



MONTHLY TREND REPORT

COVERING MIXED MIGRATION TO, THROUGH & FROM NORTH AFRICA

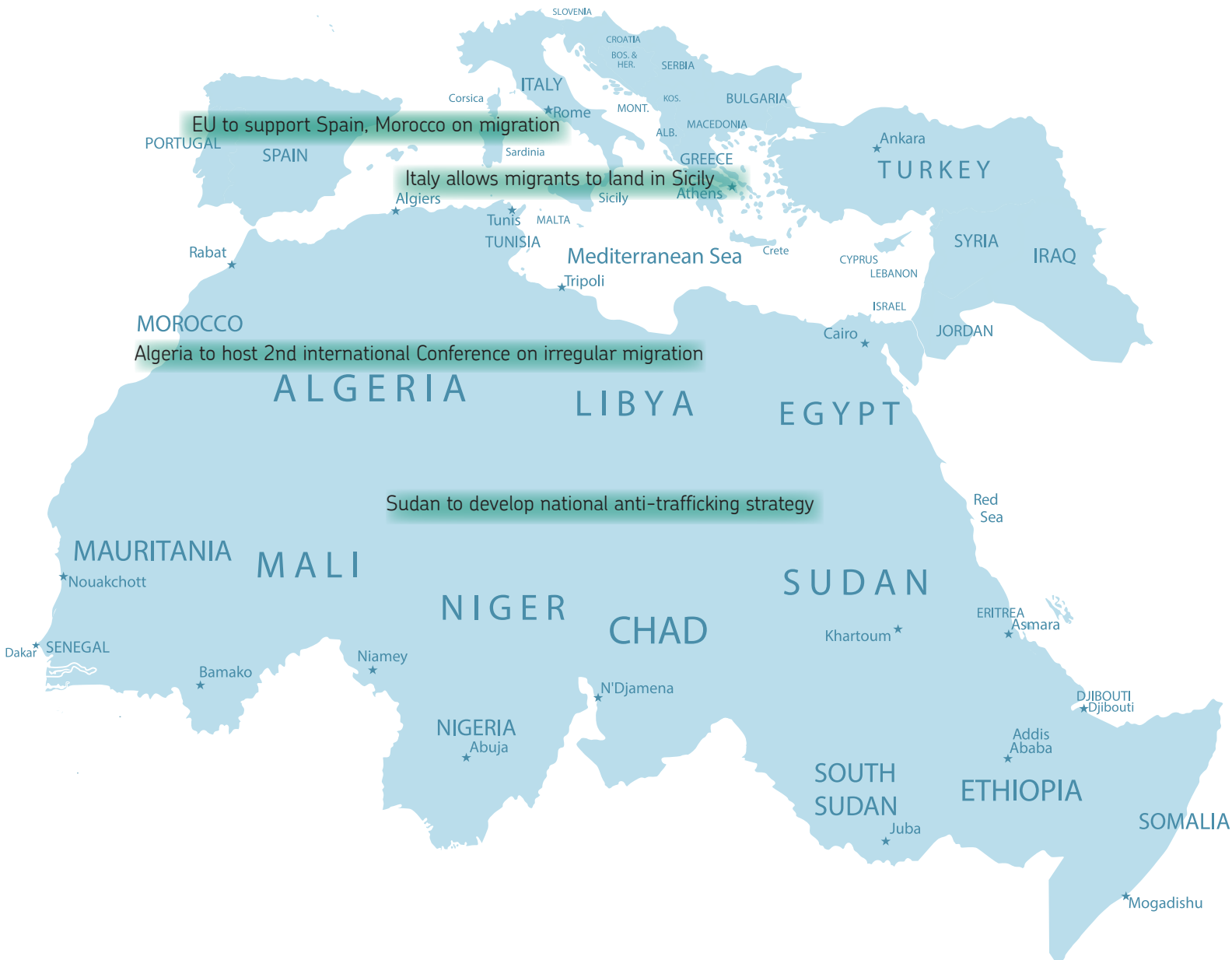
About: MHub is the regional knowledge hub and secretariat for the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force, comprising of DRC, IOM, OHCHR, RMMS, Save the Children, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNODC. It promotes a human rights-based approach to ensure the protection of people moving in mixed and complex flows to,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

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.

Scope: This bulletin covers mixed migration trends in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Sudan, Tunisia, Greece, Italy and Spain.

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

HIGHLIGHTS



CONTACT

info@mixedmigrationhub.org



www.mixedmigrationhub.org



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

REGIONAL

UN member states finalize text for the GCM

- The final text for the [Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration \(GCM\)](#) was [completed](#) and agreed by member states on 13 July. This watershed moment was the culmination of over a year's worth of discussions and consultations by member states, international organizations, civil society, local officials and migrants themselves. The GCM is the first global attempt to set out key principles, commitments and understandings among member states with regards to migration. According to the finalized [text](#), the GCM "expresses our collective commitment to improving cooperation on international migration." The opening section of the GCM also extols the benefits and positive impacts of migration that can be optimized through better migration governance. The document further adds, "It is crucial that the challenges and opportunities of international migration unite us, rather than divide us. This Global Compact sets out our common understanding, shared responsibilities and unity of purpose regarding migration, making it work for all."
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres welcomed the agreement in a statement, saying that it reflected "the shared understanding by Governments that cross-border migration is, by its very nature, an international phenomenon and that effective management of this global reality requires international cooperation to enhance its positive impact for all. It also recognizes that every individual has the right to safety, dignity and protection."
- IOM's Director General, William Lacy Swing, also [welcomed](#) the agreement and lauded the efforts made to arrive at this historic moment. He said, "States approached negotiations in an admirably positive spirit of collaboration with a view to how they would like to see migration policy, practice and cooperation evolve over the years, rather than as a reaction to one crisis after another as it often seems." Director General Swing further added that this was not the end "but beginning of a new historic effort to shape the global agenda on migration for decades to come."

France's Constitutional Court rules in favour of farmer previously charged with aiding irregular migration

- In a landmark ruling on 6 July, France's top constitutional court [ruled](#) in favour of a farmer from France's Roya Valley who was previously convicted of migrant smuggling. The court ruled that Cédric Herrou was protected by the "principle of fraternity" enshrined in the French constitution. In its decision, the court wrote, "The principle of fraternity confers the freedom to help others, for humanitarian purposes, regardless of the legality of their presence on national territory." Mr Herrou was fined €3,000 in 2017 for assisting migrants, refugees and asylum seekers along the French-Italian border in the Roya Valley. Mr Herrou, along with other local residents, had [spent](#) two years providing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers with food, shelter, first aid and lifts to nearby towns. Unlike smugglers, Mr Herrou did not expect any return for his assistance and delivered it for free. Mr Herrou had filed suit with the Constitutional Court after losing his appeal. Speaking before his initial court date Mr Herrou had said, "I prefer to be jailed as a free man than to live closing my eyes and plugging my ears."

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

- At an event to [mark](#) the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on 30 July, Amado Philip de Andres, Head of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Eastern Africa called on states to work together and increase cooperation in the fight against trafficking in persons. Speaking at the event, Mr de Andres said, "International cooperation has to get stronger and stronger. I am referring specifically to international police and judicial cooperation to dismantle criminal networks involved in human trafficking." According to figures released by the UN, more than 800,000 persons are trafficked across borders annually and the International Labour Organization (ILO) [estimates](#) that 21 million people are the victim of forced labour globally.
- The UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, also [highlighted](#) the need for global action to combat trafficking in persons, in a statement ahead of the day. In the statement, Ms Giammarinaro said that migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are falling prey to criminal networks of traffickers. She said, "They have left behind their social protection network, and are particularly vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation."

EU Commission announces a further €90 million to strengthen border management and protection of migrants in North Africa

- The EU commission announced on 6 July that it would be funding three new migration-related programmes in North Africa with the amount of €90 million through the [EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa](#). Speaking about the latest programmes, High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini said, "Today's new programmes will step up our work to managing migration flows in a humane and sustainable way, by saving and protecting lives of refugees and migrants and providing them with assistance and by fighting against traffickers and smugglers. It is our integrated approach that combines our action at sea, our work together with partner countries along the migratory routes, including inside Libya, and in the Sahel."
- The three programmes include one targeting border management for the Maghreb region worth €55 million, €29 million that will go towards the existing "Integrated approach to protection and emergency assistance to vulnerable and stranded migrants in Libya" programme and €6.5 to reinforce the EU's commitment to assist vulnerable migrants and support the Moroccan National Strategy on Migration.

EU Commission takes infringement proceedings against Hungary

- The EU Commission [sent](#) a letter of formal notice to Hungary on 19 July with regards to recently passed [legislation](#) criminalizing activities that support asylum applications and further adds hurdles before asylum seekers. The formal notice indicates that the new legislation runs counter to EU law and is the first step in the infringement procedure for breach of EU law. According to a press release by the EU Commission, “that Hungary is failing to fulfil its obligations under the EU Treaties, EU laws and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union .” The new legislation, passed in June, criminalizes individuals who work with or for NGOs involved in assisting asylum seekers with their applications or advocating for their rights. According to the EU Commission, such measures “curtail asylum applicants’ right to communicate with and be assisted by relevant national, international and non-governmental organisations.” The EU Commission further charges that the introduction of a ‘non-admissibility’ ground for asylum applications curtails “the right to asylum in a way which is incompatible with the [Asylum Qualifications Directive](#) and the [EU Charter of Fundamental Rights](#)”.

ALGERIA

Algeria to host 2nd international Conference on irregular migration

- Algeria [was nominated](#) by the African Civil Society Parliament to host the 2nd International conference on irregular migration. The conference is scheduled between 19 and 21 November in Algiers with the theme “Preparing Africa for the challenge of the migration crisis”. The conference will [bring](#) together UN agencies present in Algeria, such as UNICEF, UNDP and UNHCR and the heads of government bodies to discuss ways of fighting irregular migration. “Participants will focus on the importance of the economic development of the African continent through industrialization and processing activities that reduce unemployment and precariousness, the root causes of illegal migration,” said Ali Sahel, the president of the conference organizing committee. The African Union and the African Development Bank will take the lead in sponsoring the event.
- On 10 – 12 July 2018, UNODC and Algerian authorities held a three-day “First practical workshop on strengthening national coordination to enhance identification and referral of human trafficking victims in Algeria” for the members of the inter-ministerial National Committee for the Prevention and Fight against Trafficking in Persons. This activity, delivered within the framework of the UNODC Global Programme against Trafficking in Persons (GLOT59), was attended by 16 members of the National Committee (7 women and 9 men), with participation of the UNODC Regional Trainer in the fight against Trafficking in Persons in the MENA, and was funded by the US State Department Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP).

- From 29 July to 1 August 2018, UNODC ROMENA organized a training workshop in Algiers, Algeria, to strengthen the capacity of criminal law practitioners to detect, investigate and prosecute cases of trafficking in persons. The event gathered 26 participants, including 6 officers of the National Gendarmerie, 8 police officers, 3 representatives of the Ministry of National Solidarity and 8 prosecutors and was case-based.

Algeria resumes expulsions

- According to reports by UN officials, Algeria has [resumed](#) operations to expel migrants, refugees and asylum seekers to the deserts separating Algeria and Niger. The head of IOM Niger, Giuseppe Loprete, has said that almost 400 people were left stranded on the borders with Niger in unrelenting summer heat. Algeria had seemed to temporarily halt such operations due to international pressure and criticism from human rights organizations. According to a [report](#) by Associated Press, Algeria has expelled around 13,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers since May 2017.
- While the deportation of foreign nationals from Algeria has received much negative coverage over the past year, the Algerian Council for Human Rights [reported](#) that it was satisfied with an operation to deport 355 irregular Nigerien migrants to their country of origin. The specific operation was overseen by a number of UN agencies in Algeria, such as the UNHCR and IOM, and a delegation, including psychologists and medical professionals accompanied the convoy. The council released a statement saying, “We express our full satisfaction with the progress of this operation which departed from the capital city Algiers to the southernmost province of Tamanrasset, on the border with Niger and Mali.”

EGYPT

Giza Criminal Court rules in trafficking case

- On the 22nd of July, a Giza criminal court [announced](#) its ruling in the case of 40 defendants accused of human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Egypt. In addition to the crime of forming a criminal network for human trafficking and migrant smuggling, the defendants were accused of bribery, falsifying official documents and sex trafficking. The details of the ruling are not yet available. Egypt introduced a law in 2016 increasing penalties for crimes relating to human smuggling after

hundreds on migrants, refugees and asylum seekers died in tragic accident off Egyptian shores.

Egyptian Foreign Minister meets with EU Commissioner

- During a mini summit in Brussels on Syria on 11 July, the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sameh Shoukry, [met](#) with EU Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn, where he presented Egypt’s efforts in combating irregular migration and human trafficking. In an official statement, Minister Shoukry said that Egypt made serious efforts to fight irregular migration and

and that the success of such efforts is demonstrated by the almost complete halt to boats traveling irregularly to Europe from Egyptian shores. Minister Shoukry underlined the fact that many persons attempt to travel irregularly by transiting through Libya and that Egypt needs increased support from the EU in order to address such flows.

UNODC organises a Study visit for Egyptian Officials

- From 2 to 6 July 2018, a delegation of 11 high-ranking officials from the Republic of Egypt Public Prosecutor's Office (PPO), the Ministry of Interior (MOI) and the Agency for Administrative Control (ACA) took part in a study visit organized by the UNODC Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (ROMENA) within the context of GLO.ACT, the Global Project against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants.
- During the study tour, the Egyptian delegation visited numerous counterparts in Rome and Catania, including relevant departments of the Ministry of Interior (MOI): the Department of Public Security, the Central Directorate for Immigration and Border Police, the National Centre for the Coordination of Immigration 'Roberto Iavarone', and the Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration. This is in addition to the National Anti-Mafia and Anti-Terrorism Directorate, the Department for Equal Opportunities at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Police Headquarters and the Prosecutor's Office in Catania.
- At the Port of Catania, briefings were organized by the State Police units responsible for disembarkation, the Financial Police (Guardia di Finanza) and the Italian Coastguard.
- Egyptian officials also met with representatives of Frontex, Europol and EASO the European Regional Task Force (EURTF) in Catania. Moreover, the Egyptian delegation had the opportunity to visit a shelter for minors hosting trafficked persons and was briefed on assistance and protection measures for victims of trafficking in Italy, with a special focus on the protection of minors (trafficked and non-trafficked).

UNODC holds a four-day training on countering Trafficking in persons and Smuggling of Migrants for Egyptian law Enforcement officers

- Under the umbrella of the GLO.ACT project, UNODC, in collaboration with the National Coordinating Committee on Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons and the Ministry of Interior Affairs, organized a four-day-training workshop on TIP and SOM and included sessions on international cooperation, digital investigations and digital evidence. The workshop took place from 9-12 July in Cairo and gathered 20 Egyptian Law Enforcement Officers.

UNODC, IOM and That NCCPIM & TIP Commemorate the World Day against Trafficking in Persons

- On 30 July 2018, The Government of Egypt, represented by its National Committees mandated to combat trafficking in persons, partnered with UNODC and IOM to celebrate the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, and to launch the campaign at national level. The event took place at the historic Salah El Din Citadel to celebrate Egypt's adoption of the Blue Heart Campaign on the World Day against Trafficking in Persons. The Blue Heart logo was displayed on the old walls of the Citadel after sunset making it visible to thousands of car drivers and pedestrians moving in the area. During the event an exhibition for handmade products by Egyptian entrepreneurs took place at the historic location, and another photo exhibition by IOM. Media entities and journalists were present to air and report on the event for further outreach. Ambassador Naela Gabr, Chairperson of NCCPIM&TIP, Ms Cristina Albertin, UNODC Representative for the Middle East and North Africa, Mr Laurent De Boeck, IOM Representative in Egypt, and Mr. Ivan Surkos, Head of the European Union Delegation in Egypt, called for more coordinated action to raise awareness and combat this crime.

LIBYA

Libyan-Italian meeting on migration

- The Libyan Deputy Prime Minister, Ahmed Maiteeq, [met](#) with the Italian Minister of Interior, Matteo Salvini on 5 July in Rome to discuss issues surrounding irregular migration. At a joint press conference following the meeting both Deputy Prime Minister Maiteeq and Minister Salvini reiterated their commitment to stopping all irregular flows from Libya. Speaking to reporters, Mr Salvini said, "My aim is not to have even one boat come here. The goal is for people who have the right to come to Italy, to come here by plane, preferably in first class." Both officials also called for the lifting of a UN arms embargo on Libya which was introduced in 2011 in the aftermath of the fall of Muammar Gaddafi. Speaking about the embargo, Minister Salvini said, "People smugglers and arms smugglers obviously ignore it and arm themselves as they wish, while the only ones who are blocked are the legitimate authorities." Deputy Prime Minister Maiteeq echoed

Mr Salvini's calls and added, "We do not accept that people say Libya is not helping with immigration but at the same time keep in place an embargo that is hindering us." It was also [announced](#) that an international conference on irregular migration will be held in Tripoli in September of this year.

Libya and Italy to reactivate decade old friendship treaty

- On 7 July, Libya and Italy [agreed](#) to reactivate a friendship treaty signed in 2008 by then Libyan President Muammar Gaddafi and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. The announcement came at a joint press conference following meetings between the Libyan Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mohamad Siala, and his Italian counterpart, Enzo Moavero Milanesi. The original treaty was part of rapprochement efforts between Italy and Libya. The agreement will allow migrants to be returned to Libya from Italy and will see increased investment from Italy in Libya.

IOM DG calls on Libya to end migrant detention

- During a visit to Libya in the first week of July, IOM's Director General, William Lacy Swing, [called](#) on Libyan authorities to end the detention of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who are intercepted in the Mediterranean. During his visit to Libya, Director General Swing met with the Libyan Prime Minister Fayeze al-Sarraj, other Libyan officials and visited rescued migrants in detention. Speaking at press conference, Director General Swing said, "in my meeting with Prime Minister Fayeze al-Sarraj I appealed that migrants brought back to shore or rescued by the Coast Guard not be put into detention centres. Those who wish to go home should be speedily and voluntarily returned to their countries of origin rather than linger in detention." Ambassador Swing also thanked the Libyan Prime Minister for considering his proposal to set up separate centers for women and children.

Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Libya are at increased risk of trafficking

- On 17 July, IOM Libya's Chief of Mission, Othman Belbeisi, [warned](#) of the increased risks to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers trapped in Libya. Mr Belbeisi made the remarks during a press conference in London and said that those trapped in Libya are now at increased risk of kidnapping, exploitation and enslavement by armed groups and militias. Speaking to the assembled press, he said, "Smuggling networks are becoming more organised, stronger, globally. More and more we are seeing migrants being sold from one smuggler to another ... being contracted for work but not being paid." Mr Belbeisi went on to add, "traffickers don't need detention centres, they can go on the streets, detain 100 migrants and take them to a farm (to work). This is regular business for armed groups."

Rescue NGO accuses Libyan Coast Guard of abandoning migrants in the Mediterranean

- The Spanish rescue NGO, Proactiva Open Arms, [accused](#) the Libyan Coast Guard of abandoning migrants in the Mediterranean to die on 17 July. The NGO was able to rescue one woman while another woman and a four-year-old child died hours before the rescue vessel's arrival. According to Proactiva, the Libyan Coast Guard had rescued 155 from the same dinghy but abandoned the remaining three when they refused to board their vessel. The NGO also claims that the Libyan Coast Guard damaged the dinghy before departing. Speaking about the incident, Oscar Camps, founder of Proactiva Open Arms said, "I want to denounce...the Libyan coast guard that did not know how to manage an emergency situation, arriving two days, two nights late, and abandoned two women and a child in the remains of a vessel that they themselves destroyed." Mr Camps also levelled criticism against a commercial freighter that did not come to migrants' assistance. Mr Camps went on to say that this incident was the direct result of Italy's efforts to hamper rescue operations in the Mediterranean. In statements made following the incident, the Libyan Coast Guard [said](#) that it acted in accordance with international standards in rescue operations. A spokesperson for the coast guard said, "All disasters happening in the sea are caused by human traffickers who are only interested in profit and the presence of such irresponsible non-governmental groups in the region." The Libyan Coast Guard did not however explain how the two women and child came to be stranded in the damaged vessel.
- Proactiva revealed on 18 July that it would be taking the surviving woman to Spain instead of Italy and explained that

Italy had offered to take in the woman but not the bodies of the deceased woman and child. They further added that they would have feared for her safety, security and freedom to testify if she was taken Italy.

- On a related note, Proactiva also [filed](#) a complaint against the commercial freighter mentioned earlier with the Spanish police on 21 July. Speaking about the complaint, Mr Camps said, "We have filed a complaint against the captain of the (merchant ship) Triades for failing to help and for involuntary manslaughter and we'll also do it against the captain of the Libyan patrol." The crew of Proactiva's vessel claim that the crew of the Triades saw the distressed dinghy and did not provide assistance.

Eight migrants, refugees and asylum seekers found dead in a lorry

- Libyan authorities [reported](#) that eight migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were found dead in the container of a lorry on 16 July in Zuwara in western Libya. According to authorities, the deceased suffocated on petrol fumes after a prolonged period of confinement in the container. Speaking of the incident, the security directorate for Zuwara said, "As a result of the length of time they were suffocated, eight of them died including six children, one woman and a young man." A further ninety migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were rescued from the lorry and transferred to hospital in critical condition.

EU ambassador to Libya visits detention centres

- The head of the EU delegation to Libya, Bettina Muscheidt, [visited](#) Libyan detention centres with the Libyan undersecretary for the Ministry of Interior, Mohammed Al-Shibani, on 26 July. Ambassador Muscheidt conducted an inspection of conditions in centres. Mr Al-Shibani took the opportunity to stress the importance of Europe's continued support for Libya's efforts to stem irregular migration.

Western Mediterranean Route

- [8,719](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have crossed from Morocco to Spain by sea in the month of July bringing the total arrivals by sea for this year to 24,834. July's figure represents a 26% increase from the previous month and is the highest number of arrivals recorded so far this year. Spain has seen a substantial increase in the number of arrivals by sea this year with the Western Mediterranean Route overtaking the Central Mediterranean Route in terms of numbers so far in 2018. The Spanish maritime rescue service also announced that it had [rescued](#) almost 1,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from the Mediterranean over a two-day period between 28 and 30 July. According to IOM figures, 15 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers died while attempting the crossing into Spain in between the 1 and 29 July.
- An additional [955](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers crossed from Morocco into Spain via its land borders with Morocco (through Ceuta and Melilla) during the month of July, bringing the total of number of persons making this crossing this year to 3,767. The number of land crossings in July is the highest so far this year. More than 600 migrants, refugees and

asylum seekers [crossed](#) into the Spanish enclave of Ceuta on 26 July alone. The migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in question forced their way through the fortified border fence using shears, saws and mallets.

Spain to extend health services to undocumented migrants

- The Spanish Health Ministry [sent](#) a draft government decree to regional governments proposing to extend health services to irregular migrants and ease current restrictions on access. The draft decree eliminates the need for migrants to hold Social Security cards as well as the need to sign up on the municipal register before they are allowed to make use of Spanish health services. El País newspaper reported that a ministry source has said, "An immigrant will be able to get off the boat, get assistance from the Social Services, and head straight for the local health centre." According to the decree, a 90-day period during which services are limited to non-citizens will be reduced or removed altogether, giving all migrants immediate access to services.

MOROCCO

EU to support Spain, Morocco on migration, but funds limited

- asylum seekers arriving irregularly to Spain from Morocco, the EU Commission [expressed](#) an intention to increase funding to both Morocco and Spain in order support both states' efforts to deal with irregular migration. Jean-Claude Juncker announced the commission's intention of increasing financial support to Spain through a tweet with a copy of the letter he sent to The Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez. "As soon as we have the necessary funds for this program, it will be subject to a new increase, both during this year and in 2019," Juncker said in hi his letter.

Morocco's Leadership Highlighted as UN Member Countries Adopt Migration pact

- A conference [will be held](#) in Marrakech between 10 and 11 December to formally adopt the Global Compact on Migration (GCM). The UN Special Representative for International Migration, Louise Arbour, has said that world leaders are intending to formally adopt the compact within this conference and that Morocco is taking the leadership role in organizing and hosting the conference and added that Morocco is working to ensure that the conference is a big success. The pact is designed to "preserves states' sovereignty and their rights to decide their migration policies. It will reduce the chaos of irregular, dangerous migration. It will increase access to safe, legal pathways, for instance to the labor market that has a deficit in human resources," she said.

Fire breaks out during evacuation of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

- A fire [broke out](#) in a building belonging to the national rail office in Fez in morocco while a number of irregular migrants were being evacuated from the property. The fire was contained and no injuries were reported. The fire damaged nearly 50 plastic shelters migrants have built in the property. The evacuation was managed by the Moroccan authorities and human rights commissions.

UNODC holds a three-day training for Prosecutors

- A training took place in Morocco from 24-26 of July in Tangiers to create a network of prosecutors of Appeal Court with advanced knowledge and common understanding of trafficking in persons cases

IOM Assists Record Number of West African Migrants to Return Home

- IOM has [helped](#) 10,000 migrants from 10 different West African countries return from Niger in 2018. According to reports from IOM, the number of migrants returning to their countries of origin this year far surpasses that for last year, during which 7,000 were voluntarily repatriated. A large number of these returnees were found in the Sahara on the borders with Algeria near the Nigerien cities of Arlit and Assamaka. Procedures for identification were quite complicated as most migrants did not have any form of travel or identification documents. IOM [managed](#) to process over 5,000 requests for travel documents. Airline and bus reservations were arranged for migrants who wished to return to their hometowns.

Migrant crossings from Niger to Europe fall by 95% says EU

- The President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani, [gave](#) a statement saying that the arrivals of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from Niger to Europe dropped by 95% compared to last year's numbers. In 2016 alone, around 33,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived to Europe via Niger, the number dropped to 18,000 in 2017 and to 10,000 people so far this year. He also stressed the need for additional funds from the EU in order to address issues of irregular migration. President Mahamadou said that current EU funding of 1.8 billion Euros is insufficient for Niger to adequately address irregular migration. For his part, Mr Tajani expressed that a big part of 500 million Euros that has been set aside for EU trust fund for Africa should be allocated to Niger for its efforts.

Sudan to develop national anti-trafficking strategy

- Sudanese officials [announced](#) that they will be developing a national strategy to combat trafficking in persons following a meeting of the Higher Committee to Combat Human Trafficking on 15 July. The strategy will be developed in accordance with established international standards and will include activating existing anti-trafficking legislation. The meeting, chaired by Vice-President Hassabo Mohamed Abdel-Rahman, addressed legal frameworks for combatting trafficking in persons as well as methods to address the social and humanitarian dimensions of the phenomenon. The committee also agreed to launch partnerships with regional and international anti-trafficking organizations. Attorney General Omer Ahmed Mohamed reviewed a report prepared by the committee's legal sub-committee on migration-related legislation during the meeting.

Sudanese nationals to be repatriated to from Libya

- The Sudanese embassy in Tripoli [issued](#) temporary travel documents to dozens of Sudanese nationals in Libya in order to facilitate their return to Sudan. The announcement was made by the Libyan Anti-Illegal Immigration Agency (AIIA) on 11 July. The agency also reported that the Sudanese ambassador to Libya visited its headquarters on 5 July to check on the condition of the Sudanese nationals. The voluntary repatriations will be conducted through via Maitika International Airport and with support and assistance from IOM. The AIIA had previously reported that 56 Sudanese nationals were returned via the border crossing between Kufra and Sudan in the first week of July, those aboard the boat and that they would continue to do so following their arrival on shore.

UNODC holds a four-day Basic Training Workshop for Law Enforcement Officers and Criminal Justice Practitioners on Investigating and Prosecuting TIP Cases

- On 9 – 12 July, UNODC and the Judicial and Legal Science Institute organized a “Basic Training Workshop for Law Enforcement Officers and Criminal Justice Practitioners on Investigating and Prosecuting TIP Cases” in Gedaref State

(East Sudan). The workshop targeted 17 Participants (4 prosecutors, 5 judges, 8 law enforcement officers). Participants are from different localities within Gedaref State (Al Gedaref, El Showak, Al fau, Douka). 1 female prosecutor was among the participants. UNODC, as implementing partner to the Better Migration Management Project, contributed to the BMM Regional Conference on “Exchange of Good Practices among National Anti-Trafficking Bodies in the Greater Horn of Africa” that was held 16-18 July 2018 in Khartoum, Sudan. It brought together anti-trafficking bodies from the Horn of Africa to enrich their ideas and tools on how to further develop and strengthen core national responses, as well as regional cooperation.

UNODC holds a three-day training workshop on Courtroom Skills for Prosecutors and Defence Lawyers

- On 22-25 July UNODC and the Judicial and Legal Science Institute organized training workshop on Courtroom Skills for Prosecutors and Defence Lawyers in Kassala State (East Sudan). The workshop targeted 8 prosecutors and 8 defence lawyers (4 female and 12 male). Participants are from (Kassala, Khartoum, Khashm Algirba, New Halfa, Wad Alhelew)
- UNODC, as implementing partner to the Better Migration Management Project, contributed to the BMM Regional Conference on “Exchange of Good Practices among National Anti-trafficking Bodies in the Greater Horn of Africa” that was held 16-18 July 2018 in Khartoum, Sudan. It brought together anti-trafficking bodies from the Horn of Africa to enrich their ideas and tools on how to further develop and strengthen core national responses, as well as regional cooperation.

Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrive in Tunisia after a two-week wait

- A group of 40 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in the Tunisian port of Zarzis on 1 August after two weeks aboard a commercial vessel. Tunisian Prime Minister Youssef Chahed [announced](#) on 28 July that the group of migrants, refugees and asylum, which include two pregnant women, will be allowed to disembark in Tunisia for “humanitarian reasons”. The group was first rescued on 16 July in Malta’s search and rescue (SAR) zone by a Tunisian commercial vessel, Sarost 5. The vessel was subsequently denied permission to dock in Malta, Italy, France and Tunisia. The NGO WatchTheMed has [criticized](#) Malta’s decision to bar the boat and claimed that Malta had broken international law by directing it to Tunisia. Malta denied the allegation, with officials saying, “the applicable conventions stipulate that disembarkation should take place at the nearest place of safety. In this case, Tunisia was the nearest place that satisfies the requirement as a safe place of disembarkation.”
- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) [welcomed](#) Tunisia’s decision to allow the boat to dock and disembark its passengers. Speaking about the decision, IFRC Secretary General Elhadj As he said, “We appreciate the decision taken in recent days. We believe that all people, regardless of their immigration status, have the right to be treated with dignity and respect, and have the right to access basic humanitarian services. We view this decision as a commitment by the Tunisian government to uphold these humanitarian norms.”

- The vessel was left at sea for two weeks with conditions aboard the boat deteriorating rapidly. Mr Mongi Slim, a member of the Tunisian Red Crescent had warned of the dire sanitary conditions aboard the boat and the poor psychological state of its passengers. Speaking on 24 July, Mr Slim [said](#), “The situation on the ship is very bad. The captain said that he was no longer allowing medical supplies or food on board, to put more pressure on the Tunisian government.” The Red Crescent had said that they were providing support and assistance to those aboard the boat and that they would continue to do so following their arrival on shore.

UNODC, IOM and the Committee to combat Trafficking in Persons celebrate the launch of the National strategy to prevent and combat trafficking in persons

- On the International day against trafficking in persons, UNODC, in collaboration with IOM and the committee to combat trafficking in persons, celebrated the adhesion of Tunisia to the Blue Heart Campaign and the official launch of the national strategy to prevent and combat trafficking in persons. The Minister of Justice, Mr Ghazi Jeribi, opened the ceremony which gathered more than 200 high personalities from Tunisian Ministries, the Parliaments, representatives of international organizations, diplomatic missions and civil society, as well as public figures and artists. Besides, a forum of associations was held after the ceremony to raise awareness on the crime of trafficking in persons Tunisia and the work done by civil society to support victims. In the afternoon, a documentary on human trafficking in Tunisia developed by the international NGO Lawyers without borders was screened and followed by a debate.

GREECE

Arrivals by sea

- 2,463 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Greece by sea between 1 and 29 July which represents a 4% decrease from the figures for June. Despite the slight drop in arrivals there has been an increase in the number of deaths recorded along the EMR during the same period with 51 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers losing their lives in the crossing.

Fighting erupts on Lesbos hotspot

- 19 people were [arrested](#) while eight were injured after violence broke out at the Moria reception centre on the Greek island of Lesbos on 9 July. According to police sources, three tents were set ablaze during the clashes. While no clear reasons were given for the violence, reports [indicate](#) that the fighting erupted between rival groups in the camp.

Thousands of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers cross Evros River into Greece in 2018

- DMembers of the medical NGO Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) have [said](#) that over 10,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have crossed from Turkey into Greece via the northern Evros river crossing in 2018. This figure far outstrips the estimated number of arrivals via the same route for 2017. MSF’s field coordinator in Greece, Ifigenia Anastasiadi, has called on authorities to enhance support and assistance

facilities in the surrounding area in order to keep up with the increase in arrivals. Ms Anastasiadi also urged authorities to upgrade the reception centre in the area.

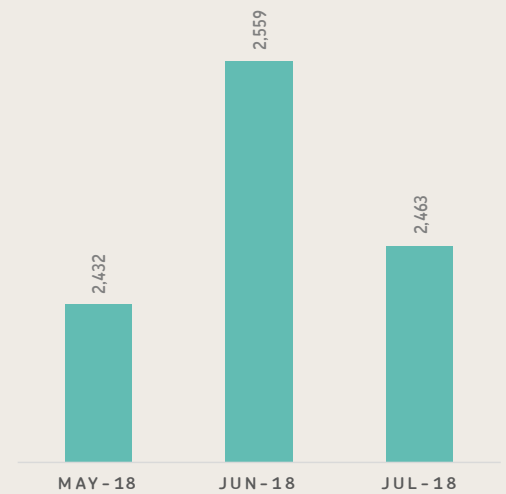
- On 1 August, MSF also [announced](#) that it would be providing medical services in the Evros region in order to support staff at state-run reception centres. According to a statement from MSF, “Those who cross the border are held for some time in different facilities in the area, until the identification process is completed, having little or no access to health care.” The four-month programme will provide newly arrived migrants, refugees and asylum seekers at the with primary healthcare.

Greece calls for increased funds from the EU

- On 18 July, the Greek Migration Minister, Dimitris Vitsas, [called](#) for additional funding and support staff from EU authorities in order to assist with the situation on Greek islands. Speaking to reporters, Minister vistas said, “Frontline countries must get financial support... In Greece, we are particularly interested in our five islands being financially supported.” Minsiter Vistas also said that Greece was in need of additional staff from the European asylum agency EASO, particularly translators, in order to assist with the caseload of asylum applications to cater to the residents of Moria who collectively speak 38 different languages and dialects.

- Minister Vitsas also [commented](#) on a recent migration deal negotiated between Germany and Greece. According to the terms of the deal, Greece will process 1,500 asylum applications from Germany in return for Germany accepting 2,900 applications for family reunification from Greece. Speaking about the deal, Minister Vitsas said that the deal was aimed at finding “a uniquely European solution to regulate the migrant influx and limit unilateral actions.”

Arrivals by Sea, Greece
May 2018 – July 2018



ITALY

Arrivals by sea

- 1,807 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Italy by sea between 1 and 29 July, almost half the number of recorded arrivals for the previous month of June. There has also been a drop in the number of deaths recorded along the CMR with 43 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers losing their lives over the same period.

For the first time, Italy prevents a private Italian ship from docking with rescued migrants

- Italian embargo on international ships carrying migrants to Italy has for the first time [extended](#) to Italian vessels. The Italian government prevented the Italian ship “Vos Thalassa” from docking after the ship responded to a distress call near the Libyan coast and rescued 66 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. As per governmental resources, the rescue by the Italian vessel was seen as unnecessary since the Libyan coast guards were closer to the migrants. The 66 migrants have been transferred to an Italian coast guard. In a related development, the Italian government has [declared](#) that they want to extend the migrant rescue embargo to foreign navy ships as well. The statement that was made by the Italian Minister of Interior Matteo Salvini following the arrival of the Irish Navy ship Samuel Beckett carrying more than 100 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers after taking part in the EU sponsored operation Sophia. The Italian transport minister Danilo Toninelli tweeted saying “Migration can’t just be an Italian problem or else the EU is at risk.”

Italy allows migrants to land in Sicily

- Italy has [decided to allow](#) a boat carrying a large number of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers to dock after France, Germany, Malta, Portugal and Spain agreed to take 50 migrants each. Malta and Italy have been refusing to accept the ship to land on their shores throwing the responsibility on each other respectively. The 57 migrants, refugees and

asylum seekers that were allowed to land on Sicily were all women and children. Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte had written a letter to EU member states asking them to step up and share the responsibility and accept a part of the migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

Migrant children sexually exploited to ‘pay’ for Italy-France crossing, says charity

- According to [a report](#) from Save the Children Italy, migrant children [are being abused](#) sexually to pay for their passage from the Italian territories into the French borders. The children are being forced by drivers to perform sexual acts if they cannot afford the transportation fare that is between 50 and 150 dollars. Children are also abused sexually in return for offers of food and shelter, or if they need shelter or food, they are exploited sexually in return for these services. In the report, Raffaella Milano, director of Italy-Europe programmes of Save the Children said that the victims were of very young age and young girls were particularly at risk of abuse and exploitation. Milano said that the problem had worsened after the clearance of the camp by the Roya river and that now children were forced to live in the streets in “degrading, promiscuous and dangerous conditions”. Save the Children said that as many as 1,900 girls across the area have been exploited between January 2017 and March 2018. “It is unacceptable that in our country children and adolescents end up in the network of unscrupulous exploiters,” said Milano.

Italy’s Conte says he is organizing a conference on stabilizing Libya

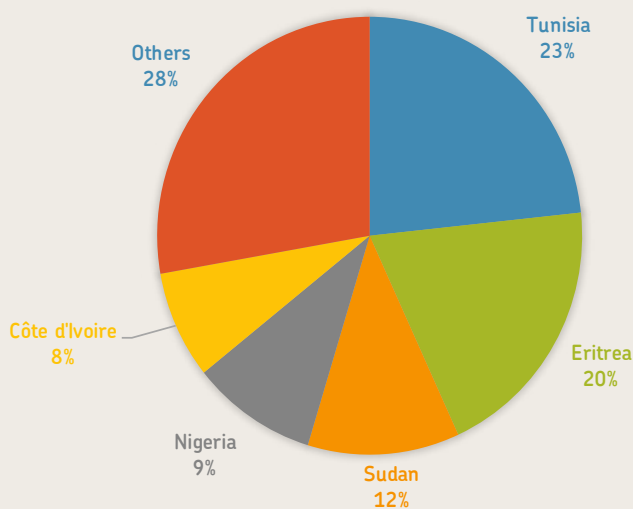
- During his visit to the United States, Italian prime Minister Giuseppe Conte [said](#) he is intending to hold a conference on Libya to look for ways to stabilize the country. On the content of the conference, Conte said “We are going to discuss economic aspects, but also social aspects: the need for protection of civil rights; the problem of constitutional process – of issuing and passing laws so as to enable Libya, in particular, to get to democratic elections in a condition of the utmost stability.”

Migrants' return to Libya by Italian boat could breach international law – UN

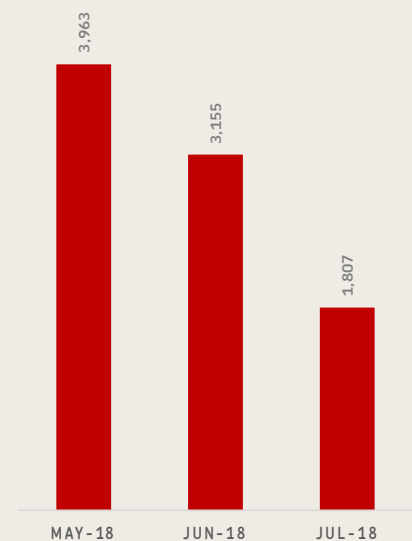
- The United Nations said that, an operation in which an Italian towboat rescued more than 100 people in the Mediterranean and returned them to Libya may have been in breach of international law. The case was reported by Spanish charity Proactiva Open Arms that an Italian vessel had rescued 108 people from international waters and brought them back to Libyan shores on Monday 23rd of July. The claim was supported by Italian Politician Nicola Fratoianni who was on board of the Proactiva rescue ship. The Italian coastguard said that the rescue operation happened in Libyan waters under the management of the Libyan Coastguard. The UN migration agency couldn't determine where the rescue operation took

place but it confirmed that the rescued migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were taken back to Libya. Matteo Salvini the Italian interior minister responding through a Facebook post said, "The Italian coastguard has not coordinated and participated in any of these operations, as falsely declared by a foreign NGO and a poorly informed leftist MP."

Arrivals by Sea to Italy, Main Countries of Origin
January 2018 – June 2018



Arrivals by Sea, Italy
May 2018 – July 2018



RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[Refugees and the City The Twenty-first-century Front Line](#) – World Refugee Council

This research paper assesses the characteristics of the urban displacement crisis and identifies challenges and opportunities confronting cities.

[“Without Education They Lose Their Future” Denial of Education to Child Asylum Seekers on the Greek Islands](#) – Human Rights Watch

This paper evaluates the education situation in Greece for the child migrants and asylum seekers.

[Responding to the Human Trafficking–Migrant Smuggling Nexus With a focus on the situation in Libya](#) – The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime

This study tries to draw a distinction between the terms of Human Trafficking and Migrant smuggling through a description for the situation in Libya while stressing the importance of putting Human rights at the core of the study of both terms.

[New Walled Order: How barriers to basic services turn migration into a humanitarian crisis](#) – International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

A study by the IFRC that shows the challenges Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers face when trying to access basic humanitarian assistance and efforts done by The IFRC to facilitate their access to assistance.

[Attitudes towards National identity, Immigration and refugees in Italy](#) - More in Common

This report provides insight into Italians' opinions about their country, its place in the world and their relationship to Italy's recent migrants.

[Migrant Smuggling Data and Research: A global review of the emerging evidence base](#) - IOM

This research paper reviews the current state of data and research on the topic of migrant smuggling, world and their relationship to Italy's recent migrants.

MULTIMEDIA & EDITORIALS OF INTEREST

[Why we need to protect refugees from the 'big ideas' designed to save them](#) - The Independent

This opinion piece discusses the Big Ideas suggested by Academics as a solution for the Refugee crisis but remain ideas with out of sight solutions.

[A plan for the free movement of Africans across the continent is being held up by fears of xenophobia](#) - Quartz Africa

This Editorial explores the proposal for free movement of people between African countries elaborating the possible benefits and detriments of such agreement.

[Opinion: The EU Looks to Offshore Its Migrant Crisis. That's A Horrifying Prospect](#) - NPR

An opinion piece discussing the EU policies and orientations towards offshoring the migrants and refugee crisis and how it affects refugees lives and paths.

[What do nationalism and immigration mean for economics?](#) - World Economic Forum

An article discussing the effects of nationalism and immigration on economies and the reality of nationalist narratives accusing immigration of affecting economic growth.

[Mediterranean Sea: The Largest Graveyard in Modern History](#) - Dissident Voice

This article describes the situation in the Mediterranean and the high amount of deaths of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

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