



smuggling of migrants — global news July 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

SOMALIA

Somaliland to stiffen smuggling and trafficking penalties – 31 July 2013

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/jul/31/somaliland-smuggling-trafficking>

The government of the self-declared republic of Somaliland will stiffen penalties for people smuggling and human trafficking to stem irregular migration, particularly by the region's youths.

ASIA-PACIFIC

INDONESIA

Indonesia won't extradite alleged people smuggler – 12 July 2013

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1280665/indonesia-wont-extradite-alleged-people-smuggler>

An Indonesian court on Thursday rejected Australia's request to extradite an Afghan man accused of smuggling asylum seekers to Australia in dozens of boats, including one involved in an accident that killed about 200 people.

Four arrested in Indonesia boat sinking, 20 dead – 29 July 2013

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1292841/four-arrested-indonesia-boat-sinking-20-dead>

The death toll from the sinking last week of a boat carrying asylum seekers has reached 20, while four people have been arrested for people smuggling in connection with the incident off Indonesia, police said on Monday.

THAILAND

Thai navy denies allegation of Rohingya Muslim smuggling – 19 July 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-rohingya-exodus-reaction/thai-navy-denies-allegation-of-rohingya-muslim-smuggling-idUSBRE96I09S20130719>

Thailand's navy denied on Friday a Reuters report that its personnel were involved in a lucrative smuggling and trafficking network that exploits minority Rohingya Muslims fleeing persecution and dire living conditions in Myanmar.

Special Report: Thai authorities implicated in Rohingya Muslim smuggling network – 17 July 2013

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-exodus-specialreport/special-report-thai-authorities-implicated-in-rohingya-muslim-smuggling-network-idUSBRE96G02520130717>

It had been more than two months since Sabur and his wife set sail from Myanmar with 118 other Rohingya Muslims to escape violence and persecution. Twelve died on the disastrous voyage. The survivors were imprisoned in India and then handed over to people smugglers in southern Thailand.

MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL

Commuting from the West Bank – 23 July 2013

<http://blogs.reuters.com/photographers-blog/2013/07/23/commuting-from-the-west-bank/>

There are two ways for Palestinian workers to cross into Israel every day. Those with work permits can pass through a military checkpoint. Those without a permit have to find a way through the controversial Israeli barrier, and sneak across the border. Both ways are time consuming. Neither is pleasant.

YEMEN

Ethiopian migrants tell of torture and rape in Yemen – 18 July 2013

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-23321638>

80,000 Ethiopian migrants undertake the dangerous journey every year. They hope they will find work in the wealthy Gulf state of Saudi Arabia and be able to send money home. But they risk being exploited by criminal gangs and the Yemeni military in the 500 km (310 miles) trek across Yemen to the Saudi border.

EUROPE

CROATIA

Policing Croatia's border - in pictures – 3 July 2013

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2013/jul/02/policing-croatia-border-european-union>

Croatia became the European Union's 28th member on 1 July and its 870-mile border with non-EU neighbours Bosnia, Serbia and Montenegro will now become the bloc's new external frontier.

ITALY

Pope Francis commemorates migrant dead at Lampedusa – 8 July 2013

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-pope-lampedusa/pope-francis-commemorates-migrant-dead-at-lampedusa-idUSBRE9660KH20130708>

Pope Francis celebrated mass on the tiny Sicilian island of Lampedusa on Monday to commemorate thousands of migrants who have died crossing the sea from North Africa, underlining his drive to put the poor at the heart of his papacy.