



smuggling of migrants — global news july 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

GENERAL

Central American leaders meet Barack Obama to criticise US border policy – 26 July 2014

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/26/central-american-leaders-obama-border-policy>

Three Central American leaders met President Obama on Friday to tell him that billions of dollars poured into attempting to prevent migrant children crossing the US border would be better spent addressing the root causes of the crisis in their countries.

Deal to stop migrants from boarding La Bestia train – 31 July 2014

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-28581445>

Guatemala, Mexico and the United States have reached a deal to try to prevent migrants from jumping onto a freight train in an attempt to reach the US, according to Guatemalan officials.

CANADA

The people smugglers – 25 July 2014

<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/peopleandpower/2014/07/people-smugglers-20147239276629601.html>

This episode of People & Power follows the arrival of two boats with Tamil refugees in Canada and asks whether the tough application of Canada's immigration laws, resulting in many potential deportations, is justified.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Border-crossers should stay in Texas, a California lawmaker says – 2 July 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-murrieta-congressman-20140702-story.html>

Don't send immigrants caught in Texas to California, says the congressman whose district includes Murrieta, where protesters blocked three buses carrying immigrants from entering a Border Patrol facility.

Deportation data won't dispel rumors drawing migrant minors to U.S. – 5 July 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-deport-children-20140706-story.html>

President Obama and his aides have repeatedly sought to dispel the rumors driving thousands of children and teens from Central America to cross the U.S. border each month with the expectation they will be given a permission and allowed to stay.

Child immigrant crisis has Obama administration facing legal, political hurdles – 7 July 2014

<https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/child-immigrant-crisis-has-obama-administration-facing-legal-political-hurdles/article19487216/>

A top Obama administration official says no one, not even children trying to escape violent countries, can illegally enter the United States without eventually facing deportation proceedings.

UN: Central Americans fleeing to US should be classified as refugees – 8 July 2014

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/7/8/un-pushes-for-centralamericansfeelingtoustobecalldrefugees.html>

United Nations officials are pushing for many of the Central Americans fleeing to the United States to be treated as refugees displaced by armed conflict, a designation meant to increase pressure on the United States and Mexico to accept tens of thousands of people currently ineligible for asylum.

Obama's \$3.7-billion border request reflects deepening concern – 8 July 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-obama-border-20140708-story.html>

President Obama asked Congress for \$3.7 billion in emergency funding Tuesday to help confront what he called an “urgent humanitarian situation”: the unprecedented influx of children and teens arriving without parents on the Southwestern border.

5 things you need to know about the immigration crisis – 8 July 2014

<http://edition.cnn.com/2014/07/07/politics/5-things-immigration-reality-check/index.html>

Beyond the bickering, both sides have valid points, immigration policy and law experts say. Here's a reality check.

'Flee or die': violence drives Central America's child migrants to US border – 9 July 2014

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/09/central-america-child-migrants-us-border-crisis>

The mirage of an open door on the southern US border has triggered a political storm in Washington – and helped fuel an unprecedented humanitarian crisis on America's doorstep.

Obama defends immigration policy, meets with Texas governor – 9 July 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-obama-texas-20140709-story.html>

President Obama faced sharp criticism for his immigration policies here Wednesday even as the White House stepped up efforts to cope with the tens of thousands of children and teens from Central America who have poured into Texas' Rio Grande Valley.

Child migrants at Texas border: an immigration crisis that's hardly new – 9 July 2014

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/09/us-immigration-undocumented-children-texas>

While the sudden rise of unaccompanied children at the Texas border has quickly become a humanitarian problem and a political tussle, minors trying to enter the US in significant numbers are not a new phenomenon.

Running for their lives: The child migrant problem – 11 July 2014

<http://america.aljazeera.com/watch/shows/inside-story/articles/2014/7/11/how-is-risking-a-childs-lifetocrosstheusborderabetteralternative.html>

President Obama calls it a humanitarian crisis. What is behind the surge in child immigrants?

First U.S. flight departs Honduran kids under fast-track push – 15 July 2014

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-honduras/first-u-s-flight-departs-honduran-kids-under-fast-track-push-idUSKBN0FJ2LE20140715>

The United States deported a group of Honduran children as young as 1-1/2 years old on Monday in the first flight since President Barack Obama pledged to speed up the process of sending back illegal immigrant minors from Central America.

Unintended consequences: 2008 anti-trafficking law contributes to border crisis – 16 July 2014

<http://edition.cnn.com/2014/07/15/politics/immigration-unintended-consequences/index.html>

More than five years later, though, the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Action Act is having unintended consequences. It contributes to the surge of child migrants from Central America overwhelming the U.S. immigration system.

Why US deported illegal immigrant women and children to Honduras – 16 July 2014

<http://www.scmp.com/news/world/article/1555396/why-us-deported-illegal-immigrant-women-and-children-honduras>

The deportation of 40 women and children to Honduras is a sign that illegal immigrants to the United States will not be welcomed with "open arms", the White House says.

Migrant crisis expands north from border, into arid Texas wilderness – 19 July 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-immigration-brooks-county-20140720-story.html>

Most attention to the crisis on the Southwest border has focused in recent weeks on the Rio Grande Valley, where many of the 57,000 unaccompanied children and a large number of families have crossed from Mexico since October, twice last year's total. Many surrender to immigration agents willingly at the Rio Grande, aware that they will be allowed to stay pending immigration court hearings.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry orders 1,000 National Guard troops to border – 21 July 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-texas-perry-national-guard-border-20140721-story.html>

Texas Gov. Rick Perry announced plans Monday to deploy as many as 1,000 National Guard troops to the state's border with Mexico, faulting federal officials for "empty promises" in dealing with an influx of Central American children and families.

Wave of migrant children threatens to swamp U.S. immigration courts – 22 July 2014

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-judges-insight/wave-of-migrant-children-threatens-to-swamp-u-s-immigration-courts-idUSKBN0FR0BP20140722>

A deluge of Central American children pouring into the United States threatens to burst the seams of already overstuffed immigration courts, and President Barack Obama's steps to ease the crisis are likely to make matters worse rather than better for some, U.S. officials and immigration lawyers said.

Advocates defend law that guarantees most immigrant children a hearing – 23 July 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-unaccompanied-minors-border-20140722-story.html>

Several leading immigrant advocacy groups are warning against changes to a law that guarantees immigration hearings for most unaccompanied minors apprehended at the border.

U.S. targets deposits paid to smugglers bringing kids to the U.S. – 23 July 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-border-money-laundering-coyote-20140722-story.html>

A crackdown on smuggling rings bringing thousands of Central American children to the U.S. has resulted in 192 arrests and the seizure of \$625,000 in U.S. bank holdings, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson announced.

Honduran children may be allowed to apply for U.S. admission from home – 24 July 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-kids-border-presidents-20140724-story.html>

The White House is considering a proposal that would allow Honduran children to apply for admission to the United States as refugees or on humanitarian grounds while still in their native country. It is one of several plans under review to deter Central American kids from making the difficult and dangerous journey to the Southwest border, White House officials said Thursday.

Obama tells Central American leaders illegal migrants to be sent home – 25 July 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/chi-obama-migrant-crisis-20140725-story.html>

President Barack Obama urged the leaders of three Central American countries on Friday to work with him to stem the flow of child migrants who have surged across the U.S. border and warned that most of them would not be allowed to stay.

Central American leaders to Obama: We're working on it – 28 July 2014

<http://edition.cnn.com/2014/07/25/politics/immigration-border-crisis/index.html>

Central American leaders signaled to President Barack Obama they're working on a "comprehensive plan" to address the underlying reasons for the surge of immigrant youth from their countries who are entering the United States illegally.

On the Border, Who Gets to Be a Refugee? – 31 July 2014

<https://op-talk.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/07/31/on-the-border-who-gets-to-be-a-refugee/>

A poll by the Public Religion Research Institute asked Americans whether they thought children illegally crossing the United States border from Mexico "should be treated as refugees and be allowed to stay." Sixty-nine percent of respondents said "yes," according to The New York Times's Julia Preston, and "about a quarter of Americans in the survey, 27 percent, said the minors should be 'treated as illegal immigrants' and deported to their home countries."

ASIA-PACIFIC

INDONESIA

Indonesia's asylum hub, where desperate, hungry people try to bribe their way into detention – 21 July 2014

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/21/-sp-indonesias-asylum-hub-where-desperate-hungry-people-try-to-bribe-their-way-into-detention>

Nestled in the interior of West Java, Indonesia, the town of Cisarua has become a hub for asylum seekers from Asia, the Middle East and Africa desperate to find a new country to call home.

MALAYSIA

Two dead as Indonesia-bound boat sinks off Malaysia – 15 July 2014

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-28305876>

A boat reportedly carrying illegal immigrants and heading for Indonesia has capsized off the south-west coast of Malaysia.

Sea search for migrants missing after boat home to Indonesia sinks in chase – 16 July 2014

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1554909/sea-search-migrants-missing-after-boat-home-indonesia-sinks-chase>

Malaysian authorities were yesterday still searching for nine people missing at sea after an overloaded fishing boat carrying illegal Indonesian migrants capsized. At least two of its occupants drowned.

Malaysia allows illegal migrants safe passage home to Indonesia for Eid festival – 29 July 2014

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1560030/malaysia-allows-illegal-migrants-safe-passage-home-indonesia-eid-festival>

Malaysia is offering illegal Indonesians safe return home without being prosecuted to avoid them making secret journeys in rickety boats after several fatal accidents ahead of the Eid ul-Fitr festival.

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka migrants' voyage of desperation – 25 July 2014

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/07/sri-lanka-migrants-voyage-desperation-2014724123224469495.html>

Lack of employment opportunities in island nation forces many to flee illegally by boat in search for better life.

EUROPE

GENERAL

Mediterranean boat people numbers soar to near 100,000 this year – 25 July 2014

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants/mediterranean-boat-people-numbers-soar-to-near-100000-this-year-idUSKBN0FT1UK20140724>

Almost 100,000 boat people have made the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean to Europe this year, a roughly 60 percent increase on the whole of last year, and about 800 have died in the attempt, the U.N. refugee agency said on Thursday.

ITALY

Migrants in Italy: Arrival and survival – 17 July 2014

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/07/migrants-italy-arrival-survival-2014713115527870918.html>

Italy struggles to deal with growing flood of migrants willing to risk their lives to reach the nearest European shores.

Italy migrants: Nineteen 'suffocate' aboard boat from Africa – 19 July 2014

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-28383622>

Nineteen migrants have died, reportedly by suffocating, aboard a crowded boat travelling from North Africa to Italy.

Italy's disappearing migrants – 23 July 2014

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/07/italy-disappearing-migrants-2014714193539238141.html>

After arriving in massive numbers, most of the migrants from Syria and Eritrea abscond from refugee centres.

Stabbed, then thrown overboard: Italian police tell of horrific struggle aboard migrant boat – 23 July 2014

<http://www.scmp.com/news/world/article/1557405/stabbed-then-thrown-overboard-italian-police-tell-horrific-struggle>

Italian police arrested five men yesterday on suspicion of murdering and throwing overboard dozens of migrants crossing from Libya. Another three were charged with people smuggling.

UNITED KINGDOM

Illegal UK migration: Port of Dover lorry drivers fined on rise – 3 July 2014

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-28140380>

More than 900 lorry drivers were fined in the last financial year for entering the UK via the Port of Dover with stowaways on board.