



smuggling of migrants — global news November 2013

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.

AFRICA

KENYA

Somali refugees in Kenya fear early return – 21 November 2013

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2013/11/somali-refugees-kenya-fear-early-return-2013111311143289962.html>

Kenya and Somalia agreed last week to a deal with the UN to reintegrate some of the 600,000 refugees in Kenya back into Somalia. But many are wondering whether the country is ready for the returnees.

MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique 'child smuggling' arrests at South Africa border – 12 November 2013

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-24917508>

Mozambican police have rescued 27 children being trafficked to South Africa. Seven people were arrested for attempting to smuggle the children, aged between one and seven years, across the border.

NIGER

Migrants for whom the Sahara proved a graveyard started out in hope – 2 November 2013

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/nov/01/migrant-journeys-hope-sahara-despair>

Ninety-two corpses have been found in the Niger desert. The willingness of western states to support governments and corporations that make life difficult for local people does nothing to help. Neither does the failure of African countries to crack down on the callous people smugglers who crisscross the continent with apparent impunity.

AMERICAS

BAHAMAS

Haitians die in Bahamas boat capsized – 27 November 2013

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/27/haitian-migrants-die-bahamas-capsized>

A sailboat passing through the southern Bahamas islands with about 150 Haitian migrants on board capsized after running aground, killing up to 30 people and leaving the rest clinging to the vessel for hours.

CANADA

People smuggling to Canada from U.S. up in 2011 – 19 November 2013

<https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/people-smuggling-to-canada-from-us-increasing/article15518213/>

Smugglers were caught trying to slip dramatically more people into Canada in 2011 over the previous year at largely unguarded points along the border with the United States.

Canada's snubbing of asylum-seekers spurs human smuggling: Harvard study – 26 November 2013

<https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/canadas-snubbing-of-asylum-seekers-spurs-human-smuggling-harvard-study/article15600312/>

A new Harvard Law School study paints a scathing portrait of Canada as a country that's increasingly slamming its doors on asylum-seekers and thereby unwittingly contributing to the human smuggling crisis.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Survivors Describe Fights and Fear After Haitian Migrants' Boat Ran Aground – 27 November 2013

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/28/us/survivors-describe-fights-and-fear-after-haitian-migrants-boat-ran-aground.html>

The Haitians piled onto the rickety vessel with visions of a new life in the United States. But five days into the voyage, the overloaded sailboat packed with 150 people ran aground and quickly broke apart. At least 30 people died in the frigid seas

ASIA-PACIFIC

INDONESIA

Indonesia suspends cooperation with Australia on people-smuggling – 25 November 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-australia-asylum-seekers/indonesia-suspends-cooperation-with-australia-on-people-smuggling-idUSBRE9AO04920131125>

Indonesia's police confirmed they had suspended cooperation with their Australian counterparts after a diplomatic rift between the neighbors, raising the possibility of a surge in asylum seekers heading to Australia from Indonesian shores.

MIDDLE EAST

SYRIA

Syria: Refugees dodge patrols on deadly mountain hike to safety – 2 November 2013

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2013/11/2/syria-refugees-dodgepatrolsondeadlymountainhiketosafety.html>

As winter approaches, citizens fleeing the conflict are faced with new challenges. In the past year, thousands of residents from Beit Jin and nearby villages have made this trek from Syria to Shebaa in an effort to flee punishing government assaults on their towns and regular clashes between the armed opposition and troops supporting Assad's government.

TURKEY

Turkey's new border wall angers Kurds on both sides of Syrian divide – 8 November 2013

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/08/turkey-new-border-wall-kurds-syria>

The Turkish authorities have started erecting a wall on the frontier with Syria in what is being seen as an attempt to divide the Kurdish majority populations on both sides of the border, prompting protests and hunger strikes, and jeopardising peace talks.

Kurds protest against wall along Turkey's border with Syria – 8 November 2013

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-syria-crisis-turkey-kurds/kurds-protest-against-wall-along-turkeys-border-with-syria-idUSBRE9A610720131107>

Officials said last month that Turkey would build a two-meter high wall to stop people bypassing checkpoints and prevent smuggling near Qamishli, where Kurdish fighters, Syrian rebel units and Arab tribes have regularly clashed.

Syria Seen as Most Dire Refugee Crisis in a Generation – 23 November 2013

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/24/world/middleeast/syria-seen-as-most-dire-refugee-crisis-in-a-generation.html>

Syrians have been pouring out of their country in recent months, fleeing an increasingly violent and murky conflict that is pitting scores of armed groups against one another as much as against the government. The exodus has stretched the resources of the region's host countries — Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and even Turkey, the biggest and richest by far.

EUROPE

BULGARIA

A nightmare for all – 30 November 2013

<https://www.economist.com/news/europe/21590946-bulgaria-struggling-cope-syrian-refugees-nightmare-all>

There are thousands of Syrian refugees in Bulgaria, the poorest European Union country. Dozens more are crossing the border with Turkey every day. Around 10,000 migrants (two-thirds of them from Syria) have arrived so far this year, a sevenfold increase from last. Authorities have basic facilities ready for only half of them.

GREECE

Twelve 'Syrian' migrants die off Greek coast – 15 November 2013

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-24954702>

At least 12 undocumented migrants, four of them children, have drowned after their fibreglass boat sank off Greece.

Migrants dead as boat sinks near Greece – 16 November 2013

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2013/11/migrants-dead-as-boat-sinks-near-greece-2013111583049443134.html>

At least 12 migrants including four children have died after their inflatable boat sank off a western Greek island in the Ionian Sea.

ITALY

Lampedusa boat tragedy: Migrants 'raped and tortured' – 8 November 2013

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-24866338>

People traffickers tortured and raped African migrants whose boat later sank off Lampedusa with the loss of more than 360 lives, Italian police say.

Lampedusa boat victims raped and tortured – 9 November 2013

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2013/11/lampedusa-boat-victims-raped-an-tortured-201311817482583908.html>

Dozens of the people who were on the boat that sank near the Italian coast last month were raped and tortured in Libya before starting their journey.

Italy and Malta say EU must press Libya to stop boat migration- 12 November 2013

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-italy-migrants-libya/italy-and-malta-say-eu-must-press-libya-to-stop-boat-migration-idUKBRE9AA0LB20131111>

Italy on Monday called on the European Union to press Libya to stem the gangs smuggling migrants from Africa on overcrowded boats and prevent shipwrecks like the one that killed hundreds last month.

Out of Syria, Into a European Maze – 29 November 2013

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/30/world/middleeast/out-of-syria-into-a-european-maze.html>

For many, reaching Europe was merely the beginning of another difficult journey. Having risked their lives in hopes of settling in prospering Northern Europe, many Syrians found themselves trapped in the south, living illegally in Italy, hiding from the police, as they tried to sneak past border guards and travel north to apply for asylum.

UNITED KINGDOM

Security pair jailed for Birmingham Airport smuggling – 4 November 2013

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-birmingham-24805431>

Two security workers have been jailed for helping to smuggle illegal immigrants through Birmingham Airport.