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## smuggling of migrants – global news february 2016

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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 provided in these news items.

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### AFRICA

#### EGYPT

##### ***Egypt Migrant Departures Stir New Concern in Europe – 28 February 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-egypt-idUSKCN0W108K>

The European Union fears Mediterranean migrant smuggling gangs are reviving a route from Egypt, officials told Reuters, putting thousands of people to sea in recent months as they face problems in Libya and Turkey.

#### ERITREA

##### ***Report: Eritrean diplomats are aiding people smugglers – 26 February 2016***

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/7667462d6aa1436da36b6d355b383754/report-eritrean-diplomats-are-aiding-people-smugglers>

A new report by a regional bloc says human smugglers are increasingly using Eritrean diplomats to traffic people to Europe.

#### SOMALIA

##### ***Low Education, Unemployment Drive Irregular Migration among Somali Youth – 12 February 2016***

<http://www.iom.int/news/low-education-unemployment-drive-irregular-migration-among-somali-youth>

Low levels of education and insecurity is fueling youth unemployment and migration in Somalia, according to a new IOM study released in Nairobi yesterday (11/2.)

#### TUNISIA

##### ***Tunisia finishes Libya border fence intended to keep out militants – 6 February 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-tunisia-security-idUSKCN0VF0VR>

Tunisia has completed a 200-km (125 mile) barrier along its frontier with Libya to try to keep out Islamist militants, and will soon install electronic monitoring systems, Defense Minister Farhat Hachani said on Saturday.

### **Tunisia completes barrier along Libya border – 7 February 2016**

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/02/tunisia-completes-barrier-libya-border-160207075238223.html>

Tunisia has completed the construction of a barrier along its border with Libya, months after attacks on its capital and a beach resort that killed dozens of tourists.

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## AMERICAS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### **Cuban colonel meets in Miami with US officials – 5 February 2016**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-tns-bc-uscuba-20160205-story.html>

MIAMI A colonel in Cuba's Ministry of the Interior led a Havana delegation that met with U.S. officials in Miami this week on ways to battle human trafficking and migration fraud during a session at office of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

### **U.S. Accuses Sports Agent of Smuggling Leonys Martin – 19 February 2016**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/20/sports/baseball/agent-for-leonys-martin-arrested-in-human-trafficking-case.html>

The baseball agent Bart Hernandez has been indicted by a grand jury in Miami on charges of human trafficking, stemming from the smuggling of the Cuban outfielder Leonys Martin out of Cuba and into the United States in 2010. Hernandez, who has represented a number of Cuban players, including the White Sox' All-Star first baseman Jose Abreu, was arrested and appeared in federal court in Miami on Friday afternoon.

### **Jose Abreu's former agent indicted on federal charges of human trafficking – 19 February 2016**

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/ct-jose-abreu-former-agent-charged-cuban-ballplayer-smuggling-case-20160219-story.html>

A federal grand jury has indicted Bart Hernandez, a former agent for White Sox first baseman Jose Abreu, on charges related to human trafficking, according to court records.

### **Agent charged in Cuban ballplayer smuggling case – 20 February 2016**

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/sports/sns-bc-bbo--agent-cuban-smuggling-20160219-story.html>

A Florida-based sports agent who has worked for a company in a joint venture with entertainer Marc Antony's firm was arrested Friday on federal charges involving illegal smuggling of Cuban baseball players from the communist island to the U.S.

### **Sports Agent Pleads Not Guilty to Cuban Player Smuggling – 22 February 2016**

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/8d8d64cd35dc4fc0891f15f216833d38/bail-hearing-sports-agent-cuban-player-smuggling-case>

A Florida-based sports agent has pleaded not guilty to charges of involvement in a conspiracy to illegally smuggle Cuban baseball players into the U.S.

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## ASIA-PACIFIC

### GENERAL

#### ***Rohingya migration will continue in 2016 despite risks: Experts – 1 February 2016***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/rohingya-migration-will-continue-in-2016-despite-risks-experts>

There were fewer boat people taking to the sea from Myanmar's Rakhine state last winter compared to the previous year - but it is difficult to be certain about the coming weeks.

#### ***Refugee search-and-rescue team launches ship in Southeast Asia – 26 February 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/uk-southeast-asia-refugees-idUKKCN0VZ1HJ>

The humanitarian team that sent ships to rescue refugees and migrants in the Mediterranean will launch a Southeast Asia mission this weekend to comb the seas for boat people, including Rohingya Muslims fleeing persecution in Myanmar.

### HONG KONG SAR

#### ***Seeking asylum: four-fold increase in illegal immigrant arrests after Hong Kong chief executive's comments on pulling out of UN torture convention – 2 February 2016***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-crime/article/1908652/seeking-asylum-four-fold-increase-illegal-immigrant-arrests>

Chief executive Leung Chun-ying's comments on pulling Hong Kong from an international convention on torture might have fuelled an influx of asylum seekers from South Asia last month, the Post has learnt.

#### ***Several people-smuggling rackets operate in Hong Kong to bring South Asians to the city, police say – 11 February 2016***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-crime/article/1912256/several-people-smuggling-rackets-operate-hong-kong-bring>

Intelligence indicates that several people-smuggling rackets are operating in Hong Kong to smuggle South Asians claiming to be asylum seekers into the city, according to police.

#### ***Police helicopter targets illegal immigrants arriving in Hong Kong via speedboat – 16 February 2016***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-crime/article/1913469/police-helicopter-targets-illegal-immigrants-arriving-hong>

Police have launched aerial surveillance to crack down on illegal immigrants being smuggled into Hong Kong from mainland China in speedboats.

### SINGAPORE

#### ***Nearly 60% spike in cases of harbouring, hiring immigration offenders: ICA – 19 February 2016***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/more-harbourers-but-fewer-marriages-of-convenience-and-other-immigration-offences>

More people were arrested for providing lodging or work to immigration offenders last year, although fewer people were convicted for marriages of convenience.

## **More caught harbouring, hiring immigration offenders – 20 February 2016**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/more-caught-harbouring-hiring-immigration-offenders>

More people were arrested for providing lodging or work to immigration offenders last year, with a 59 per cent spike in the number nabbed.

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## EUROPE

### GENERAL

## **10,000 young migrants unaccounted for, EU police agency says – 1 February 2016**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20160201-story.html>

Authorities dealing with Europe's migrant crisis have lost track of about 10,000 unaccompanied children amid fears that organized crime gangs are beginning to exploit the vulnerable youngsters, a senior official at the European Union's police agency said Monday.

## **Migrant Deaths in January Top 360; Arrivals in Greece Top 62,000 – 2 February 2016**

<http://www.iom.int/news/migrant-deaths-january-top-360-arrivals-greece-top-62000>

Fatalities of migrants and refugees in the Mediterranean in January topped 360 due to a particularly deadly final weekend of the month, when over 100 men, women and children died in the waters off Greece, Turkey and Italy.

## **Mediterranean Migrant Deaths Reach 374; Arrivals in Greece Top 68,000 in 2016 – 5 February 2016**

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-deaths-reach-374-arrivals-greece-top-68000-2016>

IOM estimates that Mediterranean migrant and refugee arrivals in Italy and Greece reached 74,676 through February 4th.

## **Border fences will not stop migrants heading to Europe: think-tank – 9 February 2016**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-deterrents-idUSKCN0VJ047>

Efforts by European countries to deter migrants with border fences, teargas and asset seizures will not stem the flow of people into the continent, and European leaders should make their journeys safer, a think-tank said on Wednesday.

## **Turkey and Germany agree on plan to ease refugee crisis – 9 February 2016**

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/02/merkel-visits-turkey-fleeing-syrians-wait-border-160208045039438.html>

Turkey and Germany have agreed on a set of measures to deal with the Syrian refugee crisis, including a joint diplomatic initiative aiming to halt attacks against Aleppo, Syria's largest city.

## **UNODC Chief describes risk of 10,000 missing migrant children as "unacceptable" – 9 February 2016**

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2016/February/unodc-chief-describes-risk-of-10-000-missing-migrant-children-as-unacceptable.html>

Reacting to a Europol warning that up to 10,000 unaccompanied migrant children travelling to Europe were missing, UNODC Executive Director, Yury Fedotov, said today that this situation was "clearly unacceptable, and international action is urgently needed".

### ***Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016 Pass 76,000; Deaths Top 400 – 9 February 2016***

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-2016-pass-76000-deaths-top-400>

IOM estimates that over 76,000 migrants and refugees have arrived in Europe by sea through the first six weeks of 2016. The daily average of nearly 2,000 arrivals is nearly ten times the daily average of a year ago.

### ***NATO Will Send Ships to Aegean Sea to Deter Human Trafficking – 11 February 2016***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/12/world/europe/nato-aegean-migrant-crisis.html>

With more than a million migrants having reached Europe in the last year and many more on the way, NATO stepped into the crisis for the first time on Thursday, saying it would deploy ships to the Aegean Sea in an attempt to stop smugglers.

### ***NATO launches sea mission against migrant traffickers – 11 February 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-nato-idUSKCN0VK0TT>

NATO ships are on their way to the Aegean Sea to help Turkey and Greece crack down on criminal networks smuggling refugees into Europe, the alliance's top commander said on Thursday.

### ***U.S. Says NATO Will Help Stop Migrant Smuggling – 11 February 2016***

<http://time.com/4217115/nato-migrant-smuggling-refugee-crisis/>

U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter says NATO military authorities have been ordered to draw up plans for how the alliance could help shut down illegal migration and people smuggling across the Aegean Sea.

### ***Migrant crisis: Nato deploys Aegean people-smuggling patrols – 11 February 2016***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35549478>

Nato ships are being deployed to the Aegean sea to deter people-smugglers taking migrants from Turkey to Greece.

### ***NATO sends patrol to eastern Med to combat people smuggling – 11 February 2016***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/11/nato-tasks-naval-patrol-with-combatting-people-smuggling-in-the-mediterranean>

Nato is to intervene in Europe's migration crisis for the first time, with a naval patrol ordered immediately to the eastern Mediterranean to combat people smugglers.

### ***NATO sends ships to Aegean to combat refugee crisis – 11 February 2016***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/02/nato-deploys-ships-aegean-combat-refugee-crisis-160211124328320.html>

NATO is sending military vessels to the Aegean Sea to help Turkey and Greece tackle criminal networks that smuggle refugees into Europe, the 28-nation military alliance has said.

### ***NATO orders warships into Aegean to help ease migrant crisis – 12 February 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-nato-migrants-20160211-story.html>

In a dramatic response to Europe's gravest refugee crisis since World War II, NATO ordered three warships to sail immediately Thursday to the Aegean Sea to help end the deadly smuggling of asylum-seekers across the waters from Turkey to Greece.

### ***Mediterranean Migrant and Refugee Arrivals Top 83,000 in 2016 – 12 February 2016***

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-and-refugee-arrivals-top-83000-2016>

Migrant and refugee arrivals in Europe in 2016 yesterday reached an estimated 83,201, with some 77,303 of those arriving in the Greek islands from Turkey, according to International Organization for Migration.

### ***Rate of Refugees Arriving in Europe Increased in 2016 – 13 February 2016***

<http://time.com/4220455/migrant-crisis-refugees-arrival-europe-2016/>

More refugees arrived in Europe by boat during the first six weeks of 2016 than during the first four months of last year, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) announced on Friday.

### ***Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016 Pass 84,000; Deaths Reach 410 – 16 February 2016***

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-2016-pass-84000-deaths-reach-410>

An estimated 78,333 migrants or refugees have crossed into Greece since the beginning of 2016. Of these 16,140 arrived in February and 62,193 arrived in January, according to IOM.

### ***Mediterranean Migrant and Refugee Arrivals Top 90,000 in 2016 – 19 February 2016***

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-and-refugee-arrivals-top-90000-2016>

IOM monitors in the eastern Mediterranean reported this week that cold weather contributed to a sharp drop in arrivals in Greece from Turkey, although the number topped 3,350 on Wednesday, February 17th, after many days of slow movement.

### ***EU police agency opens new unit to tackle migrant smuggling – 22 February 2016***

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/65a5a17f3a004e3cabf862061f8fd62a/eu-police-agency-opens-new-unit-tackle-migrant-smuggling>

The European Union's police organization launched a new unit Monday dedicated to tackling migrant smuggling as part of the 28-nation bloc's efforts to stem the flow of people pouring into the continent as they flee conflict and poverty.

### ***People-smuggling gangs net 6 billion euros in migrant traffic to Europe: Europol – 22 February 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-europol-idUSKCN0VV1MD>

People-smuggling gangs netted up to 6 billion euros (\$6.6 billion) last year, most of it from the traffic of migrants into Europe, the European Union's police agency Europol said in a report issued on Monday.

### ***Tackling migrant smuggling a 'key priority' says Europol – 22 February 2016***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/tackling-migrant-smuggling-a-key-priority-says-europol>

Europe's police agency said on Monday it has made fighting migrant smuggling a "key priority" as it launched a new centre to help tackle the continent's worst migrant crisis in 60 years.

### **Europol launches the European Migrant Smuggling Centre – 22 February 2016**

[https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/EMSC\\_launch](https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/EMSC_launch)

Today Europol launched the new European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC). The goal of the Centre is to proactively support EU Member States in dismantling criminal networks involved in organised migrant smuggling. The Centre will focus on geographical criminal hotspots, and will build a better capability across the European Union to fight people smuggling networks.

### **Greece says NATO must deploy task force, says Turkey undermining it – 23 February 2016**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-greece-nato-idUSKCN0VW157>

Greece on Tuesday called on NATO to implement a plan to deploy a task force into the Aegean Sea to clamp down on criminal networks smuggling refugees into Europe, with its defense minister accusing Turkey of trying to undermine the deal.

### **Europol and Interpol take steps against organised crime behind migrant smuggling – 23 February 2016**

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/europol-and-interpol-take-steps-against-organised-crime-behind-migrant-smuggling>

The 2nd Europol and INTERPOL Operational Forum on Countering Migrant Smuggling Networks, held at Europol's headquarters in The Hague on 22 and 23 February, outlined important measures against the organised criminal networks behind people smuggling. The Forum discussed concrete operational actions in key areas related to migrant smuggling, including: illicit money flows and money laundering; the use of social media by smuggling networks; the links between migrant smuggling and other criminal activities such as trafficking in human beings and child exploitation, identity and document fraud, and patterns of travel facilitators.

### **Mediterranean Migrant, Refugee Arrivals Top 100,000 – 23 February 2016**

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-refugee-arrivals-top-100000>

Migrant and refugee arrivals in Greece and Italy in 2016 this week exceeded 100,000. As of 22/2, Greece alone had received some 102,547 arrivals since the beginning of the year. In comparison, in 2015, migrant arrivals topped 100,000 in June.

### **Greek PM, Merkel agree on need to stick to EU decisions on migrants – 24 February 2016**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-greece-migrants-pm-idUSKCN0VX1XF>

Greece's Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras spoke with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, expressing his deep displeasure over the failure of some EU countries to stick to decisions on tackling the refugee crisis, his office said on Wednesday.

### **NATO overcomes Greek-Turkish tension to set terms of Aegean mission – 25 February 2016**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-nato-idUSKCN0VY0M7>

NATO allies have overcome territorial sensitivities between Greece and Turkey and agreed on how their ships will help counter the criminal networks smuggling refugees into Europe across the Aegean Sea, NATO's chief said on Thursday.

***NATO to make serious contribution in fight against Aegean smuggling: Turkish foreign minister – 25 February 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-turkey-idUSKCN0VY11T>

NATO will make a serious contribution in the fight against refugee smuggling into Europe by sending its ships in the Aegean Sea to help Turkey and Greece counter smuggler networks, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Thursday.

***Mediterranean Migrant, Refugee Arrivals in Europe Top 120,000 – 26 February 2016***

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-refugee-arrivals-europe-top-120000>

Migrant and refugee arrivals in Greece and Italy have exceeded 120,000 in 2016, having reached the 100,000 milestone earlier this week, almost four months earlier than in 2015. As of 25/2, Greece alone had received some 111,099 arrivals since the beginning of the year, according to IOM estimates.

AUSTRIA

***Austria asylum caps highlight EU split over migrants – 19 February 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20160218-story.html>

Austria vowed to press ahead early on Friday with plans to cap the number of asylum seekers entering the country despite claims the move would break the law, as European Union leaders struggled to end their fragmented approach to managing Europe's biggest refugee emergency since World War II.

FRANCE

***France dismantles 25 migrant smuggling networks over a year – 4 February 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20160204-story.html>

France's top security official said investigators have dismantled 25 migrant smuggling networks in the country's north in the past year.

***Belgium puts in border controls as court ponders Calais camp – 23 February 2016***

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/4d85567ff53c41018b248795411cbb47/calais-migrants-face-deadline-stave-bulldozers>

Taking no chances, Belgium temporarily imposed border controls Tuesday to fend off a feared wave of migrants as a French court pondered whether to allow the evacuation of a muddy, makeshift migrant camp in Calais.

***Calais 'Jungle': Belgium tightens border over eviction plan – 23 February 2016***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35639858>

Belgium has announced it has imposed controls on its border with France amid fears of an influx of migrants.

***France programs slow death for Calais migrant camp – 25 February 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--france-evicting-migrants-20160225-story.html>

A green light Thursday from a French court sets in motion the evacuation of a large swath of a sprawling migrant camp in Calais where thousands dream of getting to Britain, with promises of a progressive and humane process in what could be a slow death for the wind-swept outpost.



### **Calais camp, symbol of migrant crisis, set for destruction – 25 February 2016**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-calais-france-migrant-camp-20160225-story.html>

A French court on Thursday gave the state the green light to raze tents and lean-tos sheltering hundreds of migrants in a sprawling slum camp in Calais, where thousands dream of getting to Britain.

GREECE

### **The EU orders Greece to accept a lot more migrants – 12 February 2016**

<http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21693052-country-dire-fiscal-straits-may-have-bear-even-greater-refugee-burden-eu-orders>

A country in dire fiscal straits may have to bear an even greater refugee burden.

### **Greece says most promised refugee facilities now functional – 16 February 2016**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20160216-story.html>

Greece's defense minister said Tuesday that military teams have set up most of the long-delayed migrant reception facilities the country has promised its European Union partners to build. But he said the installations may not have to be fully used.

### **Migrant crisis: Macedonia border closure strands thousands in Greece – 22 February 2016**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35629921>

Thousands of migrants and refugees have been stranded near Athens and on Greece's northern border after Macedonia stopped allowing Afghans in.

### **Greece Will Not Be Turned Into Migrant Warehouse: PM Tsipras – 24 February 2016**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-tsipras-idUSKCN0VX2IO>

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras urged European Union countries to honor the bloc's decisions on sharing the burden of the migrant crisis, saying that if they did not, Athens would block future agreements.

### **As Europe's migrant crisis drags on, thousands languish in Greece's parks – 25 February 2016**

<http://www.latimes.com/world/afghanistan-pakistan/la-fg-afghan-europe-refugees-20160225-story.html>

A devastating refugee bottleneck has left thousands of men, women and children languishing on blankets and cardboard in public parks in Greece and has brought diplomatic tensions in Europe to new highs.

### **Thousands stranded as Greece becomes a migrant 'warehouse' – 27 February 2016**

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/651beb56fc6a4e7a9d91f4bcebef2fd7/thousands-stranded-greece-becomes-migrant-warehouse>

Greece is fast becoming the "warehouse of human beings" that its government has vowed not to allow.

### **Europe's Crisis Worsens: Migrants Face Razor Wire, Tear Gas – 29 February 2016**

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/6500-refugees-stuck-greek-macedonian-border-300-37275978>

Pressed against coils of razor wire and shouting "Help us!," refugees stranded at Greece's northern border were pushed back Monday by Macedonian police using tear gas and stun grenades, as the European Union scrambled to ease the escalating number of stranded migrants in Greece.

***Police fire tear gas at bottleneck of migrants at Greek-Macedonian border – 29 February 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-migrant-crisis-europe-macedonia-greece-20160229-story.html>

Macedonian police fired tear gas and stun guns Monday as several hundred Iraqi and Syrian refugees, frustrated at days of delays in crossing the Greek-Macedonian border, broke down a gate on a nearby rail crossing.

ITALY

***Syrian family arrives in Italy in first humanitarian airlift of migrant crisis – 4 February 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-airlift-refugees-italy-20160204-story.html>

A 7-year-old Syrian girl suffering from a rare form of eye cancer arrived in Italy on Thursday, the first of an estimated 1,000 refugees who are being brought here on humanitarian grounds in a pilot project aimed at dissuading people from embarking on deadly sea crossings.

***Human-smuggling network extending into Canada uncovered – 5 February 2016***

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/human-smuggling-network-extending-into-canada-uncovered/article28622640/>

Italian prosecutors have uncovered a human-smuggling network that extends into Canada from Europe and North Africa. It is being investigated for a range of criminal activity, including the possible delivery of terrorists into North America.

NETHERLANDS

***Dutch step up border controls as migrant flows continue – 8 February 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-dutch-idUSKCN0VH15W>

The Netherlands has stepped up the monitoring of traffic crossing its frontiers, a government minister said on Monday, as countries across Europe move to tighten border controls in response to an unprecedented migration crisis.

SPAIN

***Spain Police Bust Alleged People-Smuggling Gang, Arrest 100 – 27 February 2016***

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/84050d5510b74ed09eb29352671e71de/spain-police-bust-alleged-people-smuggling-gang-arrest-100>

Spanish police acting in collaboration with British, French and Italian forces have broken up an alleged people-smuggling organization that illegally brought large numbers of Chinese nationals into Britain, Ireland, France and Italy.

TURKEY

***More children die as refugee boat sinks off Turkey – 2 February 2016***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/02/children-die-refugee-boat-sinks-turkey-160202103701368.html>

At least nine refugees - two of them children - have drowned after a boat sank off the Turkish coast and the International Organisation for Migration warned of a dangerous surge in the number of drownings and attempted crossings into Greece.

### ***A smuggler's-eye view of Turkey's effort to stop the migrants – 8 February 2016***

<http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21690181-turkish-police-have-cracked-down-hard-traffickers-refugees-keep-coming>

Turkish police have cracked down hard on traffickers, but the refugees keep coming.

### ***2 alleged human smugglers on trial over Aylan Kurdi's death – 11 February 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--turkey-aylan-kurdi-trial-20160211-story.html>

Two suspected people-smugglers went on trial in Turkey on Thursday accused of causing the death of 3-year-old Aylan Kurdi — whose drowning put a human face on the Syrian refugee crisis — and four other people.

### ***Alan Kurdi: Two men face people-smuggling charges in Turkey – 11 February 2016***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35548575>

Two suspected people-smugglers are on trial in connection with the death of Alan Kurdi and four other people.

### ***Turkish leaders lash out at UN demands to open border – 11 February 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--turkey-syria-20160210-story.html>

Turkey's leaders lashed out Wednesday at the United Nations and others who are pressing the country to open its border to thousands more Syrian refugees, accusing them of failing to shoulder the refugee burden or stop the Russian bombings that have triggered the exodus.

### ***Alan Kurdi: two men in court in Turkey over death of Syrian toddler – 11 February 2016***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/11/two-men-court-turkey-death-syrian-toddler-alyan-kurdi>

Two suspected people smugglers charged with causing the death of five people, including the Syrian toddler Alan Kurdi, have gone on trial in Turkey.

### ***Two alleged smugglers on trial over Alan Kurdi's death – 11 February 2016***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/02/alleged-smugglers-trial-aylan-kurdis-death-160211140350976.html>

Two alleged people-smugglers have gone on trial in Turkey, accused of causing the death of three-year-old Syrian Alan Kurdi and four other people.

### ***Turkey Raises Anti-Smuggling Steps but Faces Uphill Struggle – 28 February 2016***

<http://www.bigstory.ap.org/article/54b56f321d3f49b78fb404447ed4fc0a/turkey-raises-anti-smuggling-steps-faces-uphill-struggle>

Turkey all but turned a blind eye last year as more than 850,000 people, most of them Syrians, slipped into Greece from Turkey on smugglers' boats. Now it's promised the European Union that will change.

UNITED KINGDOM

### ***Harwich immigrants: Polish lorry drivers admit immigration offence – 19 February 2016***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-esssex-35612409>

Four Polish lorry drivers have pleaded guilty to an immigration offence following the discovery of 68 suspected illegal immigrants inside lorries.