



smuggling of migrants – global news

august 2015

This monthly newsletter summarises news items and media commentary from some of world's leading media outlets. The Migrants Smuggling Working Group takes no responsibility for the content and accuracy of the information provides in these news items.

AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

Despite border crackdown in Ethiopia, migrants still risk lives to leave – 25 August 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/aug/25/despite-border-crackdown-ethiopia-migrants-risk-lives>

Life in border towns is a cat-and-mouse game as authorities hunt out smugglers, but extreme poverty still pushes would-be migrants to leave, whatever the cost.

LIBYA

Officials Rescue 367 Migrants Off Libya; 25 Bodies Found – 5 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/08/05/world/europe/ap-eu-italy-migrants.html>

A fishing boat crowded with migrants overturned Wednesday in the Mediterranean off Libya as rescuers approached, and the Italian coast guard and Irish navy said at least 367 people were saved, although 25 bodies also were found in the latest human smuggling tragedy.

'Horrific sight': Ship capsizes in Mediterranean with about 600 aboard – 5 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/world/middleeast/la-fg-migrant-ship-capsizes-mediterranean-20150805-story.html>

Rescue ships in the Mediterranean were searching for survivors late Wednesday off the coast of Libya where a boat carrying hundreds of migrants capsized, according to authorities and aid agencies.

Irish navy: Migrant boat carrying 100s capsizes off Libya – 5 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-migrant-boat-capsizes-off-libya-20150805-story.html>

A fishing boat carrying an estimated 600 migrants capsized on Wednesday in the Mediterranean north of Libya, and at least 150 people were spotted in the sea, Irish military officials said.

Migrant Boat Carrying Hundreds Capsizes Near Libya- 5 August 2015

<http://time.com/3985432/migrant-boat-capsizes-italy-libya/>

Some 400 migrants have been rescued and 25 bodies recovered after a fishing boat carrying an estimated 600 capsized on Wednesday in the Mediterranean Sea north of Libya, an Italian Coast Guard official said.

Hundreds of migrants saved from wreck off Libya, 25 bodies recovered – 5 August 2015

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/migrant-boat-overturms-in-mediterranean-hundreds-believed-onboard/article25843847/>

A fishing boat crowded with migrants overturned Wednesday in the Mediterranean off Libya as rescuers approached, and the Italian coast guard and Irish navy said at least 367 people were saved, although 25 bodies also were found in the latest human smuggling tragedy.

200 Migrants Are Believed Drowned in Capsizing Off Libya – 6 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/07/world/middleeast/200-migrants-are-believed-drowned-in-capsizing-off-libya.html>

About 200 migrants are believed to have drowned off the coast of Libya when their boat capsized, the United Nations refugee agency said Thursday.

More Migrants Lost at Sea in Latest Mediterranean Tragedy – 8 August 2015

<http://www.iom.int/news/more-migrants-lost-sea-latest-mediterranean-tragedy>

More migrants are missing and likely drowned in the Mediterranean after another overloaded vessel sank off the Libyan coast this week. This latest shipwreck occurred on Wednesday, a day after IOM announced that over 2,000 migrants have died in the Mediterranean trying to reach Europe in 2015.

Dozens of dead refugees found on boats off Libya – 27 August 2015

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/scores-dead-refugees-boat-libya-coast-150826143403778.html>

Rescuers have saved about 3,000 refugees but found more than 50 dead on boats near the coast of Libya, according to the Italian coastguard.

200 Feared Dead in Latest Migrant Disaster Off Libya's Coast – 28 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/08/28/world/middleeast/ap-libya-migrants.html>

Libyan authorities were collecting the bodies of migrants who drowned off the western coastal city of Zuwara, with some 200 feared dead on Friday in the latest disaster involving desperate people trying to reach Europe across the Mediterranean.

Official estimates 200 dead in Libya boat tragedy – 28 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-tns-bc-libya-migrants-20150828-story.html>

Around 200 bodies have been extracted so far from the Mediterranean Sea on Friday, after two boats carrying migrants capsized off the Libyan coastal town of Zuwara, an official from the Libyan coastguard told dpa.

As many as 200 feared dead in latest Libya migrant boat capsizings – 28 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/world/middleeast/la-fg-migrant-drownings-20150828-story.html>

Up to 200 people were feared dead in the latest boat capsizing off the Libyan coast, international aid groups said Friday, as dozens of bodies washed ashore or were retrieved from one sunken ship's flooded hold.

Dozens of refugees die as boat sinks off Libyan coast – 28 August 2015

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/150828012200934.html>

A boat reportedly packed with people from Africa and South Asia bound for Italy has sunk off the Libyan coast, raising fears that dozens have died.

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals, Deaths at Sea Soar – 28 August 2015

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-deaths-sea-soar>

IOM's Chief of Mission for Libya, Othman Belbeisi, reported today on the latest deaths from that country's coastal waters. "We are still waiting for more details, but we have learned there were 400 migrants on one of two boats; 100 have already been rescued - nine of them women, and two girls," Belbeisi explained.

Libya Migrant Disaster Death Toll Rises to 117 – 29 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/08/29/world/middleeast/ap-ml-libya.html>

Rescue workers have recovered 12 more bodies off the Libyan coast, raising the death toll from the latest disaster for migrants trying to reach Europe by crossing the Mediterranean to 117, Libyan authorities said on Saturday.

About 200 feared dead in Libya refugee boat disaster – 29 August 2015

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/200-feared-dead-libya-refugee-boat-disaster-150828062813429.html>

At least 105 people have been killed and more than one hundred others are still missing after a boat, reportedly packed with refugees bound for Italy, capsized and sunk off the Libyan coast.

NIGER

Crackdown in Niger Fails to Deter Migrant Smugglers – 20 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/21/world/africa/migrant-smuggling-business-is-booming-in-niger-despite-crackdown.html>

Behind high metal gates at the edge of town, the migrants wait their turn, not daring to leave their mud-brick compounds — the final staging post before the perilous trip across the Sahara and the sea beyond. Even neighborhood children know where they are hiding.

AMERICAS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Frenchman Pleads Guilty to Migrant Smuggling in Caribbean – 12 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/08/12/world/americas/ap-cb-us-virgin-islands-migrant-smuggling.html>

An elderly Frenchman has pleaded guilty to more than three dozen counts of migrant smuggling in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

4th Fort Hood Soldier Guilty of Immigrant Smuggling in Texas – 26 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/08/26/us/ap-us-fort-hood-soldiers-immigrants.html>

A fourth soldier from Fort Hood has pleaded guilty to using her U.S. Army identification or military gear to help transport immigrants.

ASIA-PACIFIC

GENERAL

New Asian 'Boat People' Crisis Feared When Rains End: UNHCR – 28 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/08/28/world/asia/28reuters-asia-migrants-un.html>

A fresh surge of refugees and migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh is expected to set out in smugglers' rickety boats for southeast Asia when the monsoon season ends in about a month, the United Nations said on Friday.

UN warns of fresh wave of boatpeople in Asia as monsoon season ends – 30 August 2015

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1853718/un-warns-fresh-wave-boatpeople-asia-monsoon-season-ends>

A fresh surge of refugees and migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh is expected to set out in rickety boats run by smugglers for Southeast Asia when the monsoon season ends in about a month, the United Nations said.

MALAYSIA

Rohingya Women Flee Violence Only to Be Sold Into Marriage – 2 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/03/world/asia/rohingya-women-flee-violence-only-to-be-sold-into-marriage.html>

The young woman had been penned in a camp in the sweltering jungle of southern Thailand for two months when she was offered a deal.

Malaysia finds 24 more bodies of human trafficking victims – 23 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-as--malaysia-trafficking-graves-20150823-story.html>

Malaysian police said Sunday that they have found 24 more bodies of suspected human trafficking victims in jungles bordering Thailand.

Two dozen skeletons found in Malaysian mass grave – 23 August 2015

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/dozen-skeletons-malaysian-mass-grave-migrants-smuggling-150823052916560.html>

Malaysian police have found 24 human skeletons - all believed to be victims of human trafficking - in newly discovered graves along the Thai border in the northern Malaysian state of Perlis.

Malaysia finds another mass grave near Thai border – 24 August 2015

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/08/24/asia/malaysia-mass-grave/index.html>

Malaysian police say another mass grave has been found along its border with Thailand, containing the bodies of 24 people.

MYANMAR

Myanmar repatriates 159 Bangladesh boat migrants – 11 August 2015

<http://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/myanmar-repatriates-159-bangladesh-boat-migrants>

Myanmar has returned 159 Bangladeshi migrants rescued from boats stranded off its coast in May, officials said Tuesday, the latest group to be repatriated after a migration crisis that unfurled across Southeast Asia.

THAILAND

Bangkok blast suspect seized with passports and bomb-making equipment 'part of people-smuggling gang' – 30 August 2015

<http://www.scmp.com/news/world/article/1853676/thai-police-arrest-foreign-man-likely-involved-bangkok-bombing>

Thailand's army chief said the man arrested in connection with the deadly Bangkok bomb blast was not cooperating, as police announced he was part of a people-smuggling gang.

Thai Police Seek 2 New Suspects in Bangkok Bombing Probe – 31 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/08/31/world/asia/ap-as-thailand-explosion.html>

Thai police issued arrest warrants Monday for two more suspects, a Thai woman and a foreign man of unknown nationality, as part of a widening investigation that yielded its first arrest over the weekend in connection with a deadly bombing in Bangkok two weeks ago. [...]

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, sparking an array of theories about who might be behind it. Police have suggested that the suspects were part of a people-smuggling group who held a grudge against Thai authorities.

MIDDLE EAST

TURKEY

Report: Turkey Erects Concrete Wall Along Border With Syria – 21 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/08/21/world/europe/ap-eu-turkey-syria-wall.html>

Turkish media reports say Turkey has started to construct a 45 kilometer- (28 mile-) long concrete wall along a key stretch of its border with Syria.

EUROPE

GENERAL

Deadly Milestone as Mediterranean Migrant Deaths Pass 2,000 – 4 August 2015

<http://www.iom.int/news/deadly-milestone-mediterranean-migrant-deaths-pass-2000>

Over 2,000 migrants have died so far this year trying to cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe, confirming this as the deadliest route for migrants in search of a better life. In the same period last year, 1,607 migrants perished. A total of 3,279 lost their lives in 2014.

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Approach 250,000 – 14 August 2015

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-approach-250000>

The number of migrants and asylum seekers who have arrived in Europe by sea so far in 2015 is now approaching a quarter of a million, according to IOM analysis.

A 21st-Century Migrant's Essentials: Food, Shelter, Smartphone – 25 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/26/world/europe/a-21st-century-migrants-checklist-water-shelter-smartphone.html>

The tens of thousands of migrants who have flooded into the Balkans in recent weeks need food, water and shelter, just like the millions displaced by war the world over. But there is also one other thing they swear they cannot live without: a smartphone charging station.

Balkan Summit on Migrants Overshadowed by Migrant Deaths – 27 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/08/27/world/europe/ap-eu-austria-balkans-summit-.html>

Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann had just finished telling other European leaders that there was an urgent need to crack down on human traffickers when the news came: at least 20 migrants — possibly up to 50 — have been found dead in a truck just miles away.

EU Urged to Step Up Action Against Mediterranean Migrant Smugglers – 27 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/08/27/world/europe/27reuters-europe-migrants-patrols.html>

The European Union should increase the number of warships patrolling the Mediterranean Sea and start searching and diverting vessels suspected of smuggling migrants, an Italian admiral told EU ambassadors on Thursday.

A look at the latest developments in Europe's migrant crisis – 27 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-glance-20150826-story.html>

Record numbers of migrants fleeing violence and poverty in countries such as Syria, Afghanistan and Eritrea are trying to reach Europe this year, despite the risks of perilous sea crossings and little humanitarian assistance. Here are the latest developments Wednesday.

Deaths in Austria, Mediterranean raise migration's grim toll in Europe – 27 August 2015

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/08/27/europe/migrant-crisis/index.html>

The discovery of dead migrants in the back of a truck in Austria, just a day after the Italian coast guard said 54 people lost their lives trying to cross the Mediterranean, has highlighted once again the scale of the migration crisis gripping Europe.

Militants Posing as Migrants? Unlikely, Say European Experts – 28 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/08/28/world/europe/28reuters-europe-migrants-security.html>

The risk that groups like Islamic State could smuggle militants into Europe under cover of a huge wave of migrants is much smaller than some politicians suggest, according to security specialists with close ties to governments and intelligence agencies.

Europe's Migrant Crisis Brings New Death by Land and Sea – 28 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/08/28/world/europe/ap-migrants.html>

Death and desperation mounted in Europe's migrant crisis Friday as Austrian police said 71 people appeared to have suffocated in the back of an abandoned truck, while an estimated 200 people were feared drowned off Libya when two overloaded boats capsized.

Europe Reels From More Migrant Deaths on Land and Sea – 28 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/29/world/europe/migrants-bodies-austria-truck.html>

Europe reeled from fresh shocks in its escalating migration crisis Friday, with reports that 150 people drowned in the Mediterranean and news that far more bodies had been found crammed in an abandoned refrigeration truck in Austria than first thought. Damage to the vehicle's side raised the possibility that victims had struggled to escape.

Europe's Halting Response to Migrant Crisis Draws Criticism as Toll Mounts – 28 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/29/world/europe/europe-migrant-refugee-crisis.html>

The daily toll among refugees and migrants desperately trying to reach Europe — 71 suffocated in a truck in Austria and 150 drowned off Libya this week — has dramatically underscored the European Union's scattered, halting response to increasing waves of asylum seekers.

Discovery of dead refugees overshadows Austria summit – 28 August 2015

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/austria-dead-refugees-truck-150827192419724.html>

Talks in Vienna to tackle Europe's refugee crisis received a sobering reminder of the urgency of their mission when up to 50 people were found dead in a lorry not far from their venue.

Italy arrests 10 in migrant deaths at sea; Austrian officials sort out deaths on land – 29 August 2015

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/08/28/europe/migrant-crisis/index.html>

Italian and Hungarian authorities made arrests in the deaths of migrants and refugees this week, including 71 whose bodies were found in an abandoned truck in Austria.

Growing Migrant Crisis Prompts Call for Urgent Meeting of E.U. Officials – 30 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/31/world/europe/growing-migrant-crisis-prompts-call-for-urgent-meeting-of-eu-officials.html>

With increasing public consternation about the flow of migrants and asylum seekers to Europe and the dangers of their passage, Germany, France and Britain made a joint call on Sunday for an urgent meeting of European Union interior and justice ministers to find “concrete” measures to cope with the escalating crisis.

UN chief pleads with Europe to do more to save refugees – 30 August 2015

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/europe-refugee-crisis-150829062933305.html>

The UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has called on European countries to do more to protect the lives of refugees making perilous journeys to reach EU states.

EU Struggles for Answers as Migrant Influx Raises Tensions – 31 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/08/31/world/europe/ap-eu-europe-migrants.html>

French and German leaders reminded other European countries Monday of their shared responsibility toward refugees, as one official blamed harsh government policy for the deaths of dozens of migrants crammed into a truck.

Migration crisis: EU ministers to meet in two weeks to find solution – 31 August 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/aug/30/migration-crisis-germany-france-britain-demand-urgent-meeting>

EU interior and justice ministers are to meet in a fortnight in an effort to find concrete measures to cope with the escalating migration crisis.

Emergency EU meeting called to tackle refugee crisis – 31 August 2015

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/eu-hold-crisis-talks-refugees-150830194202033.html>

European Union home affairs ministers will hold emergency talks on September 14 in Brussels on the continent's escalating refugee crisis, the Luxembourg government has said.

Europe feels pressure as migrant crisis exposes splits – 31 August 2015

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/08/31/europe-feels-pressure-migrant-crisis-exposes-splits.html>

Huge traffic jams built up along the Austro-Hungarian border on Monday as police hunted for people smugglers, while divisions opened up across Europe over dealing with the influx of migrants and refugees.

AUSTRIA

Grisly Discovery in Migrant Crisis Shocks Europe – 27 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/28/world/europe/bodies-austria-truck-migrant-crisis.html>

The legions of desperate migrants fleeing war and mayhem in the Middle East and Africa have long known they were risking harm from unscrupulous smugglers and death at sea to reach the safety of Europe. But it became shockingly clear on Thursday that they now face the same dangers within Europe's own borders.

Austrian police find 20, possibly up to 50, migrants dead in abandoned truck – 27 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-austria-migrant-truck-bodies-20150827-story.html>

As regional leaders met Thursday to tackle Europe's refugee crisis, a gruesome discovery unfolded a short drive from the Austrian capital: An abandoned truck was found with at least 20 — and possibly up to 50 — decomposing bodies of migrants piled inside.

Germany's Merkel says Austrian tragedy a 'warning' in migrant crisis – 27 August 2015

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/germanys-merkel-says-austrian-tragedy-a-warning-in-migrant-crisis>

The “horrible” discovery on Thursday of between 20 and 50 dead migrants inside a truck in Austria is a warning to Europe to tackle its the migrant crisis, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said.

Bodies of 71 Migrants Who Died in Truck Taken to Morgue – 28 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/08/28/world/europe/ap-eu-austria-migrants.html>

An overpowering stench of death came from the truck on Austria's border with Hungary as workers unloaded the bodies of some of the 71 migrants who perished trapped inside the vehicle they hoped would take them to a better life.

Grim Findings in Austria and at Sea Push Migrant Crisis Into Public View – 28 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/29/world/grim-findings-in-austria-and-at-sea-push-migrant-crisis-into-public-view.html>

They were the lucky ones. Packed into a small white truck, 34 migrants, 10 of them children, had made the hourslong drive from Serbia, begging for air in broiling summer temperatures. According to the police, the three people smuggling this human cargo into Austria refused to stop.

Dead migrants found in abandoned truck near Austrian capital – 28 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--austria-migrants-20150827-story.html>

As regional leaders met Thursday to tackle Europe's refugee crisis, a gruesome discovery unfolded a short drive from the Austrian capital: An abandoned truck was found with at least 20 — and possibly up to 50 — decomposing bodies of migrants piled inside.

Austrian Officials Say Death Toll of Truck Migrants Now 71 – 28 August 2015

<http://time.com/4014454/austria-migrant-truck-death-toll/>

Three people believed to be part of a human smuggling operation were arrested overnight in Hungary in connection with the deaths of 71 migrants found in a refrigerated truck abandoned on Austria's main highway, law enforcement officials said Friday.

IOM on Latest Austrian Truck Tragedy – 28 August 2015

<http://www.iom.int/news/iom-latest-austrian-truck-tragedy>

IOM joins the international community in condemning the shameful act of neglect that the Austrian authorities say resulted in the suffocation of some 71 migrants in the back of a tractor trailer in Austria. The victims were discovered Thursday.

Refugee Children, Close to Death, Found in Van in Austria – 29 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/08/29/world/europe/29reuters-europe-migrants.html>

Three young children suffering from dehydration and close to death have been rescued from a van crammed with 26 refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, Austrian police said on Saturday.

3 Children Among Migrants Found Crammed in Van Are Hospitalized in Austria 29 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/30/world/europe/austria-migrants-syria.html>

Three small children found crammed into a small van with 23 other migrants were hospitalized with severe dehydration in northern Austria, narrowly averting another fatal tragedy for refugees fleeing the Middle East and risking their lives with smugglers, the police said Saturday.

Severely dehydrated children rescued from latest Austria smuggling truck – 29 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-migrant-truck-deaths-austria-20150829-story.html>

Austrian police said they stopped a truck Friday near Braunau, on the German border, and found 26 people from Syria, Afghanistan and Bangladesh crammed inside.

Arrests made after 71 dead refugees found in Austria – 29 August 2015

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/austria-raises-refugee-truck-death-toll-70-150828062928406.html>

Several arrests have been made in Hungary after the bodies of 71 refugees were found in a truck abandoned on a motorway in Austria.

Five People Per Square Meter: How the Truck Migrants Met Their End – 30 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/08/30/world/europe/30reuters-europe-migrants-austria-police.html>

The 71 people found dead in an abandoned refrigeration lorry in Austria had been crammed in, five to a square meter (10 sq ft), police said on Sunday, as initial forensic tests indicated they had suffocated.

Three children in hospital after being rescued from lorry in Austria – 30 August 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/aug/29/three-children-critical-after-being-rescued-from-lorry-in-austria>

Three young children are recovering in hospital from severe dehydration after police in Austria stopped a truck with 26 people inside.

As Police Investigate Deaths in Truck, Migrants and Smugglers Appear to Shift Tactics – 30 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/31/world/europe/as-police-investigate-deaths-in-truck-migrants-and-smugglers-appear-to-shift-tactics.html>

Investigators continued to work their way on Sunday through a truck that carried 71 migrants to their deaths last week, removing articles of clothing and bagging and labeling them as possible evidence in an inquiry against the smuggling operation believed to be responsible.

Austria inspects vehicles for migrants, creates 18.5-mile traffic jam – 31 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-austria-migrant-search-20150831-story.html>

Austria stepped up vehicle inspections Monday at its Hungarian border after 71 migrants apparently suffocated in a truck, creating a huge traffic jam on the main Budapest-Vienna highway.

Migrant trains reach Vienna, EU asylum rules under strain – 31 August 2015

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/08/31/europe-migrants-idUSL5N1162SX20150831>

Trains carrying hundreds of migrants started arriving in Vienna on Monday after Austrian authorities appeared to give up trying to apply European Union rules by filtering out refugees who had already claimed asylum in Hungary.

Migrant crisis: Austria holds suspected people smugglers – 31 August 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34106343>

Austrian authorities have arrested five suspected people smugglers as part of an operation to check vehicles entering along the country's eastern borders.

Refugee children rescued from Austria smuggling truck -31 August 2015

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/austria-refugees-truck-hospitalised-150829162348113.html>

Three young children have been taken to hospital in critical condition after Austrian police stopped a truck containing 26 refugees, a day after 71 people were found dead in another vehicle.

Traffic chaos as Austria ups border checks in migrant smuggler hunt – 31 August 2015

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/08/31/traffic-chaos-austria-ups-border-checks-migrant-smuggler-hunt.html>

Huge traffic jams stretching back 50 kilometers built up along the Austro-Hungarian border on Monday as Austrian police stepped up security checks in the hunt for people smugglers.

ESTONIA

Estonia Steps Up Surveillance Along Border With Russia – 28 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/08/28/world/europe/ap-eu-estonia-russia-border-.html>

Estonia is planning to cover a 136-kilometer (84-mile) stretch of land along its border with Russia with state-of-art technology to combat illegal border-crossing and illicit traffic, government officials said Friday.

FRANCE

French Minister Asks UK for More Help to Combat Migrant Smuggling Networks – 3 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/08/03/world/europe/03reuters-europe-migrants-france-britain.html>

France's interior minister, Bernard Cazeneuve, said he had called on Britain to provide more help in dismantling illegal immigration networks as the two countries deepen cooperation to tackle a migrant crisis at the French port of Calais.

French police use tear gas to disperse migrants – 3 August 2015

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/french-riot-police-spray-migrants-chemicals-150802234704923.html>

French riot police have used tear gas on migrants who attempted to cross the Eurotunnel from Calais into Britain.

GREECE

Refugee Children at Risk in Migration-Overwhelmed Greece – 5 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/08/05/world/europe/ap-eu-greece-child-refugees.html>

Thousands of child refugees and migrants entering Greece are at risk of exploitation and disease as local authorities are overwhelmed by the wave of immigration, an international charity said Wednesday.

Amid Perilous Mediterranean Crossings, Migrants Find a Relatively Easy Path to Greece – 16 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/17/world/europe/turkey-greece-mediterranean-kos-bodrum-migrants-refugees.html>

As darkness falls and the last of the shorefront cafes in Bodrum clear their tables for the night, dozens of migrants pour out of a waiting bus. In the gloam, they charge for the sea, dragging a large rubber dinghy.

Syrian rebel leader seeks Europe – fleeing gov't and jihadis – 17 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--migrants-syrian-fighter-20150817-story.html>

In the jostling chaos of a crammed refugee center, one man tries to introduce order — forming migrants into lines and collecting names for overwhelmed Greek police clerks.

Nearly 21,000 migrants hit Greek shores last week: UN – 18 August 2015

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/08/18/nearly-21000-migrants-hit-greek-shores-last-week-un.html>

The number of migrants arriving in crisis-hit Greece is accelerating dramatically, with nearly 21,000 landing on the overstretched Greek islands last week alone, the United Nations said Tuesday.

Greece rescues hundreds of migrants off Aegean islands – 19 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--greece-migrants-20150819-story.html>

Greece's coast guard rescued hundreds of migrants in more than a dozen search-and-rescue operations, including one in which a toddler found unconscious in an overcrowded dinghy died, authorities said Wednesday.

Welcome mat fraying as more migrants reach Greek island – 19 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--greece-migrants-island-haven-20150818-story.html>

The islanders bring food, drinks, clothing and necessities like diapers and toothpaste to the migrants huddled on this tiny outcrop in the Aegean Sea. The generosity comes naturally to residents of Leros: The island once took in political prisoners banished here by Greece's former military rulers, a tradition that breeds a sense of duty to welcome migrants fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and Africa.

Greece ships Syrians to Athens as refugee crisis mounts – 19 August 2015

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/greece-kos-refugee-crisis-ferry-syrians-150819194335100.html>

A ferry carrying more than 1,000 Syrian refugees has left the Greek island of Kos to the mainland, where the migrants will continue their journey to other parts of Europe.

Migrant Arrivals on Greece's Lesbos Island Approach 10,000 This Week – 21 August 2015

<http://www.iom.int/news/migrant-arrivals-greeces-lesvos-island-approach-10000-week>

IOM monitors this week reported that on the Greek island of Lesbos, newly arrived migrants between Friday, August 14 and the night of Wednesday, August 19 reached 9,464.

HUNGARY

Soldiers in Hungary Begin Building Fence to Stop Migrants – 3 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/08/03/world/europe/ap-eu-hungary-migrants-fence.html>

Hungarian soldiers started building a fence Monday on the border with Serbia, an effort meant to stop the rising flow of migrants trying to enter the European Union.

Hungary Plans Anti-Migration Campaign in Transit Countries – 13 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/08/13/world/europe/ap-eu-hungary-migrants-campaign.html>

Hungary will extend its anti-migration campaign to countries like Greece, Macedonia and Serbia, transit points used by the more than 120,000 migrants who have entered Hungary this year, the government said Thursday.

Hungary Struggles to Cope with New Migrant Arrivals – 14 August 2015

<http://www.iom.int/news/hungary-struggles-cope-new-migrant-arrivals>

Over 110,000 asylum applications have been registered in Hungary this year, representing a fifty-fold increase from 2012, and a five-fold increase from last year. The total number of migrants registering for asylum in Hungary in 2015 is expected to rise to 140,000 this year.

Record migrant flow reported on Hungary's razor-wire border – 27 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--balkans-migrants-20150827-story.html>

Hungary deployed police reinforcements to rein in an unrelenting flow of migrants across its porous border Thursday, but refugee activists said the effort appeared futile in a nation whose migrant camps are overloaded and barely delay their journeys west into the heart of the European Union.

Hungary's border fence proves futile in slowing migrant flow – 27 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--balkans-migrants-20150826-story.html>

Clambering over the razor-wire fence or crawling under it, migrants surged Wednesday across the Serbian border into Hungary. Then they jostled to formally enter the country so they could quickly leave it, heading toward more prosperous European Union nations on a desperate quest to escape war and poverty.

Hungary's Barrier Plan Worsens Plight of Migrants, Helps Smugglers: IOM – 28 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/08/28/world/europe/28reuters-europe-migrants-hungary-iom.html>

Hungary is exacerbating the problem of people-smuggling with its plan to build a barrier to restrict the flow of migrants and refugees into the country, the International Organization for Migration said on Friday.

Four suspects arrested in death of 71 migrants found in abandoned truck – 28 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/world/europe/la-fg-migrant-deaths-arrests-20150828-story.html>

A truck found abandoned on an Austrian highway contained the bodies of 71 migrants, including four children, and four suspects in the case have been arrested in Hungary, said Austrian and Hungarian authorities on Friday.

Hungarian police arrest driver of lorry that had 71 dead migrants inside – 28 August 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/aug/28/more-than-70-dead-austria-migrant-truck-tragedy>

Hungarian police have arrested the driver of a lorry found on an Austrian motorway with the decomposing bodies of 71 people, including a baby girl, inside.

Hungary Court Orders Arrest of 4 Men in Migrant Truck Deaths – 29 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/08/29/world/europe/ap-eu-austria-migrants.html>

Four men suspected of being involved in the deaths of 71 migrants found in a truck in Austria were placed under preliminary arrest on Saturday by a Hungarian court.

Austria migrant lorry deaths: Suspects in Hungary court – 29 August 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34096214>

Four suspects have appeared in court in Hungary in connection with the deaths of 71 migrants whose bodies were found in a lorry in Austria.

Hungary detains 5th suspect in truck deaths of 71 in Austria – 30 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--austria-migrants-20150830-story.html>

A fifth man suspected of being involved in the deaths of 71 migrants found in a truck in neighboring Austria has been detained, Hungarian police said Sunday.

Hungarian police make arrests over lorry containing 71 bodies – 30 August 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/aug/28/driver-of-lorry-containing-71-dead-refugees-is-arrested>

The driver of a lorry dumped by the side of a road in Austria with the bodies of 71 people inside has been arrested, Hungarian police said on Friday, amid indications that those trapped in the vehicle including four children had suffocated to death.

Hungary's police make new arrest over migrant truck deaths in Austria – 30 August 2015

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/hungarys-police-make-new-arrest-over-migrant-truck-deaths-in-austria>

Hungarian police said on Sunday that they have made a fifth arrest over the deaths of 71 migrants found in an abandoned truck in Austria last week.

IOM chief slams Hungary over migrant policies – 31 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-agency-chief-20150831-story.html>

Countries like Hungary that have blocked desperate migrants from traveling by train in Europe "push them right into the hands of smugglers," with potentially deadly consequences, the head of the International Organization for Migration said Monday.

Hungary arrests fifth suspect in death of 71 migrants in truck – 31 August 2015

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/08/30/europe/migrant-crisis/index.html>

Hungarian police said Sunday they have made a fifth arrest over the deaths of 71 migrants found in an abandoned truck in Austria last week.

Austria death truck suspects tell court they are innocent – 31 August 2015

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/austria-death-truck-suspects-tell-court-they-are-innocent>

Four suspected human traffickers said they were innocent on Saturday as they appeared in a Hungarian court over the decomposing bodies of 71 migrants found in a truck in Austria, marking a sickening new low in Europe's migrant crisis.

ITALY

Italian Police Charge 5 in Shipwreck That Killed Migrants – 7 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/08/world/europe/italian-police-charge-5-in-shipwreck-that-killed-migrants.html>

The Italian police arrested two Libyans, two Algerians and a Tunisian on Friday in connection with a shipwreck that left at least 25 confirmed deaths and probably as many as 200.

Italian police: Migrant survivors say 200 died in shipwreck – 7 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--italy-migrants-20150807-story.html>

Survivors of a migrant boat that capsized off Libya as rescuers approached told investigators that smugglers armed with knives forced people to stay in the trawler's hold, increasing fears that more than 200 had been trapped inside and drowned, officials in Sicily said Friday.

Italy: At Least 40 Migrants Dead at Sea, 320 Others Rescued – 15 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/08/15/world/europe/ap-eu-italy-migrants.html>

At least 40 migrants died Saturday in the hold of an overcrowded smuggling boat in the Mediterranean Sea north of Libya, apparently killed by fuel fumes, and some 320 others aboard were saved by the Italian navy, the rescue ship's commander said.

Sicilian City to Bury the Latest Migrants Who Died at Sea – 16 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/08/16/world/europe/ap-eu-italy-migrants.html>

Officials in Catania, Sicily, say 49 migrants who died in the crowded hold of a smuggling boat will be buried in a local cemetery.

To respect 49 dead migrants, Sicilian city cancels fireworks – 17 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--italy-migrants-20150817-story.html>

A Sicilian port city receiving the bodies of 49 migrants, as well as more than 300 fellow passengers rescued in the Mediterranean, on Monday canceled its annual fireworks show as it mourned the victims of yet another desperate voyage.

Italy Arrests Ship's Captain and Crew Over Suffocation Deaths of 49 Migrants – 18 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/19/world/europe/italy-migrants-sicily.html>

Italian officials said on Tuesday that they had arrested the captain and crew of a boat in which 49 migrants suffocated over the weekend after they were blocked from leaving the ship's hold.

Mediterranean Migrants Died from Poisonous Fumes: IOM – 18 August 2015

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrants-died-poisonous-fumes-iom>

IOM teams who met survivors of another Mediterranean tragedy this past weekend learned grisly details of an asphyxiation that claimed dozens of migrants' lives.

Bid to rescue 3,000 refugees stranded off Libya coast – 22 August 2015

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/bid-rescue-3000-refugees-stranded-libya-coast-150822132938975.html>

Italy's coastguard has said it is coordinating the rescue of up to 3,000 refugees from waters off Libya after receiving SOS calls from 18 different crowded vessels.

Italy rescuing 3,000 migrants, 18 boats in trouble – 22 August 2015

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/italy-rescuing-3000-migrants-18-boats-in-trouble>

Italy's coast guard said on Saturday that it was coordinating the rescue of up to 3,000 migrants from waters off Libya after receiving SOS calls from 18 different crowded vessels.

A record 4,400 migrants rescued in waters off Italy in one day – 23 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-italy-migrants-resued-20150823-story.html>

Italy's coast guard says it coordinated the rescue of some 4,400 migrants in a single day, a record-setting number, as smugglers took advantage of ideal sea conditions off Libya to launch a fleet of overcrowded, unseaworthy boats.

Italy rescues thousands of refugees stranded off Libya – 23 August 2015

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/italy-rescues-thousands-refugees-stranded-libya-150823044300808.html>

Italy's coastguard says authorities have rescued about 4,400 refugees who were stranded in overcrowded and rickety vessels in the Mediterranean after receiving distress calls from 20 boats drifting in waters off the Libyan coast.

Italy acts to rescue 3,000 migrants – 23 August 2015

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/italy-acts-to-rescue-3000-migrants>

Italy's coast guard yesterday said it was coordinating the rescue of up to 3,000 migrants from waters off Libya, after receiving SOS calls from 18 different vessels.

Italy rescues 3,000 at sea – 24 August 2015

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/italy-rescues-3000-at-sea>

Italy's coast guard has successfully coordinated the rescue of about 3,000 migrants in the Mediterranean after receiving distress calls from more than 20 overcrowded vessels drifting in the waters off Libya.

About 50 bodies found in hull of migrant ship off Libya – 26 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--italy-migrants-20150826-story.html>

A Swedish rescue crew cut up the deck of a migrant boat north of Libya to find a grisly discovery Wednesday in the hull: Dozens of corpses of migrants who died making the dangerous Mediterranean crossing in hopes of reaching Europe.

Sicily Detains 10 Smugglers in Deaths of 52 Migrants – 28 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/08/28/world/europe/ap-eu-italy-migrants.html>

Prosecutors in Sicily detained 10 people on suspicion of smuggling and murder Friday for having allegedly crammed dozens of migrants into the airless hold of a boat where 52 bodies were found this week.

MACEDONIA

Migrants transiting through Macedonia jam trains – 15 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--macedonia-migrants-20150815-story.html>

Pushing and shoving each other, hundreds of migrants trying to get to Serbia overflowed the train platforms of this southern Macedonian town, near the border with Greece, on Saturday.

Thousands of migrants head closer to EU from Macedonia – 23 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--macedonia-migrants-20150823-story.html>

Thousands of beleaguered migrants — mostly Syrians, Iraqis and Afghans fleeing bloody conflicts — crammed into trains and buses in Macedonia that brought them one step closer to the European Union on Sunday, a day after they stormed past police trying to block them from entering the country from Greece.

IOM Monitors Migrant Flows into Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – 28 August 2015

<http://www.iom.int/news/iom-monitors-migrant-flows-former-yugoslav-republic-macedonia>

An estimated 1,500-2,000 migrants are crossing from Greece to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and on into Serbia every 24 hours. The trend is expected to remain and there is a real possibility that the flow could increase to over 3,000 daily.

At a Macedonian way station, Syrian and other migrants focus on the path ahead – 31 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/world/europe/la-fg-macedonia-migrants-20150831-story.html>

The battered train station in this border town has a certain lost-in-time quality, looking a bit like the set of a World War II film. Across the street, an abandoned steam engine sits in a clump of weeds. It's not hard to imagine a locomotive of similar pedigree pulling up on the tracks.

SERBIA

Wave of EU-bound migrants crosses into Serbia – 25 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--serbia-migrants-20150824-story.html>

Exhausted migrants by the thousands, some pushed in wheelchairs or on wheelbarrows, others hobbling on crutches or carrying young children, crossed on foot from Macedonia into Serbia on Monday as they sought to reach Western Europe.

SPAIN

Moroccan dies in suitcase while smuggled to Spain – 3 August 2015

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/moroccan-dies-suitcase-smuggled-spain-150803111549890.html>

A 27-year-old Moroccan man has suffocated to death while trying to illegally enter Spain hidden inside a suitcase in the trunk of a car, police have said.

Three Africans found critically ill in car's hidden compartments –Spain – 14 August 2015

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/08/14/europe-migrants-spain-car-idUSL5N10P36B20150814>

Three young African men who squeezed into hidden compartments in a car to enter a Spanish territory in North Africa were found in critical condition by border police, the Spanish government said on Friday.

TURKEY

Migrants From Turkey Flood Into Greece; Scuffles on Boat – 15 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/08/15/world/europe/ap-eu-turkey-migrants.html>

Migrants on a Turkish beach scuffled over places on one inflatable dinghy and frantically bailed out another to keep it from sinking during a dramatic night that highlighted their desperation to reach the Greek island of Kos — and the safety of Europe.

Migrants Mass in Turkey to Take Shortest Route to Europe – 16 August 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/08/16/world/europe/ap-eu-turkey-migrants.html>

Suddenly, almost silently, a group of young men carrying a small plastic dinghy emerges from the darkness, dashes across a road and a dirty strip of sand and plunges into the crystal-clear waters of the Aegean Sea.

6 migrants drown off Turkish coast trying to reach Greece – 18 August 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--turkey-migrants-20150818-story.html>

Six Syrian migrants, including an infant, drowned off the Turkish coast Tuesday as they tried to reach a Greek island, a rescuer said, underscoring the deadly risks taken by migrants making even short crossings to Europe in overcrowded smugglers' boats.

Syrian migrants flock to Turkish city for risky voyage to Europe – 19 August 2015

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/08/19/europe-migrants-turkey-syria-idUSL5N10N46C20150819>

They dress in shorts to blend in with the tourists, buy cheap life jackets and balloons to protect themselves and their belongings at sea and play cat and mouse with police over places to sleep.

UNITED KINGDOM

UK and France say ending migrant crisis is top priority – 2 August 2015

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/uk-france-migrant-crisis-top-priority-calais-eurotunnel-150802015613436.html>

Ending the crisis that has seen thousands of attempts by migrants to reach England from Calais in recent weeks is a "top priority", the interior ministers of France and Britain have written in a joint statement.

Probe into car transporter 'people smuggling' footage – 12 August 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-33883699>

An investigation into suspected people smuggling has been launched after footage of people climbing out of cars on a transporter was passed to the BBC.

Calais migrant crisis: Fences 'push migrants elsewhere' – 12 August 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-33880326>

Fences built to stop Calais migrants crossing to the UK will simply push the problem elsewhere, French police have said.

Calais migrant crisis: 'English mafia' trafficking people to UK – 14 August 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-33909698>

British traffickers are involved in smuggling migrants into the UK from northern France, a mayor has alleged.

Britain, France announce plan to stop human smuggling through Channel – 19 August 2015

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/britain-france-announce-plan-to-stop-human-smuggling-through-channel/article26029832/>

Britain and France announced new measures on Thursday to prevent undocumented migrants entering the Channel Tunnel, while stepping up joint police operations against the people-smugglers who profit from their desperation to reach Britain.

Britain to help fund Calais migrants aid, asylum processing – 20 August 2015

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/08/20/europe-migrants-calais-idUSL5N10V3BW20150820>

Britain will contribute 10 million euros (\$11.2 million) to increased French humanitarian assistance and a fast-track asylum process for thousands of migrants camped in Calais in the hope of crossing the Channel, both countries said on Thursday.

Calais migrant crisis: Theresa May signs deal with France – 20 August 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-33992952>

The UK and France have signed an agreement on new measures including a "control and command centre", to help alleviate the migrant crisis in Calais.

Calais migrant crisis 'could shift to other ports' – 20 August 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-34007530>

The migrant crisis could shift from Calais to other ports, Home Secretary Theresa May has said.

Calais crisis: British police to be deployed to target people-smuggling – 20 August 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/aug/20/british-police-deploy-calais-migrant-smuggling-gangs-theresa-may>

British police will be deployed in Calais to target people-smuggling gangs as part of a new agreement aimed at alleviating the ongoing migrant crisis at the French port.

Paris, London ink deal to tackle migrant crisis – 20 August 2015

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/paris-london-ink-deal-to-tackle-migrant-crisis>

France and Britain yesterday announced a new "command and control centre" to tackle smuggling gangs in Calais, as Europe grapples with its biggest migration crisis since World War II.

France, Britain to set up crisis centre as migrant pressure rises – 20 August 2015

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/france-and-britain-announce-new-measures-to-target-human-traffickers-in-push-to-police>

Britain and France announced a new "command and control centre" on Thursday to tackle smuggling gangs in Calais, as Europe grapples with its biggest migration crisis since World War II.

UN refugee chief hails France-Britain deal on people smuggling – 20 August 2015

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/08/20/un-refugee-chief-hails-france-britain-deal-people-smuggling.html>

The UN's refugee agency chief hailed a Franco-British deal agreed Thursday to tackle people smuggling, but said increasing "legal avenues" to enter Europe was key to any solution on human trafficking.

Heathrow plane stowaways were travelling together, Met says – 27 August 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-34073063>

A stowaway who clung to a plane before falling to his death near Heathrow was travelling with another man who was found alive in the plane's undercarriage, the Met Police has said.