



## smuggling of migrants — global news November 2017

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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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### AFRICA

#### GENERAL

***Merkel: End Smuggling and Slavery, Allow Legal Migration for Africans – 29 November 2017***

<https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2017/11/29/world/europe/29reuters-africa-eu-summit-merkel.html>

German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Wednesday stressed the importance of ending smuggling and slavery while creating a legal route for Africans to come to Europe as she faces pressure at home to tackle a migrant influx.

***EU's Tusk: Africa, EU must cooperate to end 'horrifying' migrant abuses – 29 November 2017***

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-afro-eu-tusk/eus-tusk-africa-eu-must-cooperate-to-end-horrifying-migrant-abuses-idUSKBN1DT2W9>

European Council President Donald Tusk has said that Europe and Africa have joint responsibility for making migration more humane and orderly so they can end horrifying abuses being committed against African migrants by people smugglers

***Merkel: End smuggling and slavery, allow legal migration for Africans – 29 November 2017***

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-africa-eu-summit-merkel/merkel-end-smuggling-and-slavery-allow-legal-migration-for-africans-idUSKBN1DT1G8>

German Chancellor Angela Merkel stresses the importance of ending smuggling and slavery while creating a legal route for Africans to come to Europe as she faces pressure at home to tackle a migrant influx.

***Migrant crisis: 'I was sold three times by slave traders' – 29 November 2017***

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/world-africa-42106910>

Thousands of young Ethiopians have attempted the journey across the Sahara to Libya - and from there to Europe.

LIBYA

***Bolstered Libyan coast guard intercepts packed migrant boat – 5 November 2017***

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-libya/bolstered-libyan-coast-guard-intercepts-packed-migrant-boat-idUSKBN1D40WR>

Libya's European-backed coast guard turned back more than 150 migrants trying to reach Italy by boat amid its heightened efforts to block such crossings of the Mediterranean.

***Five migrants die when boat sinks, Libyan coast guard and German NGO blame each other – 6 November 2017***

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-libya/five-migrants-die-when-boat-sinks-libyan-coast-guard-and-german-ngo-blame-each-other-idUSKBN1D61R1>

At least five African migrants died and more were missing off western Libya after a boat carrying about 140 people capsized and then some migrants refused rescue by the Libyan coast guard and tried instead to swim to a German rescue vessel.

***Migrants being sold as slaves – 14 November 2017***

<http://edition.cnn.com/videos/world/2017/11/13/libya-migrant-slave-auction-lon-orig-md-ejk.cnn>

Smugglers in Libya are auctioning migrants off as slaves.

***People for sale: Where lives are auctioned for \$400 – 14 November 2017***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/11/14/africa/libya-migrant-auctions/index.html>

A recent clampdown by the Libyan coastguard means fewer boats are making it out to sea, leaving smugglers with a backlog of would-be passengers on their hands. Consequently, the smugglers become masters and the migrants and refugees become slaves.

***EU, U.N., African leaders draw up emergency plan for migrants in Libya – 30 November 2017***

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-afro-eu/eu-u-n-african-leaders-draw-up-emergency-plan-for-migrants-in-libya-idUSKBN1DU1BA>

The European Union, United Nations and African Union have agreed to an emergency plan to dismantle people-smuggling networks and repatriate stranded migrants, in an effort to ease a human rights disaster in Libya.

***African refugees bought, sold and murdered in Libya – 29 November 2017***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/11/african-refugees-bought-sold-murdered-libya-171129103602048.html>

Hundreds of African refugees are being bought and sold in "slave markets" across Libya every week. Many of them held for ransom or forced into prostitution and sexual exploitation to pay their captors and smugglers.

***Video gives new prominence to charges of Libyan slave trade – 30 November 2017***

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-libya/video-gives-new-prominence-to-charges-of-libyan-slave-trade-idUSKBN1DU2GB>

A video appearing to show men auctioned as slaves in Tripoli has put a long history of abuses against refugees and migrants there on the international agenda. Partly in response to the video, European and African leaders meeting in Abidjan on Thursday agreed to a plan to cooperate to fight smuggling and seek to ease a human rights disaster in Libya.

## NIGERIA

### ***Nigeria flies migrants home from Libya after slavery scare – 29 November 2017***

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-libya-nigeria/nigeria-flies-migrants-home-from-libya-after-slavery-scare-idUSKBN1DT2VV>

The Nigerian government has started bringing stranded citizens home from Libya after a global outcry over reports that migrants there were being sold into slavery. Action began after footage emerged showing men being auctioned as farm hands in Libya after being smuggled across the Sahara.

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## AMERICAS

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### ***Agent, trainer smuggled Cuban ballplayers into US. Now they're headed to prison – 2 November 2017***

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/sns-tns-bc-bbo-smugglers-sentencing-20171102-story.html>

A sports agent and trainer were found guilty of smuggling Cuban baseball players into the United States to capitalize on their multimillion-dollar major league contracts.

### ***Baseball agent, trainer sentenced in Cuban player smuggling case – 2 November 2017***

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/sports/baseball/cuban-baseball-player-smugglers-face-sentencing-in-miami/article36807210/>

A sports agent and a baseball trainer convicted of illegally smuggling Cuban players into the U.S. have been sentenced to prison.

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## ASIA-PACIFIC

### BANGLADESH

### ***Fate of Stateless Rohingya Muslims is in Antagonistic Hands – 3 November 2017***

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/03/world/asia/rohingya-myanmar-bangladesh-stateless.html>

After holding talks with Myanmar, officials from Bangladesh insist that Myanmar must take the Rohingya people back. Many Rohingya now worry that without any input from their community their fate is being sealed.

### MALAYSIA

### ***Rohingya Exodus – 14 November 2017***

<https://interactive.aljazeera.com/aje/2017/rohingya-exodus/index.html>

Rohingya refugees fleeing the recent outbreak of violence in Myanmar have begun arriving in Malaysia, amid warnings that this could mark the start of a dangerous new wave of people smuggling.

## MYANMAR

### ***Rohingya desperate to flee Myanmar are turning to swimming – 13 November 2017***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-rohingya-fleeing-myanmar-20171113-story.html>

Rohingya Muslims escaping the violence in their homeland of Myanmar are now so desperate that some are trying to swim to safety in neighbouring Bangladesh as they have no money for a boat and smuggler.

## PAKISTAN

### ***Pakistan Arrests 'Human Smuggler' Linked to Deaths in Turbat - 19 November 2017***

<https://www.nytimes.com/aonline/2017/11/19/world/asia/ap-as-pakistan-arrest.html>

A Pakistani investigator says federal agents have arrested a "human smuggler" linked to the recent deaths of 20 people near the border with Iran.

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## EUROPE

### GENERAL

### ***Trafficking laws 'target refugee aid workers in EU' – 11 November 2017***

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/11/aid-workers-targeted-eu-trafficking-laws-migrants-refugees>

Aid workers are being targeted throughout Europe as countries including the UK use laws aimed at traffickers and smugglers to discourage humanitarian activity.

### ***Death at sea no deterrent to Europe-bound Nigerians: activists – 8 November 2017***

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-nigeria-italy-migrants/death-at-sea-no-deterrent-to-europe-bound-nigerians-activists-idUSKBN1D82FJ>

The death of 26 Nigerian women and girls on migrant boats in the Mediterranean Sea will not deter others from attempting the same perilous journey for a new life in Europe. A history of migration to Italy has fuelled local hopes of easy money abroad - leaving people vulnerable to traffickers.

### ***Europe, Africa ministers agree to help migrants held in Libya – 13 November 2017***

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants/europe-africa-ministers-agree-to-help-migrants-held-in-libya-idUSKBN1DD1VI>

European and African ministers have agreed to try to improve conditions for migrants in Libya and seek paths such as scholarships for Africans to reach Europe legally, to cut the death toll from smuggling across the Sahara and Mediterranean.

### ***French president calls for migrant smuggling crackdown – 28 November 2017***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-af--france-africa-20171128-story.html>

French President Emmanuel Macron called the trafficking of African migrants a "crime against humanity" and proposed a crackdown on human smuggling networks between Africa and Europe.

***Mediterranean 'by far world's deadliest border' for migrants: IOM – 22 November 2017***

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/mediterranean-by-far-worlds-deadliest-border-for-migrants-iom/article37078358/>

More than 33,000 migrants have died at sea trying to reach European shores since 2000, making the Mediterranean by far the world's deadliest border. After record arrivals from 2014 to 2016, the European Union's deal with Turkey to stop arrivals to Greece and blocks on migrants inside Libya and off its coast have greatly reduced the flow.

BULGARIA

***Migrant-smuggling gang caught in Bulgaria – 15 November 2017***

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-bulgaria/migrant-smuggling-gang-caught-in-bulgaria-idUSKBN1DF2DA>

Bulgarian authorities have smashed a gang suspected of smuggling migrants into Western Europe. Eight people were charged with were charged with smuggling offences after they transported migrants from Turkey into Romania and then to Hungary and Austria.

GREECE

***The Greek island camp where only the sick or pregnant can leave - November 2017***

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/04/the-greek-island-camp-where-only-the-sick-or-pregnant-can-leave>

There are around 3,000 refugees in Samos, one of the five Greek "hotspot" islands in the eastern Aegean Sea, designated by the EU to act as a barricade against massive irregular migrant arrivals from Turkey.

ITALY

***Italy launches probe into death of 26 teenage girls at sea – 8 November 2017***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/italy-launches-probe-into-death-of-26-teenage-women-found-dead-at-sea>

The gruesome discovery on Sunday (Nov 5) of the bodies of more than two dozen migrant women in the Mediterranean Sea has left Italian officials wondering whether the women were purposely killed, and why all who died were female. Migrants' desire to reach Italy - a country in close proximity to Libya - has made the North African country a centre for human smuggling.

***Italy investigating deaths of 26 teenage girls in Mediterranean Sea – 8 November 2017***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/11/06/europe/26-teenage-migrants-dead-at-sea/index.html>

Italian authorities have launched an investigation into the cause of death of 26 teenage girls whose bodies were recovered in the Mediterranean Sea on Sunday. The girls, aged 14-18, are believed to have been migrants from Niger and Nigeria who had embarked on the treacherous route to Europe from Libya over the weekend.

TURKEY

***Turkey Charges Three Bulgarians With Migrant Smuggling – 21 November 2017***

<https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2017/11/21/world/europe/21reuters-europe-migrants-turkey-bulgaria.html>

Turkey has charged three Bulgarians with illegal migrant trafficking and assisting a criminal organization.

UNITED KINGDOM

***Orford yacht smuggling plot 'involved wider network' – 6 November 2017***

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/uk-england-suffolk-41830230>

Six Ukrainians were found on a yacht which ran aground near Orford, Suffolk, in April. But further evidence found by the BBC suggests at least two other people could have been involved in the people smuggling plot.

***Police arrest people smuggling suspects in Risca – 16 November 2017***

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/uk-wales-south-east-wales-42014446>

A man and woman have been arrested in south Wales and another man in London in a people smuggling investigation.