



smuggling of migrants – global news june 2016

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.

GENERAL

Fatal Journeys, Vol. 2 - New Global Report from IOM – 14 June 2016

<http://www.iom.int/news/fatal-journeys-vol-2-new-global-report-iom>

IOM reports in the latest edition of its publication Fatal Journeys Volume 2: Identification and Tracing of Dead and Missing Migrants that over 60,000 migrants are estimated to have died or gone missing on sea and land routes worldwide since 1996.

Interpol launches appeal to catch people smugglers – 23 June 2016

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-migrants-interpol-idUSKCN0Z911U>

Interpol launched a public appeal on Thursday for help catching people smugglers who make billions of dollars' profit from the flow of migrants to peaceful and prosperous countries from poor and strife-torn homelands.

Interpol seeks public help in tracking migrant smugglers – 23 June 2016

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/4e82bace69bb4511b3b57e145ed3b12e/migrant-smuggling-26-arrests-interpol-hunts-fugitives>

Interpol is asking the public to help find 10 suspected migrant smugglers, an unusual call issued Thursday that reflects just how tough it is to catch those who prey on people fleeing war or poverty.

Migrant crisis: Interpol names people smuggler suspects – 23 June 2016

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36605791>

Interpol has appealed for public help to locate 123 suspected human traffickers who are wanted worldwide.

Interpol says it's seeking public help to track down 123 suspected human traffickers – 23 June 2016

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/interpol-says-its-seeking-public-help-to-track-down-123-suspected-human-traffickers>

Interpol said on Thursday (June 23) it is seeking public help to track down 123 suspected human traffickers wanted around the world.

Help Interpol to nab human traffickers – 25 June 2016

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/help-interpol-to-nab-human-traffickers>

Interpol has called for public help to track down scores of human traffickers wanted around the world who are accused of "profiting from the desperation" of migrants determined to reach Europe.

AFRICA

EGYPT

Facebook Envy Lures Egyptian Teenagers to Europe and the Migrant Life – 23 June 2016

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/24/world/middleeast/facebook-envy-and-italian-law-lure-egyptian-teenagers-to-europe.html>

A sudden surge in the number of Egyptian teenagers fleeing to Europe, most of them headed for Italy, has added to the exodus across the Mediterranean from the beaches of North Africa to Europe this summer. At least 1,150 unaccompanied Egyptian minors landed in Italy in the first five months of this year, compared with 94 over the same period in 2015, Italy's Interior Ministry says.

LIBYA

The Bodies of 85 Refugees Have Washed Up on Libyan Beaches – 2 June 2016

<http://time.com/4356069/libya-refugees-bodies-migrants-smuggling/?iid=sr-link2>

The bodies of at least 85 people, believed to be refugees who drowned trying to cross the Mediterranean, have washed up on beaches along Libya's northwestern coast this week, a Red Crescent official said Thursday. The dead appeared to be from sub-Saharan Africa, though it was unclear when they had drowned, reports al-Jazeera.

Bodies of at least 85 migrants washed up in western Libya: Red Crescent – 2 June 2016

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/bodies-of-at-least-25-migrants-washed-up-in-western-libya-red-crescent/article30244103/>

The bodies of at least 85 migrants who drowned trying to cross the Mediterranean were found washed up on beaches in western Libya near the city of Zuwara on Thursday, a Red Crescent official said.

Bodies of migrants who died when boats sank wash ashore in Libya – 2 June 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jun/02/migrants-bodies-drowned-boats-libya-mediterranean-people-smugglers>

The bodies of at least 85 migrants who drowned trying to cross the Mediterranean were found washed up on beaches in western Libya near the city of Zuwara on Thursday, a Red Crescent official said.

117 bodies found off Libyan coast as smuggling boat sinks – 3 June 2016

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-migrant-smuggling-boat-sinks-20160603-story.html>

More than 110 bodies were pulled from the sea off Libya after a smuggling boat of mostly African migrants sank, while a separate search-and-rescue operation across the Mediterranean saved 340 people Friday and recovered nine bodies.

At least 117 bodies found off Libya as smuggling boat sinks – 3 June 2016

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/libya-finds-100-bodies-after-boat-capsized/article30257224/>

More than 110 bodies were found along a Libyan beach after a smuggling boat of mostly African migrants sank, while a separate search-and-rescue operation across the Mediterranean saved 340 people Friday and recovered nine bodies.

Dangerous migrant smuggling routes flourish in lawless Libya – 3 June 2016

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-libya-idUSKCN0YO1GZ>

After a flurry of boat departures that sent hundreds of migrants to their deaths in the Mediterranean, survivors told police they had been kept for weeks on one meal a day in holding houses near the Libyan shore.

NIGER

Niger says 34 migrants, including 20 children, found dead in desert – 15 June 2016

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/niger-says-34-migrants-including-20-children-found-dead-in-desert/article30476575/>

Thirty-four migrants, including 20 children, have been found dead in Niger's vast desert after being abandoned by their smuggler, the government of the West African nation said in a statement read on national television on Wednesday.

AMERICAS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Ex-LAPD officer pleads guilty to trying to smuggle man across Mexican border – 2 June 2016

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-human-smuggling-plea-20160602-snap-story.html>

A former Los Angeles police officer pleaded guilty Wednesday to trying to smuggle a Mexican citizen into the U.S. in the spare-tire compartment of his SUV, the U.S. attorney's office said.

California sees surge in Chinese illegally crossing border from Mexico – 7 June 2016

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-chinese-border-california-20160607-snap-story.html>

The number of Chinese immigrants illegally crossing the Mexican border into California has skyrocketed in recent years, the result of a lucrative smuggling industry, mass migration from China and a diversifying pool of migrants settling in the United States.

Man gets 15 years for human smuggling, virtual slave labor – 27 June 2016

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/31a63653e08c47999cc736937fbc4f07/leader-be-sentenced-ohio-egg-farm-forced-labor-case>

The ringleader of a scheme that smuggled teens into the U.S. and kept them as virtual slaves while forcing them to work at an egg farm and live in run-down trailers was sentenced to just over 15 years in prison Monday.

ASIA-PACIFIC

HONG KONG

Police arrest 42 Vietnamese illegal immigrants and their smugglers, busting syndicate that brought over 100 to city – 3 June 2016

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-crime/article/1964144/police-arrest-42-vietnamese-illegal-immigrants-and-their>

A human-smuggling syndicate that allegedly brought Vietnamese illegal immigrants into Hong Kong has been broken up after mainland and local law enforcers arrested 42 people, police said on Friday.

INDONESIA

Lives Still in Limbo, One Year After Southeast Asia Migrant Crisis – 18 June 2016

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/19/world/asia/myanmar-indonesia-refugees.html>

When Mohammed Salim washed ashore on the coast of Aceh Province in Indonesia during the Southeast Asian refugee crisis last year, he was hungry, thirsty, emaciated and exhausted.

Indonesia vows not to tow stranded Sri Lankans out to sea – 21 June 2016

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/south-asia/article/1978960/indonesia-vows-not-tow-stranded-sri-lankans-out-sea>

The Indonesian government said on Tuesday a boatload of stranded Sri Lankan migrants would not be towed back out to sea, after local officials had sparked anger by pledging to send them on their way in a rickety craft.

MYANMAR

Asia's worst refugee crisis in recent years could happen again – 19 June 2016

<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/06/19/asia/myanmar-rohingya-refugees/index.html>

A year after one of southeast Asia's worst refugee crises, things seem to have improved. But below the surface, the situation remains bleak.

MIDDLE EAST

TURKEY

11 Syrian Refugees Reported Killed by Turkish Border Guards – 19 June 2016

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/20/world/middleeast/11-syrian-refugees-reported-killed-by-turkish-border-guards.html>

Turkish border guards killed at least 11 Syrian refugees, including at least three children, who were trying to cross into Turkey illegally on Sunday, Syrian activists and a monitoring group said.

Syrian monitors: Turkish border guards kill eight refugees – 20 June 2016

<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/06/20/middleeast/sohr-turkey-syria-border-shooting/index.html>

Turkish security forces have shot and killed eight Syrian civilians, including four women and three children, according to a Syrian monitoring group. Another eight people were wounded in the incident.

EUROPE

GENERAL

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016: 205,509; Deaths 2,443: New Tragedy Reported Off Crete Today – 3 June 2016

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-2016-205509-deaths-2443-new-tragedy-reported-crete-today>

IOM reports an estimated 205,509 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea in 2016 through 31 May, arriving in Italy, Greece, Cyprus and Spain.

EU seeks deals in Africa, Mideast to slow migrant arrivals – 7 June 2016

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20160607-story.html>

The European Union unveiled plans Tuesday to seal agreements with African and Middle East countries in an effort to persuade refugees to stay close to home and to discourage people looking for jobs from heading to Europe.

IOM Fears 320 Migrants Missing in Mediterranean as Deaths Approach 3,000 in 2016 – 7 June 2016

<http://www.iom.int/news/iom-fears-320-migrants-missing-mediterranean-deaths-approach-3000-2016>

IOM reports an estimated 206,400 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea in 2016 through 5 June, arriving in Italy, Greece, Cyprus and Spain. No fatalities have been recorded in the Mediterranean since Saturday, 4 June. Deaths so far this year are 2,809, compared with 1,838 through the first six months of 2015. In other words, fatalities in the Mediterranean in 2016 are nearly 1,000 more than last year's mid-year total, even though we now are some three weeks shy of 2016's mid-year point.

Migrant deaths in Mediterranean hit 10,000, UN says, as EU hopes to stem flow by investing in source countries – 8 June 2016

<http://www.scmp.com/news/world/europe/article/1969132/migrant-deaths-mediterranean-hit-10000-un-says-eu-hopes-stem-flow>

More than 10,000 people have died attempting to cross the Mediterranean to Europe since 2014, the UN said Tuesday, as the EU unveiled fresh plans to stem the migrant flow from Africa.

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016: 207,260; Deaths 2,856 – 10 June 2016

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-2016-207260-deaths-2856>

IOM reports an estimated 207,260 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea in 2016 through 8 June, arriving in Italy, Greece, Cyprus and Spain.

Migrant Arrivals to Europe via Mediterranean Top 210,000 in 2016; Deaths 2,859 – 14 June 2016

<http://www.iom.int/news/migrant-arrivals-europe-mediterranean-top-210000-2016-deaths-2859>

IOM reports an estimated 210,643 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea in 2016 through 12 June, arriving in Italy, Greece, Cyprus and Spain. Deaths so far this year are 2,859 compared with 1,838 through the first six months of 2015. In other words, fatalities on the Mediterranean Sea in 2016 stand at 1,020 ahead of last year's mid-year total, although we remain three weeks shy of 2016's mid-year point.

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016: 213,581; Deaths: 2,859 – 17 June 2016

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-2016-213581-deaths-2859>

IOM reports an estimated 213,581 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea in 2016 through 15 June, arriving in Italy, Greece, Cyprus and Spain. Deaths so far this year are 2,859 compared with 1,838 through the first six months of 2015. In other words, fatalities on the Mediterranean Sea in 2016 stand at 1,020 ahead of last year's mid-year total, although we remain three weeks shy of 2016's mid-year point.

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016: 214,691; Deaths: 2,861 – 21 June 2016

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-2016-214691-deaths-2861>

IOM reports an estimated 214,691 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea in 2016 through 19 June, arriving in Italy, Greece, Cyprus and Spain. Deaths so far this year are 2,861 compared with 1,838 through the first six months of 2015. In other words, fatalities on the Mediterranean Sea in 2016 stand at 1,020 ahead of last year's mid-year total, although we remain almost two weeks shy of 2016's mid-year point.

EU Agrees New Border, Coast Guard Scheme – 22 June 2016

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2016/06/22/world/europe/ap-eu-europe-migrants.html>

The European Union agreed Wednesday to set up a new border and coast guard agency to better manage migrant arrivals after more than a million people came to the EU in search of jobs or sanctuary last year.

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016: 214,861; Deaths: 2,861 – 24 June 2016

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-2016-214861-deaths-2861>

IOM reports an estimated 214,861 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea in 2016 through 22 June, arriving in Italy, Greece, Cyprus and Spain.

Latest Trends in Migrant Smuggling: Nearly 7000 Suspected Smugglers Reported, Increased Exploitation, Higher Prices – 27 June 2016

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/latest-trends-migrant-smuggling-nearly-7000-suspected-smugglers-reported-increased-exploitation>

Between January and June 2016, Europol received intelligence on more than 7000 newly-identified migrant smuggling suspects. 95% of them are male, with an average age of 36. Recent data also shows that migrant smuggling remains an increasingly profitable business for criminals, with the prices for migrant smuggling having tripled. These are only a few of the most recent trends perceived by Europol and published today.

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016: 222,291; Deaths: 2,888 – 28 June 2016

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-2016-222291-deaths-2888>

IOM reports an estimated 222,291 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea in 2016 through 26 June, arriving in Italy, Greece, Cyprus and Spain. Deaths in the Mediterranean so far this year are 2,888, compared with 1,838 through the first six months of 2015.

39 Migrant Smugglers Arrested During Sirocco-2 Action Day Along Western-Balkan Route – 29 June 2016

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/39-migrant-smugglers-arrested-during-sirocco-2-action-day-along-western-balkan-route>

Europol has supported the Sirocco-2 action day to dismantle migrant smuggling criminal networks operating along the Western-Balkan channel. All relevant countries from the South East European region participated in this common operation. 39 migrant smugglers and 580 smuggled migrants were arrested during this 36 hour long action.

AUSTRIA

Austria: 17 migrants found in van at Hungarian border – 12 June 2016

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20160612-story.html>

Austrian police say they have found 17 migrants in a van entering the country from Hungary.

GREECE

Migrant crisis: Hundreds rescued from boat off Crete – 3 June 2016

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36443326>

About 340 migrants have been rescued and nine bodies have been pulled from the sea after a boat capsized in the Mediterranean Sea, Greek officials say.

Hellenic Police and Europol Sign Operational Plan to Combat Migrant Smuggling – 3 June 2016

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/hellenic-police-and-europol-sign-operational-plan-combat-migrant-smuggling>

On 3 June 2016, Rob Wainwright, Director of Europol, welcomed the Chief of the Hellenic Police, Lt. Gen Konstaninos Tsouvalas, to Europol's headquarters in The Hague. During the visit, Europol and the Hellenic Police signed the Greek National Operational Plan, whose main objective is to target organised migration crime in Greece. This high-level visit reaffirmed Europol and the Hellenic Police's mutual commitment and provides a robust framework for the exchange of information between both parties.

ITALY

Drowned migrant baby was probably Somali: Italian police – 1 June 2016

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/drowned-migrant-baby-was-probably-somali-italian-police>

A dead baby plucked out of the sea whose picture sparked international outrage this week was probably a six-month-old Somali boy whose mother also most likely died in the shipwreck, Italian police said on Wednesday (June 1).

Eritrean Accused of Trafficking Migrants Is Captured in Sudan, Italy Says – 8 June 2016

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/09/world/europe/migrants-smuggling-eritrean-captured.html>

An Eritrean man accused of organizing an extensive people-smuggling network that led to the deaths of hundreds of Africans trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea has been captured in Sudan and extradited to Italy, the authorities said Wednesday.

Italy arrests alleged migrant smuggling mastermind – 8 June 2016

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--italy-migrant-trafficking-arrest-20160608-story.html>

Italy for the first time has taken custody of one of the alleged organizers of a people-smuggling route through Africa that has moved millions of euros across borders and tens of thousands of migrants to Europe, setting the stage for criminal proceedings that reach higher than the on-the-ground smugglers netted in the past.

People-smuggling 'kingpin' Mered Medhanie extradited to Italy – 8 June 2016

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36476147>

An Eritrean man believed to be at the heart of the operation to smuggle migrants from Africa to Europe has been extradited to Italy, prosecutors say.

Suspected people smuggler extradited to Italy – 8 June 2016

<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/06/08/europe/africa-migrants-smuggling-arrest/index.html>

An Eritrean man suspected as a key smuggler of people from Africa to Europe has been arrested in Sudan and extradited to Italy, British officials said Wednesday.

Alleged people-smuggling kingpin is extradited to Italy – 8 June 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2016/jun/08/alleged-people-smuggling-kingpin-is-extradited-to-italy>

An Eritrean smuggler who claimed to have played a role in sending at least 13,000 people to Europe has been arrested after a year-long hunt, in what has been presented as the most significant breakthrough yet in Europe's fight against Africa-based people-smugglers.

Alleged people-smuggling kingpin extradited to Italy – 8 June 2016

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/alleged-people-smuggling-kingpin-extradited-italy-160608172524492.html>

An Eritrean dubbed "the general", suspected of controlling a people-smuggling network responsible for shipping thousands of people to Europe, has been extradited to Italy.

Questions About Suspect's Identity Circle Human Trafficking Case – 9 June 2016

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/10/world/europe/italy-migrants-arrest-eritrea-sudan.html>

One day after trumpeting the capture and extradition of an Eritrean man they said was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of African migrants, the Italian authorities said on Thursday they were looking into the possibility that they had the wrong man.

Doubts emerge if Italy has the right man in trafficking case – 9 June 2016

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--italy-migrant-trafficking-arrest-20160609-story.html>

Doubts emerged Thursday over the identity of an Eritrean man extradited to Italy who Italian prosecutors had hailed a day earlier as a major catch in their Mediterranean migrant smuggling investigation.

Is suspected people smuggler extradited to Italy the wrong man? – 9 June 2016

<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/06/09/europe/people-smuggler-wrong-man/index.html>

Friends of a man arrested and extradited on suspicion of being a people smuggling mastermind say police have captured the wrong man.

Identity of man arrested as human trafficking boss in dispute – 9 June 2016

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/identity-of-man-arrested-as-human-trafficking-boss-under-dispute/article30387023/>

Eritreans who say they are the friends and siblings of the man identified by Italian and British criminal investigators as one of the top bosses of the North African human trafficking and smuggling network insist the authorities arrested the wrong man.

Suspect extradited for people smuggling 'is wrong man' – 9 June 2016

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36486010>

Friends of a man extradited to Italy on Tuesday on people smuggling charges say police have the wrong man.

Mered Medhanie, profile of a people-smuggling 'kingpin' – 9 June 2016

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-36478210>

Dubbed "the General", Mered Medhanie is alleged to have led a multi-billion dollar empire which specialised in people-smuggling.

Mistaken identity plea from 'family' of suspected people smuggler – 9 June 2016

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36491833>

A man extradited from Sudan to Italy on suspicion of being at the centre of a major people smuggling operation is a victim of mistaken identity, the BBC's Secunder Kermani has been told.

Smuggler's victims say police have arrested innocent refugee – 9 June 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jun/09/smugglers-victims-say-police-have-arrested-innocent-refugee>

Italian and British police face mounting accusations that they confused a notorious people smuggler with an innocent refugee, after some of the smuggler's former victims said they did not recognise the suspect extradited to Rome and paraded before the media.

Police investigating if wrong man caught in anti-smuggling operation – 9 June 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jun/08/police-investigating-if-wrong-man-caught-in-anti-smuggling-operation>

Italian and British police are urgently investigating whether they caught the wrong person in a much-hyped anti-smuggling operation said to have netted one of the world's most-wanted people smugglers.

Migrant smuggling kingpin extradited to Italy – 9 June 2016

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/migrant-smuggling-kingpin-extradited-to-italy>

An Eritrean dubbed "the general", suspected of controlling a migrant trafficking network responsible for shipping thousands of people to Europe and sending some to a watery grave, has been extradited to Italy.

Suspected smuggler extradited to Italy is wrong man: Sudan witnesses – 9 June 2016

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/middle-east/suspected-smuggler-extradited-to-italy-is-wrong-man-sudan-witnesses>

Eritreans in Sudan said on Thursday (June 9) that a man extradited to Italy and accused of being a kingpin in an international people-smuggling ring was actually one of their friends and police had arrested the wrong man.

Eritrean extradited to Italy says he's not migrant smuggler – 10 June 2016

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--italy-migrant-trafficking-arrest-20160610-story.html>

The Eritrean man extradited to Italy under great fanfare as an alleged kingpin of a migrant smuggling ring told authorities on Friday that his arrest in Sudan was a case of mistaken identity and denied that calls from his phone to Libya were related to trafficking, his lawyer said.

Migrant crisis: 'People-smuggler' says he is wrong man – 10 June 2016

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36497885>

A man arrested in Sudan and extradited to Italy accused of being a top people-smuggler says the authorities have got the wrong man.

Eritrean accused of being people smuggling kingpin says he is innocent – 10 June 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jun/10/eritrean-accused-of-being-people-smuggling-kingpin-says-he-is-innocent>

An Eritrean man detained by Sudanese police last month and then extradited to Italy accused of being a people smuggling kingpin has declared he is the victim of mistaken identity, in a potential embarrassment for Italian and British law enforcement.

Identity of 'smuggler' extradited to Italy questioned – 10 June 2016

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/identity-smuggler-extradited-italy-questioned-160609130949682.html>

Italian prosecutors are looking into claims that they got the wrong man in a major operation that led to the arrest and extradition of an Eritrean man presented as a major human smuggler.

Italy probes claim that wrong man was extradited for migrant trafficking – 10 June 2016

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/italy-probes-claim-that-wrong-man-was-extradited-for-migrant-trafficking>

Italian prosecutors are investigating whether the wrong man was extradited to Italy on charges of running a migrant trafficking network after reports suggested it may be a case of mistaken identity.

Eritrean extradited to Italy denies being top smuggler – 11 June 2016

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/man-extradited-italy-denies-top-smuggler-160610135844563.html>

An Eritrean man extradited from Sudan to Italy on suspicion of being the head of a human smuggling ring has told investigators they have arrested the wrong man, his lawyer said.

Whisked to Rome from Khartoum: people-smuggling kingpin or wrong man? – 12 June 2016

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-sudan-smuggler-insigh-idUSKCN0YY0W3>

The slender Eritrean man with a close-cropped beard was arrested by Sudanese police on the afternoon of May 24 at a coffee shop in Khartoum. Two weeks later, he was flown to Italy in what Italian and British officials hailed as a rare blow against human trafficking.

Italy judge keeps Eritrean migrant smuggling suspect in jail – 14 June 2016

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-sudan-smuggler-idUSKCN0Z02SA>

An Eritrean man extradited to Italy from Sudan last week and accused of being a human-trafficking boss will have to stay in jail, a judge in Palermo ruled on Tuesday.

Tracking traffickers – 18 June 2016

<http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21700680-catching-people-smugglers-hard-convicting-them-even-harder-tracking-traffickers>

WHAT'S in a name? For an Eritrean man hauled before a judge in Palermo, Sicily, on June 10th, the answer could be many years in an Italian jail. If, as he claims, he is Medhanie Tesfamariam Berhe, he is a refugee and a victim of mistaken identity. But if, as the prosecution maintains, he is Medhanie Yehdego Mered, then—according to British and Italian investigators—he is a ruthless criminal, one of the masterminds behind the best-organised route funnelling migrants from Africa to Europe. Britain's National Crime Agency (NCA) said it had tracked him to the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, where he was arrested on May 24th.

More than 2,000 migrants rescued at sea : Italy coast guard – 24 June 2016

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-migrants-italy-idUSKCN0ZA2TI>

Ship crews pulled more than 2,000 migrants from overcrowded boats in the Mediterranean on Friday, Italy's coastguard said, as people smugglers stepped up operations during two consecutive days of good weather.

Italy recovers 2015 sunk migrant boat, hopes to ID victims – 29 June 2016

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/italy-navy-recovers-2015-migrant-boat-hopes-to-id-victims/2016/06/29/4a05a842-3dd2-11e6-9e16-4cf01a41decb_story.html

The Italian navy has raised from the seafloor the migrant ship that sank off Sicily last year with an estimated 700-800 people aboard in one of the worst known tragedies of the Mediterranean migrant crisis.

Italian navy recovers ship that sank with over 800 people on board – 29 June 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jun/29/italian-navy-recovers-ship-sank-700-migrants-onboard-mediterranean>

Italy has begun to salvage the bodies of people killed in the Mediterranean's deadliest modern shipwreck, in an operation that experts say is of historic scale.

Italy Lowers Toll From 2015 Migrant Wreck After Ship Raised – 30 June 2016

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/f9fa179e09a349038e08a48209fc5001/italy-lowers-toll-2015-migrant-wreck-after-ship-raised>

Italian authorities on Thursday significantly lowered the estimated number of migrants who died in a 2015 shipwreck that spurred Europe to beef up Mediterranean rescue efforts, suggesting the final death toll could be around 500 rather than 800.

SERBIA

Serbian police find 29 migrants, arrest suspected smuggler – 27 June 2016

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/2141a5af42f3425e9edc483fd4e50a30/serbian-police-find-29-migrants-arrest-suspected-smuggler>

Serbian police say they have found 29 migrants with no documents and arrested a suspected people smuggler.

Serbia Says People Smuggling Operation Brings 39 Arrests – 29 June 2016

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/eca79f8e0b8d4fd781044a88df6e5132/serbia-says-people-smuggling-operation-brings-39-arrests>

Serbian police say they have arrested five suspected people smugglers and found 170 migrants as part of an international effort to curb the illegal transfer of migrants toward Western Europe.

SLOVAKIA

Europol Supports Hungarian-Slovakian Team in Dismantling Migrant Smuggling Network – 2 June 2016

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/europol-supports-hungarian-slovakian-team-dismantling-migrant-smuggling-network>

Europol's European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC) supported a Hungarian – Slovakian Joint Investigation Team (JIT) focused on dismantling an organised migrant smuggling network operating from Slovakia. The criminal group recruited migrants from asylum reception centres in Hungary and then smuggled them into Germany by car.

UNITED KINGDOM

Migrant boat rescue: Five Albanians claim asylum – 1 June 2016

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-36430084>

Five migrants who were rescued from a boat carrying 15 other people off the Kent coast have claimed asylum.

Norfolk coast watch puts people smuggling on radar – 3 June 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jun/03/norfolk-coast-watch-people-smuggling-dymchurch-chichester-coastguard>

It has emerged that Dutch border police found a map of Sea Palling, a small Norfolk beach, when they seized two suspected traffickers and 24 Albanian and Vietnamese migrants after being alerted to a yacht sitting unusually low in the water at the Netherlands port of IJmuiden.

Surge in arrests of alleged UK-bound people-smugglers – 4 June 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jun/04/surge-arrests-alleged-uk-bound-people-smugglers-dutch>

The number of people arrested by police after allegedly trying to smuggle people on ferries from Dutch ports into Britain has surged, according to the authorities in the Netherlands.

Over 100 refugees drown after boat capsizes off Libya – 4 June 2016

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/dozens-refugee-bodies-wash-libyan-beaches-160602192505129.html>

The bodies of more than 100 people who drowned trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea were found washed up on beaches near the Libyan city of Zuwarah, a Libyan navy spokesman said.

People smugglers jailed after death of man inside shipping container at Tilbury Docks – 16 June 2016

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-36552280>

Two lorry drivers have been jailed for people smuggling following the death of an Afghan man seeking asylum in the UK.

Four men arrested over alleged smuggling of migrants across Channel – 22 June 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jun/23/four-men-arrested-over-alleged-smuggling-of-migrants-across-channel-ramsgate>

Four men have been arrested as part of an investigation into alleged smuggling of migrants across the Channel.

Four arrested in English Channel migrant smuggling probe – 23 June 2016

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-36608206>

Four men have been arrested as part of an investigation into alleged smuggling of migrants across the English Channel.

Dymchurch pair admit smuggling Albanian migrants – 28 June 2016

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-36637968>

Two men have pleaded guilty to immigration offences after a boat carrying 20 people had to be rescued off the Kent coast.

Dorset Police marine patrols stepped up over migrant concerns – 28 June 2016

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-dorset-36641472>

Police patrols along the Dorset coast are being stepped up, following concerns over migrants crossing the English Channel by boat.