



## smuggling of migrants — global news March 2018

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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

#### LIBYA

##### ***Hundreds of migrants picked up between Libya and Italy – 11 March 2018***

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-libya/hundreds-of-migrants-picked-up-between-libya-and-italy-idUSKCN1GM0KS>

International charity ships and Libya's coastguard picked up several hundred migrants as smugglers trying to take advantage of calm seas launched a flurry of boats towards Italy.

##### ***Libya migrants: Smuggling network arrest warrants issued – 14 March 2018***

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/world-africa-43409878>

Libya has issued 205 arrest warrants for Libyans and foreigners suspected of being involved in a smuggling network for migrants heading to Europe. They include accusations of human trafficking, torture, murder and rape.

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### AMERICAS

#### UNITED STATE OF AMERICA

##### ***Second man pleads guilty in Texas death of 10 immigrants in truck – 9 March 2018-04-13***

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-texas-bodies-immigrants/second-man-pleads-guilty-in-texas-death-of-10-immigrants-in-truck-idUSKCN1GL05E>

A second man pleaded guilty to arranging the transport of dozens of immigrants across Texas last year that ended with 10 of them dead or dying in a sweltering tractor-trailer in a San Antonio parking lot.

##### ***34 people from 3 countries detained in Arizona immigration raid – 29 March 2018***

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-arizona-immigration/34-people-from-3-countries-detained-in-arizona-immigration-raid-idUSKBN1H42A2>

Thirty-four people said to be illegal immigrants were in custody on Wednesday after federal agents raided a "drop house" in Phoenix suspected of being a part of a human smuggling operation.

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## EUROPE

### ALBANIA

#### ***Albania arrests 39 for smuggling people into Britain and United States – 18 March 2018***

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-albania-smuggling/albania-arrests-39-for-smuggling-people-into-britain-and-united-states-idUSKCN1GT0RV>

Albanian police arrested 39 people including four police officers on charges of having smuggled some 1,000 Albanians to Britain, the United States and Canada, and are looking for a dozen others, including two Bulgarians.

### GREECE

#### ***At Least 16 Migrants Drown Off Greek Island, Including 5 Children – 17 March 2018***

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/17/world/europe/greece-migrants-boat-death.html>

The bodies of 16 people, including at least five children, were recovered from the sea off a Greek island after a boat smuggling migrants sank in the eastern Aegean.

#### ***Migrant crisis: At least 15 die as boat capsizes off Greece – 17 March 2018***

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/world-europe-43442516>

At least 15 migrants, including five children, have died when their boat capsized as they tried to cross from Turkey, the Greek coastguard has said. About 20 are believed to have been on board, and several are unaccounted for.

### ITALY

#### ***Spanish ship seized by Italy for saving migrants from Libya return – 19 March 2018***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-43455555>

Italian authorities have seized a Spanish charity's rescue ship after it brought 216 migrants stranded off the coast of Libya to Sicilian shores. Proactiva Open Arms picked up the migrants and refused to release them to the Libyan coastguard, which would have returned them to Africa.

### TURKEY

#### ***Minibus carrying migrants crashes in eastern Turkey, killing 17 – 30 March 2018***

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-turkey-crash-migrants/minibus-carrying-migrants-crashes-in-eastern-turkey-killing-17-idUSKBN1H60OF>

A minibus packed with migrants from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran crashed and burst into flames in eastern Turkey, killing 17 people. The bus, designed to carry 14 people, was carrying more than 50 foreign nationals when it hit a lamp post and caught fire after the driver lost control.