

ESRC PROJECT

Anti-Smuggling Policies and their Intersection with Humanitarian Assistance and Social Trust

MEDIA MONITORING COMPILATION, RESEARCH FINDINGS, CAMPAIGNS AND OTHER RESOURCES

BELGIUM

Le mea culpa de Theo Francken à propos de Médecins sans Frontières: "Je retire ce que j'ai dit" (*Theo Francken's mea culpa about Doctors without borders : "I withdraw what I said"*)

Staff writer

RTL Infor

24 March 2017

After exchanging a few tweets with Doctors without borders, Francken (Secretary of State for Asylum and Migration) urged the organisation to leave the Mediterranean Sea, accusing it of contributing to human trafficking and causing "indirectly more deaths". His declarations were condemned by the Belgian Prime Minister, Charles Michel, who called his minister to show more "nuance" in his communication. Without completely changing his words, Francken withdrew his comment qualifying Doctors without Borders as a human trafficker organization: "rescue operations create an aspiration effect that leads to more drowning. It's a huge paradox naturally, a huge dilemma. You have to save people, but by saving people, you indirectly cause more people to take the road to departure."

<https://www.rtl.be/info/belgique/politique/theo-francken-retire-ses-propos-sur-medecins-sans-frontieres-902347.aspx>

This was also reported by [Reuters UK](#); [LeVif](#); [RTBF](#); [RTBF](#); [LeSoir](#);

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BULGARIA

Priest Is Withdrawn from Bulgaria after Threats for Hosting Migrants

Bulgarian Helsinki Committee

Liberties

20 March 2017

A Syrian refugee family was invited to come to Belene (Bulgaria) by a local priest, Father Paolo Cortese. Following protests by locals, the Syrian family decided to leave the town, and the priest was withdrawn from Bulgaria, as he started to receive death threats.

<https://www.liberties.eu/en/short-news/18123/18123>

This was also reported by [Dnevnik](#); [The Sofia Globe](#); [The Sofia Globe](#); [BalkanInsight](#); [Novinite](#); [The Sofia Globe](#);

###

DENMARK

When Denmark criminalized kindness (Essay)

Lisbeth Zornig Andersen

Granta

December 2016

This is an essay in which the author, the Chair of Denmark's Children's Council, talks about her experience helping refugees (giving them a ride), which footages made the news. After being called a traitor, Muslim-lover, receiving hate mail,... she was investigated by the police on the charge of people smuggling, and charged with people smuggling and condemned.

<https://granta.com/denmark-criminalised-kindness/>

This was also reported by [The Guardian](#); [The Guardian](#); [BuzzFeed](#);

###

FRANCE

Monique, 62 ans : "Un matin, on frappe à la porte, c'est la police aux frontières" (*Monique, 62 years old: One morning, someone knocks on my door, it's the border police*) (from 2009))

Elise Vicent

Le Monde

28 September 2012

In 2009 (before the exceptions on help to migrants were added to the French law on foreigners), this volunteer was arrested and interrogated for bringing food to migrants and charging their phones. The case was closed and no further action was taken.

http://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2012/09/28/un-matin-on-frappe-a-la-porte-c-est-la-police-aux-frontieres_1767178_3224.html

###

Perché chi aiuta i migranti rischia di essere processato (*Because who helps migrants is likely to be prosecuted*)

Staff writer

Internazionale

10 January 2017

This article talks about Cédric Herrou, a 37yo French farmer in the Rolla Valley (close to the Italian border), who is under trial in France for helping 200 migrants cross the border, and providing food to 57 of them; it draws comparison to Pierre-Alain Mannoni, a French teacher who was also tried, and acquitted on similar charges. It also discusses the criminalization of solidarity in Europe, and the European directive of 2002.

<https://www.internazionale.it/notizie/2017/01/10/migranti-solidarieta-cedric-herrou>

This was also reported by [The New York Times](#); [The News York Times](#); [EuroNews](#); [RFI](#); [TheGuardian](#); [RFI](#); [BBC](#); [CNN](#); [TheTelegraph](#); [TheGuardian](#); [Aljazeera](#); [VOX](#); [HuffingtonPost](#); [FranceInfo](#);

###

France prosecuting citizens for "crimes of solidarity"

by Kyle G. Brown

Aljazeera

25 January 2017

This article talks about several cases of activists being brought to court for providing help to migrants (Houssam El Assimi, Pierre Mannoni, Cedric Herrou), under Article L622-1 of France's immigration law which states that anyone who "facilitates or attempts to facilitate the illegal entry, movement or residence of a foreigner in France shall be punished by imprisonment for five years and a fine of €30,000 (over \$32,000)". It also discusses the harassment and criminalization of humanitarian activities to intimidate, discourage, and prevent citizen from expressing solidarity with migrants; and describes the overall situation in France regarding the humanitarian crisis, and its divisiveness in public opinion.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/01/france-prosecuting-citizens-crimes-solidarity-170122064151841.html>

This was also reported by [BoingBoing](#); [AladdinsMiracleLamp](#); [Reddit](#); Google News; [RFI](#); [Arielis](#); [EqualTimes](#); [LeMonde](#); [Reforme](#); [Liberation](#); [LeParisien](#); [Huffingtonpost](#); [LeMonde](#); [Humanité](#); [Humanité](#); [Europe1](#); [TheStar](#); [Libération](#); [l'OBS](#); [LeParisien](#);

###

Calais mayor bans distribution of food to migrants

Amelia Gentleman

Flipboard

2 March 2017

The article is about the Mayor of Calais, Natacha Bouchart, who, citing security reasons, has banned the distribution of food to migrants in a attempt to prevent a new refugee camp from forming in the area, just 3 months after the Jungle was demolished. Police are making it harder for activists to provide meals to migrants, including children and teenagers.

<https://flipboard.com/@flipboard/flip.it%2FPa0tg9-calais-mayor-bans-distribution-of-food/-f-4101851ae8%2Ftheguardian.com>

This was also reported by [TheGuardian](#); [Independent](#); [ReliefWeb](#); [France24](#); [CNN](#); [TheTelegraph](#); [Time](#); [Business Standard](#); [Aljazeera](#); [Express](#); [Express](#); [International Business Times](#); [TheJournal.ie](#); [AhmedabadMirror](#); [DW](#); [RFI](#); [ABNA24](#); [Reuters](#); [The Migrant Observer](#); [Cyprus Mail](#); [TheStar](#); [France24](#); [LeParisien](#); [Libération](#); [L'Express](#); [HuffingtonPost](#); [FranceSoir](#); [l'OBS](#);

###

Valley Rebels (6-Chapters video)

Staff writer

The Guardian

28 April 2017

This 6-parts video is exploring the case of Cédric Herrou, a French farmer, on trial for supporting and housing African refugees; facing up to 5 years in prison and 30.000 fine, the outspoken farmer is the symbol of the divisiveness of French's public opinion on the subject. Regarded by some as a hero, and by other, including the government, as a criminal.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/nq-interactive/2017/apr/28/the-valley-rebels-the-french-farmer-helping-refugees-cross-europe-video>

###

Affaire Cédric Herrou : l'aide aux migrants est-elle légale en France ? (*Cédric Herrou's case: Is the aid to migrants legal in France?*)

Stéphane Pair

France Info

8 August 2017

The Court of Appeal of Aix-en-Provence sentenced Cédric Hérou on Tuesday 8 August to 4 conditional months in prison for helping migrants. The French farmer is one of the most prominent figure of the Roya Citoyenne association, which provides help to migrants at the French-Italy border. He was already sentenced to a 3000 fine by the Court of First Instance. A French law of December 2012 differentiate smuggling for payment and selfless help to migrants. The latter is thus not a crime in France, but the article notes that in the eyes of public authorities, it seems to depend on the migration context, and they seem to be trying to stop similar solidarity actions from spreading.

http://www.francetvinfo.fr/monde/europe/migrants/affaire-cedric-herrou-l-aide-aux-migrants-est-elle-legale-en-france_2318307.html

This was also reported by [France24](#); [New York Times](#); [Aljazeera](#); [PRI](#); [Newsweek](#); [BBC](#); [TheLocal](#); [Kobini](#); [LeMonde](#);

###

Aide aux migrants: le « délit de solidarité » dénoncé après la condamnation de Cédric Herrou (*Aid to migrants: The "crime of solidarity" denounced after Cedric Herrou's conviction*)

Florian Reynaud

Le Monde

8 August 2017

This article talks about the criminalization of solidarity following the sentencing of Cédric Herrou; and explains Article L622-1 of France's immigration law, and its latest modification (Article L. 622-4 from 2012, which distinguish residence aid from aid for the entry and movement of undocumented migrants).

Article L.622-1 of the code of entry and stay of foreigners and right to asylum was modified in December 2012 to specify that helping migrants to stay cannot lead to prosecution if there was no direct or indirect compensation; and the help ensured decent living conditions or preserved the dignity and physical integrity of migrants (through legal aid, food, housing of health care services). These exceptions only cover the stay and not the help to entry and circulation of irregular migrants. However, the Court considers that Cedric Herrou received compensation because his help support his activism. This sends a clear message to other migrant rights activists and also blurs the exceptions added to the law in 2012.

http://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2017/08/08/aide-aux-migrants-le-delit-de-solidarite-denonce-apres-la-condamnation-de-cedric-herrou_5170166_3224.html#xtor=AL-32280270

This was also reported by [France24](#); [New York Times](#); [Aljazeera](#); [PRI](#); [Newsweek](#); [BBC](#); [TheLocal](#); [Kobini](#);

###

Two journalists arrested in France while doing story on migrants

Staff member

Soynadie

14 November 2017

This article talks about the arrest of two reporters (Caroline Christinaz and Raphael Krafft), by the Briançon police, as they were travelling in vehicles driven by locals who were bringing 4 minors migrants into France clandestinely. Christinaz was in the car with the migrant, and learned that she was investigated on suspicion of "assisting the illegal entry, circulation or presence of foreigners in

French territory,” a charge punishable by a heavy fine or up to five years in prison. (Kraft only heard as witness)

http://www.soynadie.org/2017/11/14/two-journalists-arrested-in-france-while-doing-story-on-migrants/?lipi=urn%3Ali%3Apage%3Ad_flagship3_feed%3Bp%2FiloRKIRruXE%2BfNH4wjLQ%3D%3D

This was also reported by [L'Express](#); [Politis](#); [Le Temps](#); [ValeursActuelles](#); [Europe 1](#); [Courrier International](#); [RT](#); [Il Fatto Quotidiano](#); [Ticinonews](#)

###

ITALY

Traffickers turn to teenagers to drive migrant boats across Mediterranean

Luca Muzi

The Guardian

18 November 2014

People smugglers in Egypt and Libya are escaping justice by using children to ferry migrants to Europe, leaving the youngsters to face jail and huge fines

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/nov/18/people-trafficking-teenagers-migrant-boats-mediterranean>

###

Protection of human rights defenders is vital to realize OSCE human rights commitments, says OSCE/ODIHR Director Link

Staff writer (press release)

OSCE

9 December 2016

Michael Georg Link, director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institution and Human Rights reaffirmed that the protection of HR defenders was essential for OSCE participating states: “Human rights defenders are often the focus of threats, attacks and legal harassment simply for trying to protect the rights of society’s most vulnerable people, without discrimination. I encourage OSCE participating States to seriously consider the Hamburg Declaration, which outlines many important actions to safeguard human rights defenders from restrictions contrary to OSCE commitments.”

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/287861>

This was also reported by [Diplomatic Intelligence](#);

###

EU border force accuses charities of collusion with migrant smugglers

Duncan Robinson

Financial Times

15 December 2016

According to a report in the Financial Times ([link](#)), EU border agency Frontex has accused NGOs of colluding with people smugglers operating in the central Mediterranean, stating in a confidential

report that it has logged the: “First reported case where the criminal networks were smuggling migrants directly on an NGO vessel”.

<https://www.ft.com/content/3e6b6450-c1f7-11e6-9bca-2b93a6856354>

This was also reported by [Euractiv](#); [DailyBeast](#); [LaTribune](#); [DailyMail](#);

- ➔ The article was later retracted by the Financial Times (see article and: <http://time.com/4608908/refugee-migrants-mediterranean-frontex-ngo/>)
- ➔ FRONTEX distanced itself from the accusation (https://twitter.com/PatrickKingsley/status/809424345651154944?ref_src=twsrc%5etfw + <https://theintercept.com/2017/04/02/new-evidence-undermines-eu-report-tying-refugee-rescue-group-to-smugglers/> + <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2017/05/responsible-deadly-refugee-journeys-170522080533683.html>)

###

EU agencies and officials accuse NGOs of assisting people smugglers off Libyan coast

Staff writer

Statewatch

16 December 2016

This article talks about the Financial Times’ report which was later retracted. It’s about FRONTEX’s alleged accusation (in a confidential report) that there was collusion between NGOs and people smugglers operating in the Mediterranean. The article also cite a “[Working document of the European Union External Action Service, EUNAVFORD MED Op SOPHIA](#)”, in which NGOs are accused of making migrant smugglers’ work easier by operating closer to the Libyan shore than the EU’s vessels

<http://www.statewatch.org/news/2016/dec/eu-vs-ngos.html>

This was also reported by [Euractiv](#); [Financial Times](#); [DailyBeast](#); [LaTribune](#); [The Intercept](#);

- Similarly, in an internal report (pdf) drafted by the head of Operation Sophia, the EU's military mission against smuggling in the Mediterranean, NGOs are accused of making migrant smugglers' work easier by operating closer to the Libyan shore than the EU's vessels. <http://statewatch.org/news/2016/dec/eu-council-eunavformed-jan-oct-2016-report-restricted.pdf>

###

Europol report hails 'success' against people smuggling despite more refugees dying than ever before

Lizzie Dearden

The Independent

24 February 2017

Humanitarian groups say lack of legal routes to Europe forcing migrants into criminals’ hands

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/europol-eu-people-smuggling-success-refugees-dying-killed-mediterranean-migrant-crisis-border-a7598421.html>

This was also reported by [The Parliament Magazine](#); [InformantSite](#);

###

NGO rescues off Libya encourage traffickers, says EU borders chief

Patrick Wintour

The Guardian

29 February 2017

Head of Frontex calls for rescue operations in Med to be re-evaluated and says NGOs work ineffectively with security agencies. Speaking to Germany's Die Welt newspaper, Fabrice Leggeri called for rescue operations to be re-evaluated and accused NGOs of ineffectively cooperating with security agencies against human traffickers.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/feb/27/ngo-rescues-off-libya-encourage-traffickers-eu-borders-chief>

This was also reported by [Express](#); [HurriyetDailyNews](#); [Frontexit](#); [The European Post](#); [Reuters](#); [NewsThatMoves](#); [The Times UK](#); [EuroNews](#); [EuroPost](#);

###

NGOs under attack for saving too many lives in the Mediterranean

Nando Sigona

The Conversation

29 March 2017

“European politicians and media have accused non-governmental organisations (NGOs) carrying out search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean of undermining their efforts to stem the flow of migration from Libya. Recent accusations by the EU's border agency Frontex mark a new low in the trend of criminalising those helping migrants and refugees in Europe.”

<https://theconversation.com/ngos-under-attack-for-saving-too-many-lives-in-the-mediterranean-75086>

###

EU migration crisis: border agency accused of stirring controversy

Stephanie Kirchgaessner

The Guardian

5 April 2017

“Mario Giro, Italy's deputy foreign minister, said the recent allegation by Frontex – which suggested that aid groups were indirectly supporting criminal traffickers – showed a fundamental misunderstanding of so-called “push” and “pull” factors that are encouraging hundreds of thousands of people from Africa and the Middle East to leave their homes and make the treacherous journey across the Mediterranean to Europe.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/05/eu-migration-crisis-frontex-people-traffickers>

###

Refugee rescue group accuses EU border agency of conspiracy

Staff writer

Euractiv

13 April 2017

A Spanish NGO (ProActiva) that has been rescuing migrants in the Mediterranean since 2016 accused the EU's border control agency Frontex on Wednesday (12 April) of plotting to discredit private aid organisations in order to put off donors.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/justice-home-affairs/news/refugee-rescue-group-accuse-eu-border-agency-of-conspiracy/>

This was also reported by [The Intercept](#); [Malta Today](#); [Standard-Examiner](#); [Jordan Times](#); [Aljazeera](#); [SputnikNews](#);

###

Sicily prosecutor accuses NGOs of collaboration with Libya smugglers

Mark Casper

Jurist

23 April 2017

Sicilian prosecutor Carmelo Zuccaro stated to reporters on Sunday that an investigation has revealed evidence of direct contacts between some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and human traffickers in Libya. He has claimed to know that they "are in contact with human traffickers" and alleged that "some of them could be financed" by smugglers. The prosecutor of Catania: "There are phone calls with organizers landings and groups funded by questionable characters. But politics must intervene"

<http://www.jurist.org/paperchase/2017/04/sicily-prosecutor-ngos-cooperating-with-libya-smugglers.php>

This was also reported by [DW](#); [TheLocal](#); [The Washington Post](#); [RT](#); [The New Arab](#); [The Times](#); [The Independent](#); [BBC](#); [Reuters](#); [Express](#); [The Telegraph](#); [AnsaMed](#); [Aljazeera](#); [La Stampa](#);

###

Migranti, sulle Ong Zuccaro insiste: "Notizie date da Frontex, non ho nuove prove". Orlando: "Nessun illecito disciplinare" (*Migrants, on Zuccaro Ong insists: "News given by Frontex, I have no new evidence." Orlando: "No disciplinary offense"*)

Alessandra Ziniti

Repubblica

3 may 2017

Confirming his previous allegation that there was a link between NGOs and human traffickers, and that those evidences couldn't be used in a courtroom but needs to be further investigated, Carmelo Zuccaro asks in front of the Defense Committee of the Senate to be able to use the intercepts. The ministry will not intervene against it: it has confirmed the Keeper. The Marina: "Non-governmental organizations do not hinder"

http://www.repubblica.it/cronaca/2017/05/03/news/ong_migranti_scafisti_procura_catania_zuccaro-164500643/?ref=RHPPLF-BH-I0-C8-P3-S2.4-T1

###

Italian prosecutor investigating NGO rescuers says has no proof of wrongdoing

Staff writer

Euractive

4 May 2017

After commenting that he had evidence of phone calls between people smugglers and aid groups, Carmelo Zuccaro, the Chief prosecutor of the Sicilian port city of Catania, is changing his initial comment. The Italian prosecutor who began an investigation into possible ties between humanitarian organisations that rescue migrants at sea and Libya-based people smugglers said on Wednesday (3 May) he had no proof of any wrongdoing.

<http://www.euractiv.com/section/justice-home-affairs/news/italian-prosecutor-investigating-ngo-rescuers-says-has-no-proof-of-wrongdoing/>

This was also reported by [Reuters](#); [The Daily Beast](#); [EUObserver](#); [AP News](#); [Repubblica](#); [ABCNews](#);

###

Migranti e Ong, l'ammiraglio della Guardia costiera "assolve" tutti. Nuovo fronte a Trapani
(*Migrants and NGOs, the admiral of the Coast Guard "performs" all. New front of Trapani*)

Alessandra Ziniti

Repubblica

4 May 2017

Zuccaro, in front of the Defense Committee of the Senate, maintained his previous comments (alleged links between NGOs and traffickers). The commander of the Harbor Commission to Schengen, "Who reports of dangerous situations has an obligation to rescue. Humanitarian organizations help us." The CSM: "Total support to Zuccaro pm" and 'reinforcements' in Catania. Summoned to the Senate also the head of the prosecutor in Trapani.

http://www.repubblica.it/cronaca/2017/05/04/news/ong_l_ammiraglio_della_guardia_costiera_assolve_tutti-164587424/?ref=RHPPLF-BH-IO-C8-P2-S1.8-T1

###

EU wil harder optreden tegen organisaties die migranten uit zee redden (*The EU wants to act harder against organizations that rescue migrants from the sea*)

Marc Peeperkorn

Volkskrant

4 July 2017

EU countries consider that refugee organizations in their lifeboats in the Mediterranean ferry illegal economic migrants to Europe maintain. Discuss the European Ministers of Justice Thursday a code of conduct which prohibits organizations from continuing to sail in Libyan waters and expand their GPS systems.

<http://www.volkskrant.nl/buitenland/eu-wil-harder-optreden-tegen-organisaties-die-migranten-uit-zee-redden~a4504326/>

This was also reported by [DW](#);

###

GREECE

Refugees in Lesbos: are there too many NGOs on the island?

Helen Nianias

The Guardian

5 January 2016

The Mayor of Lesbos, Spyros Galinos, is thankful for the outpouring of generosity, but points out that "many NGOs and individuals (are) coming to Lesbos without official registration and showing no cooperation with our municipality", which can be "more disruptive than useful".

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2016/jan/05/refugees-in-lesbos-are-there-too-many-ngos-on-the-island>

###

NGOs decry charges against volunteers in Greece

Anealla Safdar

Aljazeera

16 January 2016

Facing accusations of smuggling, 5 volunteers lifeguards were arrested by the Greek coastguard, as part of a crackdown on civil society in Greek Island, activists say. Two Danish from Team Humaniy, and three Spanish from Proem Aid groups. They were all released on bail (5000e), except Salam Aldeen, who's bail was set at 10,000e, and who was the only defendant asked to not leave the country, and to report to a police state every week.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/01/ngos-decry-arrests-volunteer-lifeguards-greece-160116193522648.html>

This was also reported by [HuffingtonPost](#); [TheLocal](#); [CPH Post](#); [EuroWeeklyNews](#); [NPR](#); [Ekthimerini](#);

###

Dos españoles detenidos en Grecia por tratar de trasladar a Euskadi a ocho refugiados en una caravana (*Two Spaniards arrested in Greece for trying to transfer eight refugees to Euskadi in a caravan*)

Staff writer

El Mundo

28 December 2016

They are accused of trafficking in human beings, a crime punishable by very high prison sentences in Greece. Mikel Zuloaga and the Begoña Huarte have been arrested in northwestern Greece, when they tried to cross into Italy by ferry with eight refugees hidden. They have 12 days to pay 2.000euro. (They later reaffirmed their action, and said that they would do it again :

http://ccaa.elpais.com/ccaa/2017/01/07/paisvasco/1483805777_194313.html)

<http://www.elmundo.es/sociedad/2016/12/28/5863a808e5fdea72078b4618.html>

This was also reported by [EITB](#); [Sud Ouest](#); [El Pais](#); [El Pais](#); [Express](#); [USA Today](#); [Ekthimerini](#); [El Mundo](#); [El Diario](#);

###

HUNGARY

A migránsok is rákaptak a telekocsizásra (*Car-pooling is popular among migrants*)

Staff writer

Origo

04 September 2015

Following a number of procedures against individuals for transporting migrants from Budapest to Austria through car-pooling, this article talks about the fact that a car-pooling website warns its users that they should always make sure that they offer rides to people who have a valid permit or visa, or EU nationality.

<http://www.origo.hu/auto/20150904-telekocsi-migrans-mav-vonat.html>

###

On the road with volunteers offering refugees rides from Hungary

Alison Langley

DW

7 September 2015

This article talks about volunteers who have rushed to the Hungarian border to help migrant on their journey to Austria and Germany, despite the illegality of their actions. They organized via Facebook, and if it was supposed to only be about free car rides, volunteers have also brought food, clothing and toiletries.

<http://www.dw.com/en/on-the-road-with-volunteers-offering-refugees-rides-from-hungary/a-18697098>

This was also reported by [Aljazeera](#); [Forbes](#);

###

Risking Arrest, Thousands Of Hungarians Offer Help To Refugees (audio and text)

Lauren Frayer

NPR

29 September 2015

This article talks about migrants entering Hungary from the Croatian or the Serbian border. If volunteers can offer food and water to them, other forms of help are restricted: “Hungarian law prohibits offering rides — even for free — to people who've entered the country illegally and without a visa. Another law grants Hungarian police and military extraordinary powers to search private homes if they suspect someone of harboring illegal migrants”. Targeted at traffickers, the laws can also be applied to well-intentioned volunteers and may have a chilling effect on those willing to offer assistance to migrants.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2015/09/29/444447532/risking-arrest-thousands-of-hungarians-offer-help-to-refugees>

This was also reported by [Aljazeera](#); [Forbes](#);

###

Hungarian volunteers offer warm welcome for refugees

Helen Womack

UNHCR

19 October 2016

The only 2 relevant paras.: “In his small study, college principal Gabor Ivanyi, who is chairman of the Hungarian Evangelical Brotherhood, offers green tea and raw carrots for refreshment before reflecting on his volunteers’ attempts to deliver food to refugees at the Hungarian border fence this summer.

“It seems we got under their (the authorities’) feet,” he said. “Some officers threatened to handcuff us. The situation varied from day to day. It depended on the attitudes of individual police and army personnel.””

<http://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/2016/10/5805e78219/hungarian-volunteers-offer-warm-welcome-refugees.html>

###

UK

Man who tried to smuggle child refugee into UK: 'I'd never do it again. Well ... '

Josh Halliday

The Guardian

2 January 2017

This article talks about Rob Lawrie, a former soldier, who was arrested at the Calais border when officers found an Afghan girl in his van. He explains how his life has changed (costly), and how, even if he narrowly avoided jail for trying to smuggle a child refugee into Britain, said that he would attempt to get a minor to safety again if he thought he could get away with it.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jan/02/man-who-tried-to-smuggle-child-refugee-into-uk-id-never-do-it-again-well?CMP=share_btn_tw

This was also reported by [DailyMail](#); [The Guardian](#); [The Independent](#); [The Yorkshire Post](#); [BBC](#) (audio); [Change.org](#) (petition); [BBC](#); [DailyMail](#); [Sky News](#); [NBC News](#); [LeMonde](#); [JustGiving](#) (campaign); [Newsweek](#); [Libération](#); [HuffingtonPost](#); [New Internationalist](#);

###

The Hostile Environment: Turning the UK into a Nation of Border Cops

Staff writer

Corporate Watch

9 April 2017

This is a very detailed report of the Home Office's "Hostile environment" measures against "unwanted" migrants. For example: compulsory ID checks in hospitals, in Schools, and multiple bans for "unwanted migrants" including from renting homes, opening bank accounts or getting driving license. Mainly 3 points in all those measures: information sharing, criminalization of migrants, and citizen collaboration. + Medical aspect too.

<https://corporatewatch.org/the-hostile-environment-turning-the-uk-into-a-nation-of-border-cops-2/>

This was also reported by [Politics](#); [OpenDemocracy](#); [Politics](#); [The Guardian](#);

###

EU

British navy ship poised to be sent to Libya on anti-smuggling mission

Anushka Asthana

The Guardian

26 May 2016

The Libyan authorities are expected to issue a formal request to the UK for help dealing with people-smuggling boats. The UK is already part of the SOPHIA mission, but Cameron set to extend the effort to enhance the deterrent effect (intercepting boats close to Libya means being able to turn it back to shore for destruction). The UK is set to have a leading role in the mission, then will try to send training teams to Libya.

Simultaneously, an operation plan for EU-Libya cooperation in this matter is being worked out (Federica Mogherini).

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/may/26/british-navy-ship-poised-libya-anti-smuggling-mission-migrants-arms>

This was also reported by [BBC](#); [DailyMail](#); [MiddleEastEye](#); [The Guardian](#); [The Times](#);

###

Political and Security Committee Decision (CFSP) 2016/1635 on the commencement of the capacity building and training of the Libyan Coast Guard and Navy by the European Union military operation in the Southern Central Mediterranean

Staff member

Official Journal of the European Union

10 September 2016

This is the official publication of the decision to train Libyan Coastguards and Navy by the EUNAVFOR MED operation SOPHIA).

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/10991/political-and-security-committee-decision-cfsp-20161635-commencement-capacity-building-and_en

This was also reported by [EUObserver](#) ; [Reuters](#); [Euractiv](#); [EUObserver](#); [Libya Herald](#);

###

Operation SOPHIA: package 2 of the Libyan Navy Coast Guard and Libyan Navy training launched today

Press release

European Union External Action

30 January 2017

This press release is to signal the start of the second package of the training conducted by EUNAVFOR Med Operation SOPHIA for the Libyan Navy Coast Guard and Libyan Navy (in Greece). (The first one: 26 October 2016, the first 78 Libyan trainees). “The overall objective of the training is to enhance their capability to disrupt smuggling and trafficking in Libya and to perform search and rescue activities, aimed at saving lives and improving security in the Libyan territorial waters.”

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/19518/operation-sophia-package-2-libyan-navy-coast-guard-and-libyan-navy-training-launched-today_en

This was also reported by [Euractiv](#); [EUBulletin](#);

###

EUNAVFOR Med Operation Sophia: HRVP Mogherini attends graduation ceremony of first training package of Libyan Navy Coastguard and Libyan Navy

Press release

European Union External Action

7 February 2017

This is a press release to inform that Mogherini will be attending the graduation ceremony of the first training package of Libyan Navy Coastguard and Libyan Navy.

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/20095/eunavfor-med-operation-sophia-hrvp-mogherini-attends-graduation-ceremony-first-training_en

###

OTHER

Six die in mass attempt to enter Spanish enclave

Giles Tremlett

The Guardian

7 October 2005

This article talks about the deaths of 6 Sub-Saharan African immigrants, from bullet wounds or by being crushed in a stampede as they tried to cross the border between the Spanish enclave of Melilla and Morocco. 30 injured, 290 arrested. They were part of +/- 1000 immigrants trying to cross the border, as Spain and Morocco agreed that all immigrants caught crossing the fences would be returned to Morocco.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2005/oct/07/spain.gilestremlett>

This was also reported by [BBC](#); [OpenDemocracy](#); [CBS News](#); [El Mundo](#); [Gisti](#) (campaign); [Red Pepper](#);

CAMPAIGNS

CANADA

Proud to aid and abet refugees

Canadian Council for Refugees

29 November 2007

Following the arrest of Janet Hinshaw-Thomas, a refugee worker charged with people-smuggling (charges were later dropped), the Canadian Council for Refugee and Amnesty International Canada launched this campaign to end the threat of prosecution against refugee workers.

<http://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/static-files/aidandabet/index.htm>

This was also reported by [The Catholic Register](#); [Makingthelinksradio.ca](#);

###

France

Pour en finir avec le délit de solidarité (*To end the crime of solidarity*)

Communiqué de presse – Press release

Délinquants solidaires

12 January 2017

This is a press release concerning the collective action taken by 100 signatory organisations (NGOs, charities, and labour unions). They regret the increase of cases where solidarity is held for a crime in France, in the last months, and signed a statement calling for an end to the criminalisation of humanitarian assistance

http://snpespij-fsu.org/IMG/pdf/delinquants_solidaires_manifeste.pdf

This was also reported by [Libération](#); [GISTI](#); [l'Humanité](#); [LesEchos](#); [SeneWeb](#);

###

UE

Not in the name of homelessness services!

Press Release

European Federation of National Organisation Working with the Homeless

6 March 2017

This is a campaign denouncing the “unnecessary and harmful European measures against irregularly residing third-country nationals”. This follows the European Commission’s recommendation on making returns of irregularly-residing third-country nationals more effective by detaining almost all irregular migrants before returning them to their home countries (2 march 2017).

<http://www.feantsa.org/en/press-release/2017/03/06/press-release-not-in-the-name-of-homelessness-services?bcParent=27>

This was also reported by [Amnesty International](#);

###

UK

Docs not Cops

29 September 2015

This is a campaign against the Immigration Act 2014. NHS gives free health care to UK residents since 1948, but with this Act, the government is planning to charge certain non-EU migrants before being allowed treatment. Moreover, refugees, asylum seekers and undocumented migrants will be excluded from many crucial services.

<http://www.docsnotcops.co.uk/>

This was reported by [Red Pepper](#); [NPA](#); [Politics](#); [OpenDemocracy](#); [The Independent](#); [The Independent](#); [Doctors of the World](#); [Politics](#); [Doctors of the World](#); [Doctors of the World](#); [The Guardian](#); [The Independent](#); [RightToRemain](#); [Novaramedia](#); [Gal-Dem](#); [Novaramedia](#); [OpenDemocracy](#); [OpenDemocracy](#); [RS21](#); [BMJ](#); [Uneven Earth](#); [Institute of Race Relations](#); [The Guardian](#);

REPORTS, RESEARCH, AND OTHER RESOURCES

GREECE

Proud to Aid and Abet Refugees: The Criminalization of ‘Flight Helpers’ in Greece

Mariana Gkliati

Oxford Faculty of Law

21 March 2016 & 23 May 2016

In this two articles, Mariana Gkliati, PhD researcher at the Institute of Immigration Law (Leiden University) discusses the strain placed upon people providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in the EU.

<https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/research-subject-groups/centre-criminology/centreborder-criminologies/blog/2016/05/proud-aid-and>

<https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/research-subject-groups/centre-criminology/centreborder-criminologies/blog/2016/03/registering>

###

LIBYA

In A Vacuum: The Business of Trading in People in Libya

Stephanie Macinnes

Human Rights Brief

17 November 2016

This report discusses the political vacuum created by Gaddafi's fall in 2011, and the consequences of the on-going instability and resulting impunity in the region. It also discusses the legal instruments regarding the protection of human rights, and the investigation human right abuses in Libya.

<http://hrbrief.org/2016/11/vacuum-business-trading-people-libya/>

This was also reported by [The Goodis Center](#);

###

The Human Conveyor Belt: Trends in Human Trafficking and Smuggling in Post-Revolution Libya

Mark Micallef

The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime

March 2017

This report focuses on the proliferation of human smuggling in Libya as “both a criminal problem and a feature of Libya’s fracture into competing armed factions.” This report is based on the monitoring the key migratory nodes between January and December 2016; the interview of 62 informants across Libya, Egypt, Tunisia, Sudan, Malta, Italy and Brussels; the 4 extensive face-to-face interviews with human smugglers operating in the Tripolitania area; the survey of 54 people rescued off Libya; and the 15 in-depth exchanges with migrants and refugees.

<http://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/global-initiative-human-conveyor-belt-human-smuggling-in-libya-march-2017.pdf>

This was also reported by [US-Libya Business Association](#); [ReliefWeb](#);

###

EUROPE

‘Fit for Purpose? The Facilitation Directive and the Criminalisation of Humanitarian Assistance to Irregular Migrants’

Dr Sergio CARRERA; Prof. Elspeth GUILD; Dr Ana ALIVERTI; Ms Jennifer ALLSOPP; Ms Maria Giovanna MANIERI; Ms Michele LEVOY.

The Policy Department for Citizen's Rights and Constitutional Affairs

2016

This is a study commissioned by the European Parliament, assesses existing EU legislation to counter people smuggling – the 2002 Facilitators’ Package – and how it deals with those providing humanitarian assistance to irregular migrants

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/536490/IPOL_STU\(2016\)536490_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/536490/IPOL_STU(2016)536490_EN.pdf)

This was also reported by [CEPS](#); [European Area of Freedom Security and Justice](#); [Migration4Development](#); [SocialPlatform](#); [ECRE](#);

###

Why Cooperating with Libya on Migration Could Damage the EU’s Standing

John Sunderland

Newsweek

11 May 2016

The European mission to train Libya’s coastguard and navy to stop people smugglers raises legal and ethical questions.

<http://www.newsweek.com/why-cooperating-libya-migration-could-damage-eus-standing-516099>

###

EMSC - First Year Activity Report

Europol

24 February 2017

Europol launched the European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC) in February 2016. In this report, from January 2016 to January 2017, Europol reveal that 17.459 new suspected migrants smugglers identified (+24% v 2015).

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-documents/emsc-first-year-activity-report>

This was also reported by [The Independent](#);

###

Decriminalising 'Humanitarian Smuggling' (RSC Research in Brief, no.6)

Rachel Landry

University of Oxford – Refugee Studies Centre

7 March 2017

Summary of the RSC Working Paper no. 119 "The 'humanitarian smuggling' of refugees: criminal offence or moral obligation?" "It outlines the concept of 'humanitarian smuggling', and then critiques smuggling prohibitions at the international and the EU levels. It argues that these prohibitions are overbroad and vague, failing to meet basic requirements of the rule of law. Moreover, they criminalise acts that fall outside the law's stated purpose, acts that are often ethically defensible."

<https://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/publications/research-in-brief-decriminalising-humanitarian-smuggling>

###

Crossing the Mediterranean Sea by Boat: Mapping and documenting migratory journeys and experiences

Dr Vicki Squire, Dr Angeliki Dimitriadi, Dr Maria Pisani, Dr Dallal Stevens, Professor Nick Vaughan-Williams, Dr Nina Perkowski, Dr Vasiliki Touhouliotis

The University of Warwick

May 2017

"International project comprised of researchers at the University of Warwick, University of Malta, and the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy. The research team has carried out 257 in-depth qualitative interviews with a total of 271 participants across seven sites in two phases: Kos, Malta and Sicily from September-November 2015, and Athens, Berlin, Istanbul and Rome from May-July 2016. Additional interviews were carried out in Malta until March 2016."

It focuses on the impact policies have directly on the migrants: "drawing together policy analysis and observational fieldwork with an in-depth analysis of qualitative interview data with people making – or contemplating making – the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean Sea."

Online interactive map accessible here: <https://crossing-the-med-map.warwick.ac.uk/>

https://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/pais/research/researchcentres/irs/crossingthemed/output/crossing_the_med_evidence_brief_ii.pdf

This was also reported by [Researchgate](#); [GMDAC-IOM](#); [Research Councils UK](#); [ALDA](#); [Birkbeck University of London](#); [Redvince](#); [PHYS.org](#); [Time Of Malta](#);

###

Humanitarian citizens: breaking the law to protect human rights

Janina Pescinski

OpenDemocracy

28 August 2017

“This article draws on research that will be presented at the European International Studies Association Pan-European Conference on International Relations in September 2017.”

(<http://www.paneuropeanconference.org/2017/>)

The article talks about how the EU’s crackdown on irregular immigration has impacted those providing humanitarian assistance to the migrants. The facilitation Directive (2002) of the EU “criminalises any act that facilitates the entry, transit or stay of unauthorized foreigners”, but there is an optional humanitarian clause, at the States’ discretion, that allows them not to impose sanctions on people whose aim is to provide humanitarian assistance. The article focuses on the French example of “delit de solidarité” and the story of Cédric Herrou.

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/mediterranean-journeys-in-hope/janina-pescinski/humanitarian-citizens-breaking-law-to-protect-human->

This was also reported by [Amnesty International](#);

###

GLOABL

Beyond anecdotes: getting to the heart of human smuggling

Institute for Security Studies – Africa (ISS)

14 December 2016

Short infographic video explaining smuggling phenomenon itself and counterproductive anti-smuggling industry - the research brief also highlights how migrants are losing the trust in international humanitarian actors as they see them as one of the actors interested in stopping migration and thus not referring to them for help.

<https://issafrica.org/media-resources/videos-and-infographics/beyond-anecdotes-getting-to-the-heart-of-human-smuggling>

###

Evidential Issues in Trafficking in Persons Cases: Case Digest

Case Digest

United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC)

2017

Analysing 135 cases, from 31 jurisdictions, this Case Digest aims to assist criminal justice practitioners around the world in addressing the recurring evidential issues typical to human trafficking cases.

https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/2017/Case_Digest_Evidential_Issues_in_Trafficking.pdf

This was also reported by [International Center for Missing & Exploited children](#); [FreeMovement](#); [Electronic Immigration Network](#); [OAS](#);

###

Inside the Deadly Pirate Corridor Where Migrants Escape to Europe

Michael Scott Moore

Bloomberg

21 February 2017

This article recalls the detailed story of Ahmed, a 23 years old Somalian on his journey to Asylum Italy, Europe.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2017-02-21/inside-the-deadly-pirate-corridor-where-migrants-escape-to-europe>

###

Missing Migrants Project

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

May 2017

The Missing Migrants Project tracks deaths of migrants, and those who have gone missing along migratory routes worldwide since October 2013 (when at least 368 migrants died in two shipwrecks near Lampedusa).

https://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/pais/research/researchcentres/irs/crossingthemed/output/crossing_the_med_evidence_brief_ii.pdf

This was also reported by [Kaggle](#); [The Humanitarian Data Exchange](#); [European Commission](#); [Coalicion de Derechos Humanos](#); [Data Driven Journalism](#); [Migrant Child Storytelling](#); [Migration4Development](#); [FreeMovement.org.uk](#); [ABC News](#); [ReliefWeb](#);