



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, Spain, Greece and Italy.

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

HIGHLIGHTS



REGIONAL

EU parliament president proposes new scheme for responsibility sharing

- Following a [meeting](#) of the European Council on 18 October, the President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani, [floated](#) the idea that member states that oppose hosting refugees can contribute more funds towards European migration and development projects in Africa as a way of sharing responsibility without participating in refugee relocation schemes. Addressing a press conference, Mr. Tajani said, “No relocation - (then) more money for Africa,” and added, “This should be a good compromise. It’s better to have an agreement with a compromise than no agreement.” The proposal could offer a way to bridge differences over refugee relocation and responsibility sharing that have wracked the bloc for years. Germany, which had previously been opposed to any arrangements other than the equitable sharing of responsibility via refugee relocations recently signalled that it might be more open to other arrangements with Germany’s Minister for Foreign Affairs Heiko Maas saying, “We cannot force (others to take in refugees), but those that do not do so must possibly contribute in another way such as...in Africa. Everyone needs to take on some of the responsibility that we all have.”

UNHCR and IOM call on EU countries to tackle anti-migrant sentiments and deaths in the Mediterranean

- UNHCR and IOM have [called](#) on EU leaders to take action to address the record and increasing rate of death among migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the Mediterranean and to tackle anti-migrant rhetoric that has created a dangerously toxic atmosphere in many European countries. The calls came days ahead of a late-October meeting that brought together EU heads of state and government. Speaking about the deplorable situation, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, said, “The current tenor of the political debate – painting a picture of Europe under siege – is not only unhelpful but completely out of touch with reality. Arrival numbers are falling but the rate at which people are losing their lives is on the rise. We cannot forget that we are talking about human lives. Debate is welcome – scapegoating refugees and migrants for political gain is not.” While IOM’s Director General, Antonio Vitorino, said, “Perilous irregular migration is in no one’s interest. Together we must invest more in regular migration, enhanced mobility and integration to foster growth and development that benefits both sides of the Mediterranean.” Both agency heads called for concrete steps and practical solutions to the plight of those on the move.

Germany steps up return of failed asylum seekers

- On 8 October, Germany [announced](#) that it has stepped up the return of failed asylum seekers from North Africa over the last three years. A spokesperson for the German Ministry of Interior said that, through years of increased cooperation with countries of origin, Germany was able to speed up the return of asylum seekers whose claims were rejected. Between 2015 and 2017, the number of those repatriated during a similar period to Algeria rose from 57 to 504, those repatriated to Morocco rose from 61 to 634, and those repatriated to Tunisia rose from 17 to 251.

Austria, Poland and the Czech Republic to withdraw from GCM

- Austria, Poland and the Czech Republic are the latest countries to [express](#) that they will be withdrawing from the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) which is set to be adopted in Marrakesh in December of this year. Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz [announced](#) on 31 October that Austria would be following the US and Hungary in pulling out of the GCM. Speaking about the decision Chancellor Kurz said, “We view some points of the migration pact very critically, such as the mixing up of seeking protection with labour migration.” While on 2 November Poland’s Prime Minister, Mateusz Morawiecki, said, “We believe that here our regulations, our sovereign rules on border protection and migration control are our absolute priority.” Czech Republic’s Prime Minister, Andrej Babis, ahead of cabinet talks about the GCM said that, “It’s not clearly interpreted and it could be abused. The United States has pulled out, Hungary too, now Austria, and Poland is debating it as well. I don’t like the fact that it blurs the distinction between legal and illegal migration . . . I will propose to partners in the government that we should do the same as Austria and Hungary.” Responding to the withdrawals, the UN special representative for international migration, Louise Arbour, said, “a lot of reasons that are advanced for disengaging are either mistaken or do not reflect what this global compact is all about,” and added, “One of its main objectives is to reduce, if not to eliminate altogether, unsafe, chaotic, illegal poorly managed migration, which is in nobody’s interest – not the migrants, not the host communities, not the countries of origin.”

EU exploring alternatives to ‘regional disembarkation platforms’

- Recent remarks by EU officials [indicate](#) that the bloc has effectively tabled proposals for the creation of regional disembarkation platforms’ in North Africa. The initial idea that the EU could set up migrant and refugee hotspots in North African countries was first introduced in June during deliberations over an EU deal on migration but following rejection by almost all North African nations and the AU of the idea, the proposal had seemed to have fallen out of favour. On 26 October, European Commission President, Jean Claude Juncker, told a press conference in Tunis that, “This is no longer on the agenda and never should have been.” While on 31 October a spokesperson for the commission, Natasha Bertaud, told press that the commission was exploring bilateral ‘regional disembarkation arrangements’. Such arrangements would likely be established in an ad-hoc manner and would likely involve ‘cash-for-migrant control’ arrangements.

The UK falls well short of targets for resettlement of minors

- It was recently [revealed](#) that only 20 unaccompanied refugee children were resettled to the UK under the Home Office's Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS). The programme which was launched in 2016 was hoped to resettle 3,000 children from conflict zones in the MENA region over the last two years. This is the only scheme currently available to allow unaccompanied non-EU refugee minors to regularly move to the UK. Similarly disappointing figures were revealed in relation to the Dubs amendment, which was also launched in 2016 and is part of the 2016 Immigration Act. It was initially hoped that the Dubs scheme would relocate around 3,000 vulnerable child refugees from other parts of Europe to the UK but UK ministers set a controversial limit of 480 relocations on the scheme. Recent figures show that only 220 children were relocated to the UK under Dubs, less than half the already severely diminished target. Speaking about the recently released figures, Alf Dubs, the MP who proposed the amendment back in 2016, said, "Unaccompanied children in camps in Europe and conflict zones globally have very few routes to safety. These figures suggest that in the past two years Britain has only taken a few hundred, yet 20,000 unaccompanied children arrived in Europe last year."

Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers held in Turkey

- According to [statements](#) made by Turkish military sources on 31 October, over 556 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were apprehended across Turkey in relation to irregular travel. Many of the migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were apprehended while traveling on foot and trying to irregularly to cross into Greece. Various operations by the Turkish gendarmerie in the north-western province of Edirne also resulted in apprehension of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Authorities said that they had also arrested one person suspected of migrant smuggling and another suspected of human trafficking.

ALGERIA

Spanish police dismantle a network of smugglers

- Spanish police have [arrested](#) four people accused of running a people smuggling organization in Ceuta. The accused were reportedly ferrying migrants, refugees and asylum seekers to the Spanish mainland. The smugglers, had charged each individual up to €2000, were targeting Algerians staying in the Temporary Living Centre for Migrants (CETI) located in the Spanish enclave of Ceuta. Spanish police launched their investigation five months prior to the arrests after they found that vessels were transferring Algerian migrants, refugees and asylum seekers to Algeciras in southern Spain. In addition to the arrests, police seized over €10,000 in cash as well as mobile phones, equipment and weapons.

UN Decries Once again Algeria's Persecution of African Migrants

- The UN has once again [called](#) on the Algerian government to halt the summary expulsion of thousands of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers to the Nigerien desert. Algeria has come under repeated criticism from UN agencies and human rights

and humanitarian organizations for its policy of summary expulsion whereby foreigners (mostly of sub-Saharan origin) are pushed into Nigerien desert territory. In the latest call for action which came in a recent report, Felipe Gonzalez Morales, the UN's Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, said, "These collective expulsions from Algeria to Niger are in utter violation of international law. I call on the government of Algeria to abide by its international obligation and halt with immediate effect all collective expulsions of migrants to Niger."

- The Algerian government [was criticized](#) for not providing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers with the option to regularize their stay. Many of those expelled had reportedly been living and working in Algeria for years. According to the report, military forces gathered migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from their homes at night without giving them an opportunity to collect their money or belongings. Some were reportedly subjected to beatings and mistreatment.

EGYPT

Egypt signs €135m agreements with EU on employment and curbing irregular migration

- The Egyptian Minister of Investment, Sahar Nasr, [met](#) with the Director General of the European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Christian Danielsson on 18 October and signed two development agreements worth €135 million. One of the agreements, worth €60 million, is geared towards combatting irregular migration in Egypt. The funding is provided through the [EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa \(EUTF\)](#) with contributions from Germany. The agreement will [combat](#) both irregular migration and human trafficking and will address the drivers of irregular migration in Egypt. In a statement following the meeting, Minister Nasr said that the program will fund seven projects in 15 governorates with a total of €27 million allocated for capacity building projects, and €17 million to developing infrastructure in areas affected by irregular migration; and €6 million allocated for educational projects in areas affected by irregular migration. The agreement will also fund a project to the tune of €4.6 million which will target women specifically and addressing the main hardships that compel people to

migrate irregularly. Finally, €3 million will be used to strengthen migration governance through institutional support.

EU-Arab summit on migration to be held in Egypt

- Arab leaders and EU officials have [agreed](#) to meet in Egypt in February 2019 to discuss migration and EU-African cooperation in the first ever summit of its kind. The summit is part of efforts to create a European-African alliance to combat irregular migration and human trafficking. The idea for the summit was first introduced in September during EU talks on cooperation with African countries, including Egypt, to fight irregular migration. A recent statement by the European Council read, "The European Council welcomes the holding of the forthcoming first summit between the 28 EU Member States and the League of Arab States, hosted by Egypt on 24-25 February 2019." While migration is expected to take centre stage during the summit, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker had previously [said](#) that it is "about more than just migration, but part of a broader push to build closer ties with Africa."

- Egypt, from its side, [declared](#) on the 20 of September that it will hold the EU-Arab summit where EU-Arab cooperation on several topics not just migration will be discussed during the summit. The former spokesperson for the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ahmed Abu Zeid, said that the venue for the summit has already been agreed and prepared to host the two-day event in line with Resolutions no 147 and 148 of the Arab League Council and Resolution 691 of the 2017 Arab summit which was held in Jordan's Dead Sea.

UNODC conducts a Training of Trainers for prosecutors

- Under the umbrella of the Global Action to Combat Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Project (GLO.ACT), UNODC RO MENA conducted the first training of trainers (ToT) workshop targeting Egyptian prosecutors between 8 and 10 October. The ToT was conducted with the cooperation of the National Coordinating Committee on Preventing and

Combating Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling and the International Cooperation and Human Rights Division in the Office of The Egyptian Prosecutor General. The ToT workshop focused on soft skills and the techniques of giving presentations.

UNODC organises a workshop on combatting irregular migration and Trafficking in Persons

- Under the umbrella of the XMEX 19 project in Egypt, UNODC organized a training workshop on combating crimes of irregular migration and trafficking in persons in Cairo between 30 September and 4 October. The workshop was organized in collaboration of with the National Coordinating Committee for combating and preventing illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons (NCCPIM&TIP) and the Administrative control authority in Egypt. The training included 22 participants from different administrations, including two female representatives.

LIBYA

UNHCR evacuates vulnerable refugees out of Libya as fighting resumes

- UNHCR successfully [evacuated](#) around 135 refugees from Libya to Niger on 16 October. Many of the evacuated persons were suffering from malnutrition and health problems resulting from months of captivity in detention centers. The UNHCR Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) in Niger is currently responsible for hosting the newly transferred refugees until further and more permanent solutions are found. This is the first evacuation carried out since June, when concerns were raised about the slow rate of resettlement to third countries of refugees transferred to Niger under the scheme. This latest evacuation brings the total evacuated since the program's inception in December 2017 to 1,997. Speaking about the ETM, Robert Mignone, UNHCR's Chief of Mission in Libya, said "These evacuations are a life-changing and life-saving escape for refugees trapped in detention in Libya," and added, "Refugees and migrants in detention centres often suffer squalid conditions and are at risk of being sold to traffickers and smugglers. This shows what a lifeline resettlement can be."

52 illegal immigrants voluntarily repatriated from Libya to Guinea

- Over 50 irregular migrants [were repatriated](#) from Libya to Guinea via IOM's Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) program. The 52 migrants, including four women and four children arrived back in Guinea on 16 October. The VHR programme helps migrants facing inhumane conditions in detentions centers in Libya to voluntarily return to their countries of origin.

Italy sends Libyan Naval Force boat

- The Libyan Naval Force [received](#) a 27-meter-long boat from Italy called "Fezzan" as part of the continued cooperation between Italy and Libya in the sphere of migration. The ship, provided by the Italian Navy Force, will be used to beef up Libyan patrols of the Mediterranean and to combat people smuggling and human trafficking. The 27-meter-long boat has the duty of increasing the efficiency of the Libyan naval force in better scanning waters and combat human trafficking. Ayoub Qassim, a spokesman for the Libyan Navy, told a media outlet that Libya was expecting to receive another boat and four dinghies from Italy in another month or so. The Italian embassy in Libya described the sending of the boat as "...another step for the Italian partnership with Libya for a safer and more stable country."

International Organization for Migration delivers aid to migrants in Libya

- The UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) [said](#) that aid supplies sent by IOM were delivered to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers staying in reception centers in Libya. In a tweet, the UNSMIL said, "IOM Libya conducted 24 field visits around Tripoli, including three detention centers, fumigated the Tarik al-Sikka center, delivered 180 liters of cleaning supplies and 320 mattresses, plus hygiene kits to detained migrants, as well as mattresses to 49 arrivals at Souk Al Khamis center."

MOROCCO

Moroccan navy injures a young migrant

- On 10 October, the Moroccan Navy [shot](#) a boy aged 16 aboard a boat carrying migrants refugees and asylum seekers off the coast of Morocco. The boat was carrying over 50 Moroccan migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who were trying to cross the Mediterranean to Spain. Navy personnel reportedly fired warning shots in an effort to halt and intercept the boat but injured the youth in the process. A Moroccan military

source [claimed](#) that the boat had made a "hostile move" which "forced the coast guard to fire at the captain." This is not the first incident of its kind; Moroccan navy personnel previously fired shots at a boat carrying migrant, refugee and asylum seekers on 25 September, killing a young Moroccan woman. These incidents have brought the Moroccan navy under scrutiny and have inflamed public opinion.

EU Commission Invites Morocco to Migration Meeting

- There have been reports that the European Commission has [invited](#) Morocco to a meeting on migration. The date of the meeting has not been set yet. News of the meeting comes amid a continuing surge in the number of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers using the WMR to reach Europe. Spain has been calling on EU member states to support Morocco in its efforts to control its borders.
- Spain's Foreign Minister, Josep Borrell, recently [told](#) Spain's joint parliamentary committee for the EU, that Europe needed to step up its support of Morocco, saying, "Morocco is not well treated in terms of the aid granted by the European Union—for the fight against illegal immigration." Minister Borrell contrasted the aid Europe has given Turkey in order to support its border management efforts, €6 billion, with the comparatively meagre €50 million it has supplied to Morocco. The Spanish minister added that migration is a "European problem that [Europe] will not be able to solve if we do not count on Morocco's help."

Morocco Unleashes a Harsh Crackdown on Sub-Saharan Migrants

- Human rights advocates have [claimed](#) that authorities have been conducting a massive crackdown on Sub-Saharan migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Morocco. Analysts and rights workers have said that migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are facing arrests, expulsions and containment from moving to other areas in Morocco. They have further claimed that the crackdown is supported by the government of Spain and by the EU as a way of deterring further migration to Europe. The arrests and the expulsions reportedly began in June after over 600 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers scaled the fence of the Spanish enclave of Ceuta. Rights workers estimate that up to 6,500 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have been detained while a total of 91 have been expelled since the start of September.

NIGER

Germany and the Netherlands to support Nigerien force to tackle migration

- On 1 November, the EU's security mission in Niger [announced](#) that Germany and the Netherlands have pledged to fund and support special forces in Niger to secure and police its borders. According to the [European Union Capacity Building \(EUCAP\) Mission in Niger](#), Germany and the Netherlands will spend €10 million to train and equip the force. Speaking about

the special forces, Souley Boubacar, head of the Niger police, said, "Roughly speaking, it is to combat all our challenges: illegal migration, human trafficking, drugs, terrorism." In the first phase of the roll out of the new force, 250 members of Nigerien police will be deployed to Maradi and Birnin Konni, two regions near the Nigerian border that are key points of crossing for irregular migrants traveling north.

SUDAN

Sudan to repatriate 150,000 Sudanese refugees from Chad

- Sudan's Refugee commission has [announced](#) that it would support the voluntary return of roughly 150,000 Sudanese refugees currently housed in refugee camps in Chad. The announcement came after Sudan's Refugee Commissioner, Hamad al-Gizouli, dispatched a team to camps in neighbouring Chad to gauge refugees' interest in returning home. During the exercise, 50% of the 300,000 or so Sudanese refugees in Chad expressed an interest to return home.

UNODC organises various capacity building workshop

- At the request of an inter-departmental working group convened by the Judicial and Legal Science Institute (JLSI), UNODC organized a 2-day workshop on the use of Tender of Pardon provisions in combating trafficking in persons (TIP) and smuggling of migrants (SOM) between 24 and 25 October 2018. Tender of Pardon has rarely been used in Sudan in the past two decades and never for a TIP or SOM case. The two-day workshop was hosted by the JLSI and featured two US experts, one Federal Prosecutor from the Department of Justice as well as an expert from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation. A total of 25 participants attended the workshop, comprising 5 judges, 5 prosecutors, 3 legal advisors from Ministry of Justice, and 8 police officers, as well as 4 researchers from JLSI. Out of the 25 participants 6 were female.

- Between 31 October and 1 November, UNODC organized a workshop for parliamentarians on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants with focus on legal issues. The main focus was to discuss the importance of dedicated legislation on smuggling of migrants and highlight key points for inclusion, to identify areas of TIP legislation for possible clarification and amendment and to highlight potential areas of conflict with other parts of the legal framework and possible changes to ensure harmonization. The workshop was attended by 36 participants. 19 parliamentarians and 17 staff from Ministry of Justice in addition to 3 from NCCT. Out of the 36 participants 14 female attended the workshop.

- In October, Sudan acceded to the Protocol against smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air (SoM) supplementing the United Nations Convention on transnational organized crime (UNTOC). Accordingly, Sudan has become the 147th State Party to the Protocol. This achievement comes as a consequence of intensified efforts by UNODC and other development partners in building capacity and raising awareness of national counterparts, such as the MoJ, the MoI, members of parliament, the legislative committee, journalists and criminal justice practitioners on the related Protocol.

TUNISIA

Tunisian navy intercepts boat carrying migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

- The Tunisian navy [stopped](#) a boat carrying migrants, refugees and asylum seekers on 15 October. Those aboard the vessel were 11 Tunisians and 1 Moroccan, and they were intercepted near the southern east coast of Tunisia, 40 km from Djerba island. They started their journey from Zarzis and were hoping to reach Lampedusa in Italy.

Italian, Tunisian PMs discuss migration

- The Italian and Tunisian Prime Ministers [discussed](#) migration during Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte's visit to Tunisia on 2 November. During a joint press conference following the meeting, Tunisian Prime Minister Youssef Chahed underlined the country's efforts to curb irregular migration. Speaking about the latest efforts, Prime Minister Chahed, said, "Tunisia is making many efforts to combat illegal migration. Let me give an example: since 1 January we have

been able to identify more than 9,000 attempts to cross to Europe. About 1,300 attempts to cross borders have been aborted. But of course, we need a much deeper approach."

- IOM organizes plays in Tunisia to discuss the dangers of migration
- IOM Tunisia has [developed](#) a play to raise awareness about the dangers of irregular migration, the touring performance will move around Tunisia until 4 November. The play, called "Le Radeau" meaning "the Raft", is part of bigger awareness-raising campaign that is hoping to dissuade would-be migrants from undertaking the dangerous journey. The tour is organized by IOM, El Hamra Theater and the Tunisian Ministries for Higher Education, Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs. The play revolves around the lives of eight persons who cross the Mediterranean. The main aim of the initiative is to promote safe migration and create an engaging fruitful public debate about the issue of migration.

SPAIN

Western Mediterranean Route

- [10,243](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have crossed from Morocco to Spain by sea in the month of October bringing the total arrivals by sea for this year to 49,597. September's figure represents a 26% increase from the previous month of September and the highest figure of monthly arrivals for the year so far. According to IOM data, there were 201 migrant, refugee and asylum seeker deaths recorded along the Western Mediterranean route (WMR) between 30 September and 28 October, four times as many deaths as those recorded for a similar period the previous month. The previous month's figure was also almost five times greater than that for August which means that the number of those losing their lives in the sea crossing has jumped dramatically in the last couple of months and that September's increase was not an aberrant outlier.
- An additional [669](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers crossed into Spain via its land borders with Morocco (through Ceuta and Melilla) during the month of October, bringing the total number of persons who made this crossing this year to 5,506. October's figure is a 47% increase from that of September's but well below the figure for July which still remains the highest for this year.

- In the most dramatic crossing this month, 300 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [stormed](#) Melilla's border fences in an attempt to make it into the enclave on 21 October. The incident resulted in the death of one migrant from cardio-respiratory arrest and the injury of another three. Roughly 200 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers managed to successfully scale the fences and enter Melilla. Spain later returned 55 of those who had crossed into Melilla back to Morocco under a 1992 agreement between the two countries. 140 of those who successfully crossed into the enclave have applied for asylum.

Spain explores banning certain types of boats that are used for people smuggling

- The Spanish government has [proposed](#) a ban on 'go-fast boats' and inflatable boats that are commonly used by smugglers to transport drugs and people from Morocco to Spain. Those types of vessels were previously identified by Spanish police as those most used by smugglers, it is hoped that a ban would curb both drugs and people smuggling. The proposal will have to be approved by the Spanish parliament before coming into effect.

Decrease in sea arrivals to Greece

- 3,439 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Greece by sea between 30 September and 28 October which represents a 23% decrease from a similar period in the previous month of September. According to IOM figures, there have been 38 recorded deaths along the Eastern Mediterranean Route during the same period. While the number of arrivals by sea has decreased, the number of those who lost their lives during this reporting period has actually increased markedly, with 26 more deaths recorded during this month.

11 Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers die in car collision

- Police in northern Greece [announced](#) that they had discovered the charred remains of 11 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the wreckage of a vehicle that was involved in a collision near the Greek town of Kavala on 13 October. The vehicle carrying them collided with a truck in the early hours of the morning and burst into flames. It is thought that the occupants were trapped in the blazing wreckage and unable to escape. While authorities could not immediately identify the victims nor their ethnic backgrounds, the vehicle that was transporting them was connected to a people smuggling operation.
- The crash came only days after Greek authorities [found](#) the bodies of two women and a child who had been murdered near the Turkish border. While relatively little information was released regarding the incident, it is believed that all three were also migrants, refugees and/or asylum seekers. According to information released by authorities the deceased are thought to have been of North African, Middle Eastern or Asian origin. Speaking about the incident, the coroner who examined the bodies, Pavlos Pavlidis, said, "It is clearly a criminal act," and added "They were found with their hands bound, each body about two or three metres away from the other. Their throats were cut right across."

Authorities launch investigation into police officer who verbally abused migrant

- Greek police [announced](#) on 20 October that they had suspended an officer who was recorded verbally abusing an elderly migrant at a Moria migrant and refugee camp. The elderly woman was waiting in a queue for food distribution when the officer in question hurled offensive and abusive language at her. Police announced that they would be launching a formal inquiry into the incident and were considering the suspension of three other officers who were present at the time and did not intervene.

Greece accusing Turkey of easing border vigilance

- Greek officials have [suggested](#) that a recent increase in the number of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers crossing from Turkey into Greece's Evros region is due to relaxed border policing on the part of Turkish authorities. Speaking about the situation, a senior official from the Citizens' Protection Ministry told a Greek news outlet that There was a very strong pressure at the Evros border while at the same time direct contact between local authorities in Greece and Turkey has stopped, which is making the problem worse."

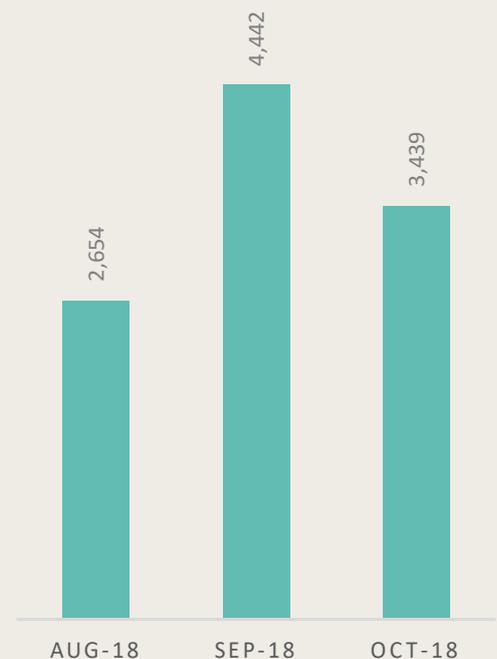
Greek authorities break up migrant smuggling organization

- Greek authorities [announced](#) on 2 November that they had dismantled a criminal organization that was transporting migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from Greece to Italy irregularly by sea. Police arrested eight suspected smugglers in the operation, including four Greeks and four foreign nationals. According to a statement by the coast guard, the suspects were apprehended on 1 November as they were preparing to transport 119 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

Hygiene and safety standards at Moria questioned once again after police officers contract tuberculosis

- Two police officers stationed at the Moria migrant and refugee camp recently [contracted](#) tuberculosis, prompting authorities to order all police personnel stationed at the camp to get tested. The news has drawn further attention to paltry conditions at the camp, which has come under heavy criticism for sub-par health and hygiene standards. An email, published by a local news outlet and signed by anonymous police officers, read, "We at the Police Directorate of Lesbos, as well as the detainees here on the island, are incredibly upset about the news that two colleagues stationed at Moria's refugee camp have contracted tuberculosis. The conditions concerning hygiene and safety at the facility are simply unacceptable." It further added, "While, of course, the General Regional Police Directorate of the North Aegean as well as the local Police Directorate of Lesbos have continuously pointed this out to the government and other relevant authorities, the state is not talking about it — instead they prefer to hide everything under the carpet." Those who sent the email hoped its publication would galvanize relevant state bodies to act on the matter.

Arrivals by Sea, Greece
August 2018 - October 2018



Sea arrivals

- 986 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Italy by sea between 30 September and 28 October, which represents a 16% decrease from figures for a similar period last month. There has also been a continued drop in the number of deaths recorded along the CMR with 7 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers losing their lives over the same period.

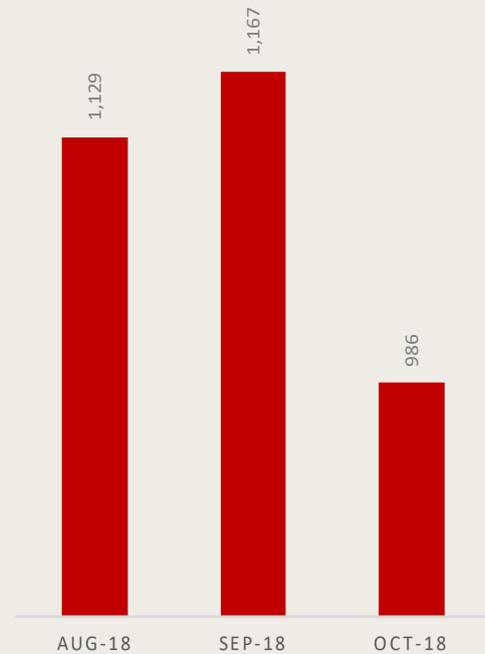
Italy sends police to French border after alleged migrants returned

- The Minister of Interior Matteo Salvini [sent](#) a police force to Calviere, an Italian municipality that borders France to prevent the return of refugees and asylum seekers from France to Italy. This was in response to French police returning asylum seekers to Italy. The move came after a video tweet posted by the Italian minister warning French police not to return what he terms 'illegal immigrants' to Italy and calling upon to French President Emmanuel Macron to intervene. The French prefecture of Calviere said that these return practices were agreed upon normal processes and are supported by EU law, whereby asylum seekers should lodge their claims in the European country of first arrival. These types of returns were established practice between France and Italy for the past few years but Minister Salvini has indicated that with his new, incoming government France should expect a reversal of norms.

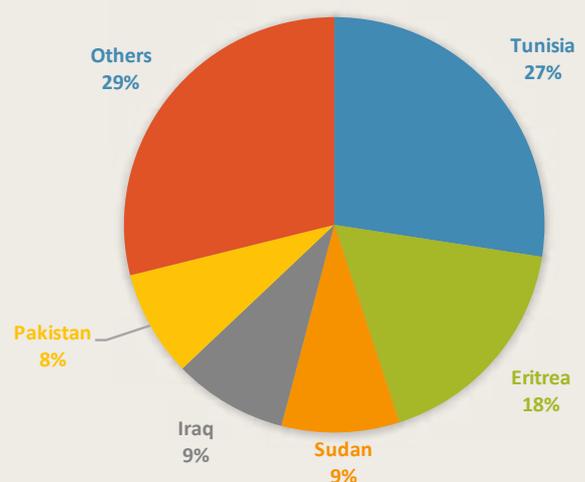
Migrants to be transferred from Riace

- Matteo Salvini, the Italian Minister of Interior has [announced](#) that all migrants staying in the city of Riace which welcomed warmly, will be transferred to migrant centers elsewhere. Riace recently received a lot of attention when its Mayor, Domenico Lucano, was arrested over his alleged role in arranging 'marriages of convenience' for migrants so they could remain in Italy. Mr. Lucano had turned the city into a prime example of successful and humane integration practices. The arrest sparked outrage amongst many who saw Mr. Luca's efforts as the ideal response to the influx of migrants. The head of the Italian network of migrant reception centers has said that there was no question of those from Riace being deported but that alternative arrangements in other regions will be found.
- Salvini's decision was widely [criticized](#) and panned by observers with the president of the central Lazio region, Nicola Zingaretti, saying, "We have to say with force that the action undertaken by Salvini against the Riace model is a vile act." In response, Minister Salvini claimed that it was necessary to act on what he viewed as misuse of public funds. He said, "We cannot tolerate irregularities in the use of public money, even under the excuse of spending it for migrants." Salvini's claims seem to have no basis in fact however, with allegations of misuse of funds against Mr. Lucano [dropped](#) in October following investigations that found there was no evidence of misappropriation of funds.

Arrivals by Sea, Italy
August 2018 - October 2018



Arrivals by Sea to Italy, Main Countries of Origin
January 2018 - October 2018



RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[Migration from Tunisia: Tunisia as a country of departure and return](#) - REACH

A research study that aims to better understand the drivers pushing Tunisians to migrate as well as the living conditions of those who have returned to Tunisia.

[New Wine into Old Wineskins? Addressing patterns of institutional development in Euro-Mediterranean relations in the wake of the so-called "EU refugee crisis"](#) - EuroMeSCo

An in-depth policy brief that seeks to better understand the effects of the 'refugee crisis' on institutional policy mechanisms that are shaping Euro-Mediterranean relations.

[Risk Analysis for 2018](#) - Frontex

The latest instalment of Frontex's annual review of migration trends and patterns and its activities in cross-border control.

MULTIMEDIA & EDITORIALS OF INTEREST

[Portugal: Aquarius migrants settle](#) - Euronews

A short piece and video about the refugees from the rescue boat Aquarius who were recently resettled to Portugal.

[After Revolution, Tunisian Migration Governance Has Changed. Has EU Policy?](#) - Migration Policy Institute (MPI)

An in-depth research editorial that traces recent changes and developments in migration governance in Tunisia.

[You can't value freedom of movement but ignore how the EU treats migrants](#) - The Guardian

A critical op-ed tackling the apparent disconnect between the predominant liberal rhetoric regarding the freedom of movement and Europe's response to mixed migration.

[EU funds to tackle Niger's people smugglers miss their target](#) - Euronews

An interview with Euronews' Valerie Gauriat, who had travelled to Niger to report on the effects of EU-funded projects that aim to direct smugglers towards other livelihoods alternatives.

[Europeans who help migrants find themselves on the wrong side of the law](#) - NBC News

An editorial about recent efforts to criminalize the activities of European humanitarians and charity workers in relation to migration.

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