



## smuggling of migrants — global news January 2013

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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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### AMERICAS

#### CANADA

##### ***Human smuggling charges dismissed in Tamil migrant case – 25 January 2013***

<https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/human-smuggling-charges-dismissed-in-tamil-migrant-case/article7893882/>

A British Columbia judge has dismissed human smuggling charges against four men accused of bringing dozens of Tamil migrants into Canada illegally aboard the MV Ocean Lady.

##### **B.C. court strikes down human smuggling law; Tamil cases in limbo – 14 January 2013**

<https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/bc-court-strikes-down-human-smuggling-law-tamil-cases-in-limbo/article7323548/>

A British Columbia Supreme Court judge has taken the bluster out of the Conservatives' campaign against illegal migrants by striking down a section of the law targeting human smuggling, putting at least two high-profile prosecutions in limbo.

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### ASIA-PACIFIC

#### MALAYSIA

##### ***At least eight missing after boat sinks off Malaysia – 14 January 2013***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1127803/least-eight-missing-after-boat-sinks-malaysia>

At least eight Indonesian illegal migrants were missing after a boat smuggling them out of Malaysia sank in rough seas on Monday while 41 other people were rescued, an official said.

#### THAILAND

##### ***Burmese refugees sold on by Thai officials – 21 January 2013***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-21115728>

Thousands of Muslim Rohingya have fled to sea in recent months after deadly communal violence in Rakhine State, with many heading east across the Andaman Sea to Thailand. The BBC found that

boats were being intercepted by the Thai navy and police, with deals then made to sell the people on to traffickers who transport them south towards Malaysia.

***Burmese boat people 'sold to smugglers' – 21 January 2013***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-asia-21106819/burmese-boat-people-sold-to-smugglers>

An investigation by the BBC has revealed that Thai officials have been allegedly selling boat people to human traffickers. Thousands of Muslim Rohingya refugees from Burma's far west have taken to the sea in the last few months, heading east to Thailand.

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## EUROPE

### GENERAL

***Europe police 'smash people-smuggling ring' – 30 January 2013***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-21268573>

Police have arrested 103 people suspected of being part of a "major people-smuggling criminal network. The suspects are accused of smuggling people from countries including Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan and Syria into the EU.

### UNITED KINGDOM

***Migrants paying gangs to smuggle them out of Britain – 21 January 2013***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-21014676>

Illegal immigrants fleeing the authorities in Britain are paying criminal gangs to smuggle them out of the UK. The migrants are charged as much as £1,500 for the chance to be taken to mainland Europe.

***Reporter goes undercover with migrant smuggling gang – 21 January 2013***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-21084989/reporter-goes-undercover-with-migrant-smuggling-gang>

Illegal immigrants fleeing the authorities in Britain are paying criminal gangs to be smuggled out of the UK.