



## 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, MMC, 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.

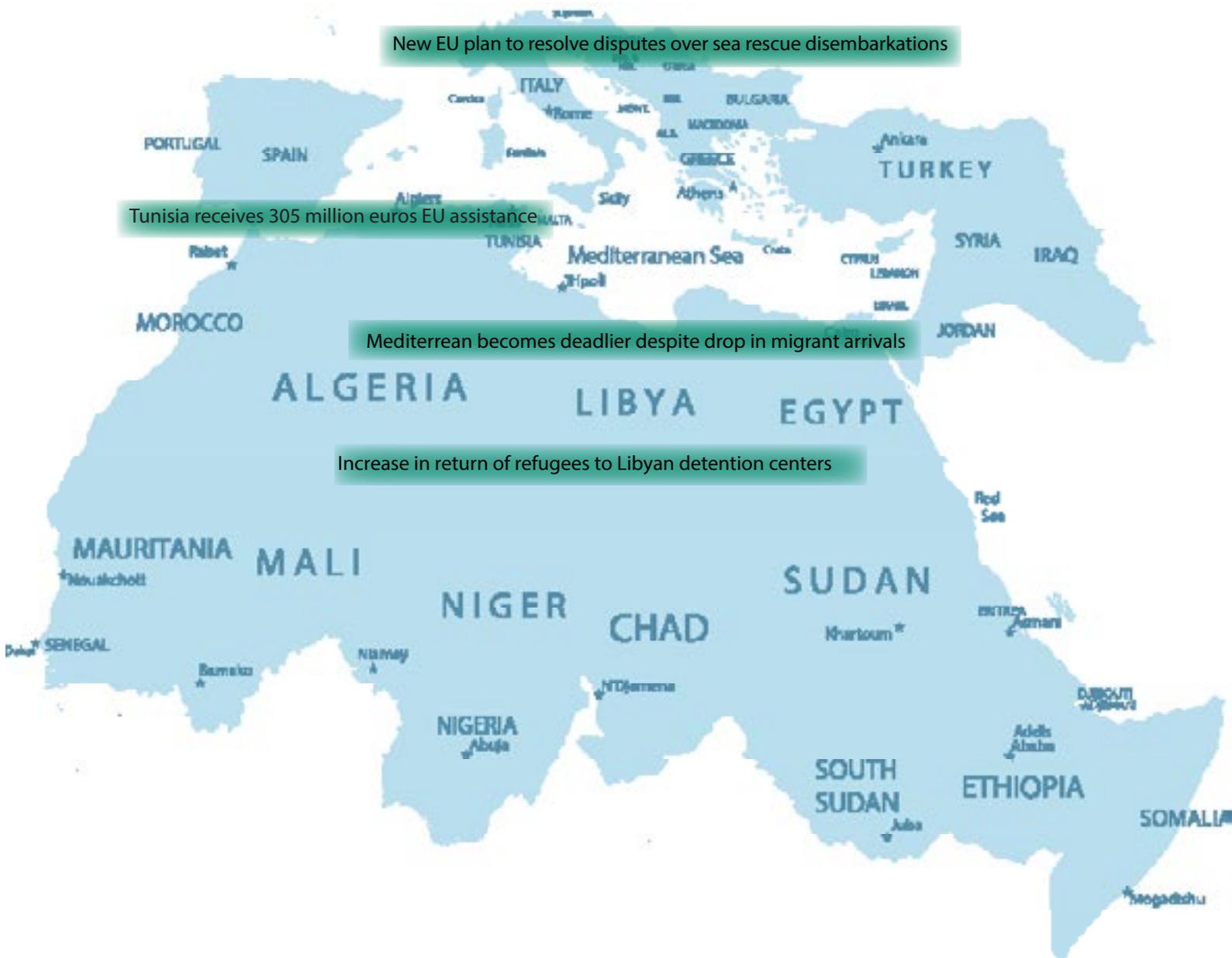
## HIGHLIGHTS

New EU plan to resolve disputes over sea rescue disembarkations

Tunisia receives 305 million euros EU assistance

Mediterranean becomes deadlier despite drop in migrant arrivals

Increase in return of refugees to Libyan detention centers



## REGIONAL

## Incoming CDU leader plans tougher line on migration

- Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, the new leader of Germany's largest political party, the Christian Democrats (CDU), has [indicated](#) that a review of Germany's migration policy could hold the key to recovering the public's trust. Speaking about the road ahead, she said, "We will look at the entire immigration question from the protection of outer borders through the asylum procedures to integration, in particular its efficacy." Ms. Kramp-Karrenbauer's promise to review her predecessor's deeply divisive decisions with regards to migration could mean a shift towards tougher and more strict migration and asylum policies.

## Brazil withdraws from GCM

- Brazil has [become](#) the latest country to pull out of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). Brazilian diplomats announced on 8 January that the country had officially withdrawn from the agreement. The move came during President Bolsonaro's second week in office and fulfilled a promise he had made during his presidential campaign. President Bolsonaro confirmed the withdrawal in a tweet on 9 January where he wrote, "No to the compact on migration. Defense of national sovereignty was one of our campaign's banners and it will be a priority of our government." He further added, "The Brazilians and immigrants who live here will be safer under rules that we ourselves make, without external pressure."

## WHO report highlights health concerns of migrants and refugees

- On 21 January, the World Health Organization's regional office for Europe [released](#) a report that provides an evidence-based review of the situation of migrant and refugee health in Europe. The report, titled "Report on the health of refugees and migrants in the WHO European Region," found that while migrants and refugees are likely to have good general health, they are nevertheless at risk of falling ill during migration/displacement or in receiving countries due to poor living conditions and/or changes to their lifestyles. The report further evaluates the progress that receiving countries have made towards improving and promoting the health of migrants and refugees. Speaking about the findings, WHO's Regional Director for Europe, Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, said, "The new report provides insight into what must be done to meet the health needs of both migrants and refugees and the host population. As migrants and refugees become more vulnerable than the host population to the risk of developing both noncommunicable and communicable diseases, it is necessary that they receive timely access to quality health services, as everyone else. This is the best way to save lives and cut treatment costs, as well as protect the health of the resident citizens." The WHO also [found](#) that fears of deportation and language barriers severely limit migrants' and refugees' access to medical services.

## New EU plan to resolve disputes over sea rescue disembarkations

- EU diplomats have [announced](#) efforts to end stand-offs over sea rescue operations. Diplomats are currently studying plans for a temporary mechanism that would manage the disembarkation of rescue vessels. The plans, proposed by the European Commission, offer a temporary fix for an issue that has raised serious humanitarian concerns over the last few months, whereby rescue vessels are unable to dock in any European ports, stranding those aboard. Speaking about the proposal, a spokesperson for the EU Commission said, "The commission stands ready to work with member states in order to set up temporary arrangements that can ensure solidarity with the most exposed EU countries, which can serve as a bridge until the new Dublin regulation becomes applicable." The temporary mechanism would ease tensions until a more comprehensive overhaul of the Dublin Regulation is possible. In the most recent incident, 49 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were [stranded](#) at sea for three weeks following their rescue. The situation was only resolved once a number of EU countries agreed to take in different quotas of those aboard. Germany has agreed to take in 50 out of roughly 300 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers rescued in December.

## Mediterranean becoming deadlier despite drop in arrivals to Europe

- On 30 January, UNHCR [warned](#) that despite a record drop in the number of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arriving in Europe in 2018, that the rate of death in the Mediterranean as continued to worsen. The number of those that crossed the Mediterranean into Europe in 2018 was the lowest since 2015 but 2,275 have died or gone missing attempting the crossing which roughly translates to six deaths for every day of the year. According to the report, "The toll was particularly heavy in the Western Mediterranean, on the route to Spain, where the number of deaths almost quadrupled in 2018 over the previous year." A significant reduction of search and rescue capacity along with the imposition of further restrictions on NGO operations are to blame for the deplorable situation. Speaking about the situation, Pascale Moreau, UNHCR Director of the Bureau for Europe said that the situation "no longer a test of whether Europe can manage the numbers, but whether Europe can muster the humanity to save lives."

# EGYPT

UN High Commissioner for Refugees calls for more funding for developing nations

- UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi [highlighted](#) the need for more funding to developing nations hosting refugees. The High Commissioner's statement followed a meeting with Egyptian president Abdel Fatah al-Sisi. He expressed his willingness to call for more bilateral development aid for Egypt, where more than 242,000 registered refugees reside.

Egyptian citizens arrested following attempt to cross into Libya

- 274 Egyptian citizens who attempted to leave from the desert in Salloum to cross into Libya were [arrested](#) by Egyptian security services and border guards. Libyan authorities have called for stricter security measures against irregular migration, highlighting the deteriorating security

situation in the country.

Egyptian authorities arrest defendants involved in migrant smuggling

- The Administrative Control Authority and Ministry of Interior [arrested](#) 71 members of gangs involved in smuggling Egyptian citizens and refugees into Europe, the United States and Canada. The 71 defendants were involved in forging marriage contracts, birth certificates, personal financial statements, bank statements, documents issued by the civil registry, complaints filed at police departments, and court verdicts, and aimed to expose the religious and political discrimination against migrants to foreign governments. Attorney General Nabil Sadek furthermore [ordered](#) the detention of 22 defendants pending investigations related to affiliation with gangs involved in smuggling.

# LIBYA

Migrants missing in the Mediterranean

- An estimated 170 migrants have [gone](#) missing in the Mediterranean in two incidents involving dinghies that left from [Libya](#) and Morocco, migrants organisations have said. The dinghy that embarked from Libya was carrying an estimated 120 migrants and was seen by an Italian military plane, and three survivors were transported by a naval helicopter to a hospital on the island of Lampedusa. A smaller group of migrants who had left from Morocco were missing, reportedly after a collision in the Alboran Sea in the western Mediterranean.

Humanitarian response plan to bring life-saving assistance

- The [2019 Libya Humanitarian Response Plan](#) (HRP) was [launched](#) in Tripoli by the UN, its aid partners and the interim Government of Libya to facilitate urgent life-saving assistance to around 550,000 individuals affected by the conflict in Libya. The 2019 HRP highlights the need for the provision of food, health care, protection from buried explosive hazards, water and sanitation services, shelter, basic household items, emergency education and emergency medical assistance.

Increase in returns of refugees to Libyan detention centers

- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) [reported](#) an increase in the number of vulnerable migrants, refugees and asylum seekers held in detention centers in Misrata and Khoms following returns to Libya, in violation of international law, of those intercepted or rescued at sea. MSF highlighted overcrowding, insufficient food and clean water, and no access to open air space in detention facilities.

Decrease in migration across the Sahara

- Migration across the Sahara, reportedly more dangerous than across the Mediterranean, has been [declining](#). The decline is partly the result of a law introduced in 2015 by Niger, where traffickers in the Agadez region have transported migrants to Libya, banning trafficking of people across the Sahara. Despite the drop in numbers, smugglers have begun to take even more dangerous routes to avoid detection, placing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers at greater risk.

Libyan coastguard intercepts migrants at sea

- The Libyan coastguard [returned](#) 473 migrants to Libya during four rescue operations in January. The incident took place at the same time a [report](#) by Human Rights Watch was released and which criticized EU policies that it explained were contributing to the abuse of migrants in Libya.

EU accused of complicity in migrant tragedy

- Oxfam and 43 other organisations have accused [European Union](#) governments of being complicit in the "tragedy" of migrants crossing from [Libya](#) to [Italy](#), saying more than 5,300 people had died in the [Mediterranean](#) in the past two years. The deal with Libya has also caused the [return](#) of migrants by Libyan coastguards to Libya, where migrants are at risk of arbitrary detention, abuse, torture and slavery. Oxfam released a [statement](#) highlighting the worsening situation for migrants crossing the Mediterranean since Italy's EU-backed migration deal with Libya.

UNODC training for Libyan officials

- UNODC implemented a project titled 'Basic Training for Law Enforcement Officers and Prosecutors to Combat Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling' for Libyan officials in Tunis between 5 and 7 February. The training was organized in coordination with the Ministry of Interior's Department for Combating Irregular Migration (DCIM) and the Office of the Attorney General. The training targeted a total of 19 law enforcement officers and criminal justice practitioners (10 law enforcement officers of the DCIM and 9 prosecutors – all male). The training sought to provide the participants with basic information on the international legal frameworks of TIP and SOM, highlighting the differences between the two crimes and discussing the issue of consent in TIP cases. The training then went on to consider the identification and investigation of TIP and SOM cases, while emphasizing the need to comprehend trauma among TIP survivors and smuggled migrants. The training also included sessions on practical cases: TIP cases in armed conflict, sexual exploitation case, and forced labor. The training was also interactive in nature and the national context was discussed throughout the workshop.

## MALI

More than 20,000 kidnapped Nigerian girls found in Mali

- Nigeria's anti-trafficking agency has [identified](#) between 20,000 to 45,000 girls and women that were trafficked to Mali and forced into prostitution. According to the agency, most came from rural areas and were either abducted while going to school or deceived into thinking that they were travelling to Mali for employment. Local informants [claimed](#) there are at least 200 places scattered in the southern part of Mali, each one holding between 100 to 150 girls. Both Nigeria's anti trafficking agency and IOM are facilitating the girls' return home.

IOM interrupted Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) while migrants' application eligibility is reviewed

- AVRR assistance to around 1,500 migrants was [interrupted](#) to assess whether persons who did not meet eligibility criteria were taking advantage of IOM services. Since December 2016, the EU and IOM joint initiative provided return and reintegration assistance to over 51,000 people along West and Central Africa. The international organization suspended the service after an unprecedented peak in returnees' number did not align with the usual migrant flows between the borders of Mali, Algeria, and Mauritania.

## MOROCCO

Government of Morocco releases figures for irregular migration

- On 17 January, the Moroccan Ministry of Interior [announced](#) that it had prevented 89,000 separate attempts at irregular crossing from Morocco in 2018. The ministry further added that the figure was 37% higher than the previous year's figure. 80% of those prevented from making the crossing were non-Moroccan nationals and 5,608 of them eventually opted to voluntarily return to their countries of origin. Moroccan forces also dismantled 229 migrant smuggling networks in 2018.

## NIGER

IOM exceeds target for return of Ghanaians from Libya and Niger

- IOM [announced](#) that it has assisted its 1001st Ghanaian beneficiary to return home under a programme that was launched in 2016 to support the voluntary return of Ghanaian migrants who have become stranded in Libya and Niger whilst en-route to Europe. It was initially hoped that the program will support the return of 650 Ghanaian men and women over the course of three years but has well and truly exceeded all expectations. The latest return flight arrived in Ghana on 25 January. The program, which is expected to run till 2020, is the result of a partnership between IOM, the EU and the government of Ghana. A total of 195 men and women were assisted from Niger while a further 795 were assisted from Libya. Why do we quote this n only? Either we say how many from Libya and how many from Niger or none. We already reference the total. Although I think we need a conclusive statement

## SUDAN

UNODC training

- From 28 to 31 January 2019, UNODC and the Judicial and Legal Science Institute organized a training workshop on Courtroom Litigation Skills for Prosecutors and Defense Lawyers in Gedaref State. The training was based on a curriculum jointly prepared with local counter-trafficking practitioners, as well as an adaptation of a litigation skills course developed by UNODC. The workshop focused on strengthening the practical skills of both prosecutors and defense lawyers in order to improve the quality of prosecutions of TIP cases, help ensure respect for the rights of defendants to a fair trial; reduce the stress on victims and witnesses and minimize the likelihood of re-traumatization. The workshop targeted 19 participants (3 women and 16 men): 9 (men) prosecutors and 7 (2 women and 5 men) defense lawyers, 3 (1 woman and 2 men) judges; in addition to 2 male researchers from the institute. The workshop took

place at the Judicial and Legal Science Institute (JLSI) in Khartoum, Sudan.

Sudanese officials invited to testify in court case in Italy

- Two members of Sudan's much-feared secret police have been [invited](#) to testify in a court case against an alleged migrant smuggler in Italy. The move has drawn severe criticism from rights groups and activists. The agents were reportedly part of a joint Italian, British, Sudanese operation to apprehend who they allege is one of the world's most notorious people smugglers. Since the arrest, much doubt has been cast over the identity of the man they actually apprehended with evidence suggesting that the arrest is a case of mistaken identity. Italian prosecutors have refused to alter their stance or seriously take new evidence into consideration. It is feared that the evidence given by the secret police personnel will prejudice the case further against a potentially innocent man.

## TUNISIA

305 million euros assistance approved by the EU for Tunisia

- The EU has recently [approved](#) a €305 million financial package that aims to improve Tunisian youths' access to the labour market and to boost entrepreneurial innovation, according to Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations. Tunisia has recently launched austerity measures which have exacerbated the country's economic crisis and high unemployment rates. The EU assistance also aims to increase investments and boost local development.

# SPAIN

## Arrivals to Spain

- Arrivals by sea: 3,815 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have crossed from Morocco to Spain by sea between 1 and 30 January. While this figure represents an approximate 25% drop in arrivals from the previous month of December, it is almost three times the figure for January 2018. The drop in arrivals can largely be attributed to dangerous seasonal conditions at sea which claimed the lives of 62 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in January.
- Arrivals by land: [508](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have crossed into Spain via its land borders with Morocco (through Ceuta and Melilla) in January. There has been no significant change in the number of land arrivals between January 2019 and December of last year but the figure for January 2019 is 53% higher than recorded for January of last year.

## Barcelona mayor criticizes EU migration policy

- The Mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau, has [said](#) that the EU migration policy is a “political crisis of the EU and of democracy.” Colau is challenging anti-migrant rhetoric and is inviting Europe to view migrants as a resource to European countries, and to invest resources to better manage migrant flows. “Migrant flows won’t stop,” she said. The mayor welcomed 60 migrants last year, after Italy and Malta refused to allow them to disembark on their shores.

## Spain announces intention in increased detentions and deportations

- Spain’s 2019 budget proposal, which is expected to be approved in April, [includes](#) plans to accelerate the deportation of 9,000 irregular migrants and to increase migrant detention centres in the country. The proposed deportation figure is twice as high as the 2018 number, and the detention centres are planned to be constructed at main points of arrival for migrants, namely Madrid, Malaga, and Algeciras.

# GREECE

## Arrivals to Greece

- 1,839 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Greece by sea between 1 and 30 January; which represents a roughly 67% increase from a similar reporting period in January 2018. According to IOM figures, two deaths were recorded along the Eastern Mediterranean Route during this reporting period.

## New migrant reception centres soon to be opened in Greece

- Two new reception centres will [open](#) in February in central and northern Greece to reduce overcrowding in centres on the Aegean islands. Despite a significant drop in the number of new arrivals to Greece, hundreds of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are still [housed](#) in tents with inadequate access to health and sanitary services. Petra de Sutter, rapporteur of the Committee on Migration, has called on Greek authorities to ensure that practices are carried out to protect people in need, and improve the health and security conditions of these centres.

## Increased migrant traffic from Turkey to Greece on river Evros

- Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras will discuss migration in his visit to Turkey in February 2019. Migrant, refugee and asylum seekers arrivals from Turkey via the river Evros have increased in recent months. A search for four suspected missing migrants, 3 of them children, was [underway](#) in the first week of February after eight people arriving in a dinghy alerted Greek authorities.

Arrivals by Sea, Greece  
November 2018 - January 2019



## Arrivals to Italy

- 202 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Italy by sea in January, which represents a continued decrease in the number of arrivals. There has been a 44% decrease in the number of those arriving in Italy by sea between December 2018 and January 2019. Furthermore, the figures for this month are drastically lower than those for January of last year, when roughly 4,182 made the crossing to Italy. There were 144 fatalities recorded along the Central Mediterranean Route in January 2019. While the number of arrivals has dropped by a staggering 95% from 4,182 in January 2018 to this month's figure, the number of fatalities has dropped by only 33% meaning the route has become even deadlier in the last year.

## Italian deputy PM questioned over 'baseless' remarks on French migration policy

- Diplomatic tensions between Italy and France have continued to escalate due to unfriendly comments made by Italy's deputy PM, Luigi Di Maio. In his comments, Mr. Di Maio [accused](#) France of contributing towards Africa's impoverishment and the increase in mass migration to Europe. Italy's new coalition government has repeatedly criticized what they view as French President Emmanuel Macron's inaction on the situation in Libya which has continued to fuel Mediterranean crossings.

## Dutch NGO accused by Italian Interior Minister of supporting irregular migration

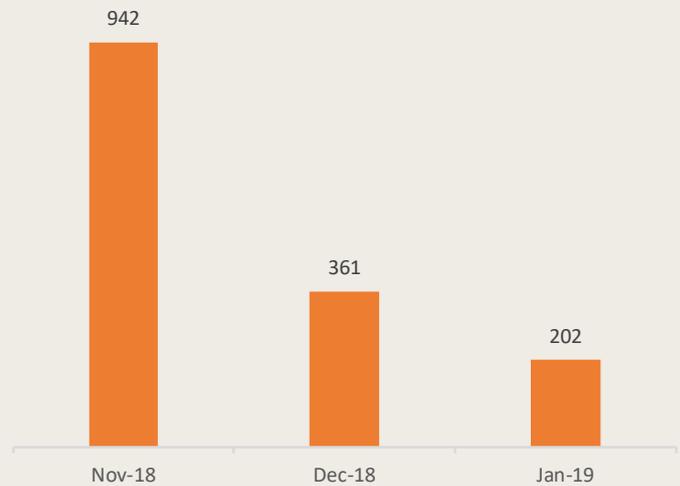
- The Italian Interior Minister, Matteo Salvini, has [threatened](#) to sue the Dutch rescue vessel Sea Watch for supporting irregular migration and has refused to grant the vessel docking rights. The intended legal action comes after an investigation was launched against Salvini, for kidnapping and the illegal detention of 177 migrants who were refused permission to dock in Italian shores. Sea Watch was allowed

to disembark after 10 days stranded at sea when another six European countries [agreed](#) to receive the 47 rescued migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, 13 of whom are unaccompanied minors. There is no official comment from Italian 5-Star leadership on [lifting](#) Salvini's parliamentary immunity to allow legal investigations to take place.

## Eight men detained by Italian police for 'being a threat to national security'

- Italian authorities [arrested](#) eight men with the accusation of smuggling a large number of people from Tunisia to Sicily. Police are still searching for another man thought to be responsible for smuggling operations from Tunisia. The arrest was praised by Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini on social media, fuelling anti-migration rhetoric.

Arrivals by Sea, Italy  
November 2018 - January 2019



# RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[Desperate Journeys: Refugees and migrants arriving in Europe and at Europe's borders](#) - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

This report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) describes the changes in migration flows and routes to Europe in 2018. Despite the decrease in the number of migrant, refugee and asylum seeker arrivals, their journeys crossing the Western Mediterranean have never been more dangerous. The report pays particular attention to the protection risks and needs of those on the move. It advocates for joint international action and coordinated regional response on rescue capacity, improved access to safe and regular channels, and greater protection for unaccompanied minors and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

[Migration, displacement and education: Building Bridges, Not Walls](#) - United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

The 2019 Global Education Monitoring Report by UNESCO focuses on migration and displacement as two of the global challenges that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development needs to address to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4 to ensure "inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all". The report highlights the different ways migration and displacement affect and are affected by education.

[Crossing a Red Line: How EU Countries Undermine the Right to Liberty by Expanding the Use of Detention of Asylum Seekers upon Entry](#) - European Programme for Integration and Migration

Through the use of four case studies, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary and Italy, the European Programme for Reintegration and Migration reports on asylum seekers' right to liberty upon entry. The research was conducted in 2018 and aims to raise awareness on the human rights violation and de facto detentions at Europe's external borders. Despite the significant decrease in asylum seekers applications in the targeted countries, the use of detention upon entry has continued steadily since 2015. In 2017, migrants' detention increased in all of the countries included in the study, while in Bulgaria and Hungary the average length of detention has also increased.

[No Escape from Hell: EU Policies Contribute to Abuse of Migrants in Libya](#) - Human Rights Watch

This Human Rights Watch report sheds light on how Europe's migration policies contribute to the inhumane treatment of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Libya. The international organization presents an overview of the degrading conditions faced by migrants and asylum seekers in Libyan detention centres and highlights how EU cooperation with Libya is contributing to a cycle of extreme human rights abuses.

[Vulnerable and abandoned: How the Greek reception system is failing to protect the most vulnerable people seeking asylum](#) - Oxfam

This report published by Oxfam explores how Greek policies and practices surrounding reception centres have failed to protect vulnerable migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, including unaccompanied children, pregnant women, and survivors of torture and sexual violence.

[On the Move in a War Zone: Mixed Migration Flows to and through Yemen](#) - Migration Policy Institute

This Migration Policy Institute (MPI) report highlights the ways in which Yemen's civil war has affected the main migration pathways to and through the country and the push and pull factors driving regional routes.

# MULTIMEDIA & EDITORIALS OF INTEREST

## [Carpenters in Sicily handcraft crosses to draw attention to ongoing migrant crisis – NBC News](#)

This editorial seeks to bring attention to an initiative by Sicilian carpenters in Italy.

## [Niger: Europe Migration – Al Jazeera](#)

This piece and video discuss Niger's 2016 anti-smuggling laws and its effects on the country's security and economy as well as its effects on persons previously involved in the migrant smuggling industry.

## [Cut Adrift in the Med – Amnesty International](#)

This editorial addresses the lack of intra-European solidarity that characterizes the Dublin system, and efforts by European 'frontline states' to hand over the responsibility to coordinate rescue operations to Libyan authorities. Due to the shift in European political strategy and Libya's limited capacity to coordinate rescue operation, an increasing number of NGO rescue ships were refused permission to dock in Europe, and higher numbers of migrant fatalities have been recorded in the Mediterranean as a result.

## [Europe: Leaders manufacturing migration 'crisis' for political gain – Amnesty International UK](#)

This editorial focuses on European political leaders' anti-refugee rhetoric, which depicts the current situation as one of crisis, despite the fact that the number of irregular crossings are the lowest they have been since 2015.

## [The 77 Percent: Migration – Deutsche Welle](#)

This short audio features includes a discussion with Nigerian youths about the current political and economic situation in Nigeria and the main drivers of youth migration. The second half features an interview with Kelechi Goodluck, who recently wrote a book about his journey from Nigeria, through North Africa and onto Europe.

## [With Ethiopia's border now open, why are Eritreans still fleeing to Sudan? – African Arguments](#)

A short piece exploring the reasons behind the steady number of Eritrean refugees still crossing into Sudan, despite the reopening of Eritrea's borders with Ethiopia in September 2018.

## [Pushing the boundaries: How to create more effective migration cooperation across the Mediterranean - EU Council on Foreign Relations](#)

This editorial discusses the long-standing relationships between Europe and North Africa in the field of migration management. Although the 2018 disembarkation platforms proposed by Europe have failed, opportunities remain for multilateral partnerships.

## [Podcast: The Truth About Migrants - Raoul Wallenberg Institute](#)

An hour-long dialogue between François Crépeau, the former UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, and Matthew Scott, RWI's Team Leader for People on the Move, about the phenomenon of migration, its causes and effects.

## [Algeria migration policy: National Security Concerns Vs. Humanitarian Morality](#)

Algeria does not have an explicit asylum policy but has seen a steady influx of sub-Saharan migrants; Human Rights groups estimate some 100,000 have entered the country in recent years. Since the summer of 2014, Algeria has faced a growing dilemma regarding illegal migrants crossing the southern and eastern borders, filtering in despite the government's "closed door" policy.

## [Tunisia's Migration to the North](#)

This short piece focuses on Tunisian youth's increasing discontent with the political and economic situation in the country. The Tunisian government has been struggling to address deep socio-economic inequalities and many young Tunisians are choosing to migrate northward towards Europe.