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## smuggling of migrants – global news

### march 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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### AMERICAS

#### CANADA

#### **Ontario man arrested in attempted human smuggling: CBSA – 2 March 2016**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/ontario-man-arrested-in-attempted-human-smuggling-cbsa/article28996192/>

A Cornwall, Ont., man and three foreign nationals have been arrested in what border officials say was an attempt to smuggle people from the United States into Canada.

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

#### **Immigrant smuggler caught 23 times by Border Patrol gets prison time – 27 March 2016**

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-immigrant-smuggle-caught-23-times-by-border-control-gets-prison-time-20160327-story.html>

A career smuggler nabbed while guiding four immigrants through the Otay Mountains last year was sentenced Friday to five years in prison.

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### ASIA-PACIFIC

#### GENERAL

#### **Bali Process to draft emergency response mechanism for people smuggling, trafficking – 11 March 2016**

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/03/11/bali-process-draft-emergency-response-mechanism-people-smuggling-trafficking.html>

The 2016 Bali Process on people smuggling, human trafficking and other transnational crimes to be held on Mar. 22-23 in Bali will produce a new document detailing an emergency response mechanism for people smuggling and human trafficking in the region, an official said on Thursday.

#### **Bali Process expected to yield new regional mechanism – 11 March 2016**

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/03/11/bali-process-expected-yield-new-regional-mechanism.html>

After the influx of Rohingya refugees and the Benjina slavery case coming to light last year, the sixth Bali Process international forum is expected to result in an emergency response mechanism for dealing with irregular migration and closer attention being paid to trans-boundary crimes in the region.

### ***RI to ask Australia to relax refugee policy – 18 March 2016***

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/03/18/ri-ask-australia-relax-refugee-policy.html>

Indonesia is planning to ask Australia to revise its strict policy on refugees at the upcoming Bali Process international forum through a multilateral mechanism that demonstrates Indonesia is not alone in wanting the neighboring country to let more refugees into its territory.

### ***Indonesia, Australia strengthen ties over Bali Process – 22 March 2016***

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/03/22/indonesia-australia-strengthen-ties-over-bali-process.html>

Indonesia and Australia have taken steps to enhance their relationship ahead of the Bali Process meeting.

### ***RI-OZ to toughen security checks on migrants – 22 March 2016***

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/03/22/ri-oz-toughen-security-checks-migrants.html>

Indonesia and Australia have agreed to strengthen security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region to stop infiltration by members of militant groups through the influx of migrants from the Middle East.

### ***RI, Oz seek approval for refugee mechanism – 23 March 2016***

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/03/23/ri-oz-seek-approval-refugee-mechanism.html>

Indonesia and Australia are seeking approval from member states of the Bali Process to establish and colead a consultative mechanism to swiftly address a potential refugee influx into the region, as an attempt to make the forum relevant amid rising global concerns over irregular migration.

### ***Bali Process pledges agile response to refugees – 24 March 2016***

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/03/24/bali-process-pledges-agile-response-refugees.html>

The inability of the Bali Process mechanism to address an influx of Rohingya and Bangladeshi refugees last year is being used as a lesson for the future as the international forum concludes, bringing out a new declaration and mechanism to ensure an agile and timely response to prevent undesired recurrences.

## HONG KONG

### ***Three-year-old girl among 21 South Asians intercepted on smuggling boat off Hong Kong airport – 9 March 2016***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-crime/article/1922698/three-year-old-girl-among-21-south-asians-intercepted>

A boatload of South Asian illegal immigrants, including a three-year-old Pakistani girl, was intercepted by police off Hong Kong International Airport yesterday as people smugglers apparently took advantage of foggy weather to try to avoid detection, the Post was told.

### ***Hong Kong government plans tougher penalties for people smugglers – 10 March 2016***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-crime/article/1922970/hong-kong-government-plans-tougher-penalties-people>

Hong Kong is readying tougher penalties for the first time in four decades against snakeheads smuggling illegal immigrants into the city, as part of a new drive to stem the influx of asylum seekers.

***Shut down: Hong Kong and mainland China police nab 109 people in cross-border operation involving illegal immigrants – 20 March 2016***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-crime/article/1928099/shut-down-hong-kong-and-mainland-china-police-nab-109>

Hong Kong and Guangdong police have shut down a major cross-border human-smuggling syndicate, arresting 109 people – most of them South Asians.

***Refugee issue a burden on Hong Kong ... but Shenzhen detention camp not the solution, says Leung Chun-ying – 23 March 2016***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-crime/article/1929305/refugee-issue-burden-hong-kong-shenzhen-detention-camp-not>

Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying dismissed the idea of building a detention camp across the border to house asylum seekers in Hong Kong, though he claimed the refugees were causing great distress to the city.

***Hong Kong people smuggling syndicates smashed: nearly 3,000 illegal immigrants arrested in joint operation with mainland police – 30 March 2016***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-crime/article/1931749/hong-kong-people-smuggling-syndicates-smashed-nearly-3000>

Hong Kong and mainland police have smashed three cross-border human-smuggling syndicates and arrested nearly 3,000 illegal immigrants heading for the city, most of them from Vietnam and Pakistan.

***Hong Kong Immigration Department crackdown nets 17 illegal workers and 8 employers – 31 March 2016***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-crime/article/1932721/hong-kong-immigration-department-crackdown-nets-17-illegal>

Seventeen illegal workers and eight employers were nabbed by the Immigration Department during a series of citywide operations in the last three days.

INDONESIA

***6 Bangladeshi asylum seekers arrested in Kupang – 9 March 2016***

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/03/09/6-bangladeshi-asylum-seekers-arrested-kupang.html>

Indonesian authorities have arrested six Bangladeshi asylum seekers and two Indonesian people smugglers after their boat capsized on its way to Australia, an official said on Wednesday.

***Fishermen accuse Australia of deceit in Bangladeshi migrant case – 10 March 2016***

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/03/10/fishermen-accuse-australia-deceit-bangladeshi-migrant-case.html>

Indonesian fishermen reportedly handed over six undocumented Bangladeshi migrants to authorities in Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara, claiming they had been tricked by Australian naval officers into taking the undocumented migrants into Indonesian territory.

***Shelter versus shielded borders – 15 March 2016***

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/03/15/shelter-versus-shielded-borders.html>

In May 2015, three boats with more than 1,800 people on board reached Aceh after a long, hazardous trip. Although the Indonesian Navy had tried to prevent at least one boat from landing by first equipping

the boat with fuel and food and then forcing it back to the sea, eventually these people were allowed to come on land.

## THAILAND

### ***Thailand begins major human trafficking trial – 15 March 2016***

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/03/15/thailand-begins-major-human-trafficking-trial.html>

Prosecutors in Thailand called their first witnesses Tuesday in a major human trafficking trial with 92 defendants, including an army general, implicated in smuggling, kidnappings and the deaths of dozens of people.

### ***4 Things to Know About Thailand's Trial of 92 Alleged Human Traffickers – 18 March 2016***

<http://time.com/4263868/thailand-trial-92-human-trafficking/>

Ninety-two people went on trial in Bangkok this week accused of being part of a transnational human-trafficking network that held people in barbaric conditions in camps close to the Thai-Malaysian border.

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## MIDDLE EAST

### AFGHANISTAN

### ***Afghans say they see no future in their country and are leaving in droves – 17 March 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-afghans-leaving-afghanistan-20160317-story.html>

When most American troops departed Afghanistan in 2014 and the Obama administration helped install a unity government, it was supposed to set the country on a path toward self-sustainability after two decades of Taliban rule and foreign military intervention.

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## EUROPE

### GENERAL

### ***Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016 Near 130,000; Deaths Reach 418 – 1 March 2016***

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-2016-near-130000-deaths-reach-418>

As winter nears its end, IOM estimates irregular migrant and refugee arrivals are now approaching 130,000 in the Mediterranean. The number, reached in nine weeks, falls just short of the total for all seaborne arrivals in Europe as recently as 2014.

### ***Factbox: Going round in circles: Europe's 10 migration dilemmas – 2 March 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-dilemmas-factbox-idUSKCN0W41KN>

European Union leaders meet on Monday to debate how to end the migrant crisis before a second summer of chaos, but they have already long known the available answers -- and why they have yet to add up to a solution.

### ***EU chief warns economic migrants: 'Do not come to Europe' – 3 March 2016***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/03/03/europe/europe-migrants-jungle-hunger-strike/index.html>

European Council President Donald Tusk on Thursday warned opportunistic "economic migrants" -- those who are not legitimate refugees but are seeking better living conditions -- not to come to Europe, saying their efforts would be "all for nothing."

### **'Do not come to Europe,' Donald Tusk warns economic migrants – 3 March 2016**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/03/donald-tusk-economic-migrants-do-not-come-to-europe>

One of the EU's most senior leaders has warned would-be economic migrants not to undertake a life-threatening journey to Europe.

### **EU courts Turkey and outlines plan to save open borders – 4 March 2016**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-schengen-idUSKCN0W613U>

European Union officials voiced guarded optimism on Friday that Turkey was starting to cooperate to stem the flow of migrants to Europe, as Brussels outlined a timetable for restoring open borders across the continent by the end of the year.

### **Migrant crisis: Asylum seekers in EU 'doubled in 2015' – 4 March 2016**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35723057>

The number of people seeking asylum in the European Union in 2015 reached 1,255,600 - more than double that of the previous year, new figures suggest.

### **Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016 Near 135,000; Deaths Reach 418 – 4 March 2016**

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-2016-near-135000-deaths-reach-418>

IOM estimates that 134,905 migrants already have crossed the Mediterranean this year. Of these, 125,819 have reached the Greek islands. The remainder landed in Italy. Media reports indicate that arrivals to Spain in 2016 are fewer than 100.

### **'Europe gives money but only cares about one thing: keeping refugees out' – 5 March 2016**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/05/europe-refugees-action-plan-turkey-syria>

Sitting around the table in a small shop room, several women and men discuss plans for a Women's Day celebration. Children chatter in Turkish and Arabic. Bags stuffed with garments sit in a corner, children's drawings hang in the windows.

### **NATO to Expand Patrols in Aegean Sea to Stop Human Traffickers – 6 March 2016**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/07/world/europe/nato-expands-patrols-in-aegean-sea-to-stop-human-traffickers.html>

The day before a European conference designed to persuade Turkey to curb the uncontrolled flow of migrants making perilous journeys across the Aegean Sea, NATO announced on Sunday that it would expand its maritime efforts to stop the smugglers who make many of those journeys possible.

### **EU to push Turkey to take back economic migrants deported from Greece – 6 March 2016**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/eu-to-push-turkey-to-take-back-economic-migrants-deported-from-greece>

European leaders will push Turkey at a summit on Monday (Mar 7) to agree to "large-scale" deportations of economic migrants from Greece, as EU chief Donald Tusk says he sees the first hints of a resolution to the migrant crisis.

### ***European Union and Turkey push to make a deal on the migrant crisis – 7 March 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/world/europe/la-fg-european-union-turkey-migrants-20160307-story.html>

While European Union leaders on Monday looked for Turkey to help stem the arrival of more migrants, Turkish officials sought an additional \$3.3 billion to help the country handle the influx of newcomers.

### ***NATO says Aegean mission moving into Greek, Turkish waters – 7 March 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/europe-migrants-nato-idUSB5N13J00W>

NATO sent its ships into Greek and Turkish waters in the Aegean Sea on Monday to counter the criminal networks smuggling migrants into Europe, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said, overcoming territorial sensitivities in Greece and Turkey.

### ***Migrant crisis: UK to send ships to tackle people smugglers – 7 March 2016***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-35742625>

The UK will provide "vital military assets" to help a Nato mission tackling people smugglers in the Aegean Sea, David Cameron has said.

### ***Migrant crisis: EU and Turkey hold 'difficult' summit – 7 March 2016***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35741494>

European Union leaders are holding a key summit with Turkey in Brussels on ways of dealing with Europe's worst refugee crisis since World War Two.

### ***Eighteen migrants die as EU seeks Turkish help to slow influx – 7 March 2016***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/eighteen-migrants-die-as-eu-seeks-turkish-help-to-slow-influx>

At least 18 people drowned trying to cross the Aegean Sea on Sunday (March 6), on the eve of a key summit at which European leaders will push Turkey to accept "large-scale" deportations of economic migrants from Greece.

### ***How Europe's Deal With Turkey Aims to Resolve the Migrant Crisis – 8 March 2016***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/09/world/europe/european-union-turkey-migrants-refugees.html>

European Union leaders and Turkey reached a tentative deal early Tuesday morning to help resolve the migration crisis that has roiled the Continent. But human rights advocates have raised concerns about the accord.

### ***Human rights groups criticize European Union-Turkish plan to stop Syrian migrants – 8 March 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/world/europe/la-fg-europe-turkey-migrants-20160309-story.html>

A plan by European Union and Turkish officials to stop migrants arriving on Europe's shores by immediately sending them back to Turkey has been branded deeply immoral and possibly illegal by several human rights and refugee groups.

### ***EU and Turkey agree on refugee crisis proposal – 8 March 2016***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/03/07/europe/europe-migrant-crisis-summit/index.html>

Turkey and the European Union have reached agreement on key points of a proposal to handle the overflow of refugees, according to a tweet for the spokesman of European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker.

**Worried over refugees, Baltics begin to erect border fences – 8 March 2016**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-baltics-idUSKCN0WA1JN>

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are tightening ID controls and erecting fences on their eastern borders, worried the Baltic region will become a new entry point for refugees as migrant routes through the Balkans becomes harder.

**Migrant crisis: EU and Turkey plan one-in, one-out deal – 8 March 2016**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35749837>

The EU and Turkey say they have agreed the broad principles of a plan to ease the migration crisis.

**Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016: 141,141; Deaths: 444 – 8 March 2016**

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-2016-141141-deaths-444>

Migrants and refugees are continuing to arrive on the Greek islands from Turkey, according to IOM, despite the presence of NATO vessels newly deployed to thwart smugglers. Total arrivals in Greece and Italy have now reached an estimated 141,141 in 2016.

**Migrant crisis: Rights groups slam EU-Turkey refugee swap proposal – 9 March 2016**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/03/08/europe/europe-migrant-crisis/index.html>

Turkey and the European Union say they have agreed on key points of a "bold" proposal to help resolve the migrant crisis, aimed at deterring migrants from attempting the perilous journey to Europe.

**Back where they came from – 9 March 2016**

<http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21696543-eu-agreement-turkey-starts-shipping-migrants-out-greece-back-where-they-came>

The EU hopes the threat of deportation will deter migrants from entering Greece. It may be working. Arrivals in Greece have dropped sharply since the EU deal with Turkey took effect on March 20th.

**Smugglers Prey on Migrants Desperate to Find Back Doors to Europe – 11 March 2016**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/12/world/europe/european-union-migrant-crisis-smuggling.html>

The closing of Europe's main migrant route to Germany has stranded more than 40,000 in Greece. Hundreds of thousands more — from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria and a host of other countries across the Middle East and Africa — risk being bottled up in Turkey if a European Union deal to slow the migrant flow is formally approved next week.

**Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016 Approach 150,000; Deaths Reach 455 – 11 March 2016**

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-2016-approach-150000-deaths-reach-455>

Through March 10, 2016, IOM reports arrivals of migrants and refugees to Italy and Greece via Mediterranean Sea routes have topped 150,000, while deaths in the region now stand at 455, including four deaths in January in the waters between Spain and North Africa, recorded by IOM's Missing Migrants Project.

### ***IOM Surveys Iraqi Migrants to Europe – 15 March 2016***

<http://www.iom.int/news/iom-surveys-iraqi-migrants-europe>

A new study by IOM, "Migration Flows from Iraq to Europe," explores the experiences of recent Iraqi migrants, with the goal of gaining insight into their personal profile, decision-making process, journey and future intentions.

### ***Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016: 152,697; Deaths: 456 – 15 March 2016***

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-2016-152697-deaths-456>

IOM estimates that 152,697 refugees and migrants have crossed into Europe since the beginning of the year, the vast majority of them (143,205) having crossed through the Greek islands, while the remaining (9,492) have reached Europe through Italy.

### ***EU leaders meet to offer migrant deal to Turkey – 16 March 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-eu-idUSKCN0WJ02T>

Leaders of the European Union meet in Brussels on Thursday to agree on a deal to offer Turkey the following day that would secure Ankara's commitment to a scheme intended to halt migrant flows to the Greek islands.

### ***EU and Turkey try again on controversial 'one in, one out' deal on migrant crisis – 17 March 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/world/europe/la-fg-european-union-migrants-20160317-story.html>

European Union leaders arrived in Belgium again Thursday hoping to secure a crucial deal with Turkey to stem the flow of migrants arriving on Europe's shores.

### ***European Union agrees on plan to send Syrian migrants back to Turkey – 17 March 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-european-union-syrian-migrants-20160317-story.html>

European Union leaders have agreed a common stance on a plan to send tens of thousands of migrants back to Turkey which they will put to Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu on Friday.

### ***EU puts finishing touches to migration deal, Turkey to review Friday – 17 March 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-tns-bc-europe-migrants-20160317-story.html>

EU leaders put the finishing touches to a contentious new plan to stem migration flows from Turkey to Europe, before submitting the document on Friday morning for consideration by Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu.

### ***Refugee crisis: EU leaders meet to finalise Turkey deal – 17 March 2016***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/03/refugee-crisis-eu-leaders-meet-finalise-turkey-deal-160317052727845.html>

European Union officials have warned that many hurdles remain ahead of a crucial summit over a tentative deal with Turkey aimed at tackling the massive influx of refugees into Europe.



### ***EU leaders meet to offer deal to Turkey to stop migrant flow to Greece – 17 March 2016***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/eu-leaders-meet-to-offer-deal-to-turkey-to-stop-migrant-flow-to-greece>

Leaders of the European Union meet in Brussels on Thursday (March 17) to agree on a deal to offer Turkey the following day that would secure Ankara's commitment to a scheme intended to halt migrant flows to the Greek islands.

### ***EU agrees stance on Turkey migrant deal – 18 March 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20160317-story.html>

European Union leaders have agreed upon a common stance on a plan to send tens of thousands of migrants back to Turkey something they will propose to Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu later on Friday.

### ***EU leaders meet on Libya as migrant flows rise – 18 March 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-eu-idUSKCN0WK1BE>

Europe's major powers will discuss Libya in the margins of an EU summit on Friday, with leaders expected to focus on efforts to end the political chaos and conflict in the country and rising migrant flows.

### ***IOM Launches Survey: Human Trafficking and Exploitation Prevalence on Eastern Mediterranean Migrant Routes – 18 March 2016***

<http://www.iom.int/news/iom-launches-survey-human-trafficking-and-exploitation-prevalence-eastern-mediterranean-migrant>

IOM has found that nearly 1 in 10 migrant and refugee respondents have answered positively to an indicator of the presence of human trafficking and other exploitative practices along the eastern Mediterranean migration route.

### ***Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016 Near 155,000; Deaths Reach 467 – 18 March 2016***

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-2016-near-155000-deaths-reach-467>

With winter ending and warmer conditions prevailing, the Central Mediterranean migrant route between North Africa and Sicily has become busier, monitors from IOM in Rome report, indicating a surge of migrant and refugee arrivals under way in the months to come.

### ***EU-Turkey deal on turning back migrants appears in limbo – 20 March 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-europe-migrant-crisis-20160320-story.html>

Sunday was the day an agreement between the European Union and Turkey on ending illegal migration went into effect — but its implementation still remains uncertain.

### ***Deal Appears to Curb Migrant Flow, but Greece Still Faces ‘Uphill Effort’ – 21 March 2016***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/22/world/europe/deal-appears-to-curb-migrant-flow-but-greece-still-faces-uphill-effort.html>

For the European Union, the paramount goal of last week's much-criticized refugee deal with Turkey was to shut off the enormous flow of people pouring in to the Continent and break the smuggling rings targeting Greece. By insisting that people coming into Greece will be deported back to Turkey, European Union officials say, they are trying to dissuade Syrians and other migrants from taking the

smuggler boats in the first place. They hope Syrians will instead decide to stay in Turkey and apply for European asylum from there.

***Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016: 160,547; Deaths: 488 – 22 March 2016***

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-2016-160547-deaths-488>

IOM this week confirms more than one million migrant and refugee arrivals to the Greek islands via the Eastern Mediterranean route from Turkey since the start of 2015. Earlier this month IOM confirmed combined land and sea arrivals surpassed the one million mark in Greece.

***Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016: 164,752; Deaths: 531 – 29 March 2016***

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-2016-164752-deaths-531>

IOM reports that 164,752 migrants or refugees have entered Europe by sea in 2016, through 27 March, which is a daily average of around 1,885 men, women and children.

ALBANIA

***Refugees may start to cross over Albania – 8 March 2016***

<http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21694411-just-twenty-five-years-ago-albanians-left-country-droves-refugees-may-start-cross>

The Albanian authorities have started to worry that Albania is going to have to deal with people arriving rather than leaving. Some now predict that refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq—many of whom are blocked in Greece from entering Europe through Macedonia—may now try their luck through Albania.

***Is Albania the next stop for stranded refugees? – 11 March 2016***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2016/03/albania-stop-stranded-refugees-160310090910932.html>

A country with its own recent history of migration could soon find itself at the centre of Europe's refugee crisis.

DENMARK

***Danish children's rights activist fined for people trafficking – 11 March 2016***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/11/danish-childrens-rights-activist-lisbeth-zornig-people-trafficking>

A high-profile Danish campaigner for children's rights was prosecuted on Friday under people trafficking laws, shining a spotlight once more on the country's crackdown on asylum, as Scandinavian countries compete to make themselves unattractive destinations for refugees.

FRANCE

***The Calais Jungle: How a French port became the focus of a European migrant crisis – 1 March 2016***

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/35695371/the-calais-jungle-how-a-french-port-became-the-focus-of-a-european-migrant-crisis>

Makeshift camps in the French port town of Calais are being demolished by the French authorities.

### ***Woman smuggles infant in hand luggage on Paris-bound plane -7 March 2016***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35770021>

A woman flew from Istanbul to Paris with an infant girl hidden inside her hand luggage, Air France has said.

GREECE

### ***Thousands of migrants backed up at Greek border as Europe's refugee crisis worsens – 1 March 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/world/europe/la-fg-greece-refugees-bottleneck-20160301-story.html>

Wael Alagha was curling up for the night on the cold ground outside a freeway rest stop. He had a black ski jacket and blanket to shield him from the night's cold, but still shivered slightly.

### ***Greece's 'warehouse of souls:' Refugees stuck in old stadiums, derelict airport – 9 March 2016***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/03/09/europe/greece-refugees-olympic-park-airport/index.html>

For many refugees, Athens is no longer the doorway to Europe. But they still keep coming -- at an average rate of 1,800 people each day during February.

### ***Migrant crisis: Misery builds in Greek transit camp after migrant route sealed – 11 March 2016***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/03/10/europe/europe-migrant-crisis/index.html>

As many as 14,000 migrants are stranded in dire conditions in a muddy transit camp on the Greek border after Macedonia finally closed its doors to refugees, sealing shut the main migration route to Western Europe.

### ***Five Afghans, including baby, drown trying to reach Greece from Turkey – 11 March 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-turkey-idUSKCN0WC0PI>

Five Afghans, including two children and a six-month old baby, drowned in the Aegean overnight trying to reach Greece as Turkey starts to implement an EU agreement to curb illegal migration.

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

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

On February 10th the European Commission outlined a list of ways in which the Greeks need to improve their refugee facilities. Its strict demands, which are based on a ruling in 2011 by the European Court of Human Rights that found the Greek asylum system “degrading”, highlight the scale of the difficulties that the country still faces.

### ***Refugees stranded in Greece head for dangerous route north – 14 March 2016***

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/refugees-stranded-in-greece-head-for-dangerous-route-north/article29205875/>

Hundreds of migrants and refugees walked out of an overcrowded camp on the Greek-Macedonian border Monday, determined to use a dangerous crossing to head north.

### ***The booming fake passport market for refugees in Athens – 14 March 2016***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/blogs/europe/2016/03/booming-fake-passport-market-refugees-athens-160304031000398.html>

People smugglers and their middlemen take advantage of huge influx of refugees camped out in Greek capital.

### ***Migrants keep arriving in Greece despite deal to return them – 21 March 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20160320-story.html>

Hundreds of mostly Syrian asylum-seekers continued to arrive in Greece by sea Sunday despite the start of an international agreement to send migrants back to Turkey.

### ***Greece sets up detention camps as refugee deal hits delays – 22 March 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20160321-story.html>

Greece detained hundreds of refugees and migrants on its islands Monday, as officials in Athens and the European Union conceded a much-heralded agreement to send thousands of asylum-seekers back to Turkey is facing delays.

### ***Greek lawmakers get ready to OK refugee deportations – 31 March 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20160331-story.html>

Lawmakers in Greece were ready to support legislation to deport refugees back to Turkey as clashes between migrants persisted Thursday at overcrowded detention camps.

## HUNGARY

### ***Refugee centres fill up as Hungary tightens borders – 10 March 2016***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2016/03/refugee-centres-fill-hungary-tightens-borders-160310201559275.html>

An Afghan family walked along the sidewalk leading to the entrance, flashed their ID cards and passed through the rotating steel gate into the Bicske camp.

### ***Hungary sentences refugees for breaching border fence – 16 March 2016***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2016/03/hungary-sentences-refugees-breaching-border-fence-160316083052834.html>

During the first two weeks of March, at least 1,428 were arrested for breaching Hungary's border fence with Serbia.

## MACEDONIA

### ***Macedonian police reopen border for a trickle of refugees – 2 March 2016***

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/macedonian-police-reopen-border-for-a-trickle-of-refugees/article28994759/>

Macedonia intermittently opened its border with Greece to a tiny trickle of Syrian and Iraqi refugees Wednesday, leaving about 10,000 more people camped on the Greek side, with more arriving daily.

### ***Macedonia imposes new restrictions on flow of refugees – 6 March 2016***

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/03/06/macedonia-imposes-new-restrictions-flow-refugees.html>

Macedonian authorities imposed further restrictions Sunday on refugees trying to cross the border, allowing only those from cities they consider to be at war to enter, Greek police officials said.

### ***Migrant crisis: Macedonia shuts Balkans route – 9 March 2016***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35763101>

Macedonia has said it will no longer let any migrants through its border with Greece, effectively blocking the Balkan route north.

ITALY

### ***Italy rescues hundreds of migrants at sea, recovers body – 18 March 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-italy-idUSKCN0WK1NA>

Italian ships picked up some 600 migrants and recovered one body on Friday, as European leaders met in Brussels to try to stem the flow of migrants to the continent.

### ***Italy rescues 910 boat migrants, nearly 600 saved off Libya – 19 March 2016***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-italy-rescues-idUSKCN0WL0TQ>

Italy's coast guard said more than 900 migrants were rescued in four separate operations in the Strait of Sicily on Saturday, while Libyan authorities said they had rescued nearly 600 migrants from four boats, one of which sank.

### ***Italy rescues 730 migrants at sea; more arrivals expected – 27 March 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-tns-bc-europe-migrants-20160327-story.html>

Italy rescued 730 people off the coast of Sicily Sunday, while a German newspaper reported that because of restrictions along the so-called Balkan route, human traffickers were planning to redirect more migrants to Italian shores.

SERBIA

### ***Migrants find new routes as old ones close – 16 March 2016***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35801175>

The Balkan route may officially be closed, but the Asylum Information Centre in Belgrade is very much open - and doing a roaring trade.

TURKEY

### ***2 Men Sentenced in Death of Alan Kurdi, Syrian Boy Who Drowned in September – 4 March 2016***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/05/world/europe/syrians-sentenced-aylan-alan-kurdi.html>

Two Syrian men were sentenced to more than four years in prison on Friday for the death of a young Syrian boy whose body washed up on a beach in Turkey in September.

### **Alan Kurdi death: Turkey jails Syrians over migrant drowning – 4 March 2016**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35725373>

A court in Turkey has sentenced two Syrians to four years in jail over the death of Alan Kurdi and four others.

### **2 Syrian smugglers get 4 years in prison in death of migrant boy – 4 March 2016**

<http://www.latimes.com/world/middleeast/la-fg-migrant-boy-20160304-story.html>

A Turkish court on Friday sentenced two Syrian smugglers to prison terms of four years and two months each in connection with the deaths of five people including 3-year-old Aylan Kurdi, who galvanized world attention on the refugee crisis when a photo was published of him lying lifeless on a beach.

### **2 sentenced for 'refugee smuggling' in drowning of Syrian toddler Alan Kurdi – 4 March 2016**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/03/04/middleeast/alan-kurdi-drowning-two-sentenced/index.html>

Two people were found guilty of "refugee smuggling" in the drowning case of Syrian toddler Alan Kurdi, the Anadolu news agency reported Friday.

### **Turkish court jails two Syrians over drowning of toddler Aylan: media -4 March 2016**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-migrants-turkey-toddler-idUSKCN0W60W3>

A Turkish court on Friday sentenced two Syrians to four years in jail over the drowning of five people including toddler Aylan Kurdi, the image of whose dead body sparked global sympathy last September over the fate of migrants, Dogan news agency said.

### **Two Syrians sentenced in death of Syrian boy Alan Kurdi – 6 March 2016**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/03/05/middleeast/drowned-toddler-sentences/index.html>

Two Syrian men have been sentenced in Turkey to more than four years in prison in connection with the boat accident that claimed the life of Alan Kurdi, the young boy whose lifeless body came to symbolize the plight of refugees risking everything in their desperation to secure a better life.

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

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

In Basmane, a gritty neighbourhood in the heart of the Turkish port city of Izmir, a plump, smartly-dressed young man, who asks to be known only as Uday, flips through videos on his expensive smartphone. In one of them, recorded last summer, a rubber boat heaving with passengers begins to motor toward Greece.

### **Five Afghans, including baby, drown trying to reach Greece from Turkey – 11 March 2016**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-turkey-idUSKCN0WC0PI>

Five Afghans, including two children and a six-month old baby, drowned in the Aegean overnight trying to reach Greece as Turkey starts to implement an EU agreement to curb illegal migration.

### ***Turkey faces uphill battle to stop migrant smuggling – 16 March 2016***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--turkey-migrant-smuggling-20160316-story.html>

The European Union and Turkey hope to reach a comprehensive deal this week to tackle illegal migration and the refugee crisis spurred by conflicts in Syria and beyond. Under the "one-for-one" deal, which hopes to blunt the appeal of smuggling, one Syrian refugee in Turkey would be resettled legally in an EU country for each illegal Syrian migrant turned back to Turkey.

### ***Turkey detains 20 in nationwide anti-migrant smuggling operation – 29 March 2016***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/middle-east/turkey-detains-20-in-nationwide-anti-migrant-smuggling-operation>

Turkish police on Tuesday (March 29) detained at least 20 people in a nationwide operation aimed at cracking down on the trafficking of migrants seeking to reach the European Union, reports said.

UNITED KINGDOM

### ***Rise in illegal entry arrests in Kent – 17 March 2016***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-35829540>

The number of people arrested on suspicion of entering the UK illegally has risen by 50% in a two-year period.

### ***Man denies smuggling 51 people through Immingham docks – 18 March 2016***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-humber-35847966>

A man has pleaded not guilty to smuggling 51 illegal immigrants into the UK through Immingham docks.

### ***Harwich immigrants: Polish lorry drivers jailed for immigration offences – 23 March 2016***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-35882558>

Four Polish lorry drivers have been jailed for trying to smuggle 68 suspected illegal immigrants into the UK.