



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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REGIONAL

Harnessing goodwill of citizens can help refugees

- The Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI) said that [harnessing citizens' goodwill](#) can help refugees. Jennifer Bond, of the GRSI, told delegates the only way to confront the challenges in refugee protection was to form bold new partnerships and to take advantage of "the compassion we know exists in individual citizens and communities all around the world". The talks were held on the 14 and 15 November as part of the process for [the Global Compact on Refugees](#) and focused on increased solutions for refugees which include voluntary returns to home, ways to become self-reliant in countries of asylum, and opportunities for refugees to move to third countries through resettlement or complementary pathways.

Interpol arrests 40 in human trafficking raids in west and central Africa

- Authorities [rescued](#) 500 victims of trafficking of whom 236 were children in Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal, reported the Interpol. The suspected traffickers are to face prosecution for offenses including human trafficking, forced labour and child exploitation. The operation fell under the efforts of Operation Sparrowhawk, the name given to the ongoing French military presence in Chad, as part of a German-funded project targeting human trafficking gangs across Africa's Sahel region. The preceding week, the Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution calling all Member States "to reinforce their political commitment to and improve their implementation of applicable legal obligations to criminalize, prevent, and otherwise combat trafficking in persons."

Libya slave market footage sparks global outrage

- The African Union (AU) [expressed outrage](#) after [footage](#) released showed enslaved sub-Saharan migrants being sold at markets in Libya. The video showed young men being auctioned as farm workers. AU Chairman, President Alpha Conde of Guinea, demanded prosecutions over a 'despicable' trade 'from another era'. "These modern slavery practices must end and the African Union will use all the tools at its disposal," Mr Conde said. Following the video release, France [called for an emergency meeting](#) of the UN Security Council to discuss the situation in Libya. The video sparked protests across the world in cities including Paris, Pretoria and London.

EU-AU Summit in Abidjan

- The 5th African Union-European Union summit was [held](#) between November 29 – 30 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire where African and European heads of state met to discuss issues pertaining to youth. In light of footage showing enslaved sub-Saharan migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Libya, it was agreed that assistance will be provided to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, including the evacuation of the most vulnerable. It was agreed during the meeting that a joint EU-AU-UN Task Force be setup to save and protect lives of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers across routes and in particular inside Libya. Speaking at the Summit, German Chancellor Angela Merkel [stressed](#) the importance of ending smuggling and slavery while creating legal migration avenues. Other discussions during the Summit centered around education, skills development and employment for youth as well as strengthening resilience in and cooperation between the two Unions.

UN calls for recognition of migration's positive impact

- UN Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for International Migration, Louise Arbour, [stressed](#) that policy decisions governing migration must be based on facts and not on perception or myth at the opening of a stocktaking meeting on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Mexico. "The [Global Compact](#) is an opportunity to reorient the often-toxic narrative against migrants towards a more accurate narrative on migration that recognizes its overwhelmingly positive impact and is prepared to address its challenges in a sober, realistic way," Arbour said.

USA pulls out of UN Global Compact on Migration

- The US ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, informed the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, of the decision to [withdraw](#) the United States from the Global Compact for Migration. The US said in a statement that the Global Compact "contains numerous provisions that are inconsistent with US immigration and refugee policies and the Trump administration's immigration principles". On his part Mr Guterres [expressed regret](#) over the decision. "The decision should not disrupt what we see as a clear, unanimous outcome of the New York Declaration for such a global compact," said UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric. Mr Dujarric added that while the decision to withdraw is "a decision which we regret, but there's still plenty of time for U.S. engagement on this issue."

ALGERIA

Algeria picks up 286 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers en-route to Europe

- The 286 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were [detained](#) on several boats according to a ministry statement. Number of crossings from Algeria to Europe by migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are much lower compared to the numbers of those making the crossing from neighboring Libya.

Tensions between Algeria and Spain over irregular migration increase

- A surge in irregular migration from Algeria to Spain has caused [tensions](#) between the two countries as Algeria sees increased number of those attempting the crossing. The Spanish Interior Minister, Juan Ignacio Zoido, met with the Algerian ambassador to discuss the situation and stressed the need for Algeria to ensure maritime patrol of its coast.

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi approves \$15 million grant for Syrian refugees

- Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi [approved](#) a grant of \$15 million to support Syrian refugees in Egypt. The grant was initially agreed between the Egyptian government and the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development in 2016 and seeks to address the needs of Syrian refugees in Egypt. According to a UNDP report, '[Jobs make the Difference](#)', since 2011, Syrians in Egypt have invested nearly \$800 million into Egypt.

UNODC workshops

- UNODC held two workshops in Alexandria between 5 and 8 November focusing on techniques for investigating migrant smuggling cases and targeted 40 National Prosecutors.

LIBYA

Maritime incidents

- 1,333 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were rescued off the coast of Libya across 6 different incidents bringing the total number of those rescued by the Libyan Coast Guard in 2017 to 19,452 (as of November 28). In the month of November, 33 deaths were recorded.

Returns from Libya

- 2,140 stranded migrants in Libya received voluntary humanitarian return assistance and reintegration support from the International Organization for Migration between 6 November - 20 November. They returned home to their countries of origin which include Senegal, Mali, Nigeria and others.

Five die as boat sinks and Libyan coast guard and German NGO blame each other

- At least five sub-Saharan migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [died](#) and more were missing off Western Libya after a boat carrying approximately 140 people capsized. During the rescue operation, some migrants, refugees and asylum seekers tried to jump off the Libyan patrol boat which had rescued them to instead board a ship operated by German NGO, Seawatch. Some screamed to be allowed to leave the Libyan boat as the German vessel approached. At least five died, including a toddler, due to the "violent and reckless behavior of (the) Libyan coast guards," Seawatch said on its Twitter feed. "The so-called Libyan Coastguard forced as many as they could into their vessel to take them back to Tripoli," the German group added. The Libyan coast guard claimed the German NGO had undermined its rescue operation by approaching their boat. "The Seawatch was approaching while we were rescuing migrants. This was encouraging the migrants to swim to the Seawatch and a (nearby) French navy ship," said Abu Ajala Amer Abdelbari, a coast guard commander.

EU to put aside €285 million to boost Libyan coast guard

- Italy and the EU will be [spending](#) €285 million over the next few years to boost the Libyan coast guard. Mario Macrone, associated with the Italian Interior Ministry, said the amount will cover expenses until 2023. The project aims to create operational centers in Libya to assist search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean; to better coordinate fleets between the Italian and Libyan coastguards; and to set up border guard posts on land.

UN condemns EU policy of helping Libya intercept migrants and refugees as 'inhuman'

- UN High Commissioner for Human rights Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein [condemned](#) the EU's policy of helping Libyan authorities intercept people trying to cross the Mediterranean saying that "The European Union's policy of assisting the Libyan coastguard to intercept and return migrants in the Mediterranean [is] inhuman." Italy, with the support of the EU, has been training the Libyan coastguard to intercept boats as part of a deal which has resulted in a 70% drop in arrivals since July. Hussein lamented the conditions of detention in Libya by observing that "The suffering of migrants detained in Libya is an outrage to the conscience of humanity," and that "the detention system for migrants in Libya is broken beyond repair".
- According to Libya's department of combating illegal migration (DCIM), 19,900 people were being held in facilities in early November. "The international community cannot continue to turn a blind eye to the unimaginable horrors endured by migrants [, refugees and asylum seekers] in Libya, and pretend that the situation can be remedied only by improving conditions in detention," al-Hussein added.
- On their part, Italy and Germany [defended](#) their support for Libyan coast guard patrols in Libya following Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein's statement. Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano insisted that Italy's support for the Libyan coast guard had saved lives and deterred traffickers. "We had migrants in the hands of smugglers and this represented the most tragic travel agency in the history of mankind," Alfano said.
- However, in later developments, Germany [pledged](#) €120 million to improve the conditions of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers stranded in Libya facing enslavement, violence and exploitation. Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said that giving money to the government was the only way to "effectively combat" smuggling and trafficking within and via the country.

Western Mediterranean Route

- 4,915 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have crossed from Morocco to Spain by sea between 1 and 29 November bringing the total arrivals by sea for this year to 20,343.

Morocco's second regularization campaign

- The President of Morocco's National Council of Human Rights (CNDH), Driss El Yazami, has [revealed](#) that 25,690 migrants have applied for regular residence status through the country's second regularization campaign to date. El Yazami added that roughly 82% of applications are expected to be successful. His statements came on the sidelines of the first meeting National Appeals Commission in Rabat which aimed to assess the progress of the campaign. The second campaign for regularization was [announced](#) in December of 2016 and represents a continuation of Morocco's new migration policy announced by King Mohammed VI in 2013 which saw many reforms relating to migrant and refugee policies and legislation in Morocco.

Morocco to bring home migrants stranded in Libya

- An official with Morocco's Ministry in Charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs has [said](#) that the ministry, in coordination with several other Moroccan state bodies, are working towards facilitating the return of migrants stranded in Libya back home to Morocco. The migrants concerned are reportedly stuck in a Libyan detention center following unsuccessful attempts to migrate irregularly to Europe. This latest development comes after a video recorded by a Moroccan

migrant in Libyan detention was shared widely on social media. The migrant said that he and 232 other Moroccans were being held in Libya and were on hunger strike demanding repatriation to Morocco. An audio note by another detained Moroccan migrant was [shared](#) by family members in order to highlight the dismal conditions under which they are held. The young man says "We do not have any medicine, no hygiene products, and fleas make our lives worse."

Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers dead and missing

- Joel Millman, a spokesperson for IOM, [reported](#) that six migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have been rescued off the coast of Morocco on 30 November following an unsuccessful attempt to migrate irregularly. Millman added that a further 28 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who were reportedly also on the same vessel were still missing while three have been confirmed [dead](#).

UNODC workshops for Moroccan civil society

- A training workshop for local NGOs in the Fez region was held on 29 and 30 November. The workshops were organized within the framework of the J/Tip project on Capacity Strengthening to civil society organizations in Morocco. The event was attended by 17 representatives of civil society organizations, working on issues ranging from protection to women and children to legal counseling to asylum seekers and refugees along with humanitarian support to vulnerable migrants.

NIGER

First group of refugees evacuated from Libya to Niger

- The first group of 25 refugees were [evacuated](#) on 12 November from Libya to Niger where they will have their resettlement requests assessed. This is the first operation in a joint initiative by UNHCR and the governments of Niger and Libya to assist and protect refugees who have become stranded in Libya. Niger has agreed to host the group until their claims to be resettled in third countries are dealt with. The group was comprised of 15 women, six men and four children from Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia Roberto Mignone, the UNHCR representative for Libya, said "Today's evacuation symbolizes hope in finding safe solutions for vulnerable refugees in Libya."
- Meanwhile UNHCR's Special Envoy for the Central Mediterranean, Vincent Cochetel, said, "These refugee evacuations can only be part of broader asylum-building and migration management efforts to address the complex movement of migrants and refugees who embark on perilous journeys across the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea."

- In further developments, Pascal Brice, the Director General of OFPRA (French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons), [told AFP](#) that France will be the first country to welcome those evacuated from Libya following a visit to Niamey. Brice said that "It is above all a way of saving people who have come out of a hell, with torture, rape and abduction of children" and added that they would be resettled to France by January 2018 at the latest. Those evacuated will be joined by a further 47 refugees who were already in Niger.

Workshop on child victims of human trafficking

- UNODC's Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section and Justice Section organized, in the context of GLO.ACT, a second workshop on child victims of violence, recruitment and human trafficking in the criminal justice system on 14 and 15 November.

SUDAN

Sudan delivers food aid to South Sudan

- Sudan [resumed](#) the delivery of food assistance to South Sudan via a humanitarian corridor on 21 November. A local official announced that Sudan has so far delivered 13,000 metric tons in food aid to South Sudan and that a remaining 10,000 metric tons will be delivered through continued efforts. Humanitarian Aid Commissioner, Ahmed Babiker al-Hassan, said that the aid was delivered to the Aweil area using trucks and that it was then transported to IDP camps.

Slow return of IDPs to Darfur

- The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Bintou Keita, [said](#) that, despite a reduction in violence and armed group activity in Darfur, such positive developments have not been accompanied by the sustainable return of those internally displaced by the conflict. The Assistant Secretary-General made the comments during a presentation of the latest report on the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) to the Security Council on 15 November. According to the [report](#), nearly a third of Darfur's population

remain displaced and that “UNAMID was informed of 72 cases of human rights violations and abuses involving 253 victims, including 16 minors (15 girls and one boy) and 30 women, compared with 82 cases involving 124 victims, including 15 minors, during the previous reporting period.”

TUNISIA

Italian Prime Minister meets Tunisian leaders to discuss Libya, migration and terrorism

- Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni [met](#) with Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi and Prime Minister Youssef Chahed during a two-day working visit to discuss terrorism, migration and the impact of the current situation in Libya. Prime Minister Gentiloni said that “it is crucial to reduce regional disparities and social inequalities in Tunisia” to address causes of migration and impact the terrorism fight.

Dispelling false claims about the recent spike in Tunisian arrivals to Europe

- The European Council on Foreign Relations set out to [dispel](#) some of the false claims made about the recent surge in arrivals from Tunisia which has seen more than 3,000 arrive between September and mid-October this year. 4,500 people have arrived to Italy from Tunisia in 2017, which is a fourfold increase on 2016 numbers, attracting increased attention and false claims. The commentary by the council concluded that most of those arriving from Tunisia were Tunisian which suggests that there is no correlation between the Italian-Libyan migration agreement and the rise of arrivals from Tunisia. There

is also little evidence to suggest that the Tunisian government is allowing more migrants and refugees in order to receive aid from Italy in exchange for stricter controls. Economic crisis, low salaries, few job opportunities, corruption and impact on traditional industries and livelihoods were found to be the root causes of this renewed wave of migration from Tunisia to Italy.

UNODC training of trainers for Tunisian officials

- UNODC organized the second and third sessions of a training of trainers programme on trafficking in persons (TIP) between 14 and 16 November and between 21 and 23 November. The event brought together 15 officers from the National Guard, the National Security, and the Directorate for Borders and Foreigners and comprised dedicated sessions on the legal and institutional framework against TIP, how to investigate and prosecute cases of TIP, and on the protection of victims. During the last session, the trainees were asked to present topics related to TIP issues to an audience in order to simulate a training exercise they will be expected to conduct in Tunisian Governorates to train their peers.

GREECE

Arrivals to Greece

- 3,070 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived to Greece by sea in the month of October, representing an approximate 26% decrease in the number of arrivals from the previous month (4,152) and a 33% decrease from the figure for the month of September (4,604). This brings the total number of arrivals in 2017 to 24,133. There have been 14 recorded deaths along the Eastern Mediterranean Route in the month of November.

Returns from Greece to Turkey

- 75 persons were [returned](#) to Turkey during the month of November under the EU-Turkey Statement. This brings the total number of persons returned in 2017 to 668. The figure for November represents a considerable, 70% increase from that of the previous month. Moreover, it represents a significant increase from the figures for the months of September and August which saw the return of 29 and 19 persons respectively.

Greece migration minister defends EU-Turkey deal and rejects open border policy

- The Greek Migration Policy Minister, Yiannis Mouzalas, has [defended](#) the EU-Turkey deal by saying that it opens up legal avenues for migration to the EU. Speaking in an interview, Mr. Mouzalas said that, despite the fact that numbers have been somewhat limited, that “It [the deal] opened up a legal route to Europe through the resettlement scheme, i.e. the transfer of refugees from Turkey to Europe.” Mr. Mouzalas has also rejected calls from within the SYRIZA party to open up borders. He added that “The view that we should welcome anyone who

wishes to come to Greece and then see what happens is a view that, all else aside, is against the interests of refugees and migrants.”

Greek police stop migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers from marching to border with Macedonia

- Greek police [stopped](#) 200 migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers from marching from Thessaloniki to Greece’s border with Macedonia on 15 November. Those stopped said that the march had been initiated by calls on social media and were hoping to cross the border into Macedonia and move on to other European countries. Greek police in riot gear used shields to push back refugees and police buses were used to block the road out of Thessaloniki. There were no injuries resulting from the confrontation but the group, which included families and children, sat down on the road in protest.

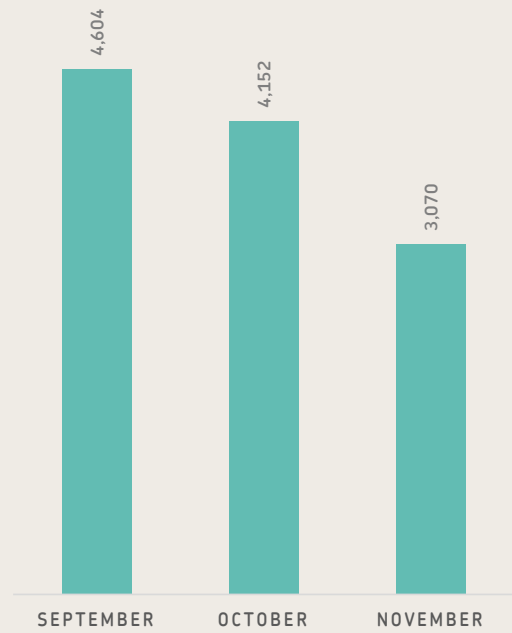
Police discover migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in tanker

- Greek authorities [reported](#) that they have found 19 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers hidden in a tanker near Greece’s border with Turkey. They had travelled on foot from Turkey and were picked up by suspected smugglers who had intended to take them to a port in western Greece. Police apprehended the driver of the vehicle who was transporting the migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, seven of whom are minors, to a Greek port where he presumably said they would be able to take ferries to various Italian cities. Greek police said that the 19 individuals were found in a life-threatening situation as the tanker provided no ventilation.

Greece moves refugees and asylum seekers to mainland

- Greek authorities [moved](#) 300 refugees and asylum seekers from the island of Lesbos to the Greek mainland on 30 November. Lesbos, which currently hosts 8,500 refugees and asylum seekers, has seen the overcrowding of camps and facilities to nearly three times their capacity. Most of those transferred are women and children.

Arrivals by Sea, Greece
September–November



ITALY

Arrivals to Italy

- Between 29 October and 29 November, 5,740 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived to Italy by sea. During the same period, 172 deaths were reported along the Central Mediterranean route bringing the total recorded deaths in 2017 to 2,803.

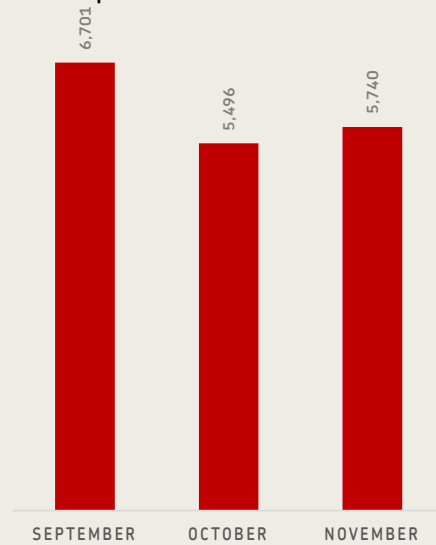
Italy holds funeral for 26 Nigerian women who drowned in the Mediterranean

- Italy [held](#) a mass funeral at the city of Salerno which was attended by a Roman Catholic bishop and a Muslim Imam for 26 Nigerian women who drowned in the Mediterranean while en route to Italy. Their bodies were retrieved from the sea on November 3 by a Spanish rescue ship, while some 64 people were unaccounted for and feared lost, bringing the total dead to around 90, said Flavio Di Giacomo, an IOM spokesman. Italian prosecutors had [opened a probe](#) into the deaths due to suspicions that the women might have been sexually abused and murdered. However, autopsies later confirmed that they had [drowned](#). Only two women were identified and were both pregnant. Some of those who died were believed to have been as young as 14.

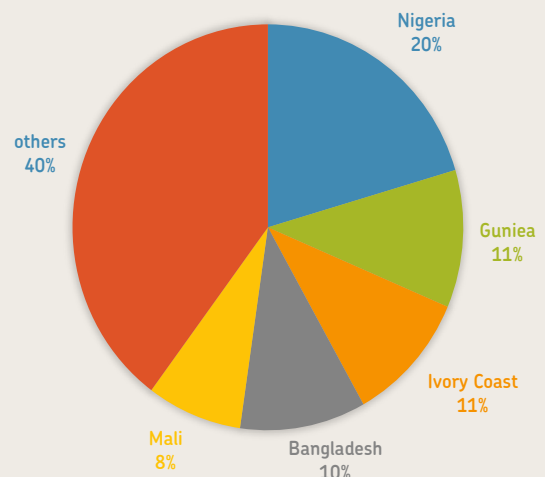
Italian, Estonian and Maltese Prime Ministers meet to discuss migration

- Estonian Prime Minister Jüri Ratas [met](#) with Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat and Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni to discuss the ongoing migration 'crisis'. "Italy and Malta have done a great job," Ratas said according to a government press release. "Estonia has found it important to support Southern European countries in gaining control over migration pressure. Europe must stick together and support one another; the crisis is not limited to Southern Europe, but affects all of us, and it is important that all countries contribute," he added.

Arrivals by Sea, Italy
September - November 2017



Arrivals by Sea to Italy, Main Countries of Origin
January - November 2017



RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[Tackling the root causes of human trafficking and smuggling from Eritrea: The need for an empirically grounded EU policy on mixed migration in the Horn of Africa](#) - SOAS, IRRI and SIHA

This report provides an in-depth look into smuggling and trafficking in and from Eritrea and places a particular focus on the relationship between policies regarding smuggling and trafficking and refugee policies.

[Four Decades of Cross-Mediterranean Undocumented Migration to Europe: A Review of the Evidence](#) - IOM

This report provides an analysis of four decades' worth of data on irregular migration across the Mediterranean and argues that increases in figures have accompanied restrictive migration policies by European countries. The report also highlights changes in patterns of migration across time.

[The Human Rights Situation of Internally Displaced Persons in Darfur 2014 - 2016](#) - AU, UNAMID and OHCHR

The report details the situation of IDPs from January 2014 to December 2016, a period marked by the military campaign "decisive summer" that led to mass displacement.

[Fatal Journeys Volume 3, Part II: Improving Data on Missing Migrants](#) - IOM

This report addresses and critically examines the regional data gaps and challenges in the context of migrant deaths and disappearance.

[Mixed Migration Monthly Summary October 2017](#) - MMP

The report provides insights on the current migration trends in the Middle East during the month of October 2017.

MULTIMEDIA OF INTEREST

[The hardest goodbye: Why I left my kids](#) - BBC News

A video interview with an Afghan refugee couple who want their latest child to be born in Germany but only have enough money for one person to travel from the Greek island camp to Germany.

[Video: 'The smugglers in Niger sell you to Libyan slave-dealers'](#) - France 24

A feature and video where a young Malian migrant warns others of the perils, dangers and exploitation faced along his journey.

[Migrants being sold as slaves](#) - CNN

An undercover investigation by CNN that revealed slave markets in Libya.

['I am their family.' In Tunisia, one man's mission to bury the migrants who die at sea](#) - LA Times

Report looking at the situation of Afghan unaccompanied minors in Italy and the Italian system of protections available to them.

*MHub does not vouch for the accuracy or reliability of articles in its Monthly Bulletin.