



smuggling of migrants — global news june 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

Global refugee figure passes 50m for first time since second world war – 20 June 2014

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/20/global-refugee-figure-passes-50-million-unhcr-report>

The number of people forced to flee their homes across the world has exceeded 50 million for the first time since the second world war, an exponential rise that is stretching host countries and aid organisations to breaking point, according to figures released on Friday.

World Refugee Day: Three stories of struggle – 21 June 2014

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/06/world-refugee-day-three-stories-struggle-201461410741569382.html>

Migrants in Italy, Israel and Sweden reflect on their experiences, setbacks and dreams.

AFRICA

LIBYA

Caught migrants face squalor and death in Libya – 1 June 2014

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-27639738>

In an isolated Libyan compound, a black iron door creaks open, revealing gloom and human misery.

African migrants detained in Libya – 2 June 2014

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/06/african-migrants-detained-libya-20146203235196674.html>

About 200 migrants, mostly from Ethiopia and Eritrea, have been detained in Zawiya west of Tripoli as they tried to cross to Europe while hidden in vehicles, Libyan officials have said.

AMERICAS

MEXICO

Mass grave containing 28 bodies discovered in eastern Mexico – 19 June 2014

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/19/mass-grave-discovered-eastern-mexico-veracruz>

At least 28 bodies have been recovered from a mass grave in Veracruz, an eastern Mexican state plagued by attacks on migrants and drug cartel violence.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

New U.S. Effort to Aid Unaccompanied Child Migrants – 2 June 2014

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/03/us/politics/new-us-effort-to-aid-unaccompanied-child-migrants.html>

Saying the surge in unaccompanied children crossing the South Texas border illegally had created a humanitarian crisis, President Obama on Monday ordered federal emergency authorities to take charge of the relief effort as immigration officials opened a second shelter for the youths in a military facility.

U.S. in talks with Central American officials about immigrant children – 12 June 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-ff-immig-children-20140613-story.html>

In an attempt to stem a crush of Central American children illegally crossing the United States alone into south Texas, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson announced Thursday that he was in contact with ambassadors in Latin America to discuss how to more quickly return those children to their home countries.

US border sees influx of child migrants – 17 June 2014

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/06/us-border-sees-influx-child-migrants-20146167848636918.html>

Most of the 47,000 children who have entered the US since last year come from troubled Central American countries.

Overcrowded, unsanitary conditions seen at immigrant detention centers – 18 June 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-texas-immigrant-children-20140618-story.html>

Facing growing controversy over reports of crowded and unsanitary conditions, Border Patrol officials on Wednesday provided the first limited public access to the two facilities, allowing reporters on brief, controlled tours for glimpses of children and a few mothers detained there at the end of their often long journeys from places as far away as Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

Child immigrants on Southwest border draw lawmakers' response – 19 June 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-immigration-children-border-20140619-story.html>

The flood of immigrant children crossing the Southwest border took center stage Thursday on Capitol Hill as a Senate committee moved to provide \$100 million to respond to the crisis.

U.S. Moves to Stop Surge in Illegal Immigration – 20 June 2014

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/21/us/us-plans-to-step-up-detention-and-deportation-of-migrants.html>

White House officials, saying that misinformation about administration policies helped drive a surge of illegal migrants from Central America across the South Texas border, on Friday announced plans to detain more of them and to accelerate their court cases so as to deport them more quickly.

Obama administration acts to ease immigration legal crunch at border – 20 June 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-border-migrants-white-house-20140620-story.html>

Facing pressure to address a widening crisis on the Southwest border, the Obama administration announced new measures Friday to detain, process and ultimately deport the growing numbers of Central American children and families who already are overwhelming most existing federal detention facilities.

Mass graves of unidentified migrants found in South Texas – 21 June 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-texas-immigrant-graves-20140621-story.html>

A series of mass graves filled with remains of unidentified migrants has been discovered in a South Texas cemetery.

Mass graves with remains of migrants uncovered in Texas – 21 June 2014

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/21/texas-mass-graves-undocumented-migrants-uncovered>

The most perilous part of the journey for many migrants seeking to enter the United States from central America comes not when they are on their way to the Texas border, but once they have passed it.

Texas politicians demand immediate action to stop child border crisis – 23 June 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-border-crisis-texas-20140623-story.html>

Texas Republicans Sen. Ted Cruz and Atty. Gen. Greg Abbott on Monday demanded that federal officials immediately intervene to stop the influx of Central American immigrant children that has overwhelmed south Texas.

Obama urges Central American parents not to send children to border – 27 June 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-obama-immigrants-20140628-story.html>

Under fire from Republicans for failing to stem the recent flood of young immigrants, President Obama is delivering a message to Central American parents considering sending their children to the U.S. to escape violence and poverty at home: Don't risk it.

Obama to Seek Funds to Stem Border Crossings and Speed Deportations – 28 June 2014

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/29/us/obama-to-seek-funds-to-stem-border-crossings-and-speed-deportations.html>

President Obama will ask Congress to provide more than \$2 billion in new funds to control the surge of illegal Central American migrants at the South Texas border, and to grant broader powers for immigration officials to speed deportations of children caught crossing without their parents, White House officials said on Saturday.

Obama's bid to deport children complicates immigration reform effort – 29 June 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-obama-immigration-reform-20140630-story.html>

President Obama's surprise request that Congress give him authority to quickly deport thousands of Central American children illegally crossing the border is likely to renew the on-again, off-again immigration reform debate that many Republicans had hoped to avoid.

Obama to seek US\$2 billion for border control – 29 June 2014

<http://www.scmp.com/news/world/article/1542954/obama-seek-us2-billion-border-control>

President Barack Obama will seek more than \$2 billion (HK\$15.2 billion) to respond to the flood of immigrants illegally entering the US through the Rio Grande Valley area of Texas and ask for new powers to deal with returning immigrant children apprehended while traveling without their parents, a White House official said.

Obama to take executive action on immigration – 30 June 2014

<http://edition.cnn.com/2014/06/30/politics/obama-immigration/index.html>

It's their fault, President Barack Obama said Monday in blaming Republican inaction on immigration reform for escalating problems including a surge of undocumented children crossing the border from Mexico.

Obama says he will overhaul immigration without Congress' help – 30 June 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/politics/politicsnow/la-na-pn-obama-immigration-20140630-story.html>

President Obama, saying he's convinced that House Republicans will not take action to reform immigration laws this year, vowed Monday to use his executive authority to "fix as much of our immigration system as I can on my own, without Congress."

ASIA-PACIFIC

MALAYSIA

Confirmed death toll in Malaysia boat accidents rises to 16 – 23 June 2014

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1538252/confirmed-death-toll-malaysia-boat-accidents-rises-16>

Malaysian maritime authorities on Sunday recovered the body of an Indonesian woman, raising the confirmed death toll from two boat accidents to 16 with dozens of others still missing.

EUROPE

GENERAL

Europe faces 'colossal humanitarian catastrophe' of refugees dying at sea – 2 June 2014

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/02/europe-refugee-crisis-un-africa-processing-centres>

The United Nations has been forced to consider establishing refugee holding centres in north Africa and the Middle East due to the spiralling numbers of migrants attempting perilous journeys across the Mediterranean in a desperate effort to reach Europe.

ITALY

Migrants die in latest attempt at sea crossing to Italy – 10 June 2014

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/10/migrants-italy-die-refugee-sea-crossing-africa>

Three people have drowned and six more were missing in the Mediterranean Sea, the Italian coastguard said on Tuesday.

Around 30 migrants found dead on boat near Sicily – 30 June 2014

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-migrants/around-30-migrants-found-dead-on-boat-near-sicily-idUSKBN0F50OD20140630>

As many as 30 corpses were found on a boat packed with migrants off the coast of Sicily, Italy's navy said on Monday after rescuing thousands of people trying to cross from North Africa over the weekend.

Italy finds 30 bodies in migrant boat – 30 June 2014

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-28082969>

The Italian navy has found about 30 bodies in a fishing boat carrying hundreds of migrants between Sicily and the North African coast.

Thirty dead bodies found on migrant boat bound for Italy – 30 June 2014

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/30/thirty-dead-bodies-found-migrant-boat-italy>

A fishing boat containing the bodies of about 30 people was being towed by an Italian navy frigate to the Sicilian port of Pozzallo in the latest tragedy to hit the busy Mediterranean crossing route.