



MONTHLY TREND REPORT

COVERING MIXED MIGRATION TO, THROUGH & FROM NORTH AFRICA

About: MHUB is the regional knowledge hub and secretariat for the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force, comprising of DRC, IOM, OHCHR, RMMS, Save the Children, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNODC. It promotes a human rights-based approach to ensure the protection of people moving in mixed and complex flows to, through and from North Africa.

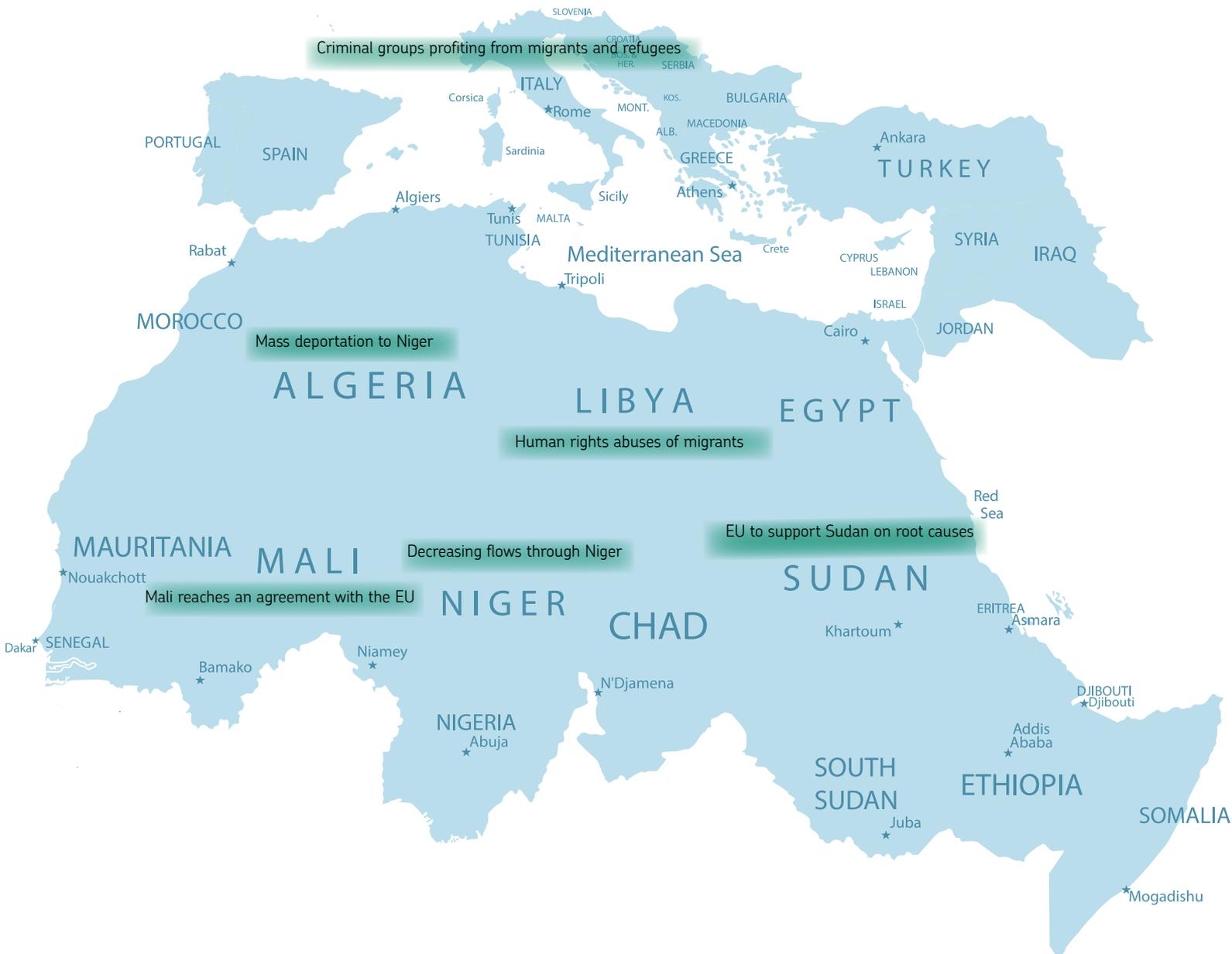
Scope: This bulletin covers mixed migration trends in Algeria, Egypt,

Libya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Sudan, Tunisia, Greece and Italy.

Terminology: Throughout this bulletin the terms migrant, refugee and asylum seeker are used together to cover all those comprising mixed migration flows. If the original source specifies a particular category, the relevant term will be used.

Sources: Data is drawn from a wide variety of sources, including government, civil society and media.

HIGHLIGHTS



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For updates on the Horn of Africa, visit [RMMS](#)

REGIONAL

European arrivals for 2016

- IOM has reported that a total of 363,348 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers entered Europe via the Mediterranean in 2016. This represents a 64% decrease on the 2015 figure of 1,007,492. In 2016, 50% of arrivals landed in Italy (181,436), 48% in Greece (173,561), and the remainder through Spain (8,162) and Cyprus (189).

Recorded deaths in the Mediterranean for 2016

- According to figures released by IOM, 2016 was the deadliest year on record for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers making the crossing to Europe. The total recorded deaths across all Mediterranean routes for 2016 reached 5,079 for the year. Of these, an estimated 4,576 were recorded along the Central Mediterranean route to Italy, 434 along the Eastern Mediterranean route to Greece and Cyprus, and 69 on the Western route to Spain. The total number of recorded deaths marks a 34% increase on the 2015 figure of 3,777. Deaths on the three principal Mediterranean routes constituted 60% of migrant deaths recorded worldwide, according to data compiled under [IOM's Missing Migrants Project](#).

EC releases Second Progress Report on Partnership Framework

- The European Commission released its [second progress report](#) on the 'Partnership Framework with third countries under the European Agenda on Migration' on 14 December. The report stated that progress has been made in all five priority countries - Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Mali and Ethiopia - with reduced transit flows registered in Saharan crossings via Niger. Nonetheless, these reduced flows have not yet resulted in reduced arrivals to Europe with arrivals from the five priority countries via the Central Mediterranean route reaching almost 59,000 in 2016. The report reiterated the importance of continuing to implement the Partnership Framework.

Relocation

- During 2016, 9,940 people were [relocated](#) from Greece and Italy to other EU member states under [the September 2015 scheme](#). To date, 25 countries have committed to provide places for migrants.

EU announces assistance packages for North Africa

- On 16 December, the EU Trust Fund for Africa [announced a €37 million](#) package to increase migrant protection and strengthen migration management in North Africa. The package will address migration challenges in Libya, Tunisia and Morocco. In Libya, the support will target vulnerable migrants rescued at sea, and assist host communities. In Tunisia, the program will address root causes of migration by creating economic opportunities. In Morocco, the assistance will strengthen legal protection of migrants to combat racism and xenophobia against migrants. On the same day, [another initiative](#) was launched under the Trust Fund, in partnership with IOM, and the governments of Germany and Italy. This [€100 million initiative](#) focuses on migrant protection and reintegration of returnees along the Central Mediterranean migration routes and will cover the Sahel and Lake Chad region and neighbouring countries, including Libya.

Declaration adopted at the Fourth League of Arab States - European Union Ministerial Meeting

- On 20 December the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the European Union (EU) and the League of Arab States (LAS) [met for the fourth time](#), at the LAS headquarters in Cairo. At the meeting, the Ministers adopted a declaration reaffirming the importance of labour, migration and mobility for the development of both the EU and the Arab States. The Ministers reiterated the importance of the five areas of action of the Valletta summit, and welcomed the establishment of the EU Trust Fund for Africa to address the root causes of migration.

High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges

- The ninth annual [High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges](#) took place on 8-9 December 2016 in Geneva. This year's Dialogue focusing on the protection of Children on the Move, brought together a total of 676 participants, including refugee youth delegates, child protection experts, States, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and other humanitarian and academic partners to consider the distinct protection risks children face while on the move.

Global Treaty on Migrant Protection proposed

- The three day [Global Forum on Migration and Development](#) concluded in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 12 December with at least 130 countries unanimously agreeing on a proposed global treaty to protect migrants. The countries indicated that they would like the global treaty to take the form of a legally binding agreement, or a model akin to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) placing responsibility for implementation on the signatory countries.

International Migrants Day

- 18 December 2016 marked [the celebration and commemoration of the International Migrants Day](#). UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on the international community to act on the global compact on safe, regular and orderly migration as an important contribution to building a world of peace, prosperity, dignity and opportunity for all.

ALGERIA

Mass deportation to Niger

- According to Human Rights Watch, between 1–9 December Algerian authorities rounded up [1,400](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and forcibly moved them to a camp in Tamanrasset, 1,900kms south of Algiers. Hundreds were deported to Niger; however, it is not known if any refugees and asylum seekers were among the deported. On 9 December, Reuters reported the arrival of around [1,000](#) West African migrants to Agadez in a convoy of 50 trucks, after having been deported from Algeria. According to the head of

IOM's mission in Niger, 271 of the deported migrants were from Niger and the remainder from various western African countries, mainly Mali and Guinea Conakry. While the Algerian authorities have not commented on the deportations, rights organisations such as the [Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights \(LADHH\)](#) and [Human Rights Watch](#), have denounced the arrests and deportations and urged Algeria to abide by its commitments under the 1951 Refugee Convention.

EGYPT

Detention of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

- There were no arrests pertaining to irregular departure attempts recorded in the month of December on Egypt's North Coast. According to UNHCR, the total number of foreign nationals detained in 2016 for attempting to depart irregularly by sea from Egypt's North Coast remains at 4,985 people, across 121 incidents. This represents a 37% increase on 2015 figures. The majority of the detainees were from Sub-Saharan Africa – most were Sudanese and Somalis, followed by Eritreans and Ethiopians while Syrians accounted for only 2% of the total number of detainees.
- 2,925 of the detainees have been released, 1,974 persons who were not registered with UNHCR have been deported, and 32 unregistered persons have been transferred to Al Qanatir Prison. 58 people remain in detention in the north coast – including 20 children amongst whom 13 are unaccompanied children. The percentage of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in detention has significantly

increased from 2015. In 2016, 440 UASC have been detained, accounting for 54% of the 822 children detained throughout the year, while UASC accounted for only 26% of the 543 child detainees in 2015

UNODC workshop on Egyptian migration law

- On 18–19 December 2016, under the context of the GLO.ACT project funded by the EU and in cooperation with the National Coordinating Committee on Preventing and Combating Illegal Migration of Egypt, UNODC organized a workshop in Cairo to present the new Egyptian law no. 82/2016 on combating illegal migration and the smuggling of migrants. The workshop brought together national stakeholders and practitioners, as well as representatives of the international community, to discuss potential challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the new law, and in particular in the areas of protection and assistance for smuggled migrants, prosecution of offenders and international cooperation in criminal matters to address migrant smuggling.

LIBYA

Maritime incidents

- Around 347 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [were rescued](#) off the coast of Libya in December across 9 separate incidents, bringing the total number rescued by the Libyan Coast Guard in 2016 to 18,904. In the month of December, 56 deaths were recorded. Despite the harsh winter and the rough sea conditions, migrants continue to embark on the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean Sea. On 1–2 January, the Maltese-based Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS) rescue ship rescued [234](#) people from two rubber boats. Furthermore, on 4 January, 65 migrants were rescued and 5 bodies were retrieved by the Libyan Coast Guard.

Returns from Libya

- Between 11–13 December, eight migrants received assistance to return home from Libya to Uganda, Djibouti, Sudan and Ethiopia. On 20 December, 140 Nigerian migrants, including 83 women, 57 men, and six unaccompanied minors were assisted to [return](#) home from Libya. This repatriation was funded by Italy, Norway, and the EU. On 29 December, a further 152 migrants, including three unaccompanied minors and three urgent medical cases, were assisted to return home to Mali.

Celebrating International Migrants Day

- On 18 December, IOM and other NGOs in Libya celebrated International Migrants Day by visiting detention centres and holding activities for detained migrants including concerts, football and volleyball games, and art activities. More than 626 migrants participated at Triq Al Matar and 219 women and 26 children at Surman's detention centre. In addition, sportswear, socks, slippers, underwear, and winter blankets were distributed by local NGOs such as Multakana and the Libyan Red Crescent.

Human rights abuses of migrants

- On 13 December, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) launched a joint [report](#) on human rights abuses against migrants in Libya. The report describes the situation of migrants in Libya as a human rights crisis, with many migrants in Libya suffering arbitrary detention, torture, forced labour, sexual exploitation, and unlawful killings. According to the latest MHub [Survey Snapshot](#) from Italy, migrants reported that the journey through Libya was the most dangerous leg of their journey, with 76% of respondents who transited through Libya reporting experiencing or witnessing sexual assault, while 95% experienced or witnessed forced labour, and 88% experienced or witnessed arbitrary detention.

Detention centre conditions

- A 14 December update from [Doctors Without Borders/ Médecins Sans Frontières \(MSF\)](#), reported on the inhumane conditions inside Libyan detention centers, where MSF currently runs mobile clinics. The report attributes the majority of cases treated by MSF to detention conditions, including a recent increase in malnutrition cases. Around three per cent of all detainees in facilities visited by MSF were suffering moderate or severe malnutrition. In mid-December, [IOM responded](#) to an urgent appeal from humanitarian agencies to assist in responding to food shortages, after all regular food supplies to Al Fallah Detention Centre in Tripoli were stopped, leading to acute malnutrition and “life-threatening” conditions among detainees. In Surman female detention center in western Libya, more than [250 female](#) African migrants are reported to be detained, without access to basic services such as healthcare and sanitation.

EU provides support to the Libyan coastguard

- At the 15 December meeting of the [European Council](#), the EC reiterated its previous conclusions pertaining to its responses to the challenges of irregular migration. Among these was the need to provide continued support to the Libyan coastguard,

including through Operation Sophia in order to save lives and break smuggling rings. In parallel, the Council asserted the need to take initiatives to increase assisted voluntary return opportunities to migrants stranded in Libya.

MALI

The EU and Mali reach agreement on repatriating migrants

- On 11 December, Malian Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdoulaye Diop reached an [agreement](#) with his Dutch counterpart on the return of Malian irregular migrants to their country of origin. The agreement is the first of its kind, and represents a deepening of the partnership between Mali and the EU. Under the agreement, Malian officials will travel to the EU

and help ascertain migrants' nationalities. Those identified will be provided with the documents needed to return to Mali. In return, the EU will provide Mali with [funds](#) to create more jobs, strengthen border management, and increase the capacity of Mali's security services to tackle smuggling networks.

MOROCCO

Attempted mass crossing to Ceuta

- On 9 December, in one of the biggest [mass crossing](#) attempts in recent years, around 400 migrants tried to break through the barbed-wire fence between Morocco and the Spanish enclave of Ceuta. Most of the migrants, who succeeded in crossing have since been taken to a migrant reception centre. On 1 January, between [800-1,100](#) migrants attempted to make the crossing into Ceuta. Only two were allowed to remain in the Spanish enclave for medical treatment, while the remainder were returned to Morocco.

Maritime incident

- On 7 December, four African migrants drowned and [34](#) [were rescued](#) after their boat sank in the Mediterranean

after departing from Morocco. According to the Moroccan authorities, the boat was found off the coast of the northern city of Al-Hoceima. It was unclear if the boat was heading to Spain or to one of the Spanish enclaves, Ceuta or Melilla.

Morocco launches campaign to regularise migrants

- Morocco has [launched a second campaign](#) to regularise the status of irregular migrants, opening its offices for applications on 15 December 2016. Building upon the successful first phase from 2014, the National Commission in Charge of Illegal Immigrants' Regularization said the campaign seeks to regularise the largest possible number of migrants in an inclusive approach to migration.

NIGER

Reduced flows through Niger reported

- Flows of migrants crossing the Sahara via Niger are at a low, down to 1,500 in November from 70,000 in May, according to the [EU Second Progress Report](#) on the Partnership Framework with Third Countries. The report, submitted on 14 December, reported that in Niger, 95 vehicles have been seized and 102 smugglers sent to justice between mid-July and end of October 2016. Of the migrants intercepted in irregular transit, 4,430 have been repatriated with the assistance of IOM.

Cooperation with the EU to decrease migrant flows

- On 10 December, Niger's President, Prime Minister, and Foreign Minister met with the Dutch Foreign Minister and IOM to discuss [a joint approach](#) to tackling migration flows through Niger. The Dutch Minister, on behalf of the EU, has

already reached similar agreements with Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali. Under the Nigerien agreement, the Netherlands government pledged €1 million to IOM in Niger to provide voluntarily return opportunities to migrants. The Netherlands is also providing assistance to Niger to tackle the root causes of migration and improve its economy to provide alternatives to migration. Additionally, the European Commission [announced on 15 December](#) a further €610 million in assistance to Niger to stem migration flows to Europe. Of this, €470 million was allocated under the 2016 Annual Program of Action (PAA) and €140 million from the EU Trust Fund for Africa. Under the EU Trust Fund, the Union is stepping up cooperation with key African countries of origin and transit to reduce irregular movement to Europe.

SUDAN

Sudanese migrants stuck between Egypt and Libya

- On 11 December, Sudanese media reported that as many as [2,000](#) Sudanese migrants were stuck at the Libyan-Egyptian border crossing of Musaed in difficult humanitarian circumstances. One migrant reported that many of the Sudanese had been working in Libya and forced to flee the difficult conditions in eastern Libya.

EU support to Sudan on root causes

- As part of a package of 11 new actions under the EU Trust

Fund for Africa to improve stability and address the root causes of irregular migration in the Horn of Africa, the [European Commission](#) will provide €72 million in support to Sudan. The funds are dedicated to addressing instability and forced displacement, strengthening livelihoods in Southern and Eastern Sudan, and enhancing nutrition of 400,000 women and children in North-Eastern Sudan.

TUNISIA

Rights groups report deportations from Tunisia

- Rights organisations from Tunisia and Algeria [released a joint statement](#) against collective expulsions, following a spate of expulsions from Tunisia and Algeria. Reportedly, 10 individuals detained in administrative detention in Tunis were transferred

for deportation to Algeria. The group, consisting of Ivorian women, Cameroonians and Ethiopians were forcibly taken across the border to Algeria.

Germany seeks to expedite deportations

- Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi was informed by

[Chancellor Angela Merkel](#) on 23 December that Germany seeks to speed up the process of returning failed asylum seekers, and increase the numbers returned. Merkel said that Germany had already made progress on the issue of returning Tunisian irregular migrants.

GREECE

Sea arrivals to Greece continue to decrease

- 1,810 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived by sea to Greece in the month of December, representing a 9% decrease on the November figure of 1,991. The top five nationalities of arrivals were Syrians, Afghans, Pakistanis, Iraqis and Iranians. During December, there were 5 recorded fatalities along the Eastern Mediterranean route, compared with 14 deaths recorded on the route in November.

Returns from Greece to Turkey

- Under the EU-Turkey agreement, around [800](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have been readmitted to Turkey from Greece in the period between 4 April and 27 December. The majority of the readmitted are from Pakistan, Syria, and Algeria.

EU Commission commends Greece

- On 8 December, the EU commission [report](#) commended Greece for its progress in rectifying the deficiencies in the country's asylum system. The Commission lauded Greece for such developments and recommended the gradual resumption of returns to Greece by reinstating the Dublin Regulations which have been suspended since 2011. [HRW](#) denounced the policy of resuming migrant transfers to Greece and considered it a failure of the EU to assume its responsibility toward refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers.

Relocations from Greece to other EU countries

- As of 11 January, [7,393](#) migrants and asylum seekers have been relocated from Greece to other EU countries. On 13 December, it was reported that [Ireland](#) promised to meet its migration commitment to Greece in full - pledging to take at least 1,100 individuals by September 2017.

Refugees to receive cash instead of food supplies

- On 2 January, [Deputy Migration Minister](#) Yiannis Mouzalas announced that from March 2017, [refugees will receive money for food instead of free meals](#) as part of the new refugee program in Greece. The aid program is limited to refugees located in mainland Greece and not those located in camps on the Aegean islands.

New detention camps to be built

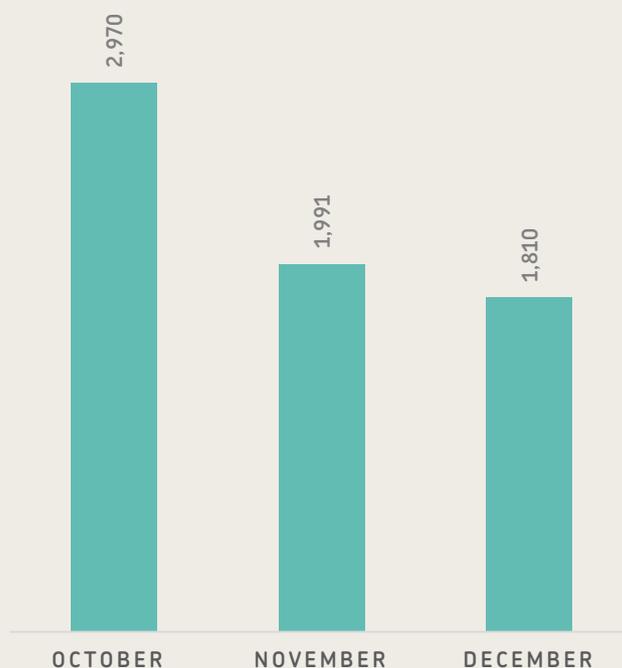
- On 28 December, Greek Migration Minister, Yannis Mouzalas, said the [government planned to build new detention camps](#) on islands facing Turkey's coastline to relieve the overcrowding

of existing facilities. The new facilities will have the capacity to host 200 people.

International migrant-smuggling ring dismantled in Greece

- 24 people [were arrested in Athens](#) in a series of raids on 8 December, as part of a major Greek-British joint investigation. All 24 were arrested for their role in the smuggling of Iranian migrants through Europe and into the UK. Investigators believe the group was charging up to €10,000 per person to supply falsified identity documents for travel into the UK.

Arrivals by Sea, Greece
October - December 2016



ITALY

Criminal groups profiting from migrants and refugees

- [Italian authorities](#) are stepping up efforts to combat criminal networks involved in smuggling migrants into the country. Italian investigators have identified a coordinated network of smugglers stretching from Africa into northern Europe. Investigations also revealed that traditional Italian criminal organizations, including Sicilian mafia, have profited from the refugee crisis.

Two convicted over April 2015 deadly shipwreck

- A Sicilian court has convicted [2 men](#) over the sinking of a ship that killed 700 migrants in April 2015 in one of the deadliest ever migrant tragedies. A Tunisian national was convicted as the captain of the ship and sentenced to 18 years in prison, while a Syrian man was sentenced to five years for his role as cabin boy. The men were also fined \$9.5 million each.

Italy plan to deport more immigrants and open new detention centers

- Italian police have [received a directive](#) from the Chief of Police to increase efforts to identify and deport irregular migrants, due to security concerns. The Interior Minister plans to open 16 new detention centres to host more than 1,000 migrants prior to deportation - a significant increase on the current capacity of four centers with 360 beds.

Migrants protest at reception center

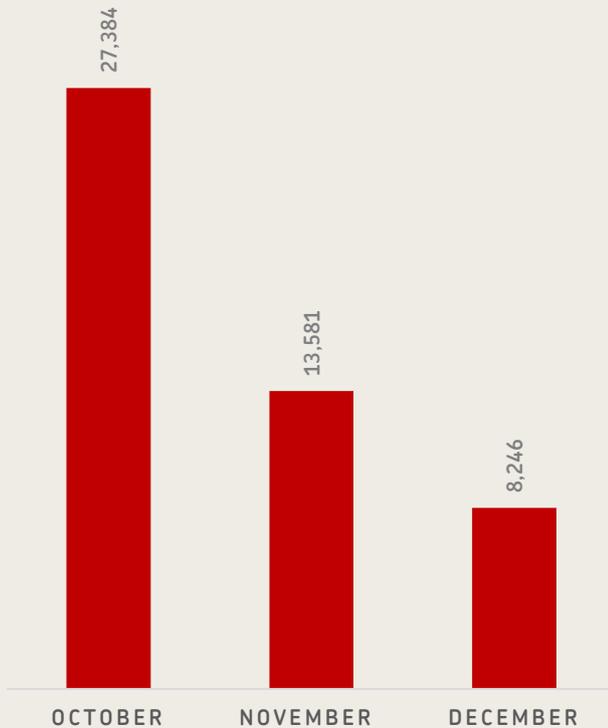
- On 2 January, migrants [protested](#) against conditions in a reception center in northern Italy following the death of a 25-year-old female migrant from Ivory Coast. The young woman reportedly died due to a delay in being taken to hospital. The center, originally intended to host 15 migrants, currently hosts 1,500 people.

Arrivals decrease from November figures

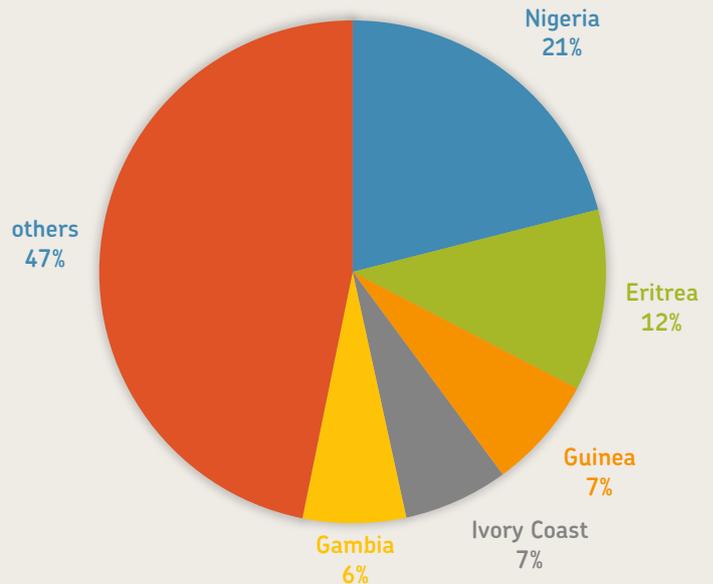
- December saw the arrival of 8,246 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers by sea to Italy, representing a 60.7% decrease on November arrivals (13,581). The numbers of arrivals to Italy in 2016 (181,436) represents an 18% increase on 2015 numbers (153,842). The top five countries of origin arriving in

Italy for 2016 were Nigeria, Eritrea, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Gambia. 369 deaths along the Central Mediterranean route were recorded for the month of December, bringing the total deaths on the route in 2016 to 4,576.

Arrivals by Sea, Italy
October - December 2016



Arrivals by Sea to Italy, Main Countries of Origin
2016



RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[The 2016 UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons](#) - UNODC

A comprehensive report covering 136 countries, providing an overview of patterns and trends in human trafficking at global, regional and national levels.

[“Detained and Dehumanised” Report on Human Rights Abuses Against Migrants in Libya](#) - UNSMIL and OHCHR

A joint report investigating the human rights violations experienced by migrants in Libya.

[A Summary of Assessment Findings and Recommendations: The Situation of Refugee and Migrant Women, Greece 2016-](#) UNFPA, OXFAM, Women’s Refugee Commission, International Medical Corps

A report assessing the conditions of refugee and migrant women in Greece, offering recommendations for improvement.

[Migration trends to watch in 2017](#)- IRIN

An article examining the key migration trends expected for 2017.

MULTIMEDIA OF INTEREST

[Syrian Refugees on the War, Their Camp, and Your Questions](#) - The New York Times

A video from the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan, one of the largest Syrian camps in the world.

[Images of the Displaced](#)- Muse Mohammed

Photos documenting the global displacement crisis affecting 65.3 million people around the world, including 21.3 million refugees.

[Libya’s forgotten women](#)- DW

Video showing conditions for 250 female African migrants detained in Surman, Western Libya.

[Bosla](#) - **Bosla**

An information directory and online referral guide providing information on services available to migrants in Egypt.

[Carbon's Casualties](#) - **Josh Haner**

A series of photo essays examining climate-based migrations or relocations across five countries.