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 Info
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.”
This was also reported by Reuters UK; LeVif; RTBF; RTBF; LeSoir;

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Priest Is Withdrawn from Bulgaria after Threats for Hosting Migrants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 Following protests by locals, the Syrian family decided to leave the town, and the priest was withdrawn from Bulgaria, as he started to receive death threats.
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.

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; TheGardian; 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.
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 TheGardian; Independent; RefliefWeb; 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.
###
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 Hérrou 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.

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.

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)


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/80942434561154944?ref_src=twsrc%5etfw +

###

**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


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.

###

**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


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.


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.”


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.
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"

This was also reported by The Intercept; Malta Today; Standard-Examiner; Jordan Times; Aljazeera; SputnikNews;

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"

Italian prosecutor investigating NGO rescuers says has no proof of wrongdoing

Staff writer
Euractiv
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.

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;
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-I0-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 Lesvos, 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”.

###
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.

This was also reported by HuffingtonPost; TheLocal; CPH Post; EuroWeeklyNews; NPR; Ekathimerini;

###

Dos españoles detenidos en Grecia por tratar de trasladar a Euskadi a ocho refugiados en una caravan (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://www.elmundo.es/sociedad/2016/12/28/5863a808e5fdea72078b4618.html
This was also reported by EITB; Sud Ouest; El Pais; El Pais; Express; USA Today; Ekathimerini; 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
This article talks about volunteers who have rushed to the Hungarian border to help migrants 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.


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.


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.””


###

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.


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.


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).


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. 


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.”


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.


###

**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
This was also reported by Libération; GIST; 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).
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 Guardian; 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.
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.
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
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.
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).
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; Red Vince; 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.”

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. This was also reported by Amnesty International;

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GLOBAL

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.


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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.

This was also reported by International Center for Missing & Exploited children; FreeMovement; Electronic Immigration Network; OAS;

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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.


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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;