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## smuggling of migrants – global news

### april 2015

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This monthly newsletter summarises news items and media commentary from some of world's leading media outlets. The Migrants Smuggling Working Group takes no responsibility for the content and accuracy of the information provides in these news items.

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#### AFRICA

##### ETHIOPIA

##### ***Ethiopia Ponders Stiffer Penalties for Human Smuggling – 28 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/04/28/world/africa/ap-af-ethiopia-migrants.html>

Ethiopia is drafting a new law to stiffen punishments for human trafficking in an attempt to stem a wave of dangerous migration to Europe, the Ministry of Justice said.

##### LIBYA

##### ***Hundreds of Migrants Are Feared Dead as Ship Capsizes Off Libyan Coast – 19 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/20/world/europe/italy-migrants-capsized-boat-off-libya.html>

Hundreds of people were feared dead on Sunday after a ship crowded with migrants capsized and sank in the Mediterranean, as the authorities described a grisly scene of bodies floating and submerging in the warm waters, with the majority of the dead apparently trapped in the ship at the bottom of the sea.

##### ***Libya Chaos Spurs Human Smuggling, Government Spokesman Says – 21 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/04/21/world/middleeast/ap-ml-libya-migrants.html>

Libya's chaos has spurred human trafficking, a spokesman for the country's internationally recognized government said Tuesday, urging the world community to help his administration gain control of the rest of the country.

##### ***Libya Stops Boats Packed With Hundreds of Migrants Leaving for Europe: Official – 21 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/21/world/africa/21reuters-europe-migrants-libya.html>

Libya has stopped several boats packed with Africans trying to reach Italy's shores in the past three days, detaining more than 600 immigrants, a security official said on Tuesday.

##### ***Migrants in Libya Say Face Beatings, Rape Awaiting Mediterranean Crossing – 22 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/22/world/africa/22reuters-mediterranean-migrants-rape.html>

Two Eritrean migrants waiting in Libya to make the dangerous Mediterranean crossing to Italy have spoken of the terrible conditions they face, going hungry and witnessing others being beaten and raped by smugglers.

### ***In Libya's Anarchy, Migrant Smuggling a Booming Trade – 23 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/04/23/world/middleeast/ap-ml-libya-migrants.html>

Libya's chaos has turned it into a lucrative magnet attracting migrants desperate to make the dangerous sea voyage to Europe. With no central authority to stop it, business is booming, with smugglers charging ever more as demand goes up, then using the profits to buy larger boats and heavier weapons to ensure no one dare touch them.

### ***Libya refugee camp is flip side of Europe's immigration crisis – 23 April 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-tns-bc-libya-refugees-20150423-story.html>

In the heat of a Libyan afternoon, in a makeshift detention center outside the coastal town of Misrata, a young woman lay on the ground, suffering from severe dehydration.

### ***Before Dangers at Sea, African Migrants Face Perils of a Lawless Libya – 27 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/28/world/africa/libya-migrants-mediterranean.html>

### ***Libya: The world's 'smuggler state' – 29 April 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-32509304>

By a checkpoint outside the Libyan city of Misrata, a truck full of hay-bales is opened by border guards and a badly-kept secret is revealed. Inside are women and children, and men too. Fifty people, migrants, in each truck, smuggled across the desert.

### ***Inside Libya's people smuggling trade – 29 April 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-32524737>

The European Parliament is calling on countries across the EU to share the burden of dealing with the migrant crisis in the Mediterranean.

### ***Human smugglers offer discounts for introductions to desperate migrants – 30 April 2015***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/04/29/africa/libya-business-of-smuggling-exclusive/index.html>

Smugglers lure Arab and African migrants by offering discounts to get onto overcrowded ships if people bring more potential passengers, a CNN investigation has revealed.

### ***Libya's human traffickers operate freely amid chaos – 30 April 2015***

<http://video.aljazeera.com/channels/eng/videos/libyas-human-traffickers-operate-freely-amid-chaos/4207548093001;jsessionid=10DBD2567ADF9B683DCCC94559A07A09>

Instability in Libya has fuelled the trade in people smuggling, allowing traffickers to operate freely.

SENEGAL

### ***Weary of poverty, Senegalese migrants head for Europe – 24 April 2015***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/04/24/us-europe-migrants-senegal-idUSKBN0NF16B20150424>

After being repatriated to Senegal on a Spanish military plane having risked his life on a perilous sea crossing to the Canary Islands in 2006, Moustafa Diouf founded an association to warn young Africans of the dangers of illegal migration to Europe.

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## AMERICAS

### HAITI

#### **Forty Haitian Migrants Feared Dead in Shipwreck Off North Coast – 10 April 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/10/world/americas/10reuters-haiti-usa-migrants.html>

As many as 40 Haitian migrants were feared dead after their ship bound for the Turks and Caicos Islands capsized in the Caribbean off Haiti's north coast, the U.S. Coast Guard said on Friday.

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

#### **Honduran migrant provides peek into dark world of human smuggling – 23 April 2015**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-tns-bc-humansmuggling-20150423-story.html>

Marlon Marquez, a Honduran who lives in Miami, appears to be a typical undocumented immigrant from Central America. But he is far from that. He crossed the border near McAllen, Texas, as a hostage of people who claimed to belong to the powerful Mexican criminal gang Los Zetas who, then turned him over to an allied group on the U.S. side.

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## ASIA-PACIFIC

### GENERAL

#### **Asia's People Smugglers Exploit Rising Migration, Raise Trafficking Fears: U.N. – 28 April 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/28/world/asia/28reuters-asia-migrants-smuggling.html>

Human smuggling networks are exploiting rising migration within Asia, leaving growing numbers of migrants at risk of being trafficked and abused, the United Nations said on Tuesday.

### HONG KONG SAR

#### **Hong Kong airport 'ground zero' for human smuggling, says UN report – 28 April 2015**

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-crime/article/1778671/hong-kong-airport-ground-zero-human-smuggling-un-report>

Hong Kong's airport has been pinpointed by the UN as a crucial transit point for worldwide human smuggling rackets.

### INDIA

#### **Infiltrating the porous Bangladesh-India border – 26 April 2015**

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2015/03/infiltrating-porous-bangladesh-india-border-150323140511893.html>

Undocumented migrants from Bangladesh are crossing the 4,100km long border to build better lives.

### THAILAND

#### **Locals combat human trafficking in southern Thailand – 7 April 2015**

<http://video.aljazeera.com/channels/eng/videos/locals-combat-human-trafficking-in-southern-thailand/4157522382001;jsessionid=9E9E4845142A19847575FD75CC0E4629>

In southern Thailand, locals have taken matters into their own hands to stop human trafficking. They are armed and say they are determined to stop their communities from deteriorating into lawlessness. A crew from Al Jazeera joined their patrol.

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## MIDDLE EAST

SYRIA

### ***U.N. Calls on Western Nations to Shelter Syrian Refugees – 18 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/18/world/middleeast/un-calls-on-western-nations-to-shelter-syrian-refugees.html>

With Syria's neighbors increasingly shutting their borders to refugees and thousands trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea in search of safety, the war in Syria is creating the worst global refugee crisis in decades, putting new pressure on the United States and other Western countries to open their doors – and in turn, prompting domestic political backlash.

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## EUROPE

GENERAL

### ***MSF to launch Mediterranean migrant rescue boat – 10 April 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32248784>

Medecins Sans Frontieres is to launch a search and rescue mission in the Mediterranean to save migrants trying to reach Europe by boat.

### ***Influx of Migrants Across Mediterranean Nears Record Levels – 13 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/14/world/europe/influx-of-migrants-across-mediterranean-nears-record-levels.html>

With spring barely arrived, the migrant crisis in the Mediterranean is already approaching last year's record levels after a startling weekend in which more than 5,600 people were rescued from a small armada of smugglers' wooden and rubber boats, even as nine others died after their vessel capsized.

### ***Mediterranean Migrant Smugglers 'Violent and Audacious': Agencies – 15 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/15/world/africa/15reuters-mediterranean-migrants-abuse.html>

Many migrants who survive the perilous sea crossing to Europe from North Africa are physically and sexually abused by the smugglers who organize their journey, according to testimony gathered by aid workers in Italy.

### ***Migrant Deaths May Shame Europe Over Mediterranean Boat – 19 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/19/world/europe/19reuters-europe-migrants-shame-analysis.html>

The outrage Europe's leaders face over the deaths of hundreds of refugees trying to reach its shores may force a shift in a policy critics decry as letting people drown to deter others in desperate need.

### ***Ending migrant rescue missions has not curbed demand, say smugglers – 19 April 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/19/ending-migrant-rescue-missions-not-curbed-demand-smugglers>

Smugglers say the European decision to end rescue operations in the Mediterranean has had no effect on migrant demand for their services, despite EU hopes that the numbers of boat trips and deaths at sea would be reduced.

### ***What's Behind the Surge in Refugees Crossing the Mediterranean Sea – 20 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/04/20/world/europe/surge-in-refugees-crossing-the-mediterranean-sea-maps.html>

The civil war in Libya has made it easier for smugglers to transport people through the country. As a result, the number of people fleeing war and poverty in Africa and the Middle East to reach Europe via the Mediterranean Sea has surged since last year. In the last week, as many as 1,200 migrants may have drowned attempting the journey.

### ***Exclusive: EU Frets Naval Mission Off Libya Could Draw More Migrants to Sea – 20 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/20/world/europe/20reuters-europe-migrants-eu-libya-naval-exclusive.html>

The EU is considering sending warships to the Libyan coast to combat oil and arms smugglers but fears that could encourage more migrants to take to sea in hopes of being rescued and taken to Europe, according to an EU document seen by Reuters.

### ***Migrants' Bodies Brought Ashore as EU Proposes Doubling Rescue Effort – 20 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/20/world/europe/20reuters-europe-migrants.html>

The European Union proposed doubling the size of its Mediterranean search and rescue operations on Monday, as the first bodies were brought ashore of as many as 900 people feared killed in the deadliest known shipwreck of migrants trying to reach Europe.

### ***U.N. Rights Chief Says EU Migrant Policy Is Callous, Xenophobic – 20 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/20/world/africa/20reuters-europe-migrants-un.html>

The European Union should take a "more sophisticated, more courageous and less callous approach" to migrants who often die trying to reach the EU in boats that are not seaworthy, U.N. human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said on Monday.

### ***Australia: EU Needs Tough Border Control After Boat Tragedy – 20 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/04/20/world/asia/ap-as-australia-europe-migrants.html>

Australia's prime minister urged European leaders on Tuesday to adopt tougher border control measures in the wake of the feared drowning of as many as 900 asylum seekers whose boat capsized off the coast of Libya.

### ***EU summit set Thursday amid reports of more migrant deaths, rescues – 20 April 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-tns-bc-europe-migrants-20150420-story.html>

European Union leaders were summoned for a meeting in Brussels on Thursday to tackle an escalating migration crisis in the Mediterranean, where up to 900 would-be asylum-seekers are feared to have drowned over the weekend.

### ***Europe squabbles over tackling Mediterranean migrant crisis – 20 April 2015***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/04/20/europe/lister-europe-mediterranean-migrant-crisis/index.html>

On October 31, 2014, the Italian government announced the end of "Mare Nostrum" -- a naval mission that rescued would-be migrants in peril as they tried to cross the Mediterranean to seek security and a new life in Europe. In the operation's year-long existence, the Italian Navy and Coastguard had rescued an estimated 100,000 people. But it proved expensive and politically contentious, and Europe was not prepared to help Italy shoulder the burden of the crisis.

### ***EU tables plan to fight human traffickers as tragedies mount – 20 April 2015***

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/eu-rallies-to-combat-migrant-crisis-as-more-die-in-mediterranean/article24025901/>

The merciless and cold-hearted strategy of Libya's human traffickers was highlighted again on Monday, when two boats carrying 450 people sent distress signals from an area not far from the spot where about 700 migrants died Sunday in the Mediterranean's biggest mass drowning since the Second World War.

### ***European Union sets out measures to combat people smuggling – 20 April 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32387828>

The European Union has set out measures in response to the migrant crisis, including military operations against the networks of smugglers in Libya they blame for sending thousands of people to their deaths in the Mediterranean.

### ***Lack of EU contact with Tripoli a barrier to tackling migrant deaths – 20 April 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/20/lack-of-eu-contact-with-tripoli-a-barrier-to-tackling-migrant-deaths>

European Union member states have no contact whatsoever with the Libyan authorities in charge of coastguard operations or internal security because the administration in Tripoli is not recognised internationally as the country's legitimate government.

### ***EU holds migrant boat crisis talks as more deaths reported – 20 April 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/20/eu-ministers-meet-migrant-crisis-talks-mediterranean-death-toll-rises>

Interior ministers and senior police officials from the 28 countries of the European Union are rushing to Luxembourg for emergency talks on how to respond to the migrant boat tragedies in the Mediterranean.

### ***Hundreds of migrant deaths at sea: What is Europe going to do? – 21 April 2015***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/04/20/africa/italy-migrant-boat-capsizes/index.html>

After a weekend shipwreck off the coast of Italy that may have killed hundreds of migrants, the International Organization for Migration said Monday that there may be three more migrant boats in distress in international waters.

### ***U.N. Security Council Concerned by Mediterranean Migrant Smuggling – 21 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/21/world/europe/21reuters-europe-migrants-un.html>

The United Nations Security Council expressed grave concern on Tuesday at the growth in people smuggling in the Mediterranean Sea and deplored Sunday's deadly shipwreck of migrants trying to reach Europe that may have killed as many as 900 people.

### ***Everything you want to know about migration across the Mediterranean – 21 April 2015***

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2015/04/economist-explains-20>

Migrants leaving from north Africa for Italy do so overwhelmingly from Libya, though there are also routes to Italy from Egypt and Morocco, and from Turkey to Greece. A 2013 report for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), by Altai consulting, estimates that the cost of

getting to Libya varies from about \$200 to \$1,000 from west Africa, and from about \$1,000 to \$6,000 from the Horn of Africa. Subsequent transit by sea runs from a few hundred dollars to a couple of thousand. At the coast passengers are either loaded onto rigid inflatable boats with limited fuel and no captain or guide to help them or are herded onto rickety fishing boats which do have a skipper and crew.

### ***Australian PM's solution to ending deaths of migrants at sea – 21 April 2015***

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/australian-pms-solution-to-ending-deaths-of-migrants-at-sea/article24044769/>

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott says there is a way to put an end to the tragic deaths of migrants making the perilous journey from North Africa to Europe. His advice to the European Union: Follow Australia's example and send the boats back.

### ***From Mali to Sicily: Reporting the migrants' route – 21 April 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-32392788>

As hundreds of migrants continue to drown making the deadly sea crossing from Libya, BBC correspondents report from some of the stops along the route to Europe's shores.

### ***Libyan people smuggler derides EU plan for military action – 21 April 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/21/libyan-people-smuggler-tells-eu-to-destroy-ships-and-help-coastguard>

One of the leading smugglers at the main departure point for Mediterranean migrant crossings in Libya has scoffed at plans to launch a military campaign against people traffickers, and recommended that the EU provide more support for his marginalised ethnic minority instead.

### ***Migrant tragedies: what can be done to end the crisis? – 21 April 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/21/migrant-tragedies-how-to-stop-the-slaughter>

What can be done? The grim death toll in the Mediterranean has provoked a chorus of calls for action to prevent 2015 becoming the deadliest year for migrants trying to get to Europe.

### ***EU Leaders to Restore Rescue Operations After Migrant Boat Disaster – 22 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/22/world/africa/22reuters-europe-migrants.html>

European Union leaders who decided last year to halt the rescue of migrants trying to cross the Mediterranean will reverse their decision on Thursday at a summit hastily convened after nearly 2,000 people died at sea.

### ***Pope Francis, UN Chief to Meet Next Week on Migrant Crisis – 22 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/04/22/world/europe/ap-un-united-nations-migrants.html>

The U.N. secretary-general is urging European leaders to act swiftly to address the growing migrant crisis during their emergency summit Thursday, and he says he will discuss the issue in his audience with Pope Francis next week.

### ***Eating toothpaste, avoiding gangs: Why migrants head to Mediterranean – 22 April 2015***

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/04/21/europe/mediterranean-boat-migrants-lister/index.html>

They come from more than 20 countries, drawn to Libya as the funnel to Europe. Eritreans want to escape repression or military service; Somalis flee Al-Shabaab and clan warfare; Syrians have given up



hope of returning home. In villages in Senegal and elsewhere across West Africa, young men sell all they have in the hope of a better life in Europe, perhaps hoping to join a cousin or brother who made it.

### ***UN expert: rich countries must take in 1 million refugees to stop boat deaths – 22 April 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/22/un-urges-wealthy-countries-to-take-one-million-syrian-refugees-in-next-five-years>

Wealthy countries should agree on a comprehensive plan to take 1 million refugees from Syria over the next five years to end the unfolding series of boat disasters in the Mediterranean, the UN's special rapporteur on the human rights of migrants has urged.

### ***As migrant deaths rise, EU mulls policy shift – 22 April 2015***

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/4/22/as-migrant-deaths-rise-eu-mulls-policy-shift.html>

It took the tragic drowning of 900 migrants and asylum seekers, but it appears the European Union has finally determined that its fortresslike approach to the hundreds of thousands of African and Middle Eastern migrants desperately trying to reach its shores has been a disastrous failure.

### ***EU Leaders Commit Ships, Aid to Address Migrant Crisis – 23 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/04/23/world/europe/ap-eu-europe-migrants-summit-.html>

Late to the rescue, European leaders came through Thursday with pledges of big ships, aircraft and a tripling in funds to save lives in the Mediterranean after the deaths at sea of more than 1,300 migrants over the past three weeks, and agreed to lay the groundwork for military action against traffickers.

### ***Rubber Dinghies, Old Fishing Boats Feed Europe Migrant Rush – 23 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/04/23/world/europe/ap-eu-europe-migrants-the-boats.html>

The hottest commodity in the saga of migrants risking death to reach European shores: decrepit wooden fishing boats. And Italy is asking the United States to supply drones that can identify them before they're packed with refugees and sent across the Mediterranean.

### ***Europe's Promised Action on Migration Crisis Is Criticized as Inadequate – 23 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/24/world/europe/european-union-migration.html>

Struggling to cope with a growing migrant crisis in the Mediterranean, European leaders promised on Thursday to triple their spending on border protection and approved plans to intensify efforts to root out smugglers' boats before they could set sail, among other measures.

### ***E.U. Leaders Face Calls to Take Swift Action on Migrants – 23 April 2015***

<http://time.com/3832618/european-union-mediterranean-migrants-emergency-summit/>

E.U. leaders will examine a plan to respond to the Mediterranean crisis, after more than 10,000 migrants were plucked from seas between Italy and Libya in a week.

### ***Migrant crisis: Who are Africa's people smugglers? – 23 April 2014***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32381101>

European countries are scrambling to stop record numbers of migrants drowning in the Mediterranean Sea, but who are the men sending them on perilous journeys?



### ***The end of fortress Europa? – 23 April 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2015/04/fortress-europa-150423115116416.html>

European leaders meet on Thursday in Brussels to discuss emergency measures to protect thousands of desperate migrants making treacherous sea journeys to escape war and poverty back home.

### ***Crime Groups Making Millions of Euros on Boat Migrants-Prosecutor – 24 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/24/world/africa/24reuters-europe-migrants-smugglers.html>

Criminal networks are making millions of euros a year smuggling migrants across the Mediterranean, with each boatload typically earning 80,000 euros, a top Italian prosecutor said on Thursday.

### ***EU Rescue Ships Head for Libya, as Migrants Die Also in Balkans – 24 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/24/world/europe/24reuters-europe-migrants.html>

British and German warships made ready to sail for waters off Libya as Europe ramped up rescue operations in the Mediterranean after up to 900 desperate migrants drowned last weekend on a boat heading for Italy.

### ***U.N. Welcomes EU Migrant Plan, Says Test Is Whether Lives Saved – 24 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/24/world/europe/24reuters-europe-migrants-unhcr.html>

The United Nations on Friday welcomed the European Union's plan to triple the size of its naval search mission in the Mediterranean, but said the key test was whether lives were saved and war refugees gained asylum.

### ***Europe Needs Strong Will to Tackle Migrants: Australian Minister – 24 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/24/world/asia/24reuters-europe-migrants-australia.html>

Australia's tough policies have stopped migrants reaching the country by boat and Europe will need strong will to tackle boat migrants in the Mediterranean, Australia's foreign minister said on Friday.

### ***Smuggling Gangs Treat African Migrants More Harshly Than Syrians – 24 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/24/world/middleeast/24reuters-europe-migrants-africans.html>

Traffickers smuggling migrants across the Mediterranean are more likely to lock Africans -- including women and children -- into packed boat holds than Syrians and others from the Middle East, an official who interviewed survivors said on Friday.

### ***Migration Crisis Puts Europe's Policy Missteps Into Focus, Experts Say – 24 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/25/world/europe/europes-migration-crisis-cannot-be-solved-at-sea-analysts-say.html>

To human rights advocates, one of Europe's biggest mistakes in the Mediterranean migration crisis came last November with the shutdown of the Italian patrol and rescue program known as Mare Nostrum. Led by the Italian Navy, the program saved thousands of migrants at sea.

### ***EU leaders commit ships, aid to address migrant crisis – 24 April 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-summit-20150423-story.html>

Late to the rescue, European leaders came through Thursday with pledges of big ships, aircraft and a tripling in funds to save lives in the Mediterranean after the deaths at sea of more than 1,300 migrants over the past three weeks, and agreed to lay the groundwork for military action against traffickers.

### ***Mediterranean migrants crisis: Is military force the solution? – 24 April 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.

### ***Mediterranean migrants crisis: EU triples funding – 24 April 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32435230>

European leaders are to triple funding for rescue operations aimed at migrant boats in the Mediterranean following crisis talks in Brussels.

### ***Libya's people smugglers: inside the trade that sells refugees hopes of a better life – 24 April 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/24/libyas-people-smugglers-how-will-they-catch-us-theyll-soon-move-on>

### ***Captain used gun, stick to keep African migrants in line, authorities say – 25 April 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/world/africa/la-fg-migrants-europe-20150426-story.html>

Passengers forced into death traps below the deck. A gun- and stick-wielding ship captain. Cocky entrepreneurs boasting about buying and selling migrants and running smuggling routes from Somalia to Sweden.

### ***Europe's boat people – 25 April 2015***

<http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21649465-eus-policy-maritime-refugees-has-gone-disastrously-wrong-europes-boat-people>

The European Union likes to boast that it is a force for good. But in the past ten days as many as 1,200 boat people have drowned in the waters of the Mediterranean. An unknown number were refugees from Syria, Eritrea and Somalia fleeing war or persecution. They perished in part because the EU's policy on asylum is a moral and political failure.

### ***For those in peril – 25 April 2015***

<http://www.economist.com/news/briefing/21649488-those-peril>

### ***Cash Handoffs, Extortion Fuel Mediterranean Trafficking – 27 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/04/27/world/europe/ap-eu-europe-migrants-money-trail.html>

Fleeing war, persecution and poverty, migrants desperate to reach Europe are paying thousands of dollars apiece to become pawns in a multimillion-dollar trafficking network that stretches from the Sahara to Sweden.

### ***Europe Seeks to Reassure Libya Over Plans to Stem Migrant Flow – 28 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/28/world/europe/28reuters-europe-migrants-un.html>

The European Union sought to reassure Libya on Tuesday that any action being considered by the 28-nation bloc to stem the deadly flow of migrants across the Mediterranean should not be perceived as an attack against the Libyan people.

## GREECE

### ***Greece Seeks More EU Aid to Cope With Soaring Immigration – 17 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/04/17/world/europe/ap-eu-greece-immigration.html>

Greece appealed to its European Union partners Friday for more help in policing its sea borders as immigrants increasingly make dangerous journeys to escape war and poverty in the Middle East and Africa.

### ***Migrant Dies Trying to Enter Greece by Land During Floods – 23 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/04/23/world/europe/ap-eu-greece-migrants.html>

Greek authorities say they have found the body of a migrant who apparently drowned during floods as he tried to illegally enter the country from Turkey.

### ***Rescuers, Survivors Recount Wreck of Migrant Ship in Greece – 23 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/04/23/world/europe/ap-eu-greece-migrants-shipwreck.html>

Locals know to avoid the razor-sharp rocks and strong currents near Zefyros Beach on the Greek island of Rhodes. But 93 migrants fleeing war and political chaos on another continent had no idea of the dangers as they caught their first glimpse of Europe and the current pulled their rickety wooden boat toward shore.

## ITALY

### ***Police: Muslims Threw Christians Overboard During Med Voyage – 16 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/04/16/world/europe/ap-eu-europe-migrants-shipwreck.html>

Italy's migration crisis took on a deadly new twist Thursday as police in Sicily reported that Muslim migrants had thrown 12 Christians overboard during a recent crossing from Libya, and an aid group said another 41 were feared drowned in a separate incident.

### ***Italy Accuses Muslim Migrants of Killing Christians at Sea – 16 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/17/world/europe/italy-accuses-muslim-migrants-of-killing-christians-at-sea.html>

The Italian police on Thursday charged 15 Muslim men with homicide aggravated by religious hatred after survivors of a migrant boat rescued in the Mediterranean told investigators that the men had menaced Christians on board and thrown a dozen Christians overboard to their deaths.

### ***Italian coastguard rescues 10,000 migrants in a week – 16 April 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/04/italian-coastguard-rescues-10000-migrants-week-150415192547203.html>

The presumed drowning of 400 migrants in the Mediterranean Sea is one of the deadliest known migrant tragedies in the last decade, the UN refugee agency has said, as the Italian coastguard reported it has rescued nearly 10,000 migrants in less than a week.

***High-seas horror: Muslim migrants threw Christians overboard, Italian police say – 17 April 2015***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/world/article/1768338/high-seas-horror-muslim-migrants-threw-christians-overboard-italian>

Italy's migration crisis took on a deadly new twist as police in Sicily reported that Muslim migrants had thrown 12 Christians overboard during a recent crossing from Libya, and an aid group said another 41 were feared drowned in a separate incident.

***As many as 950 may have been on migrant boat that capsized off Libya – 19 April 2015***

<http://www.latimes.com/world/europe/la-fg-italy-migrant-rescue-20150419-story.html>

Hundreds of people were feared lost in the Mediterranean on Sunday after a boat carrying migrants toward Europe capsized off the Libyan coast, authorities said, marking what appeared to be the latest in a series of mass drownings.

***700 migrants feared dead in Mediterranean shipwreck – 19 April 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/19/700-migrants-feared-dead-mediterranean-shipwreck-worst-yet>

A major rescue operation is under way in the Mediterranean after as many as 700 migrants are feared to have drowned just outside Libyan waters, in what could prove to be the worst disaster yet involving migrants being smuggled to Europe.

***Rising Toll on Migrants Leaves Europe in Crisis; 900 May Be Dead at Sea – 20 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/21/world/europe/european-union-immigration-migrant-ship-capsizes.html>

European leaders were confronted on Monday with a humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean, as estimates that as many as 900 migrants may have died off the Libyan coast this weekend prompted calls for a new approach to the surging number of refugees crossing from Africa and the Middle East.

***UN says 800 migrants dead in boat disaster as Italy launches rescue of two more vessels – 20 April 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/20/italy-pm-matteo-renzi-migrant-shipwreck-crisis-srebrenica-massacre>

The United Nations has confirmed that the death toll from the weekend's Mediterranean boat disaster is at least 800 – with the victims being of multiple nationalities.

***Hundreds 'locked in hold' of boat capsized off Libya – 20 April 2015***

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/04/hundreds-locked-hold-boat-capsized-libya-150419233436689.html>

A smuggler's boat crammed with hundreds of people overturned off Libya's coast as rescuers approached, causing what could be the Mediterranean's deadliest known migrant tragedy and intensifying pressure on the European Union to finally meet demands for decisive action.

***EU fury as 700 asylum seekers feared dead in 'avoidable' shipwreck – 20 April 2015***

<http://www.scmp.com/news/world/article/1771946/eu-fury-700-asylum-seekers-feared-dead-avoidable-shipwreck>

More than 700 people are feared to have drowned after an overcrowded boat smuggling them to Europe capsized off Libya as rescuers approached, prompting demands for the European Union to react to the Mediterranean's deadliest migrant disaster to date.

### ***Smuggler's Mistake Turned Rescue Into Tragedy – 21 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/04/21/world/europe/ap-eu-europe-migrants.html>

Rescue seemed so close at hand. A ship with experience plucking migrants from unseaworthy smuggler's boats had arrived soon after the distress call went out. But then the fishing trawler's navigator made a maneuver that would seal the fate of the 850 people crammed inside: Instead of easing up alongside the merchant ship, he rammed it.

### ***Italian Prosecutors Blame Captain for Collision in Migrant Shipwreck – 21 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/21/world/africa/21reuters-europe-migrants.html>

Italian prosecutors blamed the captain of a grossly overloaded fishing boat for a collision which capsized and sank his vessel off Libya, drowning hundreds of migrants including many women and children locked below deck.

### ***Prosecutors blame captain for fatal migrant shipwreck – 21 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/video/multimedia/100000003641421/prosecutors-blame-captain-for-fatal-migrant-shipwreck.html>

Italian authorities are holding two men on suspicion of smuggling migrants to their deaths in the weekend shipwreck that has shocked Europe.

### ***Migrant Boat Captain Steered Toward Tragedy in Mediterranean, Authorities Say – 21 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/22/world/europe/italy-libya-migrant-boat-capsize.html>

When the Italian Coast Guard first got a call Saturday night from a fishing boat alerting it to a large vessel carrying migrants in the Mediterranean between the Libyan coast and the Italian island of Lampedusa, it radioed the nearest commercial ship, a Portuguese freighter called the King Jacob, to go help.

### ***Captain in Mediterranean migrant disaster charged with manslaughter – 21 April 2015***

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/italian-prosecutors-charge-tunisian-captain-with-reckless-homicide-in-mediterranean-migrant-disaster/article24041402/>

The first photos of Mohammed Ali Malek, the alleged captain of the fishing vessel that sank off the Libyan coast on Sunday, drowning about 800 migrants, showed him biting his nails, nervously, as he was approached by Italian police.

### ***Migrant boat sinking victims 'locked in hold' – 21 April 2015***

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32391398>

Italian prosecutors say many of the hundreds of migrants who died when a boat capsized in the Mediterranean on Sunday were locked in the hold and unable to escape.

### ***Migrant boat captain arrested as survivors of sinking reach Italy – 21 April 2015***

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/21/survivors-800-migrant-boat-disaster-reach-italy-catania>

Italian police have arrested two suspected people traffickers among the survivors of the migrant boat that capsized off the coast of Libya on Sunday, as the United Nations said it believed that at least 800 people died in the sinking – the worst such incident ever in the Mediterranean.

**2 arrested, accused of manslaughter in Mediterranean migrant boat capsizing – 22 April 2015**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/04/21/europe/migrant-boat-deaths/index.html>

The captain of a ship full of migrants that capsized in the Mediterranean Sea has been arrested on suspicion of "reckless shipwreck, multiple manslaughter (and) abetting clandestine immigration" for his role in a disaster that left hundreds dead, an Italian prosecutor's office said Tuesday.

**Italy Says 200,000 Migrants May Arrive by Sea This Year – 23 April 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/23/world/africa/23reuters-europe-migrants-italy.html>

As many as 5,000 migrants a week could arrive in Italy by sea from North African ports in the next five months unless something is done about the issue, according to an interior ministry projection.

**Italy Court OKs Arrest of Suspected Smuggler Captain, Crew – 24 April 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/04/24/world/europe/ap-eu-europe-migrants-shipwreck.html>

A judge in Sicily on Friday confirmed the arrest warrants against the suspected captain and crew member of the smuggling boat that capsized in the Mediterranean's worst ever migrant disaster.

**Migrant disaster ship skipper held behind bars by order of Italian judge – 25 April 2015**

<http://www.scmp.com/news/world/article/1776177/migrant-disaster-ship-skipper-held-behind-bars-order-italian-judge>

The Tunisian captain of a migrant boat in which at least 700 people drowned is to remain behind bars as an Italian judge continues his inquiry into the deadly disaster.

**Sicilian Court Convicts 20 Somalis of Migrant-Trafficking – 27 April 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/04/27/world/europe/ap-eu-italy-migrants.html>

A court in Sicily on Monday convicted 20 Somalis who had received political asylum in Italy of a role in a vast criminal organization focused on migrant-smuggling.

**Family says alleged migrant ship captain is innocent – 28 April 2015**

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/04/family-claims-innocence-accused-migrant-ship-captain-150428151613607.html>

The family of a Tunisian man accused of captaining a ship that sank off the Italian coast says he is innocent.

MACEDONIA

**Night Train Kills 14 Migrants 'Sleeping' on Macedonia Tracks – 24 April 2015**

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/04/24/world/europe/ap-eu-macedonia-migrants-killed.html>

A group of migrants trying to reach European opportunity via what's billed by smugglers as a "safe" route — trekking along train tracks through the Balkans — was hit by an overnight train in a remote river gorge in Macedonia, killing 14.

### ***Police say 14 migrants killed by train in central Macedonia – 24 April 2015***

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/police-say-14-migrants-killed-by-train-in-central-macedonia/article24096958/>

A group of migrants trying to reach European opportunity via what's billed by smugglers as a "safe" route – trekking along train tracks through the Balkans – was hit by an overnight train in a remote river gorge in Macedonia, killing 14.

MALTA

### ***Malta Holds Solemn Funeral for Migrant Shipwreck Victims – 24 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/24/world/europe/24reuters-europe-migrants-funeral.html>

An imam and a bishop led a poignant inter-faith funeral service on Malta on Thursday for 24 drowned migrants, the only victims whose bodies were recovered from the Mediterranean in the weekend shipwreck that shocked Europe.

MONTENEGRO

### ***Montenegrin Police Arrest 16 for Smuggling Migrants – 17 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/04/17/world/europe/ap-eu-montenegro-human-smuggling.html>

Police in Montenegro say they have arrested 16 people suspected of smuggling into Serbia 138 Syrian migrants who were trying to flee their war-ravaged country and reach Western Europe.

NETHERLANDS

### ***Dutch Lawmaker Tells Migrants Not to Come to Netherlands – 22 April 2015***

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/04/22/world/europe/ap-eu-europe-migrants-wilders.html>

Dutch anti-Islam opposition lawmaker Geert Wilders has copied part of Australia's approach to stopping boat migrants by making a video telling would-be asylum seekers considering making the treacherous boat crossing from North Africa to Europe: "You will not make the Netherlands home."