

International Asylum Seeker/Refugee Policy Issues

[Record 218,000 migrants crossed Mediterranean in October: UN](#)

AFP, *Timeslive*, 2 November 2015

UN refugee agency spokesman Adrian Edwards confirmed that around 218,000 migrants and refugees arrived in Europe last month, which makes it the highest number to cross the Mediterranean yet. The record number also mirrors the number of arrivals for the whole year of 2014. The soaring numbers of arrivals last month brought to over 744,000 the number of people who have made the journey so far this year. Among the more than 600,000 migrants and refugees who have crossed to Greece since the beginning of the year, 94 percent come from the world's top 10 refugee-producing countries. According to UNHCR, some 3,440 people have died or gone missing trying to cross the Mediterranean to Europe so far this year. The latest tragedies bring the migrant death toll in Greece's waters in the past month to over 80, many of them children, according to AFP's count.

[15 migrants drown off Greece](#)

AFP, *iafrica.com*, 2 November 2015

At least 15 migrants seeking to reach Europe drowned off Greece on Sunday, 1 November, as political talks in Germany failed to produce a consensus on how to handle the influx. There were two boats which were making the crossing from Turkey and which were capsized in the Aegean Sea off Greek islands. Out of these 15 dead migrants, 6 were children. The latest tragedies bring the migrant death toll in Greece's waters in the past month to over 80, many of them children, according to AFP's count. While several issues remain unresolved, including the suggestion of creating airport-style processing points on Germany's borders to allow would-be refugees who do not fulfil asylum criteria to be moved out quickly, the two rounds of negotiation on Sunday ended with a breakthrough. More talks between Merkel and the leader of the Social Democrats who are in a grand coalition with the CDU/CSU, were planned for Thursday, 5 November.

[Migrant crisis spurs child statelessness, UN warns](#)

AFP, *SowetanLIVE*, 3 November 2015

In a new report published by the UN refugee agency the UN highlights the long-term consequences of statelessness for children such as being deprived of medical care, education and future access to employment. The problem is particularly severe among migrants and refugees affected by conflict especially among Syrian refugees since in Syria children can acquire nationality only through their fathers. The four-year civil war, however, has forced more than four million people to flee the country and left 25% of Syrian refugee families fatherless. The agency furthermore said that in the 20 countries hosting the largest stateless populations, 'at least 70,000 stateless children are born each year' — or one about every 10 minutes. UNHCR chief Antonio Guterres also noted that 'in the short time that children get to be children, statelessness can set in stone grave problems that will haunt them

throughout their childhoods and sentence them to a life of discrimination, frustration and despair'. The UN agency proposed several measures to eliminate the scourge of statelessness, including the reform of discriminatory laws that prevent mothers from passing on nationality to their children. Children should also automatically become nationals of the country where they are born, UNHCR further said.

['We'll speed up migrant tide'](#)

The Daily Telegraph, *Timeslive*, 4 November 2015

The Libyan congress that took control of Tripoli last year, after fighting against forces loyal to the internationally recognised House of Representatives government, rejected the terms of a UN-brokered peace deal, saying that if Europe continues to refuse to recognise its authority, the government, which was spending tens of millions of pounds a year stopping migrants from crossing the Mediterranean, could reverse the policy. 'I have advised my government many times already that we should hire boats and ship them to Europe [...] We are protecting the gates of Europe, yet Europe does not recognise us and does not want to recognise us. Why should we stop migrants?' said Jamal Zubia, the congress's foreign media spokesman. Although the government had no immediate plans to stop its efforts to halt the flow of migrants, Zubia said that he hopes his comments will be a reminder to Europe that the congress has ways it can retaliate for the EU's refusal to recognise it as a government.

[Kenya, UNHCR plan to repatriate 500,000 Somali refugees](#)

Stephen Ingati & Fabian Magera, *Xinhuanet*, 4 November 2015

According to the Kenyan Interior Cabinet Secretary Joseph Nkaisery, Kenya is working in collaboration with the UN refugee agency on a program that will ensure a smooth and voluntary repatriation of over 500,000 refugees living in five camps at the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya. The long term plan includes maintaining stability in Somalia by the Kenyan troops under AMISOM and ensuring all the necessary infrastructure such as health services, education and water are in place before the refugees go back home. Some 45,000 refugees have been repatriated in the last two years from the Dadaab refugee camp and more could soon be going back home under the new program. Returning refugees are assisted with transport to their places of origin, mostly in Kismayo, Mogadishu, Baidoa and Luuq in South and Central Somalia. They also receive a cash grant, food and basic domestic items such as sleeping mats, mosquito nets, a solar lantern, hygiene supplies and kitchen utensils to help them start a new life. The UNHCR confirmed that more than 26,000 Somali refugees have fled violence in Yemen and returned to Somalia, mostly to Mogadishu, although the security situation in Somalia still remains fragile.

Regional Displacement Issues

[Congo-Kinshasa: DRC Army Colluding with Rebel Groups - UN](#)

Kevin J. Kelley, *The East African*, 2 November 2015

According to a United Nations monitoring group some members of the Democratic Republic of Congo army are colluding with rebel groups by illegally trafficking in minerals and timber from combat zones. In a report addressed to the Security Council the monitoring group states that this corruption is part for the ineffectiveness of DRG army operations against the rebel forces in the eastern part of the DRC.

The monitoring group uncovered that DRC soldiers have warned combatants of the FDLR that their camps were about to be attacked, who then consequently abandoned those camps. Loss of bases were further found to be disruptive for the FDLR and the groups' ability to generate revenue from production of charcoal, mining operations and extortion of local populations

[Somalia: Attacks by Al Shabab Cause Casualties to Kenyan Forces](#)

Prensa Latina, 3 November 2015

After Al-Shabab's attack on a hotel in Mogadishu on 1 November, which killed at least 12 and injured many others, two more attacks followed the next couple of days. On Monday, 2 November, Al Shabab attacked the Somali army unit near the town of Walaweyb in Lower Shabelle region, about 90 kilometers south of the capital, in which 15 soldiers and dozens of fundamentalists were killed, while on Tuesday a convoy of Kenyan troops was ambushed while participating in a crackdown against fundamentalists near Qoqani and Qabta villages in Lower Jubba region. Somali and AMISOM troops intensified in their operations after the first attack on the Sohafi hotel in Mogadishu. Somali President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, also ordered to strengthen the offensive in order 'to eliminate these wolves'. Despite being forced out of Mogadishu and many other cities and towns across Somalia, al-Shabab continues to launch lethal attacks in the capital and elsewhere. The group is fighting to oust the Mogadishu government and install a strict version of Shariah law by also attacking neighbouring countries that have sent troops to support the Mogadishu government.

[Burundi President Urges Police Action as Killings Persist](#)

VOANews, 3 November 2015

The police spokesman, Pierre Nkurikiye, has confirmed that at least 9 people have been killed in gunfights with security forces since 31 October and that two more bodies were discovered Monday in the capital, Bujumbura. Burundi has been hit by violence since April following Nkurunziza's decision to seek a third term. According to the U.N. more than 130 killings and 90 cases of torture had been documented in Burundi in September. Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza on Monday, 2 November, gave civilians five days to surrender any illegal weapons or face tough action by the police, who he said should use all means necessary to stop the bloodshed.

[UN mission reports ongoing tensions in capital of Central African Republic](#)

Xinhuanet, 5 November 2015

According to UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric, The UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) continues to report ongoing tensions in the national capital of Bangui. Dozens of people have been killed in past weeks and scores of homes torched and looted in a recent flare-up of sectarian clashes between Christians and Muslims. 460 000 people have fled the country since the start of violence in 2013, triggered by the ouster of then president Francois Bozize, a Christian, by mainly Muslim Seleka rebels. Interim president Catherine Samba-Panza urged the peacekeepers to take 'vigorous action' to stop mounting unrest. But residents of Bangui complain that international troops such as the 10,000-strong MINUSCA force consisting of French and UN peacekeepers are not doing enough to stop the violence.

[Congo court confirms results of referendum on presidential 3rd term](#)

News24, 7 November 2015

On 6 November the Republic of Congo's constitutional court confirmed the results of a referendum on a constitutional amendment that is lifting the 70-year age as well as the two-term limit on presidential candidates allowing the country's president, Denis Sassou Nguesso, who is 71 years old and who has served two seven-year terms, to extend his rule. According to the government the referendum passed with 92.3% in favour and with a 72.4% voter turnout. The opposition, however, called the referendum a 'constitutional coup' claiming that 'the vote was neither free, nor just, nor fair, nor transparent'. Congo was rocked by protests in the run-up to the vote. At least four people were killed in clashes between opposition demonstrators and security forces in the capital Brazzaville.

South Africa

[Zuma to meet legislature judiciary heads twice a year](#)

Jenni Evans, News24, 3 November 2015

On Tuesday, 3 November, President Zuma announced that the heads of the 'three arms of state' - the judiciary, executive and legislature - would meet twice a year to iron out any issues they had in the future. The announcement came after a closed meeting with Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng, speaker of the National Assembly Baleka Mbete and the chairperson of the National Council of Provinces Thandi Modise at Genadendal, his official residence in Cape Town. The meeting followed after allegations were made that the judiciary was overreaching into the executive and the legislature. Mogoeng called Tuesday's meeting productive and said it was an opportunity to reflect on the state of health of South Africa's Constitutional democracy. Mbete and Modise agreed the meeting had been constructive.

[We're tired of crime - Westlake protesters](#)

Siyabonga Kalipa, IOL News, 6 November 2015

On 5 November residents from Westlake marched from False Bay College to the police station protesting against the high criminality in the area. Most of the residents interviewed complained about the service delivered by the police saying that they are 'trying to work hand in hand with the police, but even when they arrest the criminals, the following day they are back wandering the streets'. The memorandum written by the residents read: 'We have had enough of crime in our community and the police are turning a blind eye. 'We want all to know that we will do everything in our strength to stop crime in our community with the assistance of a co-operative police.' Police spokesman Captain FC van Wyk confirmed that Kirstenhof police had opened a case of public violence. He said that the memorandum had been received by officers at the station and that the memorandum was forwarded to the Provincial and Cluster Office to deal with.

[South African court finds two guilty of killing Mozambican man during anti-immigrant violence - SABC](#)

Mfuneko Toyona, REUTERS, 6 November 2015

On Friday, 6 November, two men, who were arrested in April for killing a Mozambican man during the anti-foreigner violence, were found guilty of killing the Mozambican national Emmanuel Sithole in the Johannesburg shanty town of Alexandra. The two, who had denied the charges, would be sentenced in December. Authorities were not available to confirm the convictions.