his car, which officials referred to as a "smuggling incident."

***Man charged with smuggling after deaths of 2 migrants found in trunk – 13 August 2014***

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-immigrant-smuggling-charges-20140813-story.html>

A Los Angeles man accused of smuggling two migrants across the border could face enhanced charges after the migrants died after being found in the trunk of his vehicle, prosecutors said Wednesday.

***Man arrested with dying immigrants in trunk weeps in San Diego court – 14 August 2014***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-california-smuggling/man-arrested-with-dying-immigrants-in-trunk-weeping-in-san-diego-court-idUSKBN0GD29D20140813>

A 41-year-old man who was arrested after border officials found two dying Mexican men in the trunk of his car at the U.S.-Mexican border wept in court on Wednesday as he was arraigned on a federal smuggling charge.

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## ASIA-PACIFIC

### HONG KONG SAR

#### ***Number of immigrants smuggled from Shenzhen to Hong Kong soars – 16 August 2014***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1575114/people-smuggling-rings-shenzhen-link-revealed-hk-arrests-increase>

A large-scale people-smuggling operation that uses Shenzhen as a staging post has seen hundreds of illegal immigrants enter Hong Kong by boat in the past year, the Sunday Morning Post has learned.

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## MIDDLE EAST

### SYRIA

#### ***Number of refugees fleeing Syria war tops 3 million, U.N. says – 29 August 2014***

<http://www.latimes.com/world/middleeast/la-fg-number-of-refugees-from-syria-tops-3-million-un-says-20140829-story.html>

The number of refugees fleeing the war in Syria has surpassed 3 million, the United Nations reported Friday, an increase of 1 million over the last year.

### TURKEY

#### ***Iraq refugees 'terrified to be sent back' – 15 August 2014***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/08/iraq-turkey-refugees-asylum-201481484952900386.html>

Approximately 1,600 refugees have managed to cross into Turkey, according to officials in Silopi, and local authorities have rushed to provide foodstuffs and basic medical aid to the displaced. Thousands more wait on the border, unable to cross without passports and in need of aid, refugees in the Silopi camp told Al Jazeera, adding that they paid smugglers an average of \$500 per person for safe passage into Turkey.

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## EUROPE

### GENERAL

#### ***Help Is Sought for Migrants Dying at Sea – 26 August 2014***

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/27/world/europe/un-urges-europe-to-act-against-migration-flood.html>

Record numbers of people from the Middle East and Africa are putting their lives in the hands of smugglers to get across the Mediterranean to Europe, and record numbers are dying in the effort, the United Nations refugee agency said on Tuesday in calling for urgent and concerted action by European governments.

### SPAIN

#### ***Spain picks up almost 1,000 African migrants in two days – 12 August 2014***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-immigration-spain/spain-picks-up-almost-1000-african-migrants-in-two-days-idUSKBN0GC10D20140812>

Spanish emergency services picked up 755 immigrants traveling in dozens of small boats and makeshift rafts across the Strait of Gibraltar on Tuesday and 227 from the same stretch of water the day before, the Maritime Safety Agency said.

UNITED KINGDOM

***Tilbury migrant death: 'There were screams and then bangs on the door' – 16 August 2014***

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/aug/16/tilbury-migrant-death-new-deal-zeebrugge>

By the time their P&O cargo ship, the 180-metre-long, Dutch-registered Nortstream, had docked 40km outside London, just as dawn was breaking, many of those secreted inside the shipping container were suffering from dehydration and hypothermia. Worse was to come. By the time port workers had been alerted an hour or so later to the sound of screaming inside the container and banging on its door, one migrant was dead and two others were in a serious condition.

***Group found in container at Tilbury includes 13 children – 17 August 2014***

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/aug/17/tilbury-container-sikhs-afghanistan-essex-police>

Thirteen children aged as young as one were among the 35 suspected illegal immigrants from Afghanistan found in a shipping container on Saturday.

***Tilbury container death: murder investigation launched – 17 August 2014***

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/aug/17/murder-probe-migrant-dead-container-tilbury-port>

Police launched a homicide investigation on Saturday after the death of one of 35 suspected illegal migrants who were found in a shipping container on board a cargo ferry at the port of Tilbury on the Thames estuary.

***Tilbury container-death migrant named as Meet Singh Kapoor – 18 August 2014***

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/aug/18/dead-man-in-container-named>

Police said they believed the man found at Tilbury docks was Meet Singh Kapoor, from Afghanistan, who was 40.