



monthly trend report

covering mixed migration to, through & from **NORTH AFRICA**

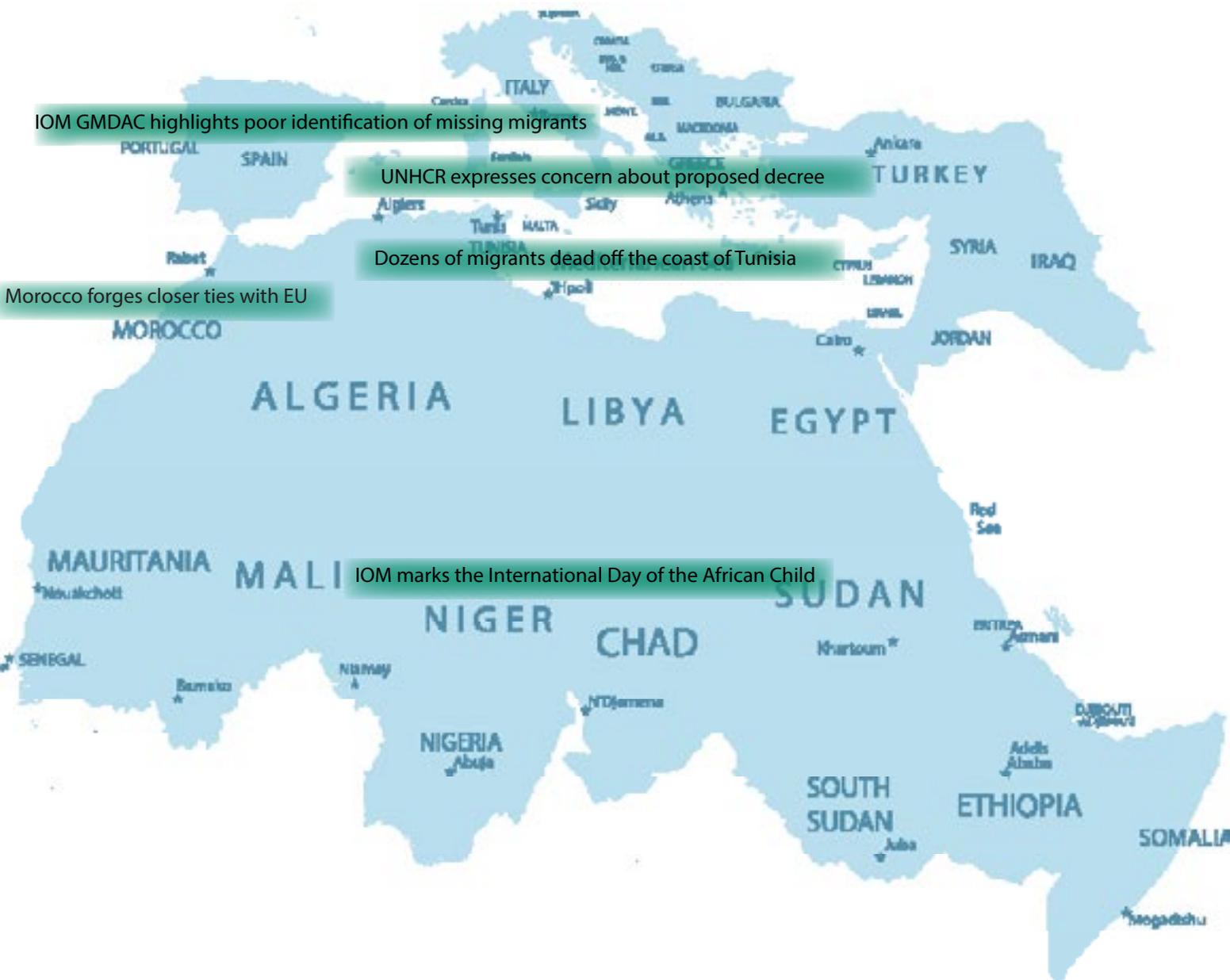
About: MHub is the regional knowledge hub and secretariat for the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force, comprising of DRC, IOM, OHCHR, RMMS, Save the Children, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNODC. It promotes a human rights-based approach to ensure the protection of people moving in mixed and complex flows to,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

OSCE warns of the effects of lack of integration efforts in Europe

- The High Commissioner on National Minorities at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Mr. Lamberto Zannier, has recently [warned](#) that Europe's failure to create and implement long-term, social integration policies for migrants in European countries threatens to foster isolationism which in turn could lead to radicalization and violence. Speaking about the situation Mr. Zannier said, "The influx of migrants is testing Europe's capability to uphold human rights for all and to ensure protection against hatred, racism and violence against all minorities, including religious minorities. Shortcomings in the development and implementation of long-term policies that foster the integration of societies ... further contribute to isolationism, which constitutes fertile ground for radicalization and violence." Mr. Zannier further warned that the wave of populism sweeping through Europe is threatening to exacerbate the alienation of minorities in European societies.

EU announces new funding for Sahel region

- On 11 June, the European Commission [announced](#) that it will be providing an additional €152.05 million in funding to tackle poverty, the effects of conflict and climate change, and food and nutritional crises in the Sahel region. The newly announced funds will bring the total of EU funding to the region since last year to €423 million. Speaking about the situation in the Sahel region and the EU's efforts, Christos Stylianides, EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis management, said, "The EU's vital work in the Sahel continues to help the most vulnerable, in one of the poorest and most fragile regions in the world, where humanitarian needs are worryingly on the rise. Our new aid package will provide food assistance, emergency health care, clean water, shelter, protection and education for children. To ensure aid saves lives, it is essential that humanitarian workers have full access to do their job."

IOM GMDAC highlights poor identification of missing migrants

- A recent briefing by IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) has [highlighted](#) the need for better identification of missing migrants. According to GMDAC's Missing Migrants Project database, less than a third of 15,000 recorded fatalities along the CMR since 2014 have been recovered and only roughly 22% of those have been identified. The incredibly low identification rates mean that families of missing migrants remain unable to process the death of loved ones. Speaking at the briefing, Frank Laczko, Director of GMDAC, said, "Thousands of families of missing migrants remain in limbo. They face the disappearance of a loved one that may never be acknowledged or confirmed."
- Earlier in the month, UNHCR [warned](#) that the number of fatalities in the Mediterranean could increase dramatically if rescue vessels are not deployed to deal with an increase in departures. Speaking about the situation, UNHCR spokesperson Carlotta Sami, said, "If we do not intervene soon, there will be a sea of blood," and further added, "Obviously, migrants have no say in how or when to leave. The traffickers make that decision for them. They couldn't care less if the people arrive dead or alive."

South EU summit in Malta

- The leaders of Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain [met](#) in Valletta on 11 June for the 6th South EU Summit where issues of migration once again took center stage. A statement [released](#) after the summit appears to take aim at rescue vessels in the Mediterranean. Italy and Malta have already severely curtailed the operations of such vessels. "All vessels operating in the Mediterranean must respect the applicable international laws and not obstruct operations of the Libyan Coastguard," [says](#) the statement. It is worth noting that Libya is, by almost all accounts, not considered a port of safety for migrants and refugees. During the meeting, leaders also highlighted the need for equitable responsibility sharing among EU states with regards to migrants and refugees.

UNHCR calls for funds to address issues along CMR and WMR

- On 26 June, UNHCR [made](#) a public appeal for \$210 million to assist and protect refugees traveling through Sub-Saharan and North Africa. UNHCR hopes to protect refugees from falling prey to smugglers and traffickers. UNHCR also hopes to prevent refugees from placing themselves at risk by offering them additional support and services in countries of first asylum in the region. UNHCR further called upon the international community to take all the necessary steps to provide additional lifesaving operations in the Mediterranean and to hold to account any and all persons or organizations that prey on vulnerable people on the move. Speaking about the need for greater action, Vincent Cochetel, UNHCR's Special Envoy for the Central Mediterranean, said, "With more than 15 conflicts on the African continent, thousands of people will continue to move with often unrealistic and misinformed expectations," he also added, "They face grave danger, and even death, in the hands of smugglers and traffickers. We must do more to prevent the rising numbers who fall prey to those who seek to profit from vulnerability and despair."

Panel on migration and displacement during European Development Days (EDD)

- A high level debate on migration and displacement was [held](#) on 18 June during the European Commission's [European Development Days \(EDD\)](#), an annual event that brings together members of the development community to share their ideas and experiences and to develop innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges. The session was titled "In search of equality: Migration, forced displacement and the SDGs" and brought together IOM's Director General, António Vitorino, President and CEO of the International Rescue Committee (IRC), David Milliband, Kelly T. Clements, the Deputy High Commissioner of UNHCR, Stefano Manservigi, Director General of European Commission – DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO); Saadatou Mallam Barmou, Deputy Head of Cabinet of the Office of the Prime Minister, Government of Niger; and EDD Youth Representative Judicaelle Irakoze, Executive Director of Choose Yourself.

EGYPT

CAPMAS releases figures relating to migration

- The Egyptian Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) [released](#) a report on 18 June, revealing the number of Egyptians living abroad and Egyptian marriages to foreigners. The figures released referred to 2017 estimates by the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to the report, the number of Egyptians living abroad at the end of 2017 was 10.247 million, with 6.985 million of those or 68% living in Arab countries. The report further revealed that 2,331 Egyptians acquired a foreign nationality between 2013 and 2017 while the number of foreigners who acquired the Egyptian nationality during the same period decreased by around 75%. The study also provided figures for the number of foreigners working in different sectors in Egypt, with the number of foreigners working for various government-affiliated organizations increasing by 27.3% between 2016 and 2017 and the number of foreigners working in the private and investment sectors decreasing by 8.4% between 2013 and 2017.

President Sisi meets UNGA President

- On 3 July, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi [met](#) with United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) President, María Fernanda Espinosa. According to a statement released by the president's office, displacement and migration were key areas of discussion during the meeting, at times when the number of registered refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt has increased by 24% over the past two years - the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) revealed.
- President Sisi reportedly reiterated the need for comprehensive and integrated solutions to displacement and irregular migration. Such solutions would integrate economic, political, cultural, humanitarian, and development measures, said the statement. President Espinoza praised Egypt's critical and stabilizing role in the region during her meeting with President Sisi.

LIBYA

Maritime updates

- According to IOM figures, 1,333 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were returned to Libyan shores by the Libyan Coast Guard in June. This figure is roughly 10% higher than the number of maritime returns in May which was already a marked spike from previous figures. The number of interceptions off the coast of Libya has been on the rise with the Libyan Coast Guard [announcing](#) on 28 June that they had rescued 391 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in four separate incidents between 24 and 27 June. 3 bodies were retrieved during the month of June but 24 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have gone missing off the coast of Libya during that period. The number of migrants and refugees who have gone missing in June is four times the number for the previous month of May.
- While it is important that migrants and refugees are removed from immediate danger in the Mediterranean it is also important to note that for many humanitarian and human rights actors and observers, Libya cannot and should not be considered a port of safety for those rescued in the Mediterranean. UNHCR's special envoy for the Central Mediterranean, Vincent Cochetel, has recently [said](#) that he is not aware of any port of safety in Libya, highlighting the problem of increasingly greater numbers of migrants and refugees being intercepted by the Libyan Coast Guard and returned to the very same Libyan shores from which

they were attempting to flee.

Returns from Libya

- According to IOM Libya's biweekly report, 413 migrants voluntarily returned to their countries of origin in June, bringing the total of voluntary returns in 2019 to 5,089. Of those who were returned since the beginning of the year, 26% were female and 24% male. 29% of returns since January were from detention centres while 71% were from urban areas in Libya.

Alternatives to Detention workshop held by IOM in Libya

- The International Organization for Migration office in Tripoli organised a workshop on alternatives to detention last month. The [workshop](#) "Practices and Procedures of Alternatives to Detention" was organized with technical support from the International Detention Coalition. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss rights-based alternatives to detention in Libya to allow for early identification and protection of vulnerable migrants, more specifically unaccompanied and separated children.

Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers killed in airstrike

- An airstrike on the Tajoura migrant detention centre in the suburbs of Tripoli on 2 July has [left](#) tens of migrants dead and over a hundred injured and traumatized. UN agencies and humanitarian organizations had repeatedly warned of the threat to migrants and refugees held captive in appalling conditions amidst the escalating violence. There were 53 recorded fatalities in the airstrike, 6 of whom were children. Roughly 140 migrants and refugees were injured in the attack and all survivors were severely traumatized by the harrowing experience. The facility was housing roughly 600 migrants and refugees from 17 different countries on the eve of the attack. Joel Millman, a spokesperson for IOM, has said that, as of 5 July, there were 350 migrants, women and children and among them, still being held at the facility.
- In response to the attack, Ghassan Salamé, the head of the UN Support Mission in Libya, called for an investigation into the incident and dubbed it a 'war crime'. Charlie Yaxley, a media and communications officer with UNHCR, echoed Mr. Salamé calls and further added that the locations of defenceless migrants and refugees are known to both General Khalifa Haftar's forces and the UN-backed GNA. Mr. Yaxley further added, "We are not able to verify who is responsible for the attack, that's why there needs to be this independent investigation. What we can say is that, is at this point there does need to be greater efforts, far greater efforts from the international community, particularly amongst those States who have leverage

over the warring parties to bring an end to the violence."

- The safety of thousands of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers being held for indeterminate periods of time in Libyan detention facilities has been the cause of much-warranted alarm among humanitarian actors in the region, and the attack only highlighted the extremely precarious conditions under which they are held. Almost a month before the attack, a spokesperson for OHCHR, Rupert Coleville, [attacked](#) conditions at Libyan detention centres. Speaking to reporters in Geneva on 7 June, Mr. Coleville said, "We are deeply concerned about the ghastly conditions in which migrants and refugees are being held in detention in Libya," and added that conditions at centres "amount to inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, and may also amount to torture." Given these conditions and the fact that Libya remains incredibly volatile, humanitarian agencies will continue to call for action and warn of the dangers to those held captive in that environment. Around the same time as Mr. Coleville's comments the European Commission [reiterated](#) that detention centres in Libya must be closed with commission spokesperson, Maja Kocijancic, saying that the EU's view on the centres "is clear and has not changed: they must be closed." Ms. Kocijancic reportedly added that the EU is looking to ease visa requirements in order to facilitate the removal of migrants from harm's way.

MOROCCO

Arrest of man suspected of migrant smuggling

- Moroccan authorities [announced](#) on 10 June that they had arrested an Indian national on suspicion of migrant smuggling. The man in question is an irregular migrant himself and was arrested at a property housing 10 irregular migrants from Sri Lanka, India, and Pakistan. According to authorities, preliminary investigations indicate that the man received payments between \$1,000 and \$7,000 from migrants in order to facilitate their onward travel to Europe.

Fire at informal migrant camp

- A fire [swept](#) through the Oulad Ziane informal migrant camp in Casablanca on 30 June leaving many injured. The camp, near the city's main bus station, housed hundreds of migrants. The fire reportedly erupted after an altercation in the camp over a stolen phone. According to a community leader from the camp, Camara Lassine, "There was a fight between a hundred migrants over a stolen phone, and one of them started the fire and called the police." Mr. Lassine went on to say that he was not sure they would be allowed to return. This isn't the first such incident at the camp with four fires reported last year.

Morocco forges closer ties with EU

- Morocco is [set](#) to further enhance its partnership with the EU after the 'Euro-Moroccan Partnership for Shared Prosperity' was announced on 27 June. The announcement came after the 14th meeting of the Morocco-EU Association Council and talks are expected to begin immediately and to run for roughly 18 months. A joint declaration released after the meeting reads, "the 'Euro-Moroccan partnership for shared prosperity' will be based on four structural areas: an area of convergence of values, an area of economic convergence and social cohesion, an area of shared knowledge, and an area of political consultation and of enhanced cooperation on security, and on two key horizontal fields in which specific operational actions will also be carried out, namely cooperation in the field of the environment and the fight against climate change, and cooperation in the field of mobility and migration." As stated in the statement, further cooperation on migration is expected to be one of the key components of this partnership.

NIGER

IOM marks the International Day of the African Child

- IOM Niger [marked](#) the International day of the African Child on 16 June by organizing leisure activities at their transit centres for unaccompanied children and women. The activities included dance, magic, acrobatics, theatre, story-telling and puppet shows. Recreational/educational activities are organized at the centres throughout the year with daily classes on IT, language, sport, music and art. The centres also organize regular trips to museums, the movies and to the swimming pool.

Desert rescues in Niger

- IOM Niger has [announced](#) that it has rescued nearly 20,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from the searing Nigerien desert since April 2016. IOM Niger conducted the latest of such operations on June 15, the mission's 189th operation since the beginning of the program. 406 migrants, including seven women and four children, were rescued that day after being stranded in the blazing heat of the desert without adequate shelter, food or water. Speaking about the

operations, IOM's local Focal Point, Alhassane Adouel, said, "Despite having assisted so many groups of migrants, I still find it difficult every time a new group arrives, with newborns in their arms, faces covered in sand and their clothes ripped apart." These operations are going to remain vital to preserving the lives of migrants traversing this inhospitable and dangerous terrain, this is particularly the case since there is mounting [evidence](#) that smugglers are taking ever more dangerous routes across the desert to evade detection and Nigerien force.

TUNISIA

Dozens of migrants dead off the coast of Tunisia

- Over 80 migrants are [feared](#) dead after their boat sank off the coast of Tunisia in the first week of July. The boat, carrying 86 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers (including four women and two children), left the Libyan port of Zuwara in the early morning of 1 July. Several hours later water began to leak into the boat and the boat capsized shortly thereafter. What is known about the incident has come from four male survivors who were stranded at sea for 40 hours before being spotted by Tunisian fishermen who contacted the Tunisian Coast Guard. One of the four men rescued died in the hospital later that day. Later in the week, the Tunisian Red Crescent [announced](#) that they had recovered the bodies of 12 migrants in relation to the incident on 6 July, including the bodies of two women.

A group of migrants disembarked in Tunisia at risk of deportation

- A group of 75 migrants, who [spent](#) three weeks on a rescue vessel at sea before being allowed to disembark in Tunisia face the threat of deportation. The group, half of whom are unaccompanied minors, were rescued on 31 May by

the Maridive 601 but had to spend three weeks at sea after European authorities refused to allow the boat to dock. While Tunisian authorities eventually allowed the migrants to disembark on 18 June, aid groups have warned that migrants may be returned to Libya or their countries of origin. A relative of a Bangladeshi migrant has alleged that migrants were told they would be refused food, water and medical treatment unless they agree to return to their countries of origin. Speaking about the situation, Georgia Linardi from SeaWatch in Italy said, "After this episode we should reflect on whether Tunisia qualifies as a place of safety, as our sources suggested that the migrants could be immediately repatriated or expelled from the country. The situation aboard the Maridive is very much confronted with the situation faced right now by the SeaWatch vessel with 53 migrants on board which is still floating in front of Italian territorial waters. As of now, the attitude of the Italian authorities is no different from the attitude of the Tunisian authorities towards the Maridive despite the two states having a different framework in terms of protection of human rights and in terms of asylum system in place."

GREECE

Arrivals to Greece by sea

- 2,989 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Greece by sea in June. This represents a roughly 4% increase on figures from a similar period the previous month. This figure also represents a roughly 17% increase on figures from a similar reporting period for June of last year.

Arrest of migrant smugglers

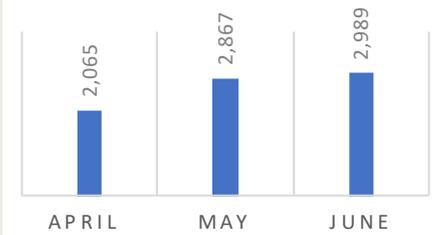
- The Greek Coast Guard [announced](#) the arrest of five individuals, three Greek and two foreign nationals, on 9 June on suspicion of migrant smuggling. The persons in question were apprehended as they attempted to smuggle migrants from the Greek island of Lefkada to Italy on a sailboat. The coast guard confiscated the boat as well as a minivan and another vehicle that were reportedly used to transport migrants to the coast.

- Greek authorities also [announced](#) the arrest of another three smugglers operating out of the island of Lesbos later in the month. It does not appear that the suspected smugglers are affiliated with one another. One of those arrested is a minor, 16 years of age, who was apprehended while transporting 41 migrants from Turkey to Greece. A further two individuals were arrested, one was attempting to transport 32 migrants off the coast of Greece and another attempting to transport 26 migrants.

Police in North Macedonia arrest migrants from Greece

- North Macedonian authorities [announced](#) that they had apprehended 50 migrants in two separate incidents who had crossed from Greece into North Macedonia irregularly. In one incident, police found 10 Pakistani migrants in a jeep following a chase along the main highway in central North Macedonia. The driver of the vehicle fled the scene and police were still searching for him, according to the statement from police. In the second incident. A routine check of a truck found 40 migrants, 12 of whom were children, hiding in the vehicle.

ARRIVALS TO GREECE BY SEA



ITALY

Arrivals to Italy by sea

- 1,218 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Italy by sea in June, which represents a roughly 56% increase on figures from the previous month of May. This figure is, however, 61% lower than arrival figures for June of last year.

UNHCR expresses concern about proposed decree

- UNHCR has [expressed](#) concern about plans to introduce a new decree that includes several provisions to pressure NGOs into suspending or ending rescue operations in the Mediterranean entirely. MHub has covered the proposed decree in the previous month's bulletin but among the most alarming provisions is the introduction of hefty fine for every migrant saved by a vessel. UNHCR has reiterated that sea rescue is a humanitarian imperative as well as an obligation under international law and therefore it would be unconscionable to fine and penalize shipmasters for coming to the aid of vessels in distress. Speaking about the decree, Roland Schilling, UNHCR's Regional Representative to Southern Europe, said, "At a time when European states have largely withdrawn from rescue efforts in the Central Mediterranean, NGO vessels are more crucial than ever," and added "without them, it is inevitable that more lives will be lost." UNHCR calls upon the Italian government and parliament to recon sider the decree and amend it so that migrant and refugee protection and the preservation of life are at its core.

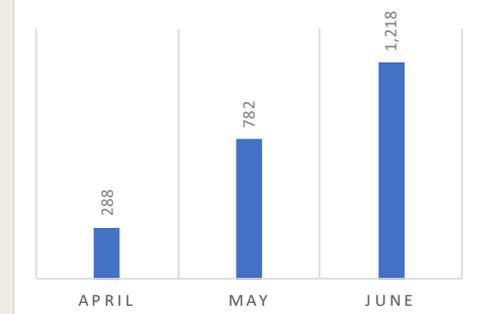
Rescue vessel docks without permission in Italy

- The captain of the rescue vessel Sea-Watch 3, 32-year-old Carola Rackete, was [detained](#) in Italy on 29 June after the vessel she was commandeering rammed through a border control boat and docked at the port of Lampedusa without permission. The incident was the dramatic culmination of a two-week long ordeal for 42 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers aboard the Sea-Watch 3. The NGO vessel was involved in a two-week standoff because Italy's Matteo Salvini would not let those aboard disembark before other EU countries agreed to take them in. Minister Salvini had [allowed](#) ten migrants to disembark on 15 June, among them, two pregnant women, three minors and two men in need of medical assistance but for those left aboard, the situation was uncertain and conditions on the vessel were worsening. Captain Rackete had previously told reporters that the situation on board the vessel was deteriorating, saying, "There isn't fresh water for everyone to wash. There are people in need of medical

attention. For the migrants it's not difficult only physically, but also psychologically. Most of them have suffered human rights abuse, and for days now they have been waiting to know their fate." UNHCR and IOM had also previously [called](#) upon the Italian government to allow the vessel to dock.

- Following her detainment, Captain Rackete, slammed Italy's handling of the situation and [said](#), "We are not relieved, we are angry. She further added, "This disembarkation should have taken place more than two weeks ago and it should have been coordinated instead of hindered by the authorities." European governments in their air-conditioned offices have gambled with these people's lives for more than 16 days. Not a single European institution was willing to assume responsibility, until I was forced to do so myself"
- Another captain of a vessel to be facing charges of irregular migration is Pia Klemp, who was standing trial in June for saving nearly 6,000 lives in the Mediterranean. The 35-year-old skippered the Luventa, an NGO rescue vessel and is accused, along with 9 others, of aiding and abetting illegal migration. These charges carry a sentence of 20 years and €15,000 for each person saved. Speaking about her trial, Ms. Klemp said, "There is no way I am going to prison for saving people in distress," and added, "It is the most ridiculous thing on so many different levels. And I will never accept anything else but acquittal."

ARRIVALS TO ITALY BY SEA



SPAIN

Arrivals to Spain by sea

- 1,693 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have crossed from Morocco to Spain by sea in June of this year, which represents a 29% increase from figures for a similar reporting period the previous month of May but an approximately 75% decrease from figures for a similar reporting period in June of last year.

Arrivals to Spain by land

- 379 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have crossed into Spain via its land borders with Morocco (through Ceuta and Melilla) in June, a 38% drop in figures from the previous month of May. This figure represents a roughly 4.5% decrease from land arrival figures for June of last year.

Ceuta increasing border security

- It has been [reported](#) that the Spanish enclave of Ceuta has been fortifying its border surveillance and control mechanisms. According to a Spanish media outlet, the Spanish ministry of interior reportedly replaced 52 cameras along the border and installed 14 new technical cameras and a more modern CCTV control platform.

MULTIMEDIA & EDITORIALS OF INTEREST

[Tunisia Fishermen Become Lifesavers of the Mediterranean](#) – VoA

This editorial focuses on Tunisian fishermen who are becoming vital for the preservation of life in the Mediterranean with the decrease in NGO rescue presence in the Mediterranean.

[European policies continue to claim lives on the Mediterranean Sea](#) – MSF

This strongly worded statement seeks to draw attention to how the criminalization of rescue operations and aid in the Mediterranean has made the already dangerous crossing even deadlier.

[“Unimaginable Horrors” in Libya’s Migrant Detention Centers](#) – IPS

This editorial gives readers a look into the conditions migrants and refugees are subjected to in Libyan detention facilities.

RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[Migration, Development and Global Governance: From crisis toward consolidation](#) – MPI

This policy brief attempts to provide insights into the key topics addressed in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), with a special focus on how it addresses and/or tackles issues of development.

[The policy tap fallacy: Lessons from the Central Mediterranean Route](#) - MMC

This policy brief attempts to provide insights into the key topics addressed in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), with a special focus on how it addresses and/or tackles issues of development.

[UNHCR Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2018](#) – UNHCR

This policy brief attempts to provide insights into the key topics addressed in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), with a special focus on how it addresses and/or tackles issues of development.

[Fatal Journeys Volume 4: Missing Migrant Children](#) – IOM GMDAC

This fourth instalment of the Missing Migrants Project (MMP) publication pays special attention to missing migrant children and child migrant fatalities. This report discusses why it is often difficult to find data on missing migrants disaggregated by age. It explores what measures could be taken to improve data on missing migrant children, to help improve policy options and to prevent these tragedies from occurring.

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