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## smuggling of migrants – global news

### may 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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#### GENERAL

##### ***The boat people crises in Europe and Asia: a comparison – 20 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-asia-migrants-20150520-story.html>

They may be separated by thousands of miles and vast expanses of sea but those people risking their lives in the Mediterranean and the Andaman Sea in southeast Asia seem to come from the same script.

##### ***Migration: Are more people on the move than ever before? – 28 May 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-32912867>

From the Mediterranean to the Andaman, it's been a season of despair, the faces of migrants haunting television screens and dominating headlines.

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#### AFRICA

##### GENERAL

##### ***Desert as Deadly as Sea for Surge of Europe-Bound Migrants – 15 May 2015***

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2015/05/15/europe-migrants-niger-idINKBN0001UH20150515>

At least as many migrants may be dying of hunger and thirst in the Sahara as are drowning in the Mediterranean during this year's huge surge of human trafficking from Libya to Europe, the International Organization for Migration said on Friday.

##### ALGERIA

##### ***Wary of Disorder in Libya and Mali, Algerian Army Targets Southern Smuggling – 11 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/11/world/africa/11reuters-algeria-security.html>

Fearing armed chaos in neighboring Libya and renewed conflict in Mali, Algeria's army is shifting focus from fighting Islamist militants at home to the Sahel border smuggling that feeds them in the region.

ETHIOPIA

**Official: Ethiopia Detains 200 Suspected Human Smugglers – 18 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/18/world/africa/ap-af-ethiopia-human-traffickers-arrested.html>

Two hundred suspected human smugglers have been detained as part of the Ethiopian government's efforts to stem the number of citizens trying to illegally migrate to Europe, a senior official said.

GAMBIA

**Gambia offers to resettle all Rohingya boatpeople – 21 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/world/more-world-stories/story/gambia-offers-resettle-all-rohingya-boatpeople-20150521>

Gambia said on Wednesday it would take in all Rohingya boatpeople as part of its "sacred duty" to alleviate the suffering of fellow Muslims flooding South-east Asia to escape oppression.

LIBYA

**Migrants and fishermen: stories from the burgeoning Libyan smuggling industry – 1 May 2015**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/stories-from-the-burgeoning-libyan-smuggling-industry/article24210483/>

Southern Tunisia is being shaken by the Mediterranean's migrant crisis. It has the great misfortune of sharing a long border with Libya – a lawless, violent state that has emerged as the main staging ground for the crossings, whose frequency and fatality rates are soaring. On April 19, more than 800 migrants drowned when their vastly overloaded boat toppled well short of the Italian island of Lampedusa, their intended destination. There were only 28 survivors.

**Thousands of migrants saved off Libyan coast in year's biggest rescue – 3 May 2015**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/close-to-5000-migrants-saved-off-libyan-coast-in-years-biggest-rescue/article24234362/>

About 4,800 migrants were plucked from boats off the coast of Libya on the weekend and 10 bodies were recovered, Italy's coast guard and navy said, in what looked to be the biggest rescue operation of its kind so far this year.

**Italy: At least 10 migrants found dead in sea off Libya – 4 May 2015**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--italy-migrants-20150503-story.html>

Italy's Coast Guard and Navy as well as tugs and other commercial vessels joined forces to rescue migrants in at least 16 boats Sunday, saving hundreds of them and recovering 10 bodies off Libya's coast, as smugglers took advantage of calm seas to send packed vessels across the Mediterranean.

**Young African Migrants Caught in Trafficking Machine – 5 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/06/world/africa/migrants-libya.html>

The no-money-down offer was too tempting for the children to resist. Smugglers had offered the boys and girls transportation out of the refugee camps along the Eritrean border, across the African deserts and the Mediterranean Sea, to a new life in Europe. There, they could quickly win asylum and bring along their parents, the smugglers assured them. Payment could come later.

### ***Hundreds of migrants being sent back to Libya – 5 May 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/hundreds-migrants-libya-150505005805229.html>

Hundreds of African migrants en route to Europe have been returned to detention centres in Libya after being rescued overnight on Monday by the Libyan coastguard, 12 hours after setting out across the Mediterranean.

### ***Libya's Coast Guard Detains Almost 600 African Migrants – 6 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/06/world/africa/06reuters-europe-migrants-libya.html>

Libya's coast guard detained on Wednesday almost 600 illegal African migrants, among them pregnant women and 18 children, who had tried to sail to Europe on a fishing boat, a security official said.

### ***Libya Rejects EU Migrant Plan, Says Not Asked – 9 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/09/world/middleeast/ap-un-united-nations-libya-interview.html>

Libya's ambassador to the United Nations is largely rejecting a European Union plan to fight the growing migrant crisis that is centered in his crumbling country, saying his Western-backed government hasn't even been consulted and ruling out EU forces on Libyan soil "at this stage."

### ***Libya's Official Government Bans Bangladeshi Workers From Entry – 16 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/16/world/europe/16reuters-libya-bangladesh.html>

Libya's official government has banned Bangladeshi workers from entering the country because many were trying to travel on illegally by boat to Europe, a government spokesman said on Saturday.

### ***UK to offer drones to help combat people-smugglers in Libya – 18 May 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/18/uk-drones-combat-people-smugglers-libya>

The British government is expected to offer to supply drones and intelligence-gathering equipment and to set up a military headquarters to combat people-smugglers operating in Libya, official sources say.

### ***Libya Sends Special Envoy to Talk With EU About Migrant Plan – 19 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/19/world/middleeast/ap-un-united-nations-migrants-libya.html>

Libya said Tuesday it has sent a special envoy to speak with the European Union about the EU's proposed military operation to destroy the boats of migrant smugglers who increasingly set off for Europe from the chaotic north African country.

### ***Unable to Halt Europe-Bound Migrants, Tripoli Demands Help – 24 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/24/world/africa/24reuters-europe-migrants-libya-insight.html>

Europe cannot halt the deadly traffic of African migrants across the Mediterranean unless it ends a boycott of forces that have seized power in the Libyan capital and helps authorities there cope, the de facto government in Tripoli said.

### ***For migrants in southern Libya, a whole desert to cross – 28 May 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/migrants-southern-libya-desert-cross-150528065949597.html>

In the shadow of Ghat's ancient medina, a small cluster of migrants from West African and Sahel states take refuge under the hilltop fort from the scorching sun. They are searching for work, money, and a ride with people-smugglers across the desert to Libya's north.

NIGER

***Niger Passes Law to Tackle Migrant Smuggling, First in West Africa – 12 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/12/world/africa/12reuters-europe-migrants-niger.html>

Niger has approved a law against the smuggling of migrants in an effort to stem the deadly flow of vulnerable Africans across its vast desert north, many of them headed toward Libya and on to Europe.

***Niger passes law to fight people-smuggling – 12 May 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/12/niger-passes-law-to-fight-people-smuggling>

Niger has approved a law against the smuggling of migrants in an effort to stem the flow of vulnerable Africans across its vast desert, many of them headed towards Libya and on to Europe.

***Niger Passes Law to Stem Human Smuggling – 13 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/13/world/africa/ap-af-niger-anti-smuggling-law.html>

Niger has adopted a law that could see human smugglers facing up to 30 years in prison in an effort to stem the flow of illegal immigrants crossing its borders in hopes of getting to Europe.

***African Migrants Risk All in Sahara to Reach Europe – 28 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/28/world/africa/28reuters-europe-migrants-niger.html>

In a sandy compound in the Niger desert town of Agadez, a white-turbaned imam blesses a circle of African migrants, some of them little more than boys, to protect them on the journey across the Sahara toward Europe.

TUNISIA

***Asylum seekers eye Europe from Tunisia's shores – 2 May 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/04/asylum-seekers-eye-europe-tunisia-shores-150421081340446.html>

Desperate and vulnerable, many attempting the deadly journey from Africa to Europe end up in Tunisia after boats sink.

***Five Tunisian Migrants Die in Shipwreck – 23 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/23/world/africa/23reuters-europe-migrants.html>

At least five Tunisian migrants died on Saturday when their boat sailing to Italy capsized off the Tunisian coast, officials said.

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AMERICAS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

***LAPD officer indicted in alleged bid to smuggle Mexican citizen into U.S. – 6 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-lapd-officer-indicted-smuggling-20150506-story.html>

A Los Angeles police officer and his girlfriend were indicted by a federal grand jury Wednesday for allegedly trying to smuggle a Mexican citizen hidden in the trunk of a car into the United States, officials said.

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## ASIA-PACIFIC

### GENERAL

#### ***Thailand wants meeting with Myanmar, Malaysia over human trafficking crisis – 8 May 2015***

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/over-100-migrants-from-bangladesh-myanmar-found-in-thai-south/article24327022/>

Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha on Friday called for a three-way meeting with neighbors Malaysia and Myanmar to try to resolve a regional human trafficking crisis following the discovery of a mass grave in the country's far south.

#### ***Bay of Bengal people-smuggling doubles in 2015: UNHCR – 8 May 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/08/us-thailand-rohingya-unhcr-idUSKBN0NT11D20150508>

An estimated 25,000 Rohingyas and Bangladeshis boarded people-smugglers' boats in the first three months of this year, twice as many in the same period of 2014, the U.N. refugee agency UNHCR said on Friday.

#### ***1,600 Rohingya, Others Land in Indonesia and Malaysia – 11 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/11/world/asia/ap-as-malaysia-rohingya.html>

About 1,600 Rohingya and Bangladeshi refugees have landed in Malaysia and Indonesia in the past day, apparently after human traffickers abandoned their virtual floating prison ships and left the passengers to fend for themselves, officials said Monday.

#### ***Hundreds of Refugees Arrive in Malaysia and Indonesia After Thai Crackdown – 11 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/11/world/asia/11reuters-indonesia-rohingya.html>

Malaysia has detained more than a thousand Bangladeshi and Rohingya refugees, including dozens of children, police said, a day after authorities rescued hundreds stranded off Indonesia's western tip.

#### ***Up to 6,000 Rohingya, Bangladeshi Migrants Stranded at Sea – 11 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/11/world/asia/ap-as-rohingya-boat-people.html>

Hundreds of migrants abandoned at sea by smugglers in Southeast Asia have reached land and relative safety in the past two days. But an estimated 6,000 Bangladeshi and Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar remain trapped in crowded, wooden boats, migrant officials and activists said. With food and clean water running low, some could be in grave danger.

#### ***Muslims Flee to Malaysia and Indonesia by the Hundreds – 11 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/12/world/asia/more-than-1000-refugees-land-on-malaysian-resort-island.html>

More than 1,000 refugees, including many women and children, came ashore in Malaysia early on Monday in what appears to be a sign of an accelerated exodus from western Myanmar and Bangladesh.

#### ***Thousands of Rohingya migrants rescued from 'prison boats' off Indonesia, Malaysia – 11 May 2015***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/1792871/thousands-rohingya-migrants-rescued-prison-boats-indonesia>

Four boats carrying some 1,400 Rohingya migrants were rescued off the coasts of Indonesia and Malaysia today, a day after nearly 600 others arrived in a wooden vessel off Indonesia's Aceh.

**1,000 refugees arrive in Malaysia and Indonesia after Thai crackdown on human trafficking – 11 May 2015**

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1793856/more-1000-refugees-arrive-malaysia-indonesia-after-thai-crackdown>

Malaysia detained more than a thousand Bangladeshi and Rohingya refugees, including dozens of children, police said, a day after authorities rescued hundreds stranded off the coast of Indonesia's western tip.

**Nearly 2,000 boat people including Rohingya rescued in Malaysia and Indonesia – 11 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/node/3823429>

Nearly 2,000 boat people from Myanmar and Bangladesh have been rescued or swum to shore in Malaysia and Indonesia, authorities said Monday, warning that still more desperate migrants could be in peril at sea.

**Asia's Drifting Boatpeople a Looming Humanitarian Crisis: U.N. – 12 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/12/world/asia/12reuters-asia-migrants.html>

Several thousand migrants, many of them hungry and sick, are adrift in boats in Southeast Asian seas and governments of the region must rescue them quickly to avert a "massive humanitarian crisis", the United Nations said on Tuesday.

**Thailand, Malaysia may set up camps for influx of boatpeople – 12 May 2015**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/12/asia-migrants-idUSKBN0NX0FN20150512>

Thailand and Malaysia may set up camps and detention centres to shelter hundreds of refugees arriving on their shores, officials said on Tuesday, as a leading inter-governmental agency said about 7,000 boatpeople were still adrift in the Bay of Bengal.

**Thousands of Rohingya boat people may die at sea unless governments intervene to save them – 12 May 2015**

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/1794290/thousands-rohingya-boat-people-may-die-sea-unless>

Southeast Asian governments on Tuesday faced international appeals to rescue thousands of migrants believed to be stranded at sea without food and water, with warnings that many may die if action is not taken.

**SE Asia urged to save thousands of migrants feared adrift at sea – 12 May 2015**

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/05/12/se-asia-urged-save-thousands-migrants-feared-adrift-sea.html>

Thousands of migrants believed to be stranded at sea without food and water could die unless Southeast Asian governments act urgently to rescue them, migrant groups and the UN warned Tuesday.

### **1,400 Rohingya rescued off Malaysia, Indonesia – 12 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/asia-report/bangladesh/story/1400-rohingya-rescued-malaysia-indonesia-20150512>

Some 1,400 Rohingya migrants in four boats were rescued off the coasts of Indonesia and Malaysia yesterday, officials said yesterday, a day after nearly 600 others arrived in a wooden vessel off Aceh.

### **Migration organisation IOM calls on S-E Asian govts to rescue thousands stranded at sea – 12 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/intergovernmental-organisation-iom-calls-southeast-asia-rescue-thous>

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) called on Southeast Asian governments on Tuesday to find and rescue thousands of migrants who are believed to be stranded at sea and at risk of death.

### **Regional Governments Silent After U.N. Calls for Asia Boatpeople Rescue – 13 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/13/world/asia/13reuters-asia-migrants.html>

Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia gave no response on Wednesday to a United Nations appeal for them to rescue thousands of migrants, many of them hungry and sick, adrift in boats in Southeast Asian seas.

### **Misery for migrant boats denied safe haven in South-east Asia – 13 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/malaysia-coast-guard-vows-turn-back-migrant-boats-20150513>

Malaysia on Wednesday joined Indonesia in vowing to turn back vessels ferrying a wave of migrants to Southeast Asian shores, deepening the misery facing boatloads of people who advocates say are at risk of starvation and disease.

### **Bangkok summit over refugee crisis – 13 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/asia-report/bangladesh/story/bangkok-summit-over-refugee-crisis-20150513>

Thailand yesterday said it would host a regional summit on May 29 to deal with an "unprecedented" human trafficking crisis.

### **Malaysia turns away 800 boat people; Thailand spots 3rd boat – 14 May 2015**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-as-rohingya-boat-people-20150513-story.html>

Rohingya and Bangladeshis abandoned at sea following a crackdown on human traffickers had nowhere to go Thursday after Malaysia turned away two wooden boats crammed with hundreds of hungry people. Thailand, too, made it clear the migrants were not wanted.

### **Wave of Myanmar and Bangladesh 'boat people' left adrift at sea – 14 May 2015**

<http://www.latimes.com/world/asia/la-fg-myanmar-boat-people-20150514-story.html>

Hundreds of desperate migrants clamored for food and water when they were spotted in a wooden fishing boat left adrift in the Andaman Sea between Malaysia and Thailand.

### ***South-east Asia faces its own migrant crisis as states play 'human ping-pong' – 14 May 2014***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/14/migrant-crisis-south-east-asia-rohingya-malaysia-thailand>

Obscured by the uproar over migrant trafficking in the Mediterranean, the dire plight of tens of thousands of refugees, asylum-seekers and economic migrants fleeing Burma and Bangladesh by sea has passed largely unremarked by western politicians and media.

### ***Malaysia turns back vessels carrying 600 migrants as death stalks weary migrants – 14 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/node/3836299>

Malaysia turned away two vessels carrying hundreds of migrants as critics accused South-east Asian governments of playing a game of “human ping pong” with the lives of desperate boat people.

### ***900 migrants arrive in Indonesia, Thailand as pressure grows for solution – 15 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/asia-report/indonesia/story/nearly-800-migrants-reach-land-indonesia-others-sent-back->

About 900 Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants made it to shore in Indonesia and Thailand on Friday, as Myanmar undermined calls for a coordinated response to South-east Asia’s human-trafficking crisis by threatening to boycott a planned summit.

### ***UN tells South-east Asian countries not to turn away migrants – 15 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/un-tells-south-east-asian-countries-not-turn-away-migrants-20150515>

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday urged South-east Asian countries not to turn back migrants and refugees fleeing on boats, telling them that rescue at sea was an international obligation.

### ***Migrants survive 'floating coffin' and land in Southeast Asia – 16 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-migrants-rohingya-20150516-story.html>

More than 1,000 people fleeing persecution in Myanmar and poverty in Bangladesh landed in several places in Southeast Asia, describing killings, extortion and near-starvation after a harrowing journey at sea.

### ***1,000 survivors of violence, hunger at sea land in SE Asia – 16 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-as-rohingya-boat-people-20150515-story.html>

More than 1,000 people fleeing persecution in Myanmar and poverty in Bangladesh landed in several places in Southeast Asia, describing killings, extortion and near-starvation after a harrowing journey at sea.

### ***Adrift – 16 May 2015***

<http://www.economist.com/news/asia/21651286-thanks-crackdown-thailand-thousands-boat-people-are-left-out-sea-adrift>

For decades people-traffickers have plied a lucrative trade on South-East Asian waters. On May 10th their grim business burst into the open—and on to an Indonesian beach.



### ***Thailand and Malaysia to increase joint border patrols amid migrant crisis – 16 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/asia-report/bangladesh/story/thailand-and-malaysia-increase-joint-border-patrols-amid->

Thailand and Malaysia will increase joint border patrols to deter human traffickers from setting up migrant camps after hundreds of Rohingya migrants were found in the jungle near the border earlier this month, media in the two countries reported on Saturday.

### ***Migrant boat re-enters Malaysian waters after refusing offer to land: Thai officials – 17 May 2015***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/05/15/asia/thailand-malaysia-rohingya-refugees/index.html>

The Royal Thai Navy airdropped food and water to hundreds of desperate Rohingya migrants stranded on a stricken boat off southern Thailand -- then fixed the vessel's engine so it could continue on to Malaysian waters.

### ***Migrants left at sea by crackdown – 17 May 2015***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1800307/migrants-left-sea-crackdown>

As trafficking gangs splinter amid increased police scrutiny, many Rohingya trying to reach Malaysia are finding themselves cut adrift.

### ***Malaysia, Bangladesh foreign ministers to meet to discuss migrant crisis – 17 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/malaysia-bangladesh-foreign-ministers-meet-discuss-migrant-crisis-20>

Malaysia's Foreign Minister will meet his Bangladeshi counterpart Sunday to discuss the crisis involving a surge in stricken boatpeople from Bangladesh and Myanmar flooding to South-east Asia, state media said.

### ***Malaysian foreign minister to meet Indonesia, Thailand counterparts over migrant issue – 17 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/malaysian-foreign-minister-meet-indonesia-thailand-counterparts-over>

Malaysia said on Sunday that its foreign minister would meet his Indonesian and Thai counterparts to discuss the surge in stricken boat people from Bangladesh and Myanmar flooding to South-east Asia.

### ***Ordinary people help migrants as Asia struggles with crisis – 18 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-as--rohingya-boat-people-20150518-story.html>

For hundreds of migrants stranded at sea in sinking boats, the first helping hand came not from governments but from fishermen who towed them to safety. The desperation of migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh has not compelled neighboring countries to take them in, but has inspired compassion — and pleas for help — from ordinary people across Southeast Asia.

### ***Malaysia launches talks amid Asia's growing migrant crisis – 18 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-as--rohingya-boat-people-20150517-story.html>

Malaysia launched high-level talks with its neighbors Sunday to try to solve the deepening problem of refugees stranded in boats off Southeast Asia's shores, but there appeared to be no quick solution to the crisis.

### **Malaysia to hold three-nation talks over migrant crisis – 18 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/malaysia-hold-three-nation-talks-over-migrant-crisis-20150518>

Malaysia will hold talks with Indonesia and Thailand this week as it seeks a solution to the crisis in the three countries' shared maritime border, where thousands of Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar as well as Bangladeshis are languishing in boats out at sea.

### **Lost at sea, unwanted: The plight of Myanmar's Rohingya 'boat people' – 19 May 2015**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/05/19/asia/rohingya-refugee-ships-explainer/index.html>

Meetings between the foreign ministries of Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia are taking place Wednesday in an effort to ward off a looming humanitarian disaster. Thousands of Rohingya migrants remain stranded in the Andaman Sea, while authorities around the region refuse to take them in.

### **Fears grow for 300 Rohingya migrants on boat not heard from for more than 60 hours – 19 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/fears-grow-300-rohingya-migrants-boat-not-heard-more-60-hours-201505>

Fears grew on Tuesday for the welfare of hundreds of Rohingya migrants on a boat bounced between waters off Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia that has not been heard from in more than 60 hours.

### **Indonesia and Malaysia to Help Muslim Migrants Stranded at Sea – 20 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/20/world/asia/ap-as-rohingya-boat-people-agreement.html>

Indonesia and Malaysia agreed Wednesday to provide temporary shelter to thousands of migrants believed to be stranded at sea, a potential breakthrough in the humanitarian crisis confronting Southeast Asia after weeks of reluctance by the region's nations to take responsibility.

### **Malaysia, Indonesia to Let 'Boat People' Come Ashore Temporarily – 20 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/20/world/asia/20reuters-asia-migrants.html>

Malaysia and Indonesia said on Wednesday they would offer shelter to 7,000 "boat people" adrift at sea in rickety boats but made clear their assistance was temporary and they would take no more.

### **Indonesia and Malaysia Agree to Care for Stranded Migrants – 20 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/21/world/asia/indonesia-malaysia-rohingya-bangladeshi-migrants-agreement.html>

Indonesia and Malaysia agreed on Wednesday to take in thousands of migrants stranded at sea until they can be sent home or resettled in a third country, in the first official action by Southeast Asian nations to try to resolve a crisis well into its second week.

### **Indonesia, Malaysia to take in migrants stranded at sea, reversing stance – 20 May 2015**

<http://www.latimes.com/world/asia/la-fg-ff-indonesia-malaysia-migrants-20150520-story.html>

The governments of Indonesia and Malaysia on Wednesday agreed to allow thousands of migrants stranded at sea to temporarily come ashore, taking what the United Nations has called an "important initial step" toward easing a grave humanitarian crisis that has engulfed the region for weeks.

### ***Flight from Myanmar and Bangladesh leaves thousands adrift at sea – 20 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/world/asia/la-fg-ff-indonesia-boat-people-20150520-story.html>

Everybody here has scars. They pull up their sleeves and sarongs to reveal cigarette burns on forearms, deep lacerations across thighs, festering sores on feet and shoulders.

### ***Myanmar offers help for first time to ease migrant crisis as starving boatpeople rescued off Indonesia – 20 May 2015***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/1804469/myanmar-offers-help-first-time-ease-rohingya-migrant-crisis>

Hundreds of starving boatpeople were rescued off Indonesia today as Myanmar for the first time offered to help ease a regional migrant crisis blamed in part on its treatment of the ethnic Rohingya minority.

### ***In Reversal, Myanmar Agrees to Attend Meeting on Migrant Crisis – 21 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/22/world/asia/myanmar-rohingya-migrant-crisis-malaysia-thailand-indonesia.html>

After a flurry of diplomatic activity, the government of Myanmar said on Thursday that it would send representatives to a regional meeting in Bangkok next week aimed at resolving the continuing humanitarian crisis of migrants stranded at sea in Southeast Asia and addressing the larger issue of human trafficking.

### ***The Latest on Rohingya: Australia won't take in migrants – 21 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-as--rohingya-boat-people-the-latest-20150520-story.html>

Prime Minister Tony Abbott has ruled out Australia resettling any Rohingya refugees, warning that asylum seekers who take to boats must not be rewarded with a new life in a Western country.

### ***Rohingya migrant crisis eases, but hard questions remain – 22 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-as--rohingya-what-happens-next-20150521-story.html>

The decision by Indonesia and Malaysia to give temporary shelter to thousands of migrants stranded at sea appears to have defused a potential Southeast Asian humanitarian catastrophe, but the root causes of the crisis remain. Here's a look at still-unanswered questions surrounding the Rohingya Muslim migrants who are persecuted at home in Myanmar and have found scant welcome anywhere else.

### ***Boat by boat, how 3,000 stranded migrants reached land – 23 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-as--rohingya-boat-by-boat-20150523-story.html>

More than 3,000 migrants abandoned by human traffickers have been rescued or washed ashore this month in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. Some are Rohingya Muslims fleeing persecution in Myanmar, while others are Bangladeshis seeking better economic prospects. Many more are feared to still be stranded at sea, abandoned by traffickers amid a regional crackdown.

**Malaysian PM Najib calls for support from Japan, global community over migrant crisis – 25 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/malaysian-pm-najib-calls-support-japan-global-community-over-migrant>

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak on Monday urged Japan and others in the global community to help tackle South-east Asia's migrant crisis, saying it requires "an international solution".

**Over 2,500 Migrants Still Adrift, U.N. Says Ahead of SE Asia Meeting – 27 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/27/world/asia/27reuters-asia-migrants-meeting.html>

More than 2,500 migrants could still be stranded on boats in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea, according to estimates by the United Nations, as Thailand prepares to host a regional meeting it said was focused on "immediate action" to tackle the crisis.

**Human Rights Watch claims Rohingya migrants beaten, forced onto boats – 27 May 2015**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/05/27/asia/hrw-rohingya-forced-onto-migrant-boats/index.html>

Advocacy group Human Rights Watch (HRW) has alleged that some of the thousands of displaced boat people -- many of whom are still stranded at sea -- were forcibly removed from their homes and put on migrant ships.

**U.S. Says Need to Save Lives as Asia Migrant Crisis Talks Begin – 28 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/28/world/asia/28reuters-asia-migrants-us.html>

The United States said on Friday that thousands of vulnerable migrants adrift in Southeast Asian seas needed urgent rescue, as countries gathered in Bangkok to discuss the regional crisis.

**Boat people talks: Key issues and expectations – 28 May 2015**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-as--rohingya-boat-people-talks-20150528-story.html>

In the past month, more than 3,000 desperate, hungry people have landed on the shores of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, drawing international attention to a crisis in Southeast Asia. Arrivals of the overcrowded boats — crammed with Rohingya Muslims fleeing persecution in Myanmar and impoverished Bangladeshis hoping to find jobs — have now slowed. But the crisis is far from over, and will be the topic of a Friday conference in Bangkok to be attended by senior officials from across the Asia-Pacific and beyond.

**Human Rights Watch: Put migrants' rights at center of Asian summit – 28 May 2015**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/05/28/asia/hrw-migrants-rights-priority/index.html>

The rights of those people stranded at sea or in holding camps should be the top priority, Human Rights Watch (HRW) has warned ahead of a regional meeting in Bangkok designed to provide solutions to Southeast Asia's migrant crisis.

**SE Asia Vows to Rescue 'Boat People'; Myanmar Seizes Migrant Vessel – 29 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/29/world/asia/29reuters-asia-migrants.html>

Southeast Asian nations agreed on Friday to intensify search and rescue efforts to help vulnerable "boat people" stranded in the region's seas, as Myanmar said its navy had seized a vessel off its coast with more than 700 migrants aboard.

### ***Southeast Asia refugee crisis has reached 'alarming level,' meeting hears – 29 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/world/asia/la-fg-myanmar-boat-people-20150529-story.html>

The influx of refugees “has reached an alarming level,” Thailand’s Foreign Minister General Tanasak Patimapragorn said Friday as representatives from 17 countries gathered at a Bangkok hotel to discuss a crisis that has engulfed the region for weeks.

### ***South-east Asian countries fail to agree on cause of 'boat people' crisis – 29 May 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/29/south-east-asian-countries-agree-to-intensify-boatpeople-rescue-efforts>

A regional conference called to address the Rohingya migration crisis in south-east Asia ended Friday with no major breakthroughs, as Burma criticised those blaming it for fuelling the crisis and warned that “finger pointing” would not help. Delegates agreed on little more than that discussions would continue.

### ***Myanmar slams 'finger-pointing' after landing in hot seat at boatpeople crisis meeting – 29 May 2015***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/1812203/myanmar-slams-finger-pointing-after-landing-hot-seat>

Myanmar went on the defensive today at regional talks to resolve the boatpeople crisis in Southeast Asia, complaining it was being “singled out” for criticism over its treatment of Rohingya Muslims driven to flee its shores.

### ***Deals unlikely at migrant crisis meet – 29 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/asia-report/thailand/story/deals-unlikely-migrant-crisis-meet-20150529>

International organisations attending a meeting in Bangkok today on the boat people crisis are calling for closer regional coordination as well as more lasting solutions to prevent an exodus in future.

### ***Myanmar, Bangladesh to address 'root causes' of migrant crisis – 29 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/myanmar-bangladesh-address-root-causes-migrant-crisis-20150529>

Myanmar and Bangladesh agreed to address the “root causes” of a migrant exodus from their shores at talks in Bangkok on Friday, but critics pilloried a deal that failed to mention the Rohingya minority at the heart of the crisis.

### ***US says lives must be saved urgently in Asia's migrant crisis – 29 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/us-says-lives-must-be-saved-urgently-asias-migrant-crisis-20150529>

The United States said on Friday that the thousands of migrants adrift in South-east Asian seas needed urgent rescue, as countries gathered in Bangkok to discuss the regional crisis.

### ***World Must Resolve Irregular Migration “Conundrum,” IOM DG Tells SE Asia Conference – 29 May 2015***

<http://www.iom.int/news/world-must-resolve-irregular-migration-conundrum-iom-dg-tells-se-asia-conference>

IOM Director General William Lacy Swing has challenged the global community to “conjugate the conundrum” of effective border management and large-scale migration.

### ***No major breakthrough at meeting on Asian boat people crisis – 30 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-as--rohingya-boat-people-20150529-story.html>

A regional conference called to address the swelling tide of boat people in Southeast Asia ended with no major breakthroughs, with Myanmar deflecting blame for fueling the crisis and warning that "finger pointing" would not help.

### ***Bangkok summit declines to mention Rohingya plight – 30 May 2015***

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/05/30/bangkok-summit-declines-mention-rohingya-plight.html>

Delegations participating in the special meeting on irregular migration in the Indian Ocean in Bangkok, Thailand, have declined to mention the plight of the Rohingya during discussions out of respect for Myanmar, according to an Indonesian delegation.

### ***Desperate Bangladeshi migrant families await calls for ransom – 31 May 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/31/us-asia-migrants-bangladesh-idUSKBN0OG04B20150531>

In Bangladesh's southernmost tip, families cling to scraps of paper with Malaysian and Thai hand phone numbers scribbled on them as their only links to loved ones missing after boarding fishing boats, lured by hopes of a brighter future overseas.

BANGLADESH

### ***Bangladesh Police Arrest People Smugglers, Shoot Four, Amid Crisis – 11 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/11/world/asia/11reuters-bangladesh-rohingya.html>

Bangladeshi police arrested three human traffickers on Monday after killing four in recent days and arresting more than 100 in recent months as the poverty-stricken country cracks down on people smuggling amid an Asia-wide crisis, an officer said.

### ***Bangladesh detains boat with 116 Malaysia-bound migrants – 12 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-asia/story/bangladesh-detains-boat-116-malaysia-bound-migrants-20150512>

A joint patrol team of Bangladesh coast guards and navy detained a trawler in the Bay of Bengal Tuesday after it was cast adrift with 116 Malaysia-bound illegal migrants on board, a coast guard commander said.

### ***Bangladesh to Strengthen Coastguard Amid Asia Migrant Crisis – 19 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/19/world/asia/19reuters-asia-migrants-bangladesh.html>

Bangladesh is to strengthen its coastguard operations in an effort to stop human trafficking and other illegal activities on its shores as a refugee crisis mounts in Asia.

### ***Bangladesh PM slams migrants as 'mentally sick', calls for crackdown on trafficking – 24 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-asia/story/bangladesh-pm-slams-migrants-mentally-sick-calls-crackdown-trafficking-20>

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday slammed the country's economic migrants, many of whom are stranded in dire conditions at sea, calling them "mentally sick" and accusing them of hurting the country's image.

### ***Desperate Bangladeshi Migrant Families Await Calls for Ransom – 31 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/31/world/asia/31reuters-asia-migrants-bangladesh.html>

In Bangladesh's southernmost tip, families cling to scraps of paper with Malaysian and Thai hand phone numbers scribbled on them as their only links to loved ones missing after boarding fishing boats, lured by hopes of a brighter future overseas.

HONG KONG

### ***Police bust gang that allegedly smuggled Bangladeshi workers into Hong Kong – 20 May 2015***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-crime/article/1804068/police-bust-gang-allegedly-smuggled-bangladeshi-workers>

Police arrested 14 people when smashing a syndicate that allegedly smuggled more than 200 Bangladeshis into Hong Kong to work over the past nine months.

INDONESIA

### ***Boats With 600 Rohingya and Bangladeshis Land in Indonesia – 11 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/11/world/asia/ap-as-indonesia-rohingya.html>

Boats carrying nearly 600 Bangladeshis and long-persecuted Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar washed to shore in western Indonesia, some after captains and smugglers abandoned the ships, leaving passengers to fend for themselves, survivors and migrant experts said. Thousands more are believed to be stranded at sea.

### ***Indonesian Navy Assists Migrant Boat, Sends It to Malaysia – 11 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/11/world/asia/11reuters-asia-migrants-indonesia.html>

Indonesia's navy provided food, water and medical supplies to around 500 passengers from Myanmar late on Monday, before sending the migrant boat across the Malacca Strait towards Malaysia, a military spokesman said.

### ***Indonesian navy says it sent a boat of Rohingya to Malaysia – 11 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-rohingya-muslims-indonesia-myanmar-20150511-story.html>

Hundreds of migrants abandoned at sea by smugglers in Southeast Asia have reached land and relative safety in the past two days. But an estimated 6,000 Bangladeshis and Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar remain trapped in crowded, wooden boats, migrant officials and activists said. With food and clean water running low, some could be in grave danger.

### ***Boats with 600 Rohingya and Bangladeshis land in Indonesia – 11 May 2015***

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/05/11/boats-with-600-rohingya-and-bangladeshis-land-indonesia.html>

Boats carrying nearly 600 Bangladeshis and long-persecuted Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar washed to shore in western Indonesia, some after captains and smugglers abandoned the ships, leaving passengers to fend for themselves, survivors and migrant experts said. Thousands more are believed to be stranded at sea.

### ***Indonesia Turns Away a Migrant Ship as the Region Grapples With an Influx – 12 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/13/world/asia/asian-nations-struggle-as-thousands-of-migrants-approach-by-sea.html>

The Indonesian Navy turned back a ship laden with migrants on Tuesday as experts warned that thousands of would-be arrivals from Myanmar and Bangladesh risked being stranded at sea.

### ***Indonesia to 'turn back Rohingya' boats – 12 May 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/150512045951738.html>

Indonesian military has told Al Jazeera that they will send back any boat with Rohingya migrants entering its waters as a vessel carrying hundreds of migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh was turned away towards Malaysia.

### ***Indonesia 'will not turn away refugees' – 15 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/asia-report/bangladesh/story/indonesia-will-not-turn-away-refugees-20150515>

The Indonesian government will not turn away Rohingya refugees from Myanmar and Bangladesh who are being housed in a sports complex in Lhoksukon town in North Aceh regency, said Foreign Ministry officials.

### ***SE Asia migrants 'killed in fight for food' on boat – 17 May 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-32772333>

Migrants rescued from a sinking boat off Indonesia have told the BBC that about 100 people died after a fight broke out over the last remaining food.

### ***More than 370 migrants arrive in Indonesia after being stranded at sea – 19 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/world/asia/la-fg-ff-indonesia-migrants-rescue-20150519-story.html>

More than 370 migrants from Bangladesh and Myanmar landed in Indonesia late Tuesday and early Wednesday after floating for months on overcrowded boats, Indonesian officials said.

### ***Islamic parties' appeal to Jokowi: Let migrants land – 19 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/south-east-asias-boat-people-crisis/story/islamic-parties-appeal-jokowi-let-migrants-l>

Members of Parliament from Indonesia's Islamic parties are exerting pressure on the government to allow boat people from Myanmar and Bangladesh to disembark on Indonesian soil.

### ***After ordeal at sea, toddler dies in Indonesia – 25 May 2015***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/1808318/after-ordeal-sea-toddler-dies-indonesia>

Beneath the swaying banana trees here, there is nothing but a few plants to mark the resting place of three-year-old Shahira Bibi and the horror of the final weeks of her short life, at sea on a migrant boat.

### ***Bangladeshi migrants to be sent home in weeks: Indonesian official – 26 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/asia-report/bangladesh/story/bangladeshi-migrants-be-sent-home-weeks-indonesian-offici>

Indonesia expects Bangladeshi migrants who landed on its shores to be sent home in a matter of weeks once the necessary documentation is done, said an immigration official.



MALAYSIA

**Security strengthened at Malaysia's northern border amid migrant boat arrivals – 12 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-asia/story/security-strengthened-malaysias-northern-border-amid-migrant-boat-arrival>

Security at the northern border of Malaysia has been strengthened to prevent the influx of illegal immigrants who are fleeing Thailand following a crackdown there, said Deputy Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar.

**Malaysia to push back Rohingya unless boats are sinking – 13 May 2015**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-as--rohingya-boat-people-20150512-story.html>

Abandoned at sea, thousands of Bangladeshis and members of Myanmar's long-persecuted Rohingya Muslim-minority appeared Wednesday to have no place to go after two Southeast Asian nations refused to offer refuge to boatloads of hungry men, women and children.

**Another boat found at sea as Rohingya refugee crisis deepens – 13 May 2015**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-rohingya-refugees-20150513-story.html>

Another boat, this one crammed with 500 Rohingya Muslims and Bangladeshis, was found off Malaysia's coast Wednesday, an activist and an official said, as the international community called on Southeast Asian governments to open their borders and step up search-and-rescue efforts. Thousands of migrants are believed to be stranded at sea.

**Another refugee boat located off Penang, Malaysia – 13 May 2015**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-as--rohingya-boat-people-new-boat-20150513-story.html>

A boat crammed with more than 500 refugees, likely Rohingya and Bangladeshis, was found Wednesday off the coast of Penang island in northern Malaysia, a person involved in the situation said.

**Malaysia remains determined to turn desperate Rohingya migrants away from its shores – 13 May 2015**

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/1795072/malaysia-remains-determined-turn-desperate-rohingya>

Malaysia on Wednesday joined Indonesia in vowing to turn back vessels ferrying a wave of migrants to Southeast Asian shores, deepening the misery facing boatloads of people who advocates say are at risk of starvation and disease.

**Malaysian police say two cops among 38 nabbed for human smuggling – 13 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/malaysian-police-say-two-cops-among-38-nabbed-human-smuggling-201505>

Two policemen were among the 38 individuals arrested for human trafficking activities in northern Malaysia and south Thailand.

### **Malaysia turns away 2 boats with more than 800 migrants – 14 May 2015**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-as--rohingya-boat-people-20150514-story.html>

Thousands of Rohingya Muslims and Bangladeshis abandoned at sea had nowhere to turn Thursday as Malaysia turned away two boats crammed with more than 800 migrants, saying it could not afford to keep being nice.

### **Send boatpeople back home, says Malaysia amid growing crisis at sea – 14 May 2015**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/14/asia-migrants-idUJSL3N0Y5HAT20150514>

Malaysia said on Thursday it would push boats full of migrants back to sea, a policy that has drawn criticism from the U.N. refugee agency as thousands remained adrift in Southeast Asian waters.

### **Malaysia to turn away boats with illegal migrants – 14 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/asia-report/malaysia/story/malaysia-turn-away-boats-illegal-migrants-20150514>

Malaysia yesterday joined Indonesia in vowing to turn back vessels carrying illegal migrants, drawing warnings that the hardline policy could be a death sentence for boatloads of people at risk of starvation and disease.

### **Malaysia boosts patrols for more migrant boats coming: Coast guard official – 14 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/malaysia-boosts-patrols-more-migrant-boats-coming-coast-guard-offici>

More vessels bearing hungry migrants are headed towards Malaysia, which has beefed up sea and air patrols off its north-eastern coast to prevent them landing, a top coast guard official said on Thursday

### **We will send Rohingya back, says Malaysia, amid calls to rescue migrants – 15 May 2015**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/05/14/asia/malaysia-indonesia-rohingya-migrants/index.html>

A top Malaysian official says the surge of migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh seeking asylum in his country and neighboring Indonesia in recent days is unwelcome -- and his government will turn back any illegal arrivals.

### **Refugee issue: KL urges end to Myanmar 'oppression' – 15 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/asia-report/bangladesh/story/refugee-issue-kl-urges-end-myanmar-oppression-20150515>

MALAYSIA has turned away two boats with up to 800 Rohingya Muslims, insisting that Myanmar must end its oppression of this minority group.

### **'We won't turn back, we want to go to Malaysia': Refugees – 19 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/south-east-asias-boat-people-crisis/story/we-wont-turn-back-we-want-go-malaysia-refuge>

Malaysia seems to be the destination of choice for many illegal immigrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh arriving on rickety boats. The Straits Times speaks to some refugees rescued on the high seas over the past few days who are now in Aceh in north Sumatra, as well as others who arrived much earlier and are now in Malaysia.

### **Malaysian police find 139 suspected migrant graves – 25 May 2015**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-32872815>

Malaysian police say 139 suspected migrant grave sites have been found in 28 people-trafficking camps along the Thai border.

### **Malaysia to start search and rescue missions for migrants at sea – 21 May 2015**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/05/21/asia/malaysia-migrants-rescue/index.html>

Malaysia's Prime Minister has ordered the country's maritime agencies to start search and rescue missions for migrants on boats out at sea.

### **Malaysian PM Najib orders search and rescue operation for migrants adrift at sea – 21 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/malaysian-pm-najib-orders-search-and-rescue-operation-migrants-adrif>

Prime Minister Najib Razak said on Thursday that he had ordered the Malaysian navy and coastguard to conduct search and rescue operations for boats carrying stricken migrants including ethnic Rohingya from Myanmar.

### **Malaysia finds graves of suspected trafficking victims – 24 May 2015**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-as--rohingya-boat-people-20150524-story.html>

Malaysian authorities said Sunday that they have discovered a series of graves in at least 17 abandoned camps used by human traffickers on the border with Thailand where Rohingya Muslims fleeing Myanmar have been held.

### **Migrant crisis: Malaysia announces mass grave discovery – 24 May 2015**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-32863995>

The Malaysian authorities say they have discovered mass graves near a series of abandoned people smuggling camps along the border with Thailand.

### **'Migrant' mass graves discovered in Malaysia – 24 May 2015**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-32867660>

The Malaysian authorities say they are investigating what are believed to be mass graves near a series of abandoned people-smuggling camps along the border with Thailand.

### **Mass graves of suspected trafficking victims found in Malaysia – 24 May 2015**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/24/mass-graves-trafficking-malaysia-perlis>

Multiple mass graves and suspected human trafficking camps have been discovered along Malaysia's border with Thailand, authorities have said.

### **Malaysia Finds 139 Graves in 'Cruel' Jungle Trafficking Camps – 25 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/25/world/asia/25reuters-asia-migrants.html>

Malaysia has found 139 graves, and signs of torture, in more than two dozen squalid human trafficking camps suspected to have been used by gangs smuggling migrants across the border with Thailand, the country's police chief said on Monday.

### **Malaysia: Human Traffickers' Camps Had 139 Suspected Graves – 25 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/25/world/asia/ap-as-rohingya-boat-people.html>

Malaysian authorities say a cluster of abandoned jungle camps used by human traffickers contained 139 suspected graves as well as barbed-wire pens likely used to cage migrants, shedding more light on a regional trade that preyed on some of Southeast Asia's most desperate people.

### **Malaysian Police Suspect That Mass Graves Are Those of Migrants – 25 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/26/world/asia/malaysia-mass-graves-suspected-of-being-rohingya-and-bangladeshi-migrants.html>

The police in Malaysia said on Monday that they had found mass graves on the country's border with Thailand that may hold the remains of migrants who died in camps run by smugglers.

### **Malaysians believe they've found 139 graves at suspected trafficking camps – 25 May 2015**

<http://www.latimes.com/world/asia/la-fg-ff-malaysia-migrants-graves-20150525-story.html>

Malaysian authorities have discovered 139 suspected graves in the country's northern jungles at what they believe were camps used for trafficking humans, police announced Monday.

### **Dozens of graves, trafficking camps found in Malaysia – 25 May 2015**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/05/25/asia/bangladesh-pm-punish-migrants/index.html>

Malaysian authorities have uncovered 139 graves of victims caught up in the human trafficking trade in forests close to the Thai border, the country's national police chief said Monday.

### **Malaysia migrant mass graves: police reveal 139 sites, some with multiple corpses – 25 May 2015**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/25/malaysia-migrant-mass-graves-police-reveal-139-sites-some-with-multiple-corpses>

Malaysian police say they have uncovered 28 suspected human trafficking camps located about 500 metres from the country's northern border, a day after authorities reported the discovery of multiple mass graves.

### **Malaysia PM Najib Razak 'deeply concerned' by mass graves – 25 May 2015**

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/1808430/malaysia-pm-deeply-concerned-mass-graves>

Prime Minister Najib Razak said on Monday he was "deeply concerned" by the first discovery of mass graves of suspected illegal migrants in northern Malaysia and vowed to find those responsible.

### **Malaysia will find those responsible for alleged migrant graves: PM Najib – 25 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/malaysia-will-find-those-responsible-alleged-migrant-graves-najib-20>

Prime Minister Najib Razak said on Monday that Malaysia will find those responsible for the mass graves purportedly linked to human smuggling.

### **139 grave sites and 28 trafficking camps found in northern Malaysia: Police – 25 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/asia-report/indonesia/story/139-grave-sites-and-28-trafficking-camps-found-northern-ma>

Malaysian police said on Monday that they had found 139 grave sites and 28 abandoned “detention” camps capable of housing hundreds of people, laying bare the grim extent of the region’s migrant crisis.

### **Malaysian Police Reveal Grim Secrets of Jungle Trafficking Camps – 26 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/26/world/asia/26reuters-asia-migrants.html>

Malaysian police forensic teams, digging with hoes and shovels, on Tuesday began pulling out bodies from shallow graves found in abandoned jungle camps where an inter-governmental body said hundreds of victims of human traffickers may be buried.

### **In Malaysian Trafficking Camp, Evidence of Abuse and Fear – 26 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/26/world/asia/26reuters-asia-migrants-camps.html>

It's a one-hour trek through thick jungle from the nearest road to the ramshackle camp along Malaysia's northern border, but for all its remoteness this was a perfect setting for human traffickers to ply their grisly trade.

### **Jungle Camp in Malaysia Yields Graves and Signs of Migrant Abuse – 26 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/27/world/asia/jungle-camp-in-malaysia-yields-graves-and-signs-of-migrant-abuse.html>

Among the debris of wood, bamboo and plastic tarpaulin at an abandoned camp in the dense jungle here lies a coffin-size cage made from sticks tied together with rusted barbed wire. Next to it, an enclosure that could have held scores of people also bristles with barbed wire. And over a ridge, the police have started unearthing bodies from shallow graves.

### **Malaysia: Human traffickers' camps had 139 suspected graves – 26 May 2015**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-as--rohingya-boat-people-20150525-story.html>

Malaysian authorities say a cluster of abandoned jungle camps used by human traffickers contained 139 suspected graves as well as barbed-wire pens likely used to cage migrants, shedding more light on a regional trade that preyed on some of Southeast Asia's most desperate people.

### **Malaysian forensics teams dig up graves at traffickers' camp – 26 May 2015**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-as--rohingya-boat-people-20150526-story.html>

Malaysian forensics teams exhumed a body from a shallow grave Tuesday at an abandoned jungle camp used by human traffickers, the first of what police predicted would be more grim findings as they search through a cluster of illicit hideouts near the border with Thailand.

### **'Skin and bone': Exhumed bodies confirmed to be migrants – 26 May 2015**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/05/26/asia/malaysia-bodies-confirmed-migrants/index.html>

Malaysian authorities have confirmed that the 139 graves and 28 abandoned camps discovered close to the Thai border are related to human trafficking.

### ***Rohingya Survivors Speak of Their Ordeals as 139 Suspected Graves Are Found in Malaysia – 26 May 2015***

<http://time.com/3895816/malaysia-human-trafficking-graves-rohingya/>

Less than a kilometer from Malaysia's border with Thailand, the trappings of death are littered across the jungle: a stretcher made of branches to carry bodies, reams of white cloth used to wrap the deceased in Muslim tradition and, most menacing of all, empty boxes for 9-mm bullets.

### ***Cages, watchtower and 37 graves: inside an abandoned migrant camp in Malaysia – 26 May 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/26/inside-abandoned-migrant-camp-malaysia>

Deep in the jungles of northern Malaysia, a forensic team wearing masks chipped away at the brown soil before spotting an object wrapped in white cotton shrouds normally used in Muslim burial rites.

### ***Malaysia mass graves: villagers tell of migrants emerging from secret jungle camps – 26 May 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/26/malaysia-mass-graves-villagers-tell-of-desperate-migrants-emerging-from-jungle-camps>

The residents of Wang Kelian sensed something was amiss when a number of people stumbled on to their streets, weak and injured, and began to beg for food and water.

### ***Detention camps and migrant graves reveal grim reality in Malaysia – 26 May 2015***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/1808897/detention-camps-and-migrant-graves-reveal-grim-reality>

Malaysian police said yesterday they had found 139 grave sites containing suspected remains of Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants, as well as 28 abandoned "detention" camps capable of housing hundreds, laying bare the grim extent of the region's migrant crisis.

### ***Malaysia clears grave sites – 26 May 2015***

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/05/26/malaysia-clears-grave-sites-thais-seek-stranded-migrant-boats.html>

Malaysian police Tuesday began the grisly task of clearing dozens of grave sites in suspected people-smuggling camps Tuesday, as Thai aircraft searched for thousands of migrants still believed stranded in the Andaman Sea.

### ***Malaysia detains 12 police in people-smuggling camps probe – 27 May 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/27/us-asia-migrants-bodies-idUSKBN0OC1E520150527>

Twelve Malaysian police officials have been held on suspicion of links to people-smuggling camps where authorities have uncovered nearly 140 graves believed to hold the bodies of migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh, a government minister said on Wednesday.

### ***Only one body per grave found at human trafficking camps, Malaysia says – 28 May 2015***

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/only-one-body-per-grave-found-at-trafficking-camps-malaysia-says/article24658711/>

The 139 graves uncovered near people-smuggling camps in northern Malaysia appear to hold only one body each, Malaysia's deputy home minister said on Thursday, after earlier suspicions that they could contain multiple corpses of trafficked migrants

### **Malaysia: 139 bodies found in suspected migrant graves – 28 May 2015**

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/malaysia-139-bodies-suspected-migrant-graves-150528051420412.html>

Malaysia has said it believes 139 people are buried in graves at remote detention camps used by people smugglers on the Thai border which were discovered on the weekend.

### **Malaysia removes bodies from jungle on eve of people-smuggling talks – 28 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/malaysia-removes-bodies-jungle-eve-people-smuggling-talks-20150528>

Malaysian police Thursday removed the remains of nine people from jungle camps near the Thai border where an estimated 139 bodies are believed to have been buried in a still unfolding people-smuggling crisis in Southeast Asia.

### **Malaysian villagers recall encounters with Rohingya migrants, human traffickers – 28 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/malaysian-villagers-recall-encounters-rohingya-migrants-human-traffic>

Villagers in Malaysia's Kampung Wang Kelian have been bumping into Rohingya migrants and members of the people smuggling syndicate in recent years.

### **Malaysia says two cops, not 12, probed in connection with mass graves – 28 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/asia-report/bangladesh/story/malaysia-says-two-cops-not-12-probed-connection-mass-grav>

Malaysia's Deputy Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar on Thursday clarified that not all the 12 people he had said were detained had links to people-smuggling camps.

### **Malaysians Near Border Say Illegal Migrants Seen in Area for Years – 29 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/29/world/asia/29reuters-asia-migrants-border.html>

Hassan Ismail wasn't surprised when authorities found abandoned jungle camps near his village in northern Malaysia last week where 139 suspected human trafficking victims could be buried.

MYANMAR

### **Nowhere to Go as Asian Boatpeople Are Turned Away Amid Growing Crisis at Sea – 14 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/14/world/asia/14reuters-asia-migrants.html>

Thousands of migrants adrift in Southeast Asian seas have nowhere to go after Thailand declined permission for a boat to land on Thursday and Malaysia said it would push boatpeople back out to sea.

### **Rohingya Migrants From Myanmar, Shunned by Malaysia, Are Spotted Adrift in Andaman Sea – 14 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/15/world/asia/burmese-rohingya-bangladeshi-migrants-andaman-sea.html>

A wooden fishing boat carrying several hundred desperate migrants from Myanmar was spotted adrift in the Andaman Sea between Thailand and Malaysia on Thursday, part of an exodus in which thousands of people have taken to the sea in recent weeks with no country willing to take them in.

### ***Asia's New Boat People: Beaten, Abandoned and Pushed Back to Sea – 15 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/15/world/asia/15reuters-asia-migrants-journey.html>

Initially, it was a relief for the hundreds of migrants packed into a rickety fishing vessel when, in the dead of night, their captain and his crew took off in a speedboat and abandoned them in the sea between South and Southeast Asia.

### ***Myanmar Says It's Not to Blame for Migrant Crisis – 16 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/16/world/asia/ap-as-rohingya-boat-people.html>

Myanmar refused to shoulder the blame for an escalating crisis involving thousands of persecuted Rohingya Muslims stranded at sea, and doubts whether it will attend a regional meeting in Thailand later this month to find an urgent solution on how to deal with the boats of refugees.

### ***Myanmar denies responsibility for migrant boat crisis – 16 May 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-32766748>

Myanmar's government has said it is not responsible for the migrant boat crisis in south-east Asia, and may not attend an emergency summit on the issue.

### ***Myanmar deflects blame for Rohingya migrant crisis – 17 May 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/myanmar-deflects-blame-rohingya-migrant-crisis-150516223643074.html>

Myanmar refused to shoulder blame for an escalating migrant crisis and cast doubts on whether it will attend a summit in Thailand later this month aimed at easing an emergency that has left thousands of refugees stranded at sea.

### ***Muslim boat people deserve 'human rights': Myanmar opposition – 18 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/muslim-boatpeople-deserve-human-rights-myanmar-opposition-20150518>

Muslim boatpeople fleeing dire conditions in Myanmar are entitled to "human rights", a spokesman for Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition urged Monday, in strikingly bold comments on the group who are deeply marginalised in the Buddhist-majority nation.

### ***Myanmar acknowledges concerns over migrant exodus – 18 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/node/3851605>

Myanmar Monday acknowledged international "concerns" about waves of boatpeople, many of whom are fleeing from persecution, but denied it is solely to blame as thousands languish in dire straits at sea.

### ***Brokers tricking Rohingya children onto trafficking boats – 19 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-as--myanmar-trafficking-rohingya-20150518-story.html>

The boy was shoved onto the wooden vessel with hundreds of other Rohingya Muslims. For days, the 14-year-old sat with his knees bent into his chest, pressed up against sweaty bodies in the cabin's rancid heat.



### ***Violence, hunger imperil 2,000 trapped in boats off Myanmar: UN – 19 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/violence-hunger-imperil-2000-trapped-boats-myanmar-un-20150519>

At least 2,000 desperate migrants, including women and children, are at risk of violence and food shortages after more than 40 days trapped on boats off Myanmar, the UN refugee agency said on Tuesday.

### ***Beaten and Starving, Some Rohingya Flee Boats, Return to Camps – 20 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/20/world/asia/20reuters-asia-migrants-rohingya.html>

Scores of Myanmar's minority Rohingya Muslims are paying off people smugglers and returning to the squalid camps they used to live in after being held for months on overcrowded ships that were to take them to Thailand but did not move far from shore.

### ***U.S. Condemns Burma's Treatment of Rohingya as Migrant Crisis Intensifies – 20 May 2015***

<http://time.com/3890323/burma-u-s-migrants-human-trafficking-southeast-asia/>

Washington called on the nations of Southeast Asia to marshal their forces to help thousands of Burmese and Bangladeshi migrants who have been marooned on the high seas for weeks.

### ***The Latest on Rohingya: UN Estimates 3,000 Still Adrift – 21 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/21/us/ap-as-rohingya-boat-people-the-latest.html>

The U.N. refugee agency is estimating that over 3,000 Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants — or even more — could still be adrift in the Andaman Sea.

### ***Myanmar offers aid to migrants stranded at sea – 22 May 2015***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/05/22/asia/asian-boat-migrants-rescue/index.html>

Myanmar, which has previously disavowed responsibility for Rohingya migrants stranded at sea, has said it will provide search and rescue for "boat people" in its territorial waters as well as humanitarian assistance.

### ***Myanmar's Rakhine state denies persecution at root of migrant crisis – 22 May 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/22/asia-migrants-idUSL3N0YDHAD20150522>

The head of the Myanmar state from which thousands of Rohingya Muslims are fleeing denied that persecution had prompted the exodus after the United States called on the country to deal with its root causes.

### ***Myanmar navy announces rescue of stranded Rohingya – 22 May 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/myanmar-navy-announces-rescue-stranded-rohingya-150522125303725.html>

Myanmar has carried out its first rescue of Rohingya refugees stranded at sea, saving about 200 people, the country's navy said.

### **Myanmar to deport migrants as UN chief urges further rescues – 23 May 2015**

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/05/23/myanmar-deport-migrants-un-chief-urges-further-rescues.html>

A group of migrants recently rescued by Myanmar will be deported to Bangladesh, officials confirmed Saturday, as the United Nations chief called on regional nations to prioritize saving the lives of those still stranded at sea.

### **Rohingya Muslims Found on Boat Rescued by Myanmar Navy – 24 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/24/world/asia/24reuters-asia-migrants-rohingya.html>

At least eight Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar were among some 200 migrants rescued from a trafficking boat by the Myanmar navy on Thursday, according to interviews conducted by Reuters, contradicting official accounts that all onboard were from Bangladesh.

### **Pope urges help for migrants stranded in Bay of Bengal – 24 May 2015**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/24/asia-migrants-pope-idUSL5N0YF09S20150524>

Pope Francis called on the international community on Sunday to help migrants crossing the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea, thousands of whom have been stranded on boats with dwindling supplies.

### **Rohingya Muslims found on boat rescued by Myanmar navy – 24 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/rohingya-muslims-found-boat-rescued-myanmar-navy-20150524>

At least eight Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar were among some 200 migrants rescued from a trafficking boat by the Myanmar navy on Thursday, according to interviews conducted by Reuters, contradicting official accounts that all onboard were from Bangladesh.

### **Myanmar, Bangladesh in Pact for Return of 200 Rescued From Boat: Paper – 26 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/26/world/asia/26reuters-asia-migrants-bangladesh.html>

Myanmar said on Tuesday it had reached an agreement with neighboring Bangladesh to repatriate 200 Bangladeshis rescued from a boat off the Myanmar coast last week.

### **Thousands of migrants 'lost at sea' off Southeast Asia – 27 May 2015**

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/migrants-rohingya-bangladeshis-150527055925513.html>

Thousands of Rohingya migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh are still lost at sea and waiting to be rescued in the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea, the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM) have said.

### **Dalai Lama tells Suu Kyi to do more to protect Rohingya – 28 May 2015**

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/dalai-lama-aung-san-suu-kyi-rohingya-muslim-myanmar-migrant-150528110114964.html>

The Dalai Lama has urged fellow Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, a main opposition leader in Myanmar, to do more to help protect the persecuted Muslim Rohingya minority in her country amid a worsening migration crisis.

### **UN: Myanmar must address root causes of migrant crisis – 29 May 2015**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/05/29/asia/thailand-regional-migrant-meeting/index.html>

Myanmar must address the root causes of why people are leaving its shores, a top United Nations official said Friday at a summit to find a solution to a crisis that has seen thousands of migrants and refugees stranded at sea in Southeast Asia.

### **UN and Myanmar spar over Rohingya at migrant talks – 29 May 2015**

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/thailand-hosts-talks-regional-migrant-crisis-150529032927779.html>

The UN refugee agency and Myanmar have sparred over the plight of the Rohingya ethnic minority at a meeting aimed at tackling the Southeast Asian migrant crisis in Bangkok.

### **Myanmar rejects being singled out by UN over migrant crisis at regional talks – 29 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/myanmar-rejects-being-singled-out-un-over-migrant-crisis-regional-ta>

Myanmar's delegate to talks in Bangkok on Southeast Asia's migrant crisis on Friday rebuked the UN's refugee agency for calling on the country to recognise the Muslim Rohingya minority as citizens to stem their exodus from its shores.

## NEW ZEALAND

### **New Zealand may receive Rohingya migrants under UNHCR, says PM – 28 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/asia-report/bangladesh/story/new-zealand-may-receive-rohingya-migrants-under-unhcr-say>

New Zealand may receive some of the migrants stranded on boats in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea, said Prime Minister John Key today ahead of a regional meeting tomorrow on the human-trafficking crisis.

## SINGAPORE

### **Singapore can't accept refugees: MHA – 19 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/south-east-asias-boat-people-crisis/story/singapore-cant-accept-refugees-mfa-20150519>

As Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand plan for talks on the Rohingya migrant crisis, Singapore said it is unable to accept any refugees or those seeking political asylum.

## THAILAND

### **Thai Police Find Graves of Suspected Trafficking Victims – 1 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/01/world/asia/ap-as-thailand-bodies-discovered.html>

Police have found dozens of shallow graves, a corpse and an ailing survivor at an abandoned jungle camp in an area of southern Thailand that is regularly used to smuggle Rohingya Muslims, as well as Bangladeshis and other migrants, to third countries.

### **Thirty Graves Found at Suspected Thai Trafficking Camp: Police – 1 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/01/world/asia/01reuters-thailand-myanmar-rohingya.html>

Thai police on Friday found at least 30 graves believed to belong to migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh at what authorities say is an abandoned trafficking camp in remote jungle in Thailand's south, police said.

### ***Thai police find 30 graves of 'trafficking victims' – 1 May 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/thai-police-find-30-graves-trafficking-victims-150501181305852.html>

Thai police have found at least 30 shallow graves believed to contain the bodies of migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh at what authorities say is an abandoned trafficking camp in remote jungle in Thailand's south, police have said.

### ***Mass grave of 'boat people' found in south Thailand: rescue worker – 1 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/mass-grave-boat-people-found-south-thailand-rescue-worker-20150501>

Around 30 graves believed to belong to migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh were discovered Friday in southern Thailand, a rescue worker said, in an area criss-crossed with trafficking routes.

### ***Thai Police Dig Up 26 Bodies at Suspected Trafficking Camp – 2 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/02/world/asia/ap-as-thailand-bodies-discovered.html>

Thai police trekked into the mountains and dug up 26 bodies from dozens of shallow graves at an abandoned jungle camp that's been linked to human trafficking networks, which activists say are "out of control" in the Southeast Asian country.

### ***Bodies From Thai Mass Grave Show No Initial Signs of Violent Death: Police – 3 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/03/world/asia/03reuters-thailand-myanmar-rohingya.html>

Twenty-six bodies exhumed at a mass grave in southern Thailand near a camp with suspected links to human trafficking bear no signs of violent death, police said on Sunday, following initial forensic examinations at the site.

### ***Thai Police Arrest Rohingya Man Suspected of Running Deadly Jungle Camp – 4 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/04/world/asia/04reuters-thailand-rohingya-trafficking-insight.html>

Thai police have arrested a man they believe is the key figure behind a brutal human trafficking network that ran a jungle camp where dozens of bodies have been found.

### ***Thailand Arrests 4, Vows Crackdown on Human Traffickers – 4 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/04/world/asia/ap-as-thailand-bodies-discovered.html>

Italian rescue ships brought migrants by the thousands to the country's southern ports, including a baby born aboard a navy vessel, as crowded shelters in Sicily and on the mainland struggled Monday to find room for them.

### ***U.S. Calls for Speedy Inquiry Into Thai Mass Grave – 4 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/04/world/asia/04reuters-thailand-rohingya-trafficking-usa.html>

The United States, which has censured Thailand for failing to act against human trafficking, called on Monday for a speedy and credible inquiry into the discovery of a mass grave containing more than two dozen bodies thought to be of ethnic migrants.

### ***Thailand to Open Inquiry Into Human Trafficking Network – 4 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/05/world/asia/thailand-to-open-inquiry-into-human-trafficking-network.html>

The Thai authorities said Monday that they were investigating the complicity of local officials and police officers in a human trafficking network along the border with Malaysia where a mass grave has been unearthed.

### ***Thai Police Find New Trafficker Camps; Crackdown Intensifies – 5 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/05/world/asia/ap-as-thailand-human-trafficking.html>

Police found two more camps Tuesday believed to have held human trafficking victims in southern Thailand — one recently abandoned and the other containing a buried skeleton — days after the grim discovery of 26 bodies at a separate location exposed a thriving human smuggling network in the country.

### ***Second Suspected Human Trafficking Camp Found in Thai South – 5 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/05/world/asia/05reuters-thailand-rohingya-trafficking.html>

A second suspected human trafficking camp has been discovered in southern Thailand, police said on Tuesday, following a search of a mountainside where 26 bodies were found in shallow graves at the weekend.

### ***Thailand graves: Two skeletons found at camps in Phang Nga – 5 May 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-32586865>

Thai officials say they have found two skeletons possibly linked to people smuggling, days after the discovery of 26 bodies in a mass grave.

### ***Second mass grave near ‘migrant prison camp’ uncovered in Thai jungle – 5 May 2015***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/1786588/second-mass-grave-near-migrant-prison-camp-uncovered>

Investigators in southern Thailand have discovered five graves at a second remote jungle camp believed to contain the remains of migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh, police said today.

### ***Thai army finds six more bodies near suspected human trafficking camp – 6 May 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/06/us-thailand-rohingya-trafficking-idUSKBN0NR0OZ20150506>

Authorities in Thailand have dug up the bodies of six apparent Rohingya migrants from Myanmar not far from a mass grave found at the weekend, the military said on Wednesday, and U.N. officials called for a regional effort to end human trafficking.

### ***Skeletons discovered in abandoned Thailand camps – 6 May 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-32602659>

Authorities in Thailand say they have found two skeletons, with possible links to people smuggling.

**Malaysians likely behind Thailand's Songkhla human trafficking camp, says NGO – 6 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/malaysians-likely-behind-thailands-songkhla-human-trafficking-camp-s>

There is a high possibility that Malaysians are involved in border human trafficking related to the mass grave that was uncovered last week in Songkhla, Thailand, says Malaysian non-government organisation Tenaganita, or Women's Force.

**Thai police members punished over human trafficking links – 7 May 2015**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/thai-police-members-punished-over-human-trafficking-links/article24301971/>

More than 50 Thai police officers have been punished over suspected links to human trafficking networks, the country's police chief said on Thursday, after the prime minister ordered a probe into the discovery of trafficking camps near the Malaysian border.

**Thai trafficking crackdown targets corrupt police, officials – 8 May 2015**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-as--thailand-human-trafficking-20150508-story.html>

Thailand's police chief announced the arrest of a powerful provincial mayor on Friday and said 50 police officers are being investigated in a widening human trafficking scandal spanning four Asian countries.

**Thai mayor Banjong Pongphon held over people smuggling – 8 May 2015**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-32651410>

A prominent Thai mayor has been arrested over a human trafficking scandal exposed by the discovery of mass graves in southern Thailand.

**Thailand Questions 117 Migrants as It Races to Meet Crackdown Deadline – 9 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/09/world/asia/09reuters-thailand-rohingya-trafficking.html>

Thai authorities on Saturday questioned more than 100 migrants discovered in the country's south to determine whether they were victims of human trafficking, as Thailand races to meet a deadline to uncover people smuggling camps within its borders.

**Thai police detain almost 200 migrants in trafficking crackdown – 9 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/asia-report/bangladesh/story/thai-police-detain-almost-200-migrants-trafficking-crackd>

Nearly 200 migrants have been detained in a single southern Thai province ever since a network of jungle prison camps run by people smugglers was uncovered there, police said Saturday.

**Thailand cracks down on human smugglers – 10 May 2015**

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2015/05/150510083030385.html>

Thailand's government has stepped up its efforts to stop human trafficking on its southern border.

### ***Grim fate for migrants in Thai jungles – 11 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/asia-report/bangladesh/story/grim-fate-migrants-thai-jungles-20150511>

An estimated 25,000 Rohingya and Bangladeshis boarded human smugglers' boats in the first three months of this year, twice as many as in the same period last year, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees last Friday. Many die either at sea or at the hands of the smugglers. Early this month, the Thai authorities uncovered dozens of bodies in shallow graves in suspected detention camps in southern Thailand for such migrants. We take a closer look at the main protagonists in this tragedy.

### ***Thailand downplays probe into police links to human trafficking – 11 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/asia-report/bangladesh/story/thailand-downplays-probe-police-links-human-trafficking-2>

Thai police have downplayed a probe into more than 50 officers transferred over suspected links to human trafficking networks, saying the transfers were "standard operating procedure" and that most of the officers were suspected only of negligence.

### ***Police expand hunt for alleged kingpin of a Thai people-smuggling network – 13 May 2015***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/1795068/police-expand-hunt-alleged-kingpin-thai-people-smuggling>

A manhunt intensified on Wednesday for the alleged kingpin of a Thai people smuggling network, police said, as detectives probe whether a private island near the Malaysia sea border was a key link in a trafficking chain spanning several countries.

### ***Alleged Thai kingpin of migrant trafficking network is influential ex-provincial official: Report – 14 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/alleged-thai-kingpin-migrant-trafficking-network-influential-ex-prov>

Thai police have stepped up a manhunt for the alleged kingpin of a Thai people smuggling network, as detectives probe whether a private island near the Malaysia sea border was a key link in a trafficking chain spanning several countries.

### ***Rohingya Migrants Will Steal Jobs, Says Thai PM – 15 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/15/world/asia/15reuters-asia-migrants-thailand.html>

Thailand's prime minister warned on Friday that if more Rohingya migrants head to the country's shores they might steal jobs from Thais.

### ***Thailand may set up camps for Rohingya migrants – 15 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/asia-report/bangladesh/story/thailand-may-set-camps-rohingya-migrants-20150515>

Thailand may set up temporary camps for boat people, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha told journalists yesterday, even as a decrepit boat with some 300 desperate Rohingya aboard was found drifting off Koh Lipe island, west of Satun province.

### ***Thailand Arrests Suspected Trafficker, Ministers to Meet on Boat Crisis – 18 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/18/world/asia/18reuters-asia-migrants.html>

Thailand arrested the suspected kingpin of a human trafficking network on Monday, the latest bust in a crackdown on people smuggling that has triggered a humanitarian crisis on the region's seas.

### ***Thai people smuggling 'kingpin' hands himself in: Police – 18 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/thai-people-smuggling-kingpin-hands-himself-police-20150518>

A former Thai regional official accused of being a major people trafficking kingpin turned himself in on Monday, police said, as the kingdom continues a belated blitz against the lucrative trade.

### ***Thailand worried by blast of anti-migrant vitriol on social media – 18 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/asia-report/bangladesh/story/thailand-worried-blast-anti-migrant-vitriol-social-media->

Thailand expressed concern on Monday at a wave of anti-migrant vitriol on social media, which the government said underlined why it cannot accept any more of the asylum seekers who have been arriving by boat on its shores.

### ***Thailand's alleged human trafficking kingpin has connections to political party – 20 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/thailands-alleged-human-trafficking-kingpin-has-connections-politica>

The suspected mastermind of an extensive human trafficking network in Thailand was a former leader of a political party and has wide connections among authorities and certain government leaders, said Satun governor Dejrat Simsiri.

### ***Turmoil in Thailand Delayed Crackdown on Trafficking Gangs: Police – 21 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/21/world/asia/21reuters-asia-migrants-thailand.html>

Years of political violence in the Thai capital has strained police resources, delaying investigations into human trafficking in the south of the country and allowing the illicit trade to flourish, a top police official said on Thursday.

### ***Death camp close to Thai village – 24 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/the-big-story/asia-report/thailand/story/death-camp-close-thai-village-20150524>

Ban Taloh is the kind of place where strangers easily stick out. Its most prominent landmark is a one-storey mosque at a quiet junction. Locals make a living tapping rubber and gather by a roadside tea hut for daily gossip. But it was on the outskirts of this village, by the mountainous Thai-Malaysian border in Songkhla province, that Thai security officers first uncovered mass graves of trafficked migrants, sparking a crackdown that set off a regional migrant crisis over the past few weeks.

### ***Desperate migrant pays for baby to be drugged, smuggled to Myanmar – researchers – 27 May 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/27/asia-women-migrants-idUSL5N0Y10F120150527>

A Burmese woman working in Thailand hired a man to sedate and smuggle her 3-month-old baby across the border to relatives in Myanmar, researchers said, describing a common "service" for desperate migrant mothers fearful of losing their jobs.



### **Thai police seek local help in people smuggling crackdown**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/asia/south-east-asia/story/thai-police-seek-local-help-people-smuggling-crackdown-20150527>

Thai police are seeking help from villagers living near a recently uncovered network of jungle camps to aid their investigation into people-smuggling and human trafficking-gangs, a senior officer said on Wednesday.

### **Asian refugee crisis: trafficked migrants held off Thailand in vast 'camp boats' – 28 May 2015**

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/may/28/asian-refugee-crisis-trafficked-migrants-held-off-thailand-camp-boats>

Thousands of Bangladeshi and ethnic Rohingya migrants are being held in huge cargo ships by human traffickers in the Andaman Sea, according to testimony collected from survivors.

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## MIDDLE EAST

### GENERAL

#### **ISIS Makes a Fortune From Smuggling Migrants Says Report**

<http://time.com/3857121/isis-smuggling/>

The movement of migrants across the Middle East and Africa towards Europe has generated up to \$323 million for the Islamic State in Iraq and Greater Syria (ISIS) and other jihadist groups, a new report has revealed.

### ISRAEL

#### **Israel tells African refugees to leave or face prison – 16 May 2015**

<http://www.scmp.com/news/world/article/1798770/israel-tells-african-refugees-leave-or-face-prison>

As Europe struggles to stem a spring flood of migrants from Africa and the Middle East trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea, Israel has begun to toughen its stance toward refugees, telling unwanted Africans they must leave now or face an indefinite stay in prison.

### LEBANON

#### **For refugees in Lebanon, a desperate search for dignity – 14 May 2015**

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2015/05/refugees-lebanon-desperate-search-dignity-150514155354451.html>

Syrians and Palestinians keep embarking on what they think is a journey of hope but often end up on a voyage of death.

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## EUROPE

### GENERAL

#### **Australia Says Europeans Seek Advice on Stopping Migrants – 3 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/03/world/asia/ap-as-australia-migrants.html>

Europeans grappling with mass migration from Libya were seeking information about Australia's controversial success in stopping asylum seeker boats reaching its shores, the Australian prime minister said Monday.

### ***Everything you want to know about migration across the Mediterranean – 4 May 2015***

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2015/05/economist-explains-6>

### ***EU Seeks UN Approval to Seize Migrant Boats, Russia Against Destruction – 6 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/06/world/africa/06reuters-europe-migrants-un.html>

Europe is seeking United Nations Security Council approval to seize boats used to traffic migrants across the Mediterranean from Libya, though diplomats said Russia has signaled it would not allow destruction of the vessels.

### ***U.N. Wants to Let Europe Use Military Force to Stop Migrant Smuggling Boats – 6 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/07/world/europe/un-wants-to-let-europe-use-military-force-to-stop-migrant-smuggling-boats.html>

The United Nations Security Council plans to put forth a draft resolution that would authorize Europe to use military force to stop migrant smuggling boats that set off from Libya across the Mediterranean Sea, signaling the Continent's resolve to stanch the tide of migrants fleeing the Middle East and North Africa.

### ***Russia says destroying Libya migrant boats 'going too far' – 7 May 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/07/europe-migrants-un-idUSL1N0XY3VI20150507>

Russia said on Thursday that Europe should model its planned operations to tackle migrant smuggling across the Mediterranean from Libya on anti-piracy patrols in waters off Somalia, but that it would be too extreme to destroy the boats used.

### ***Red Cross objects to Brussels' plans to destroy migrant boats – 7 May 2015***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/world/article/1788695/red-cross-objects-brussels-plans-destroy-migrant-boats>

Italy's Red Cross president has spoken out against European plans to destroy migrant boats used by smugglers in the Mediterranean, as the United Nations weighed whether to endorse the military campaign.

### ***People smugglers using Facebook to lure migrants into 'Italy trips' – 8 May 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/08/people-smugglers-using-facebook-to-lure-migrants-into-italy-trips>

It reads like the website of a travel agency. "A trip to Italy next week in a big fast tourist yacht," says the Facebook post beneath a picture of a luxury ocean liner. "Two floors, air-conditioned, prepared for tourists. Recommended for families." But a package holiday this is not. It is the Facebook page of a Turkey-based people smuggler, one of dozens if not hundreds of smugglers using the social network to advertise their services in plain sight.

### ***The deadly business of migrant smuggling – 9 May 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/countingthecost/2015/05/deadly-business-migrant-smuggling-150509072521467.html>

As thousands die on the perilous journey from Africa to Europe, we examine the economic cost of migrant trafficking.

### ***EU Plan to Redistribute Migrants Strains Solidarity – 10 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/10/world/europe/10reuters-europe-migrants-eu.html>

The European Union's executive Commission will propose this week redistributing migrants more evenly, opposed by some in the bloc, to ease the burden on Italy and other members facing an influx.

### ***Doctors Group Recounts Migrant Rescue as E.U. Plans Crackdown on Smuggling Rings – 10 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/11/world/europe/doctor-recounts-migrant-rescue-as-eu-plans-crackdown-on-smuggling-rings.html>

Loaded with life jackets, medics and search-and-rescue teams, the ship sailed from port in Malta early last Thursday morning in search of migrants stranded at sea.

### ***EU asks UN to back operations against human trafficking rings from Libya – 10 May 2015***

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/eu-asks-un-to-back-operations-against-human-trafficking-rings-from-libya/article24361966/>

European members of the UN Security Council on Monday will seek approval to authorize military operations against human trafficking rings that set out from Libya.

### ***EU draws up plans for military attacks on Libya targets to stop migrant boats – 10 May 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/10/eu-considers-military-attacks-on-targets-in-libya-to-stop-migrant-boats>

The European Union has drawn up plans for military attacks in Libya to try to curb the influx of migrants across the Mediterranean by targeting the trafficking networks. It is to launch a bid on Monday to secure a UN mandate for armed action in Libya's territorial waters.

### ***Libya's people smugglers: military action won't stop this multifaceted trade – 10 May 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/10/libya-people-smuggle-military-action-not-stop-multifaceted-trade>

In the small Libyan port of Zuwara, one of the main points of departure for migrants seeking to reach Italy, dozens if not hundreds of fishing boats line the quay. It's an innocuous sight: blue wooden skiffs knocking against each other in the breeze. But if Europe wants to use military force to smash Libya's smuggling trade, these are the boats they will have to destroy.

### ***The cost of migrant smuggling – 10 May 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/countingthecost/2015/05/tarek-osman-cost-migrant-smuggling-150509105755201.html>

Tarek Osman, political counsellor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, talks to Counting the Cost.

### ***EU officials mull military action to stop migrants – 10 May 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/150510130334171.html>

Defence ministers from five European Union countries are meeting for talks on a military campaign to stop human trafficking and reinforce the region's defences against the flow of migrants from North Africa.

### ***Migrants Will Not Be Sent Back Against Will: EU Top Diplomat – 11 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/11/world/europe/ap-un-united-nations-migrants.html>

Refugees and migrants intercepted at sea will not "be sent back against their will," the European Union's top diplomat assured the U.N. Security Council on Monday, citing a proposed EU maritime operation against the growing wave of migrant smuggling from north Africa.

### ***Europe Appeals for U.N. Backing on Migrants, No Plan to Bomb Boats – 11 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/11/world/europe/11reuters-europe-migrants-un.html>

Europe appealed to the United Nations Security Council on Monday to back its plan to stem the deadly flow of migrants across the Mediterranean by dismantling people-smuggling organizations and destroying their vessels, though not by bombing.

### ***European Commission Prepares Plan to Distribute Migrants Across E.U. – 11 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/12/world/europe/migrants-mediterranean-italy-european-commission.html>

As Europe struggles to address a worsening migration crisis, the executive arm of the European Union is expected this week to submit a proposal to distribute migrants across the 28-member bloc, officials said on Monday, a plan that would encounter fierce resistance from some national governments.

### ***E.U. Is Prepared to Combat Migrant Smugglers, Official Says – 11 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/12/world/europe/eu-prepared-to-combat-migrant-smugglers-diplomat-says.html>

The top diplomat for the European Union said Monday that the bloc was prepared to take action against migrant smuggling rings based in Libya even without the approval of the United Nations Security Council. But the diplomat also sought to assure critics that the people trying to cross the Mediterranean would be rescued and given an opportunity to apply for asylum in Europe.

### ***EU seeks UN support to tackle migrant smuggling – 11 May 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32695483>

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini has pleaded for UN help to dismantle criminal groups smuggling migrants into the European Union.

### ***EU asks UN for help with migrant crisis – 11 May 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/150511173548759.html>

Migrants intercepted at sea will not "be sent back against their will", the European Union's foreign policy chief has told the UN Security Council, in the context of a proposed EU maritime operation against the growing wave of migrant smuggling from North Africa.

### ***EU seeks UN approval to destroy migrant smugglers' boats – 12 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20150512-story.html>

The European Union is seeking a U.N. Security Council resolution within days to let its members hunt down human traffickers in the Mediterranean and destroy their boats, a senior EU official said Tuesday.

### ***EU asks U.N. to sanction military action against migrant boats in North Africa – 12 May 2015***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/05/11/europe/eu-migrants-military-action/index.html>

The European Union, facing a rising tide of migrants, asked the United Nations on Monday to authorize military action to destroy boats used to smuggle people from Africa to Europe.

### ***Deadly crossings to Europe: Dutch study sheds new light on the disappeared – 12 May 2015***

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/deadly-crossings-to-europe-dutch-study-sheds-new-light-on-unrecorded-deaths/article24392049/>

As authorities in Europe and Asia debate what to do about migrants' dangerous crossings to their shores, a new study paints a clearer picture of the people dying to reach Europe – and finds many have simply disappeared without a trace.

### ***EU Plans Migrant Quotas, Britain Opts Out – 13 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/13/world/europe/13reuters-europe-migrants-proposal.html>

The EU announced a plan on Wednesday to distribute asylum-seekers more fairly around its member states and take in 20,000 more refugees, but Britain's newly re-elected Conservative leaders rejected any quota system imposed from Brussels.

### ***E.U. Proposes Quota System to Address Migration Crisis – 13 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/14/world/europe/european-union-migration-refugees-quota-proposal.html>

After months of criticism that it had been too slow and timid in addressing the flood of migrants heading toward its southern shores, the European Union authorities moved on Wednesday to spread the burden of the crisis among member states.

### ***A look at the main points of the EU's new migration plan – 13 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-agenda-20150513-story.html>

The European Union will on Wednesday unveil its plan to confront the challenge posed by a massive influx of migrants fleeing war and poverty in Syria, Eritrea and elsewhere.

### ***EU considers migrant quotas, stronger action against human smugglers – 13 May 2015***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/05/13/europe/eu-migration-proposals/index.html>

Nearly 2,000 migrants are estimated to have lost their lives attempting the perilous sea crossing from North Africa to Europe in 2015, and it's not even fully five months into the year.

### ***EU presses on with migrant plan, but not everyone's on board – 13 May 2015***

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/eu-presses-on-with-migrant-plan-but-not-everyones-on-board/article24416421/>

The European Union forged ahead Wednesday with a controversial plan to introduce refugee quotas to ease pressure on countries battling the migrant influx, despite opposition at a time when anti-immigrant parties are on the rise.

### ***The Facebook smugglers selling the dream of Europe – 13 May 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-32707346>

Across the Mediterranean, people smugglers are advertising their services on Facebook, promising safe passage to migrants desperate to reach Europe. Their pages offer a glimpse into a smuggling

network that spans three continents, generates hundreds of millions of dollars, and has become, in effect, an alternative asylum service for the EU.

### ***Migrant crisis: EU plan to strike Libya networks could include ground forces – 13 May 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/13/migrant-crisis-eu-plan-to-strike-libya-networks-could-include-ground-forces>

European plans for a military campaign to smash the migrant smuggling networks operating out of Libya include options for ground forces on Libyan territory.

### ***Chain of Factors Lead to Rising Migrant Deaths on High Seas – 14 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/14/world/europe/ap-eu-migrants-deaths-at-sea.html>

Nearly nine times more migrants have died so far this year in Mediterranean crossings compared to last year at this time — swallowed by the sea as Europe beckons.

### ***EU border chief warns of migrant surge – 14 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-ap-eu--europe-migrants-20150514-story.html>

The European Union's border agency is boosting its operations in the Mediterranean Sea near Greece as increasing numbers of migrants try to enter the EU from Turkey, its chief said Thursday.

### ***Islamic State fighters 'smuggled to Europe' – 17 May 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-32771210>

Islamic State (IS) militants are exploiting the refugee crisis in the Mediterranean by smuggling their fighters into Europe, the BBC has been told.

### ***EU Approves Military Plan to Target Migrant Traffickers – 18 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/18/world/europe/ap-eu-europe-migrants-.html>

European Union nations approved plans Monday for a naval operation to go after the human trafficking networks that are sending thousands of migrants weekly across the Mediterranean toward Europe or to their deaths. NATO said it stood ready to help out if needed.

### ***EU Agrees Mediterranean Naval Mission to Tackle People Smugglers – 18 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/18/world/europe/18reuters-europe-migrants-military.html>

The European Union agreed a naval mission on Monday to target gangs smuggling migrants from Libya but parts of a broader plan to deal with the influx began to unravel in a row over national quotas for housing asylum seekers.

### ***E.U. Agrees to Naval Intervention on Migrant Smugglers – 18 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/19/world/europe/european-union-human-trafficking-military.html>

European foreign and defense ministers agreed on Monday to use naval forces to intercept and disrupt ships used by smugglers of migrants from North Africa, a far more assertive attempt to combat the swelling migration crisis that has led to thousands of deaths at sea.

### ***EU to back 'boat-destroyer' mission in Mediterranean – 18 May 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32776688>

EU foreign and defence ministers are expected to approve a mission to destroy the boats used by people-smugglers operating in war-torn Libya.

### ***EU backs migrant crisis naval force – 18 May 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32787342>

EU ministers have approved plans to establish a naval force to combat people-smugglers operating from Libya.

### ***Mediterranean migrants crisis: Is military force the solution? – 18 May 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32428500>

European leaders are scrambling to find a way to stem the flow of migrants across the Mediterranean, after a large spike in deaths drew public condemnation.

### ***EU backs naval mission to tackle migrant crisis – 18 May 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/eu-backs-naval-mission-tackle-migrant-crisis-150518175400440.html>

The European Union has approved a naval mission to target gangs smuggling migrants from Libya but parts of a broader plan to deal with the influx have got caught in a row over national quotas for housing asylum seekers.

### ***Migrant smuggling is a tragedy that cannot continue, says UNODC Chief at Crime Commission opening – 18 May 2015***

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2015/May/migrant-smuggling-is-a-tragedy-that-cannot-continue--says-unodc-chief-at-crime-commission-opening.html>

Migrant smuggling cuts across borders and is intimately linked with peace and security, human rights and development, UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov said today.

### ***Crime Commission discusses plight of smuggled migrants in Mediterranean region – 18 May 2015***

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2015/May/crime-commission-discusses-plight-of-smuggled-migrants-in-mediterranean-region.html>

The Mediterranean Sea is one of the main routes for the smuggling of migrants, an activity which generates billions of dollars a year for criminal networks. Along this route, appalling tragedies have been occurring almost daily, as vulnerable women, children and men place their lives in the hands of organized criminals in order to reach Europe.

### ***Experts: EU Plan to Tackle Migrant Trafficking Is Dangerous – 19 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/19/world/europe/ap-eu-europe-migrants-boats-.html>

Experts say the European Union's plan to disrupt the business of human traffickers and destroy their boats in the Mediterranean is a short-term deterrent that is likely to be dangerous, costly and tough to implement.

### ***Italy's Renzi Pushes EU Partners to Accept Quotas of Refugees – 19 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/19/world/europe/19reuters-europe-migrants-italy.html>

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi accused European Union countries on Tuesday of backtracking on commitments to accept asylum seekers and said they must show they were serious about wanting to solve the Mediterranean migrant crisis.

### ***Europe's boat people – 19 May 2015***

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2015/05/graphics>

THE SMUGGLING of people across the Mediterranean is not new; nor are the losses at sea that come with it. But the trade has vastly expanded over the past few years thanks to two developments.

### ***EU Says Still Seeking U.N. Resolution on Attacking Smugglers – 21 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/21/world/europe/21reuters-europe-migrants-mogherini.html>

The European Union's foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini is still seeking a United Nations Security Council resolution on potential attacks on smugglers, EU Commissioner for Migration Dimitris Avramopoulos said on Thursday.

### ***EU declares war on people smugglers, commissioner says – 21 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-tns-bc-europe-migrants-20150521-story.html>

Europe has "declared a war" on smugglers transporting immigrants across the Mediterranean, EU Migration Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos said Thursday, adding that the boats of human traffickers should be seized and destroyed.

### ***EU says still seeking U.N. resolution on attacking smugglers – 21 May 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/21/us-europe-migrants-mogherini-idUSKBN00614S20150521>

The European Union's foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini is still seeking a United Nations Security Council resolution on potential attacks on smugglers, EU Commissioner for Migration Dimitris Avramopoulos said on Thursday.

### ***Europe migrant terror threat overblown: Experts – 21 May 2015***

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/world/europe/story/europe-migrant-terror-threat-overblown-experts-20150521>

The arrest in Italy of a terror suspect posing as a boat migrant has fuelled nightmare scenarios of Islamic militant infiltration of Europe, but experts say the threat is overblown and attacks by home-grown extremists are more likely.

### ***Migrants Find a Safer Route Into Europe via the Balkans – 22 May 2015***

<http://time.com/3893925/serbia-hungary-migration/>

The journey is safer but more expensive than the sea trip from Libya.



### **European Union Asks Member Countries to Accept Quotas of Migrants – 27 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/28/world/europe/european-union-asks-member-countries-to-accept-quotas-of-migrants.html>

The European Union authorities formally appealed to the bloc's member states on Wednesday to accept quotas of migrants to relieve the burden on southern states like Italy and Greece that are the main landing points for them.

### **Migrant crisis: EU asks states to accept 40,000 asylum seekers – 27 May 2015**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32894624>

The European Commission has called on EU member states to take in 40,000 asylum seekers from Syria and Eritrea who land in Italy and Greece over the next two years.

### **EU naval mission rescues more than 4,200 migrants in 24 hours – 30 May 2015**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/30/eu-naval-mission-rescues-more-than-4200-migrants-24-hours>

More than 4,200 migrants trying to reach Europe have been rescued from boats in the Mediterranean in the past 24 hours, the Italian coastguard has said.

### **Thousands of migrants rescued in the Mediterranean sea – 31 May 2015**

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/thousands-migrants-rescued-mediterranean-sea-150531133124177.html>

More than 5,000 migrants on their way to Europe have been saved from boats in distress in the Mediterranean since Friday, according to EU authorities, as the corpses of 17 migrants have been brought ashore in Sicily aboard an Italian naval vessel.

AUSTRIA

### **Security at Vienna Airport Suspected of Human Trafficking, Britain's G4S Sacks Employee – 26 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/26/world/europe/26reuters-austria-trafficking.html>

Private security staff at Vienna Airport are suspected of smuggling refugees, mainly Sri Lankans, through security checks onto flights to the United States and Britain, Austrian prosecutors said on Tuesday.

### **Austrian Police Arrest 3 for Smuggling People Into US – 26 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/26/world/europe/ap-eu-austria-people-smuggling.html>

Austrian police have detained three suspects for allegedly smuggling people onto flights bound for the United States or Britain.

### **G4S guard accused of smuggling refugees on to UK-bound flights – 26 May 2015**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/26/g4s-guard-accused-smuggling-refugees-uk-flights>

A G4S guard has been accused of smuggling refugees through security checks and on to flights to the United States and Britain.

### **Vienna airport security staff arrested for smuggling illegal migrants to US, Britain – 26 May 2015**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/world/europe/story/vienna-airport-security-staff-arrested-smuggling-illegal-migrants-us-britain>

Austrian police have arrested several security employees at Vienna airport over their alleged role in smuggling illegal immigrants to Britain and the United States, officials confirmed on Tuesday.

GERMANY

### **German Police Arrest Members of People-Smuggling Group – 6 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/06/world/europe/06reuters-germany-police-trafficking.html>

German police arrested three men on Wednesday suspected of belonging to an organized criminal group that smuggles people from Africa to the European Union.

### **Police Disrupt Organised Criminal Group Smuggling People from Africa to the EU – 6 May 2015**

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/police-disrupt-organised-criminal-group-smuggling-people-africa-eu>

On 6 May 2015, Europol supported German Police in dismantling an organised crime group involved in smuggling people from Africa to the EU. As a result, three suspected key members of the criminal group were arrested (all male; one aged 22; two aged 26). Nine properties were also searched in North Rhine-Westphalia and Schleswig-Holstein, Germany.

GREECE

### **Greece sees huge increase in migrants arriving by boat – 7 May 2015**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/07/greece-migrants-boat-huge-increase>

The scale of mass migration across the Mediterranean has been revealed by new figures showing that record numbers of migrants are now arriving by boat in Greece as well as Italy.

ITALY

### **Displaced Again and Again, Some African Migrants Had No Plan to Land in Italy – 1 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/02/world/europe/displaced-again-and-again-some-african-migrants-had-no-plan-to-land-in-italy.html>

Conflicts in Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia have shaped and reshaped Europe's migrant flows in recent years, with none more transformative to the Mediterranean smuggling trade than the civil war in Syria. And the tumult in Libya is changing the migration equation once again.

### **Italian coastguard rescues nearly 6,000 migrants in Med – 3 May 2015**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32575993>

The Italian coastguard has saved nearly 6,000 migrants from overcrowded boats in the Mediterranean, over the weekend.

### **Italian Ships Rescue Nearly 6,800 Migrants; Baby Born at Sea – 4 May 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/04/world/europe/ap-eu-italy-migrants.html>

Italian rescue ships brought migrants by the thousands to the country's southern ports, including a baby born aboard a navy vessel, as crowded shelters in Sicily and on the mainland struggled Monday to find room for them.

### ***Migrant crisis: Counting arrivals one by one – 4 May 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32585361>

Thousands of migrants rescued from boats trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea at the weekend have been arriving at ports in southern Italy.

### ***Italy rescues over 6,000 migrants from Mediterranean – 4 May 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/thousands-rescued-libyan-coast-150504051430611.html>

Italian rescue ships have brought thousands of migrants to the country's southern ports as crowded shelters in Sicily and on the mainland struggled to find room for them.

### ***Mediterranean Shipwreck Kills 40 Before a Rescue – 5 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/06/world/europe/italy-migrants-mediterranean-sinking.html>

A rubber boat crowded with migrants deflated and foundered in the Mediterranean, and as many as 40 people apparently drowned before an approaching merchant ship could reach them, witnesses told the humanitarian group Save the Children on Tuesday.

### ***Save the Children: 40 migrants feared drowned off Sicilian coast – 5 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-tns-bc-italy-migrants-20150505-story.html>

Survivors of a boat wreck who were taken to safety in Italy told aid workers that about 40 migrants on board died while attempting to cross the Mediterranean, Save the Children said Tuesday.

### ***Moments from safety, migrants die trying to reach Europe – 6 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--italy-migrants-20150505-story.html>

Young men piled over each other, some shimmying up ropes dangling from the towering rescue ship and others falling into the churning sea. Women and children were the last off the stricken dinghy during a chaotic Mediterranean rescue in which at least five migrants were crushed to death and more were feared drowned.

### ***Migrants rescued after 12 days at sea; EU eyes seizing boats – 6 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--italy-migrants-20150506-story.html>

Nearly 100 migrants who reported being at sea for 12 days arrived in Sicily on Wednesday as diplomats mulled a draft U.N. resolution authorizing an EU mission to seize the smugglers' boats that are fueling the Mediterranean migrant crisis.

### ***Italy navy finds what is thought to be capsized migrant boat – 7 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--italy-migrants-20150507-story.html>

Italian navy ships on Thursday located what is believed to be the fishing boat that capsized April 18 with an estimated 800 migrants aboard, a tragedy that spurred Italy and Europe into a new round of soul-searching over how to cope with the record waves of migrants coming ashore from Libya.

### ***Teen survivor tells of panic during deadly migrant rescue – 7 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu-italy-migrants-survivors-story-20150506-story.html>

Calloused and stained, Baboucar Lowe's hands tell the story of a difficult life, one that nearly ended at 17 when the rubber dinghy he was on deflated within sight of a rescue ship, drowning dozens of migrants trying to reach Europe.

### ***Migrant mother gives birth on Italian Navy ship – 7 May 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32630317>

A baby girl has been born after her mother went into labour while being rescued from a migrant boat in the Mediterranean.

### ***Caught between worlds: How asylum seekers in Italy fall through the cracks – 11 May 2015***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/05/11/europe/italy-asylum-seekers/index.html>

Sakou Saïdy, a 33-year-old Gambian national, has been waiting more than a year for word about his political asylum application. He is one of an estimated 40,000 applicants who are caught in a bureaucratic purgatory as Italy struggles to process those who have arrived safely against an insurmountable tide of new migrants. Saïdy lives in the Mineo refugee center near Catania, Sicily, where he is sometimes picked up by local farmers who need extra farmhands for tomato and orange harvests.

### ***In Italy, seized knock-off shoes go to help new migrants – 12 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--italy-migrants-shoes-20150512-story.html>

When migrants arrive in Italy, exhausted after days of perilous travel in overcrowded boats, some of the first things they receive are gleaming sneakers that stand out incongruously against their grimy and threadbare clothes.

### ***Italy: Video of Sunken Migrant Ship Shows 100s of Bodies – 15 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/15/world/europe/ap-eu-italy-migrants.html>

A navy video of the corpse-filled interior of the sunken fishing boat that capsized last month off Libya coupled with survivor testimony make plausible fears that some 800 smuggled migrants died in the shipwreck, prosecutors in Sicily said Friday.

### ***Surviving the perils of a Mediterranean boat crossing – 18 May 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2015/05/surviving-perils-mediterranean-boat-crossing-150518081854789.html>

Walking slowly and uncertainly down a ramp, clutching onto the handrail as she goes, a heavily pregnant woman takes her first step onto Italian soil.

### ***Italian coastguards: military action will not solve Mediterranean migrant crisis – 19 May 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/19/italian-coastguards-military-action-will-not-solve-mediterranean-migrant-crisis>

The Italian coastguards leading migrant rescue missions in the southern Mediterranean have voiced concern about the EU's migration strategy, arguing that military operations will not stop migration to Europe and calling instead for European navies to prioritise search-and-rescue missions.

### ***Mediterranean Shipwreck Crew Not to Face Kidnapping Charge – 19 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/19/world/africa/19reuters-europe-migrants-shipwreck.html>

Two smugglers arrested over the deaths of hundreds drowned in the Mediterranean's most deadly shipwreck in decades will not be charged with kidnapping because assertions migrants had been locked below deck had proved wrong, an Italian prosecutor said on Tuesday.

### ***An extraordinary escape: survivors of migrant boat disaster tell their stories – 22 May 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/22/migrant-boat-disaster-mediterranean-survivors-stories>

When more than 800 people drowned last month in the Mediterranean's worst modern shipwreck, Ibrahim Mballo almost joined the dead at the bottom of the sea.

### ***More Than 4,200 Migrants Rescued in Mediterranean as Crisis Grows – 30 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/30/world/europe/30reuters-europe-migrants.html>

More than 4,200 migrants trying to reach Europe have been rescued from boats in the Mediterranean in last 24 hours, the Italian coastguard said on Saturday.

### ***Italy: 4,200 more migrants saved off Libya's coasts, 17 die – 30 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--italy-migrants-20150530-story.html>

More than 4,000 migrants have been rescued off Libya's coast in 22 separate operations in one day, with rescuers finding 17 people dead aboard a rubber dinghy, the Italian Coast Guard said Saturday.

### ***More than 4,200 migrants rescued in Mediterranean as crisis grows – 30 May 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/30/us-europe-migrants-idUSKBN00F0CR20150530>

More than 4,200 migrants trying to reach Europe have been rescued from boats in the Mediterranean in last 24 hours, the Italian coastguard said on Saturday.

### ***International Effort Rescues Over 5,000 Mediterranean Migrants – 31 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/05/31/world/europe/31reuters-europe-migrants.html>

The corpses of 17 migrants were brought ashore in Sicily aboard an Italian naval vessel on Sunday along with 454 survivors as efforts intensified to rescue people fleeing war and poverty in Africa and the Middle East.

SPAIN

### ***Boy found in suitcase at Spanish border – 8 May 2015***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/05/08/world/boy-in-suitcase-spain/index.html>

Bundled up tightly in a fetal position, an 8-year-old boy from the Ivory Coast survived several hours locked in a suitcase in a botched smuggling attempt into Spain.

### ***Boy in suitcase found in Spain smuggling attempt – 8 May 2015***

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/boy-in-suitcase-found-in-spain-smuggling-attempt/article24327740/>

An eight-year old boy was found folded inside a suitcase at the border of Ceuta, Spain as a 19-year old woman attempted to smuggle him over the border of Ceuta, Spain, AFP reports.

### ***Ivory Coast boy smuggled to Spain inside suitcase – 8 May 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-32660135>

An eight-year-old boy has been smuggled into Spain from Morocco inside a suitcase, Spanish police say.

### ***Spanish police discover boy being smuggled inside suitcase – 9 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-boy-smuggled-suitcase-20150509-story.html>

A Spanish court has ordered the detention of a man from the Ivory Coast who allegedly attempted to smuggle his 8-year-old son into Europe in a suitcase.

### ***Ivorian child smuggled to Spain in suitcase – 9 May 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/boy-suitcase-spain-smuggled-150509041740181.html>

Spanish Police have found an eight-year-old Ivorian boy hidden in a suitcase that was smuggled across the border into territory in north Africa, officials have said.

### ***Boy found alive inside suitcase after woman tried to smuggle him from Spain to Morocco – 10 May 2015***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/world/article/1791639/boy-found-alive-inside-suitcase-after-woman-tried-smuggle-him-spain>

An eight-year-old boy has been handed over to Spain's child protection services after he was found curled up in a suitcase as a woman attempted to smuggle him across the border from Morocco.

### ***Milan's central Station a 'gateway' for migrants – 14 May 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32731970>

Secunder Kermani reports for Newsnight from Milan's central railway station which has become the gateway to Europe for migrants arriving from Sicily.

### ***Father Didn't Know Son Would Be Smuggled Into Spain in Suitcase, Lawyer Says – 19 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/20/world/europe/father-didnt-know-son-would-be-smuggled-into-spain-in-suitcase-lawyer-says.html>

The father of an African boy who tried to enter Spanish territory inside a suitcase said he got caught up with smugglers because his salary fell just “a few euros” short of the legal minimum required to apply for his son’s residency in Spain, according to his lawyer.

### ***Father of Boy Found in Suitcase at Spanish Border Speaks Out – 19 May 2015***

<http://time.com/3889965/boy-suitcase-smuggle/>

A lawyer for the father of an African boy caught being smuggled in a suitcase into a Spanish enclave said Tuesday his client wouldn't have allowed his son to illegally cross the border had he known.

### ***Spain: Reprieve for Smuggled Boy Who Was Found Inside a Suitcase – 21 May 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/22/world/europe/spain-reprieve-for-smuggled-boy-who-was-found-inside-a-suitcase.html>

The government on Thursday granted a temporary residence permit to an 8-year-old boy from Ivory Coast whom a woman tried to smuggle into Spain in a suitcase.

***Spain grants temporary residence to boy found in suitcase – 21 May 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--spain-boy-in-suitcase-20150520-story.html>

The Spanish government on Thursday granted a temporary residence permit to an 8-year-old Ivory Coast boy that a woman tried to smuggle into Spain in a suitcase.

UNITED KINGDOM

***Air steward jailed for five years over smuggling fake passports in underwear – 19 May 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/may/19/air-steward-jailed-five-years-smuggling-fake-passports-underwear-birmingham>

An airline steward who tried to smuggle fake passports by hiding them in a pair of specially adapted underpants has been jailed for five years.