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## smuggling of migrants – global news

### september 2015

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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 provides in these news items.

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#### AFRICA

##### ETHIOPIA

##### ***Ethiopia charges 2 for smuggling 4 people who died – 9 September 2015***

<http://www.businessinsider.com/ap-ethiopia-charges-2-for-smuggling-4-people-who-died-2015-9>

An Ethiopian court has charged two men over the deaths of four Ethiopians who died while attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea to go to Italy.

##### LIBYA

##### ***Inside Zuwara, the heart of Libya's people-smuggling trade – 4 September 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-34157123>

Zuwara is the dark heart of Libya's smuggling trade. At the jetty of a former chemical plant about 20km (12 miles) from the town, people smugglers operate freely.

##### ***Libya: 183 bodies now recovered after capsizing of boat in Zuwara – 8 September 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/07/libya-183-drowned-people-smuggling-boat-zuwara>

The bodies of 183 people who drowned attempting to reach Europe last month when a people-smuggling boat capsized have now washed up on the coast of Libya.

##### ***Smuggling people into the country thousands want to leave – 16 September 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-34259520>

The accidental shooting of eight Mexican tourists during a security operation in Egypt's Western Desert underlines the difficulty of preventing militants crossing over from lawless Libya. But people are also going in the other direction - penniless Egyptian migrants looking for work in Libya - and the smugglers who take them say they too risk being shot on sight.

##### ***People smuggler who 'transferred thousands to Europe killed in shootout' – 27 September 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/26/libya-alleged-key-people-smuggler-killed-in-shootout>

An alleged ringleader behind the smuggling of thousands of people from Libya to Europe has been targeted in a shootout, with speculation in Tripoli that foreign agents were behind the attack.

## MAURITANIA

### ***Hundreds of Syrians find shelter in impoverished country on edge of Sahara – 16 September 2015***

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/hundreds-of-syrians-find-shelter-in-impoverished-country-on-edge-of-sahara/article26376550/>

They came because Mauritania is the only Arabic-speaking country where they could arrive without visas. An entry visa, in other countries, can be impossibly expensive or simply impossible – leading to desperate journeys by boat, at the hands of human smugglers, and often leading to death by drowning.

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## AMERICAS

### COLOMBIA

### ***Nova Scotia man detained in Colombia for allegedly smuggling Cuban immigrants – 22 September 2015***

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/nova-scotia-man-detained-in-colombia-for-allegedly-smuggling-cuban-immigrants/article26476915/>

Colombian authorities say they have arrested a Canadian boat captain for allegedly transporting 28 illegal Cuban immigrants, including two babies.

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### ***Two drown in St. Lawrence river in suspected human smuggling attempt – 5 September 2015***

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/two-drown-in-st-lawrence-river-in-suspected-human-smuggling-attempt/article26238600/>

Two men have drowned in the St. Lawrence River near Cornwall, Ont, in what authorities suspect was a failed human smuggling attempt, according to a CTV report.

### ***Judge dismisses challenge to Arizona immigration law – 5 September 2015***

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/judge-dismisses-challenge-to-arizona-immigration-law/>

Challengers of Arizona's landmark immigration law failed to show that police would enforce the statute differently for Latinos than it would for people of other ethnicities, a judge said in a ruling that dismissed the last of seven challenges to the law.

### ***U.S. judge dismisses challenge of Arizona's SB 1070 immigration law – 6 September 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/immigration/la-na-nn-arizona-immigration-law-20150905-story.html>

Challengers of Arizona's landmark immigration law failed to show that police would enforce the statute differently for Latinos than they would for people of other ethnicities, a judge said in a ruling that dismissed the last of seven challenges to the law.

### ***6 Killed in Texas While Being Transported by Smuggling Ring – 24 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/09/24/us/ap-us-texas-deadly-chase.html>

Six people who were killed when the SUV they were in crashed following a police chase were being transported by a smuggling organization, federal officials said Thursday.

### **Six People Killed in Texas as S.U.V. With Immigrants Wrecks While Fleeing Police – 24 September 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/25/us/edna-texas-suv-crash.html>

Early Thursday, what started as a traffic stop by the local police ended with six people dead, Texas officials said, when the driver of a sport utility vehicle overloaded with immigrants sped away from officers and lost control, flipping over several times and ejecting several occupants.

### **U.S. Smuggler Who Let Men Die in Car Trunk Gets Seven Years – 29 September 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/09/29/world/americas/29reuters-usa-california-smuggling.html>

A Los Angeles man who ignored the pleas of two dying men he was smuggling across the U.S.-Mexico border in the trunk of his car was sentenced to seven years in prison on Tuesday.

### **Smuggler sentenced in death of two undocumented immigrants – 29 September 2015**

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-smuggler-death-immigrants-20150929-story.html>

A 43-year-old man from Hawthorne was sentenced Tuesday to seven years in federal prison for the 2014 deaths of two undocumented immigrants being smuggled across the U.S. border at San Ysidro.

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## ASIA-PACIFIC

### BANGLADESH

#### **Bangladesh police arrest 'kingpin' of human trafficking – 18 September 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/asia/bangladesh-police-arrest-kingpin-of-human-trafficking>

Bangladesh police have arrested a human-trafficking "godfather" in a fresh crackdown on smugglers amid fears of a resumption of the racket that sparked a regional migrant crisis earlier this year, an officer said yesterday.

### HONG KONG

#### **Police broke up human-smuggling ring that brought more than 200 illegal Vietnamese workers to Hong Kong – 10 September 2015**

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-crime/article/1856953/people-smuggling-ring-which-brought-more-200-illegal>

A people-smuggling syndicate which allegedly brought more than 200 Vietnamese illegal immigrants into Hong Kong to work over the past 12 months was broken up after local law enforcers arrested 18 people, according to police.

### INDONESIA

#### **Irregular Migration Focus of Annual Meeting of Indonesian Police Spokespersons – 22 September 2015**

<http://www.iom.int/news/irregular-migration-focus-annual-meeting-indonesian-police-spokespersons>

Indonesian National Police public affairs officers from across the country are meeting this week for an IOM-facilitated training on transnational crimes. It is part of an effort to educate the general public about a range of issues including people smuggling and human trafficking.

## MALAYSIA

### ***At least 14 killed as boat overloaded with migrants capsizes off Malaysia – 3 September 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/03/us-malaysia-boat-capsized-idUSKCN0R30CT20150903>

An overloaded wooden boat believed to be carrying dozens of Indonesian illegal immigrants sank off the coast of Malaysia on Thursday, killing at least 14 people, among them 13 women, maritime officials said.

### ***Indonesia migrant boat death toll rises to 61 – 7 September 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/07/us-malaysia-boat-capsized-idUSKCN0R70EI20150907>

Sixty-one bodies have been recovered from an overloaded wooden boat which sank off Malaysia carrying dozens of Indonesian illegal immigrants, maritime officials said on Monday.

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## MIDDLE EAST

### GENERAL

### ***Syrian refugee count nears 2 million in Turkey, down in Iraq, Lebanon – 15 September 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/15/us-mideast-crisis-syria-refugees-idUSKCN0RF10M20150915>

The numbers of Syrian refugees in Iraq and Lebanon fell in August, while the number in Turkey has risen to almost 2 million and asylum applications in Europe have leapt, the U.N. refugee agency said.

### AFGHANISTAN

### ***For \$14.50, Afghan Refugees Make a Desperate Bet on a Way Out – 13 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/14/world/asia/for-14-50-a-desperate-bet-by-afghan-refugees-on-a-way-out.html>

The winding road to Germany starts on the outskirts of Kabul, at the Ahmad Shah Baba bus depot.

### IRAQ

### ***Iraqi deserters fleeing front lines for life in Europe – 20 September 2015***

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/iraqi-deserters-fleeing-front-lines-for-life-in-europe/article26446780/>

Some Iraqi soldiers are abandoning their posts and joining a wave of civilian migrants headed to Europe, raising new doubts about the cohesion of the country's Western-backed security forces in the fight against Islamic State militants.

### SYRIA

### ***Syrian Refugees Seek New Passports as a Ticket to Europe – 16 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/09/16/world/middleeast/ap-ml-syrian-refugees-heading-to-europe.html>

A months-old Syrian government decision to start issuing passports to Syrians who fled their war-ravaged country is quietly contributing to the large exodus of refugees to Europe.

## TURKEY

### ***Suspected smugglers shoot dead Turkish soldier at Syrian border: official – 10 September 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/10/us-mideast-crisis-turkey-shooting-idUSKCN0RA0U820150910>

Suspected smugglers opened fire from Syria and shot dead a Turkish soldier on Thursday, the second cross-border firefight to have killed a member of the Turkish security forces in as many weeks, a senior government official said.

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## EUROPE

### GENERAL

### ***EU struggles for answers as migrant influx raises tensions – 1 September 2015***

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

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

### ***A look at what migrants are carrying with them to Europe – 2 September 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--migrants-what-they-carry-20150901-story.html>

To survive days on end of walking and improvised camping in harsh weather, they must concentrate on essentials: pain medicine, foot powder and first aid, food and personal hygiene items. The savviest have smartphones with backup battery power and SIM cards that work in the countries they're passing through. Otherwise, they can end up walking in circles without satellite navigation, particularly at night, when many travel to avoid police.

### ***Russia: Security Council addressing Europe's migrant crisis – 2 September 2015***

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/ff3b66aec8a8440588685136fe8c7bda/russia-security-council-addressing-europes-migrant-crisis>

Russia says the United Nations Security Council is discussing a draft resolution to address Europe's migrant crisis, likely by authorizing the inspection of suspected migrant ships.

### ***Militants posing as migrants? Unlikely, say European experts – 2 September 2015***

<http://blogs.reuters.com/faithworld/2015/09/02/militants-posing-as-migrants-unlikely-say-european-experts/>

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

### ***Migrant Smuggling in Europe Is Now Worth 'Billions' – 3 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/04/world/europe/migrants-smuggling-in-europe-is-now-worth-billions.html>

With thousands of migrants pouring out of Afghanistan and the Middle East, the business of smuggling them across the Balkans into the European Union has grown even larger than the illicit trade in drugs and weapons, law enforcement officials said.

### ***Death at sea – 3 September 2015***

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2015/09/migration-europe-0>

Another day, another grim statistic. On September 2nd a three-year-old boy was found drowned on a beach in Turkey after a boat carrying migrants capsized in a failed attempt to reach the Greek island of Kos. The boy, from Kobane in northern Syria, died along with his 5-year-old brother and their mother. Their father survived; a further nine people did not. So far more than 2,600 migrants are known to have died crossing the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe in 2015, according to the International Organisation for Migration.

### ***Europe to move on the migration crisis as tensions mount in hotspots – 4 September 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-tns-bc-europe-migrants-20150904-story.html>

Hungary on Friday passed a set of harsh laws aiming to discourage migrants from crossing the border illegally, while Greece agreed to build a large reception center as Europe struggles to find a solution to the growing crisis.

### ***Austria, Germany open borders to migrants offloaded by Hungary – 5 September 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/06/europe-migrants-idUSL5N11B04X20150906>

Austria and Germany threw open their borders on Saturday to thousands of exhausted migrants from the east, bussed to the frontier by a right-wing Hungarian government that had tried to stop them, but was overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of people.

### ***Authorities struggle to identify dead in migrant tragedies – 6 September 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--migrants-identifying-the-dead-20150905-story.html>

As record numbers of desperate people from the Middle East, Africa and Asia flood into Europe, hundreds are also dying in risky journeys arranged by unscrupulous smugglers, and authorities are struggling to identify those victims.

### ***EU split as Germany braces for thousands more refugees – 6 September 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/09/eu-split-germany-braces-thousands-refugees-150906054004778.html>

The European Union foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg have struggled to identify a unified response to the refugee crisis as thousands of people from war-torn countries continued to stream into Germany via Austria.

### ***Europe at war with 30,000 migrant smugglers who prey on desperate refugees – 6 September 2015***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/world/article/1855726/europe-war-30000-migrant-smugglers-who-prey-desperate-refugees>

With the world still reeling from images of a drowned Syrian boy, European authorities say it is their top priority to fight an army of an estimated 30,000 people-smuggling suspects blamed for such tragedies.

### ***Juncker to set out EU refugee plan, challenging leaders – 8 September 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/08/us-europe-migrants-eu-idUSKCN0R82FQ20150908>

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker will lay out plans for handling Europe's refugee crisis on Wednesday that may provoke new wrangling among EU states and between national leaders and the EU executive.

### **Factbox: EU response plans on migration crisis – 8 September 2015**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/08/us-europe-migrants-eu-plans-factbox-idUSKCN0R814220150908>

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker will detail a plan to tackle the EU migrant crisis in an annual State of the Union address to the European Parliament in Strasbourg on Wednesday.

### **Quotas to be part of European Commission President's refugee plan – 8 September 2015**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/juncker-to-set-out-eu-refugee-plan-challenging-national-leaders/article26262635/>

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker will lay out plans for handling Europe's refugee crisis on Wednesday that may provoke new wrangling among EU states and between national leaders and the EU executive.

### **Migrant crisis: EU nations face plans for binding quotas – 9 September 2015**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/09/09/europe/europe-migrant-crisis/index.html>

The European Commission has set out detailed plans for mandatory quotas for EU nations to take in refugees, as Europe struggles to cope with a huge influx of migrants -- many of them fleeing war in Syria.

### **Europeans Seek to Use Force Against Smugglers at Sea – 10 September 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/11/world/europe/un-security-council-human-smuggling-mediterranean.html>

European countries are pushing for a United Nations Security Council resolution to allow their military forces to apprehend human-smuggling vessels in the international waters of the Mediterranean Sea, diplomats here said.

### **UN council considers EU response to migrant smugglers – 10 September 2015**

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/09/10/un-council-considers-eu-response-migrant-smugglers.html>

The UN Security Council is considering allowing European naval forces to board and search ships on the high seas in an effort combat the smuggling of migrants, diplomats said Wednesday.

### **More Border Controls as Europe Stalls on Migrant Quotas – 14 September 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/15/world/europe/europe-migrant-crisis.html>

Even as three more countries followed Germany in introducing border checks to control a flood of migrants, the European Union on Monday failed to agree on a modest plan that would force individual countries to take in a share of some of the hundreds of thousands now seeking asylum in Europe.

### **EU agrees to build new camps for migrants but falls short on quota plan – 14 September 2015**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/migrants-race-to-cross-borders-as-eu-countries-move-to-block-passage/article26352397/>

European Union ministers have agreed to create new camps to register migrants and boost deportations but failed to approve an ambitious plan to take some pressure off Germany by relocating the surging ranks of migrants across the EU.

### ***U.N. rights chief urges Europe to expand migration channels – 14 September 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/14/us-europe-migrants-un-rights-idUSKCN0RE0NX20150914>

The top United Nations human rights official urged Europe on Monday to build on a surge of sympathy for refugees by setting up comprehensive policies to expand migration channels.

### ***Migrant crisis: More EU states impose border checks – 14 September 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34242123>

More EU countries have said they are imposing border checks to deal with an influx of migrants.

### ***Austria, Slovakia and the Netherlands Introduce Border Controls – 15 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/15/world/europe/europe-migrants-germany.html>

Austria, Slovakia and the Netherlands introduced border controls on Monday, as Germany's decision over the weekend to set up checks began to ripple across a bloc struggling to deal with the influx of migrants coming to the Continent.

### ***Russia Resisting Europe Request for Tough U.N. Anti-Smuggling Step – 15 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/16/world/europe/united-nations-migrant-smuggling.html>

A European bid to obtain Security Council approval for a military operation against boats suspected of human smuggling on the Mediterranean Sea is running into opposition from Russia, which wants to ensure that it cannot be used to justify a broader military intervention, diplomats here said.

### ***Stark contrasts in Europe's welcome to migrants – 15 September 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-contrasts-20150915-story.html>

The bleary-eyed travelers arriving in Malmo's glass-and-steel train station agreed on one thing: Sweden was a better place to go than Denmark, which has cut welfare benefits for refugees.

### ***The billion-dollar business of refugee smuggling – 15 September 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/countingthecost/2015/09/billion-dollar-business-refugee-smuggling-150913113527788.html>

Refugees from Syria's civil war are spending thousands of dollars and risking everything to reach Europe and escape their decimated country.

### ***Britain Offers Warship to Tackle People Smugglers in Mediterranean – 16 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/09/16/world/europe/16reuters-europe-migrants-britain-ship.html>

A British warship could be used to target people traffickers in the Mediterranean as part of European Union efforts to tackle a growing migrant crisis, the Ministry of Defense said on Wednesday.

### ***Europol Tracking 30,000 Suspected People Smugglers – 16 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/09/16/world/europe/16reuters-europe-migrants-investigation.html>

As many 30,000 people could be involved in the trafficking gangs charging refugees thousands of euros for a perilous trip to Europe, the head of Europe's police agency said on Wednesday.



### ***Smuggler Vessels Off Libya Would Be Seized Under UN Proposal – 16 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/09/16/world/middleeast/ap-un-united-nations-libya-migration.html>

A proposed U.N. resolution would authorize the European Union and individual countries to take "enforcement action" on the high seas off Libya against vessels trying to smuggle migrants and refugees to Europe, including seizing and destroying the boats.

### ***U.N. Weighs Authorizing EU Migrant Mission in Libyan High Seas – 16 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/09/16/world/16reuters-un-libya.html>

Britain has circulated a draft resolution to members of the U.N. Security Council that would authorize naval operations aimed at seizing and disposing of vessels operated by human traffickers in the high seas off Libya, diplomats said on Wednesday.

### ***UK warship will be used to 'board, seize and divert' refugee boats – 16 September 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/16/royal-navy-warship-could-target-people-smugglers-in-mediterranean>

A Royal Navy frigate is to be sent to take part in a blockade-style naval operation aimed at "boarding, seizing and diverting" refugee boats in the Mediterranean, the Ministry of Defence has said.

### ***Migrants Face Less Welcome, More Danger Than Past Waves Did – 18 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/09/18/us/ap-world-on-the-move.html>

The people streaming into Europe are the faces of a world on the move, more so now than at any other time in recent history. Last year, the United Nations announced that the number of displaced people worldwide had surpassed 50 million for the first time since the end of World War II. It's now nearly 60 million.

### ***Joy as migrants flood into Austria; tears for those kept out – 19 September 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20150919-story.html>

Migrants following a well-worn path into Western Europe used to know exactly where they wanted to go and how to get there. Not anymore.

### ***Europeans shut borders, block bridges, to halt migrant surge – 19 September 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20150918-story.html>

Thousands of migrants were trapped Friday in a vicious tug-of-war as bickering European governments shut border crossings, blocked bridges and erected new barbed-wire fences in a bid to stem the wave of humanity fleeing conflict and poverty in the Middle East and Africa.

### ***A flood of migrants on a trail across Europe -- with no end in sight – 19 September 2015***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/09/19/world/migrant-trail-europe/index.html>

For many of the tens of thousands of people fleeing the Middle East, the migrant trail into Europe begins in the Turkish port city of Izmir.

### ***Migrant crisis: New routes sought amid impasse in Balkans – 19 September 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34300227>

Migrants stranded in Croatia have been making renewed efforts to head north despite moves by Slovenia and Hungary to hold them back.

### ***Militants Not Seen Using Refugee Routes to Reach Europe: Danish Intelligence – 22 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/09/22/world/europe/22reuters-europe-migrants-denmark.html>

Militant Islamist groups are not believed to be using the refugee influx into Europe to smuggle in militants who could carry out attacks, the head of Denmark's country's intelligence service (PET) said on Tuesday.

### ***EU Response Plans on Migration Crisis – 23 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/09/23/world/europe/23reuters-europe-migrants-eu-plans-factbox.html>

European Union leaders meet on Wednesday, hoping to rally behind common responses to the migration crisis. Following are policies that the EU and its executive arm, the European Commission, are pursuing.

### ***Deeply-divided EU to hold emergency summit on migrant crisis – 23 September 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-europe-migrant-crisis-20150923-story.html>

The deeply-divided leaders of the European Union have been called to an emergency summit Wednesday to seek long-term responses to the continent's ballooning migrant crisis, a historic challenge that EU President Donald Tusk said the bloc has failed dismally to meet so far.

### ***Dutch-No Sign Militants Posing as Refugees to Reach Europe – 24 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/09/24/world/asia/24reuters-europe-migrants-dutch-intelligence.html>

Dutch authorities said on Thursday there was no sign of militant groups systematically using Europe's asylum provisions as a way of smuggling attackers into Europe disguised as refugees.

### ***Half a Million Migrants Cross Mediterranean, While Almost 3,000 Die So Far in 2015 – 25 September 2015***

<http://www.iom.int/news/half-million-migrants-cross-mediterranean-while-almost-3000-die-so-far-2015>

A record half a million migrants have crossed the Mediterranean so far in 2015, many of them women and children fleeing war in Syria and seeking asylum in the European Union, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said today. Tragically almost 3,000 migrants and refugees fleeing war and poverty perished in these journeys, most from drowning after their flimsy craft succumbed to the waves.

### ***EU Operation Ready to Go After Migrant Smugglers on Med – 28 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/09/28/world/europe/ap-eu-europe-migrants-smugglers-.html>

The European Union on Monday announced that it will be able to go after suspected migrant trafficking and smuggling vessels in the international waters of the Mediterranean as of next week.

### ***Mediterranean Western Balkans Update - New Numbers from Italy, Greece, the FYROM – 29 September 2015***

<http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-western-balkans-update-new-numbers-italy-greece-fyrom>

IOM estimates that some 522,000 migrants and refugees have arrived in Europe by sea since the beginning of the year. Of those, 388,324 have landed in Greece and 130,891 have reached Italian shores after being rescued on the high seas in the Channel of Sicily, including 2,349 rescued since IOM's last report released Friday, 25 September.

AUSTRIA

### ***Austria inspects trucks for migrants, creates 18-mile backup – 1 September 2015***

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

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

### ***Austria Discovers Syrian Travel Documents in Truck Where Bodies Were Found – 1 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/02/world/europe/migrants-deaths-austria.html>

The law enforcement authorities in Germany indicated on Tuesday that two suspects held in Hungary in connection with the deaths of 71 people found in a truck near Vienna on Thursday had been known to them for earlier crimes, including the smuggling of migrants to Bavaria just over a month ago.

### ***Austrian Police Find 24 Afghan Migrants Locked in a Van – 2 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/03/world/europe/austria-afghan-migrants.html>

In the latest example of the callousness of Europe's traffickers now preying on migrants surging across the Continent, the police here in Austria's capital freed 24 Afghans, most of them teenagers, who were locked inside a van and barely avoided suffocation.

### ***A Day After 71 Migrants Died, 81 Escaped the Back of a Truck in Austria – 4 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/05/world/europe/71-migrants-found-dead-in-truck-likely-suffocated-austrian-official-says.html>

Smugglers whose callous negligence killed 71 refugees found in an abandoned truck last week at the side of an Austrian highway risked the death of scores more just a day later, the police said on Friday. But those migrants saved their lives by breaking open a truck door with a crowbar and were eventually abandoned near a traffic circle in eastern Austria.

### ***Scores of migrants narrowly escaped death in packed truck: Austrian police – 4 September 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/04/us-europe-migrants-austria-idUSKCN0R418Q20150904>

Scores of migrants being smuggled into Austria narrowly escaped death last week by breaking open their truck door with a crowbar just one day after the same gang of traffickers had abandoned a vehicle containing 71 dead refugees, police said on Friday.

### ***Bus fleet in Hungary carries migrants to Austrian welcome – 5 September 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20150904-story.html>

More than 1,000 people from the Middle East and Asia, exhausted after breaking away from police and marching for hours toward Western Europe, boarded scores of buses provided by Hungary's government and arrived before dawn Saturday on the border with Austria. The breakthrough became possible when Austria announced that it and Germany would take the migrants on humanitarian grounds and to aid their EU neighbor.

### ***Migrant crisis: Activist convoy drives to Hungary – 6 September 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34166882>

A convoy of cars driven by German and Austrian activists has crossed into Hungary to pick up migrants and help them reach western Europe.

### ***Migrant crisis: Austria 'to end emergency migrant measures' – 7 September 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34169726>

Austria says it is planning to phase out special measures that have allowed thousands of migrants to travel freely from Hungary to Western Europe.

BULGARIA

### ***Bulgaria detains 125 migrants, sending message to others – 3 September 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/03/uk-europe-migrants-bulgaria-idUKKCN0R30HW20150903>

Bulgaria said it had detained 125 foreigners in the capital Sofia for illegally crossing into the country without submitting requests for asylum, signalling its determination to tackle an influx that has overwhelmed its neighbours.

### ***Bulgaria jails driver who helped smuggle migrants across Turkish border – 11 September 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/11/uk-bulgaria-migrants-idUKKCN0RB1A420150911>

A Bulgarian court has sentenced a man to 11 months in jail for helping to bring more than 50 migrants, crammed into a van, across the EU border with Turkey.

CROATIA

### ***Croatia border closures leave refugees stranded – 18 September 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/09/croatia-border-closures-leave-refugees-stranded-150918064026766.html>

Croatia has given warnings that it will close all border crossings in a bid to bar refugees from entering after about 13,000 crossed into the country over the last three days.

### ***Croatia 'forcing' Hungary to take migrants – 19 September 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34302285>

Croatia will "force" Hungary to accept migrants by continuing to send them to the border, its prime minister says.

CYPRUS

### ***Why migrants are going to great lengths to avoid this EU country – 28 September 2015***

<http://blogs.reuters.com/great-debate/2015/09/28/why-migrants-are-going-to-great-lengths-to-avoid-this-eu-country/>

Nine months after Fadi, a refugee from Homs, Syria, landed in Cyprus on a boat carrying some 340 smuggled refugees, he still had not applied for asylum. He chose instead to attempt to reach mainland Europe by any means possible.

FRANCE

**Paris authorities clear out hundreds from migrant camps – 17 September 2015**

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/09/17/paris-authorities-clear-out-hundreds-migrant-camps.html>

Paris authorities are evacuating more than 500 Syrian and other migrants from tent camps and moving them to special housing as the country steps up efforts to deal with Europe's migrant wave.

GERMANY

**Germans Welcome Migrants After Long Journey Through Hungary and Austria – 5 September 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/06/world/europe/migrant-crisis-austria-hungary-germany.html>

Germans waving welcome signs in German, English and Arabic came to the train station here Saturday to greet the first group of what is expected to be about 8,000 migrants to arrive in Germany by early Sunday, after an arduous and emotional journey through Hungary and Austria.

**Germany's intrepid refugee helpers – 7 September 2015**

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2015/09/germany-intrepid-refugee-helpers-150906084004031.html>

Daring activists clandestinely assist refugees across borders using tactics perfected with the Berlin Wall in mind.

**Germany implements temporary border checks to limit migrants – 13 September 2015**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20150913-story.html>

Germany introduced temporary border controls Sunday to stem the tide of thousands of refugees streaming across its frontier, sending a clear message to its European partners that it needs more help with an influx that is straining its ability to cope.

**Germany temporarily restricts flow of asylum seekers – 13 September 2015**

<http://www.latimes.com/world/europe/la-fg-germany-halts-refugee-flow-20150913-story.html>

A beleaguered Germany announced Sunday that it would temporarily halt free entrance for asylum seekers, a dramatic step likely to exacerbate bottlenecks at other European frontiers to the south and east, where tens of thousands of migrants and refugees are already enduring desperate hardships.

**Europe migrant crisis: Germany adds border controls – 13 September 2015**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/09/13/world/europe-migrant-crisis/index.html>

Facing an influx of migrants and refugees from war-torn Syria and Iraq, Germany is instituting temporary border controls, German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said Sunday.

**Germany imposes border controls – 14 September 2015**

<http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21664583-move-taken-reduce-flow-migrants-undermines-europes-free-movement-policies-germany>

Germany, only days ago the symbol of European openness in the face of large-scale refugee flows, has reintroduced border controls to “decelerate” the influx of people and restore some semblance of order to their registration. On September 13th Thomas de Maizière, the interior minister, explained Germany’s stunning policy, after giving the order to interrupt train connections between Germany and Austria and to begin spot checks on car traffic across the German-Austrian border.

### ***German computer system spreads burden of refugee crisis – 17 September 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--germany-sorting-refugees-20150917-story.html>

Refugees from Syria and Eritrea lounge on hundreds of cots spread across the concrete floor of a former newspaper printing plant. A few green screens provide basic privacy, and a place to hang washing.

GREECE

### ***Greek coast guard is another obstacle for refugees – 5 September 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-tns-bc-europe-migrants-greece-correction-20150905-story.html>

After facing Syrian government barrel bombs, the repression of Islamic State extremists and their effective expulsion from Lebanon, Syrian refugees trying to reach Europe by sea confront another nemesis the Greek Coast guard, which, they say, is disabling their small boats and setting them adrift in the Aegean Sea.

### ***28 migrants drown after boat capsizes in Aegean Sea, Greece says – 13 September 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/world/la-fg-greece-28-migrants-drown-after-boat-capsizes-20150913-story.html>

Greek authorities say 28 people have drowned, half of them children, after a wooden boat used for smuggling capsized in the southeastern Aegean Sea.

### ***Greeks despair over drowned refugee children – 14 September 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/14/us-europe-migrants-greece-idUSKCN0RE20Z20150914>

Greek divers trawled the Aegean Sea on Monday for survivors of the country's worst maritime accident involving refugees, as officials reacted with despair at the scene of the tragedy in which 15 babies and children drowned.

### ***Lesbos Turns From Vacation Island to 'Main Point of Entry' for Migrants – 16 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/17/world/europe/lesbos-turns-from-vacation-island-to-main-point-of-entry-for-migrants.html>

On this vacation island ringed by the clear Aegean Sea, it is now the tourists who are the rarity.

HUNGARY

### ***Hungary bars migrants from trains; smugglers wait in wings – 1 September 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--hungary-migrants-20150901-story.html>

Hungary stunned migrants and European partners Tuesday by blocking asylum-seekers from its westbound trains, a move that raised new challenges for the EU's passport-free travel zone and could drive many into the reckless hands of cross-border smugglers.

### ***Migrants defiant as Hungary blocks train links for 2nd day – 2 September 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/world/europe/la-migrants-defiant-as-hungary-blocks-train-links-for-2nd-day-20150902-story.html>

Hundreds of migrants chanted defiant slogans outside Budapest's main international train station Wednesday as Hungarian police blocked them for a second day from seeking asylum in Germany and other wealthy European Union countries.

### ***Migrant tempers fray as Hungary blocks trains for 2nd day – 2 September 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20150902-story.html>

Tempers flared among the thousands trapped in a makeshift refugee camp in the heart of Budapest on Wednesday as Hungary played hardball with its unwelcome visitors for a second day, blocking train ticket-clutching migrants from traveling deeper into Europe.

### ***Hungary blasts EU on migration amid chaos at Budapest train station – 3 September 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-budapest-hungary-train-migration-20150903-story.html>

Hungary's leader railed Thursday at Germany and EU leaders for lacking urgency in dealing with Europe's migrant crisis as chaos reigned back home, where migrants by the thousands surged into Budapest's main train station after police ended their two-day blockade of its entrance.

### ***Hungary sends buses for migrants; Germany, Austria to let them in – 4 September 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-tns-bc-europe-migrants-1st-lede-20150904-story.html>

The Hungarian government Friday began sending buses to transport thousands of stranded migrants to the Austrian border in an effort to end tensions in Budapest and to stop a trek toward the border by hundreds of migrants.

### ***Migrants finding little sympathy in Hungary for their plight – 10 September 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--hungary-unwanted-migrants-20150909-story.html>

A makeshift camp of thousands from the Middle East, Asia and Africa has been dismantled at Budapest's Keleti train station, and its inhabitants have left for Germany. But the loathing of them lingers in Hungary, which hopes to build a border fence strong enough to keep out future waves of asylum seekers.

### ***Amid migrant crisis, Hungary to tighten police controls until Sept 30 – 14 September 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/14/us-europe-migrants-hungary-controls-idUSKCN0RE1BA20150914>

Police will tighten controls across Hungary from midday Monday until Sept. 30 midnight to maintain public order and prevent criminal activity, it said in a statement on its website.

### ***Migrants race to beat Hungarian border crackdown – 14 September 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/14/europe-migrants-balkans-idUSL5N11K1S720150914>

Migrants sped through the Balkans by train, bus and taxi on Monday, racing to beat a border crackdown promised by Hungary's right-wing government.

### ***Hungary offloads migrants on eve of promised crackdown – 14 September 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/14/us-europe-migrants-balkans-idUSKCN0RE1A720150914>

Hungary sent migrants by special trains direct to the Austrian border on Monday, trying to offload record numbers streaming into the country before a crackdown by the right-wing government.

### ***Hungary closes crossing used by thousands of refugees – 14 September 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/09/eu-border-checks-austria-slovakia-150914143727312.html>

Hungary has closed off a railway track used by tens of thousands of refugees to enter the European Union on foot, launching a crackdown promised by the right-wing government to tackle Europe's worst refugee crisis in two decades.

### ***Razor-lined boxcar marks Hungary's new border for migrants – 15 September 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20150914-story.html>

Hungary deployed a boxcar bristling with razor wire to close a key border crossing and warned of a new era of swift deportations Monday as governments across Europe debated how to share the burden of housing hundreds of thousands seeking refuge — and whether the continent's hard-won policy of passport-free travel could survive the unrelenting flow of humanity.

### ***Hungary shuts border crossings, triggering standoff with stranded migrants – 15 September 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/world/europe/la-fg-hungary-eu-migrants-20150915-story.html>

As asylum seekers continued to pour into Europe, Hungary choked off entry Tuesday by shutting down key border crossings but immediately found itself locked in a tense standoff with thousands of frustrated migrants — and several neighboring countries.

### ***Refugees seek new routes as Hungary seals border – 15 September 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/15/us-europe-migrants-route-idUSKCN0RF2HD20150915>

As Hungary threw up the barriers to stop thousands of refugees trekking over its border from Serbia and into the European Union, undeterred migrants on the roads simply began to think of other routes to take.

### ***Hungary enforces tough new immigration law – 15 September 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/09/hungary-enforces-tough-immigration-law-150915003743802.html>

Under a new immigration law which has come into effect following the failure of European Union ministers to agree on a common strategy, refugees face deportation and jail terms if they enter Hungary illegally.

### ***Hungary: Fence needed on Serbian border due to migrant push – 16 September 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--hungary-migrants-20150916-story.html>

The razor-wire fence Hungary is building on its border with Serbia is needed to secure the European Union's external border and will remain as long as large numbers of migrants keep trying to enter the country, Hungary's foreign minister said Wednesday.

### ***UN 'shocked' over Hungary action against refugees – 17 September 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/09/shocked-hungary-action-refugees-150917065345277.html>

The UN chief has said he was "shocked" after Hungarian riot police fired tear gas and water cannon at crowds of refugees desperate to cross the border from Serbia.

### ***Hungary seizes refugee train arriving from Croatia – 19 September 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/09/hungary-seizes-refugee-train-arriving-croatia-150919003810139.html>

Hungarian authorities have seized a train bringing refugees into the country from Croatia, disarming 40 police onboard and detaining the driver after more than 4,000 refugees arrived across their border, the head of the Hungarian disaster unit has said.



### ***Hungary posts ads in Lebanon, Jordan media warning migrants – 21 September 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-ml--migrants-lebanon-20150921-story.html>

The Hungarian government posted ads in Lebanese and Jordanian papers on Monday, warning migrants not to enter Hungary illegally, saying it is a crime punishable by imprisonment.

NETHERLANDS

### ***Dutch Arrest Syrians Suspected of Large Scale People Smuggling – 18 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/09/18/world/europe/18reuters-europe-migrants-dutch-smugglers.html>

Dutch prosecutors said on Friday they had arrested two Syrians suspected of operating a large people-smuggling ring that brought hundreds of Syrian refugees into Europe.

NORWAY

### ***Norway Says Asylum Arrivals May Raise Threat From Right-Wing Extremists – 24 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/09/24/world/europe/24reuters-europe-migrants-norway.html>

An increased influx of refugees and asylum seekers to Norway could increase the threat from right-wing extremists, the Norwegian Police Security Service (PST) said on Thursday.

SPAIN

### ***Spanish police arrest organiser of migrant-smuggling ring – 3 September 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/03/europe-migrants-spain-idAFL5N1194DW20150903>

Spanish police have arrested the suspected organiser of a ring smuggling migrants from Western Sahara to the Canary Islands and the captain of a trafficking boat from among a group of migrants recently arrived in the islands.

SWEDEN

### ***Child refugees suffer accidents, beatings, rape on way to Sweden – 7 September 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/07/uk-europe-migrants-sweden-unaccompanied-idUKKCN0R71X420150907>

Around 700 refugee children are arriving every week without their parents in Sweden, many injured in accidents and some bearing the physical and psychological scars of beatings or rape by their smugglers.

### ***Sweden: 14 detained for smuggling migrants across bridge – 8 September 2015***

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/a61b99998f804de3b57420dbed0a2798/sweden-14-detained-smuggling-migrants-across-bridge>

Swedish police say they have detained 14 people accused of smuggling migrants from Denmark in defiance of Europe's asylum rules.

TURKEY

***Image of Drowned Syrian, Aylan Kurdi, 3, Brings Migrant Crisis Into Focus – 3 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/04/world/europe/syria-boy-drowning.html>

The smugglers had promised Abdullah Kurdi a motorboat for the trip from Turkey to Greece, a step on the way to a new life in Canada. Instead, they showed up with a 15-foot rubber raft that flipped in high waves, dumping Mr. Kurdi, his wife and their two small sons into the sea.

***No let-up in migrant crossings from beach where toddler drowned – 4 September 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/04/us-europe-migrants-turkey-bodrum-idUSKCN0R40W720150904>

Days after the world's conscience was shocked by the image of a dead toddler washed up on a Turkish beach, the only thing holding back more Syrian refugees from attempting the same crossing was a media frenzy of journalists crowding the shore.

***Four Syrians formally charged in Turkey over boat deaths: police chief – 4 September 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/04/us-europe-migrants-turkey-charges-idUSKCN0R41XZ20150904>

A Turkish court remanded in custody four Syrians on Friday after a prosecutor charged them over the deaths of at least 12 people, including a 3-year-old boy, whose boat capsized as they tried to reach the Greek island of Kos, a local police chief told Reuters.

***Turkish security forces stop hundreds of migrants near Greek border – 15 September 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/15/europe-migrants-turkey-greece-idUSL5N11L24C20150915>

Turkish security forces stopped hundreds of people, mainly Syrians, from marching towards western Turkey's border with Greece on Tuesday in a bid to reach Europe, potentially opening up a new front in the escalating migrant crisis.

***Boat collision off Turkish coast kills several refugees – 20 September 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/09/boat-collision-turkish-coast-kills-refugees-150920124642141.html>

At least 13 refugees have died after their boat collided with a ferry off the Turkish coast, officials there said, while the Greek coastguard fanned out in the choppy waters of the Aegean Sea searching for another 27 people missing after their boat sank off the island of Lesbos.

***Lifejackets going cheap: people smugglers of Izmir, Turkey, predict drop in business – 25 September 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/24/refugee-crisis-people-smugglers-izmir-turkey-predict-drop-business>

Turkey-based smugglers helping to facilitate Europe's biggest mass migration since the second world war fear that stormier conditions in the eastern Mediterranean will force them to suspend the majority of their operations in the coming weeks, raising the possibility of a significant drop in the flow of refugees to Europe during the winter.

***Money Flows With Refugees, and Life Jackets Fill the Shops – 26 September 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/27/world/middleeast/money-flows-with-refugees-and-life-jackets-fill-the-shops.html>

The vast majority of the nearly half-million migrants and refugees who have entered Europe by sea this year have arrived from Turkey, according to the United Nations. And while Europe struggles to respond

to the influx, there is no sign here that the outflow will wane as long as there is so much money to be made. If anything, the numbers appear to be growing.

UNITED KINGDOM

***Heathrow plane stowaway makes 'significant recovery' – 2 September 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-34127735>

A stowaway has made a "significant recovery" after clinging to the underside of a Heathrow-bound plane from South Africa for 11 hours, according to the Home Office.

***Passengers stranded in dark after Eurostar trains suspended – 2 September 2015***

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/09/02/passengers-stranded-dark-after-eurostar-trains-suspended.html>

Eurostar passengers were left stranded in the dark after "trespassers" entered the tracks on Tuesday, in the latest disruption to the cross-Channel service by suspected migrants trying to reach Britain.

***UK taskforce aims to close 'intelligence gaps' on people-smuggling networks – 10 September 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/09/uk-people-smuggling-taskforce-intelligence-gaps-networks>

The UK's people-smuggling taskforce is confronting a range of "intelligence gaps" as it begins its work to combat the gangs facilitating much of the refugee crisis across Europe.

***Tilbury Docks: Pair accused of people smuggling to face retrial in May – 11 September 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-34220596>

Two men accused of smuggling 35 people into the UK in a container in which one man died will be retried next year.