

Introducing Immigration : a Comparative Study of Metaphors in Two British Online Newspapers during the European Migrant Crisis

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Should we expect Syrian asylum seekers to be grateful?

As Britain comes under pressure to take more refugees from Syria, Sweden's experience suggests that not all new arrivals will be thankful

By Colin Freeman

13 November 2014 • 10:03 am



Should Britain take in more refugees from [Syria](#)? The BBC appears to think so, or certainly that was the impression given by Wednesday's Today programme on Radio Four. Broadcast as part of a [two-day BBC special on the Syrian crisis](#), it featured their presenter Mishal Husain in a Syrian refugee camp in Lebanon, where she pointed out that Britain has so far taken just 50 refugees from the crisis: the same number, we learned, as fitted into just a single row of the huts in the camp she was at. She then asked a local

representative of UN High Commission on Refugees, Ninette Kelly: "Do we need to find homes in the west for some of these people?"

Perhaps not surprisingly, the answer was an enthusiastic yes. While Ms Kelly praised both Britain and America for the "wonderful" financial donations they have given to the Syrian crisis, she added that what would really help would be if they "opened space for more refugees."

Some listeners, I suspect, might have found this exchange a little too consensual, given the heated nature of the immigration and asylum debate back in Britain. But it's not the first time that the West has stood accused of shutting its doors on the needy recently. Last month, there was a similar row over whether to [curb programs to rescue people-trafficking vessels in the Mediterranean](#).

Then, as now, the argument of those in favour of hosting more asylum seekers is that as a compassionate nation that cares about its image in the world, Britain has a duty to admit more. Another implicit assumption is that in doing so, we will, of course, also earn the lasting gratitude of those we admit.

But will we? A good nation to ask on this are the Swedes, which, by the criteria above, ought to be basking in arguably more gratitude than nearly any other nation. The Swedish government has pursued one of the most generous asylum policies of any European country in the last 30 years, born not out of any colonial hangover but rather a very Scandinavian sense of humanitarian obligation. Nearly half of all Iraqis fleeing the 2006-7 civil war came here, for example, and it is the only European nation right now to be opening its doors fully to Syrian asylum seekers, with some 80,000 to arrive this year.

Yet despite its hospitality – which includes access to one of the world's best welfare states – not everyone has appreciated the generosity. Instead, the country has seen a number of [race riots](#) in recent years, mostly in the immigrant ghettos around the cities of Stockholm and Malmo. The flare-ups are about the usual stuff – unemployment, perceived racism and so on – some of which may be legitimate grievances.

But they test the patience of many ordinary Swedes, who feel that even if the riots are the activity of a small minority, their largesse is not exactly being repaid. It was one of the reasons why the far-Right Swedish Democrats doubled their vote to become the country's [third largest party in elections two months ago](#).

Rioters torch a car in Husby, Stockholm (Rex Features)

Then again, as I found out [when reporting last year from Husby](#), one of the riot-hit estates in Stockholm, the notion that all immigrants feel a debt of gratitude to the host country is something of a myth. Among those I met in Husby was Rami al Khamisi, an articulate young youth worker, whose family escaped to Sweden from Saddam Hussein's Iraq back in 1994, travelling to Sweden via Turkey and Russia and then in a people-smuggling boat across the Baltic. He said that while his parents were perennially grateful to the country that had taken them in, second-generation immigrants like himself had little recollection of the hardships they'd escaped, and therefore no great reason to be thankful.

"They (my parents) compare it to Baghdad or Somalia," he said. "But we younger immigrants only really know Sweden, and we just compare our situation to the one around us." Which, in Rami's case, meant living in Husby – where conditions might well have been better than Iraq, but which still ranked pretty near the bottom of the heap in Swedish terms.

True, Rami was only one voice among many. Other migrants I met who had no sympathy for the rioters whatsoever. But he did make what I thought was a salient point: that it is not just Far Right parties who take the view that immigrants may owe no particular obligation to their host country; immigrants themselves may feel this way too.

And in a debate that is very tied up with notions of compassion, duty and obligation, that is an awkward truth that is perhaps not often spoken. Those who argue that we should open our doors up like Sweden may well have a point: but they should equally concede that we may not be thanked for ever.



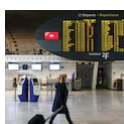
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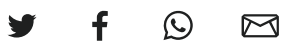
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Food supplies to Syrian refugees halted as UN's money runs out

World Food Programme says decision to stop food vouchers to 1.6 million people will prove 'disastrous'

By Richard Spencer

01 December 2014 • 17:32 pm



More than 1.5 million Syrian refugees are to lose a key lifeline after the World Food Programme, the UN aid arm, ran out of money.

The WFP announced on Monday that it could no longer afford the cost of its main project to help the millions of Syrians who have flooded over the country's borders into Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and beyond since the war started three years ago.

It had been providing food vouchers to 1.6 million people, and said the consequences of its decision would be "disastrous" .

"A suspension of WFP food assistance will endanger the health and safety of these refugees and will potentially cause further tensions, instability and insecurity in the neighbouring host countries," Ertharin Cousin, its executive director, said in a statement urging UN donor countries to contribute more funds.

Well over three million people are estimated to have fled the fighting in [Syria](#), in addition to more than 10 million people who are said to be in need of assistance inside the country, according to UN figures.

Most have gone to Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, but there are also refugees receiving vouchers in Egypt and Iraq.

The programme is expensive, costing \$35 million a week - as much as the entire aid programme the WFP funds in other countries.

Emilia Casella, a WFP spokeswoman, said the size and complexity of the Syrian crisis had simply overwhelmed potential donors.

"It's so big and so complex, and it's been going on for so long, that it's just very difficult to sustain," she said. "In the vast majority of cases this is the only assistance they get. Food is available but they can't afford it." She said the organisation had stockpiles of food that it was sending inside the country to provide relief there, but that these would run out at the end of January.

Most WFP assistance to refugees outside the country is channeled through vouchers, which can be spent locally.

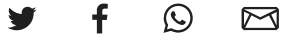
Despite this boost to the local economy, all three major host nations are facing political pressures because of the sheer numbers of Syrians arriving.

Syrian beggars are now a common sight on the previously increasingly prosperous streets of the major cities of Lebanon and Turkey. Jordan has indicated it will [suspend free medical assistance to its 1.3 million Syrian refugees](#).

The situation in many refugee camps is already deteriorating fast as winter sets in.

WFP said the programme had so far cost \$800 million, but required another \$64 million immediately just to keep it going until the end of the month.

Some WFP money comes from a central pool, but many donors tie their funding to specific causes.



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How many migrants take the world's deadliest route?

UN data shows more migrants died this year than in the last three years added together crossing the Mediterranean Sea as the International Organisation for Migration says 2014 was the deadliest year for migrants

By Raziye Akkoc

30 December 2014 • 00:00 am



2014 is the deadliest year for migrants, according to the [International Organisation for Migration](#), with 4,868 people killed in the pursuit of a better life compared to 2,400 deaths in 2013.

As a result, it is not surprising that the number dead or missing in the Mediterranean Sea is more than the numbers for 2011, 2012 and 2013 added up together.

This is a [record high for deaths globally and in the Mediterranean](#), according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) whose data shows in 2014, 3,400 individuals died or went missing in the Mediterranean Sea compared to 1,500, 500 and more than 600 in 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively.

How many people leave their home country and take to the seas for another?

The [UNHCR said "at least 348,000"](#) have risked their life crossing seas fleeing violence, persecution and poverty since January.

Usually the figures are driven by migration but the UNHCR said "in 2014 the number of asylum seekers involved has grown".

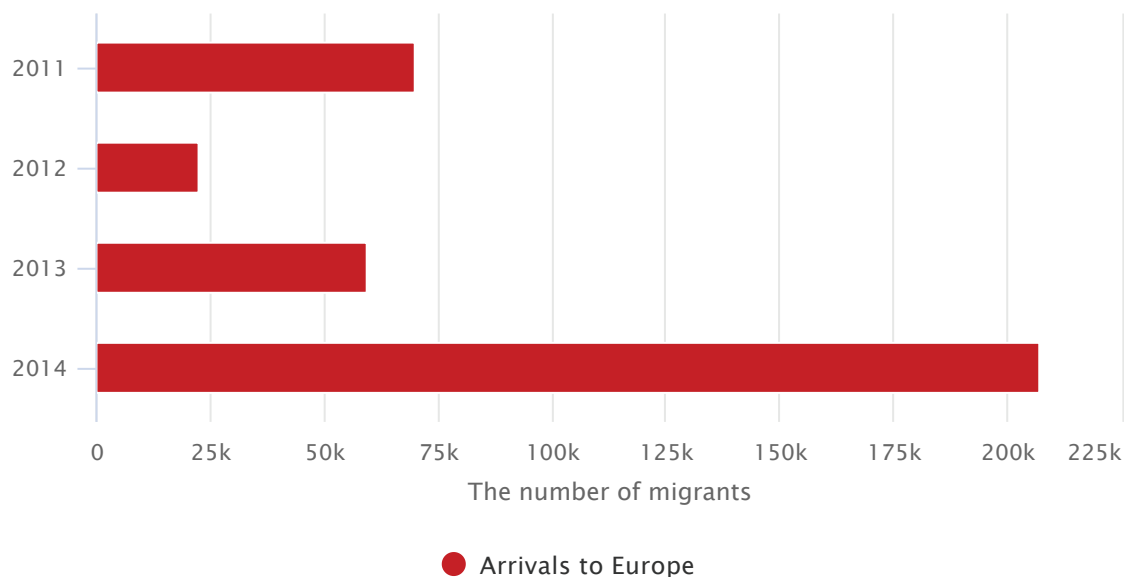
Since the start of the year, 207,000 people have crossed the Mediterranean, which the UN notes, is "almost three times the previous known high of 70,000 in 2011 when the Libyan civil war was in full swing".

The chart below shows the arrivals by sea to Europe - and shows that in 2012, only 22,400 arrived in Europe.

The UNHCR also said it was the first time "people from refugee producing countries (mainly Syria and Eritrea) have in 2014 become a major component in this tragic flow, accounting for almost 50 per cent of the total".

Despite a dip in 2012, the number of arrivals by sea to Europe has proliferated in 2014

Source: UN Refugee Agency



Highcharts.com

Why has there been such an increase?

According to the UNHCR, Europe is seeing the largest number of sea arrivals mainly due to conflicts in Libya, Ukraine, Syria and Iraq. Carlotta Sami, of the UNHCR, said the rapid rise in arrivals is linked to the rise in "forced displacement" of more than 51m people.

Ms Carlotta said: "The link between the rise in forced displacement to over 51 million people and the increased number of people attempting to find safety in Europe is undeniable and the majority of those rescue at sea and arriving in Europe are fleeing war, violence and persecution.

Another reason for the increase cited by the UNHCR was the crisis unfolding in Syria, Iraq, Central African Republic, South Sudan and "further afield". A UNHCR spokesman said the high numbers in 2011 related to "when the Arab Spring turmoil was in full swing".

What are the sea routes migrants use?

It is not just the Mediterranean Sea where migrants risk their lives, the UN notes three other major sea routes and how many individuals have used the crossings in 2014.

In the Horn of Africa region 82,680 people crossed the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea between January 1 and the end of November en route mainly from Ethiopia and Somalia to Yemen

or onwards to Saudi Arabia and the countries of the Persian Gulf.

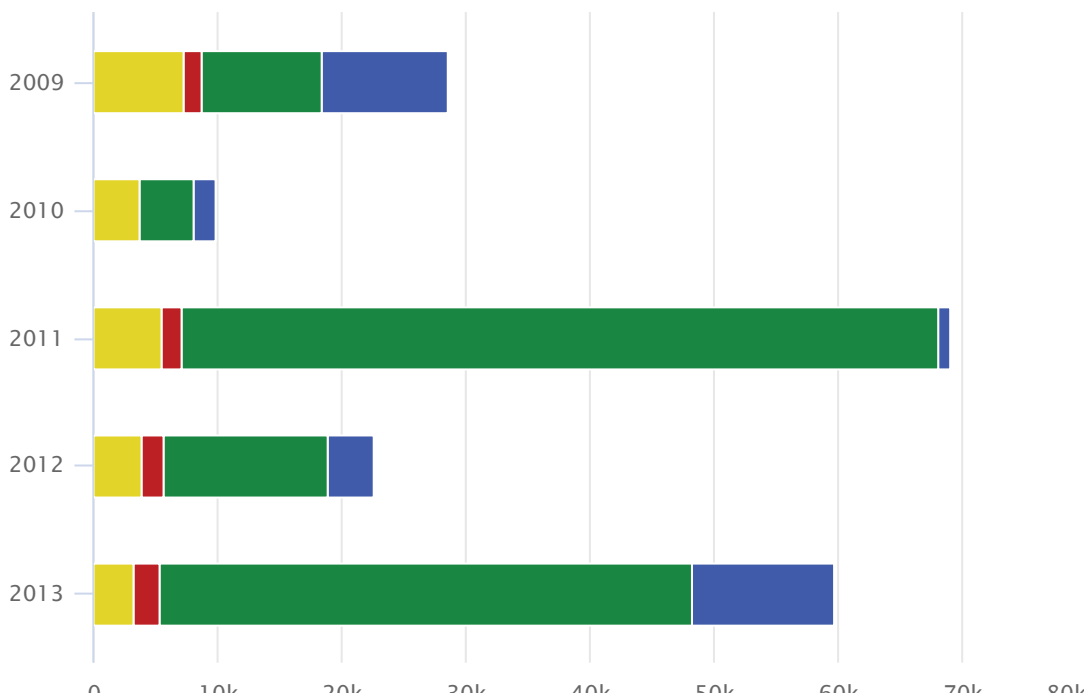
In south east Asia, it is estimated that 54,000 people have undertaken sea crossings so far in 2014, most of them departing from Bangladesh or Myanmar and heading to Thailand, Malaysia, or Indonesia.

In the Caribbean, at least 4,775 people are known to have taken to boats between January 1 and December 1 this year, hoping to flee poverty or in search of asylum."

The chart below shows where the most arrivals to Europe come from and again shows a dip in 2012 before an increase in 2013. Italy is the country where the most migrants - from North Africa, Turkey and Greece - come to Europe.

Irregular arrivals by sea to Europe is increasing rapidly ≡

Source: UN Refugee Agency



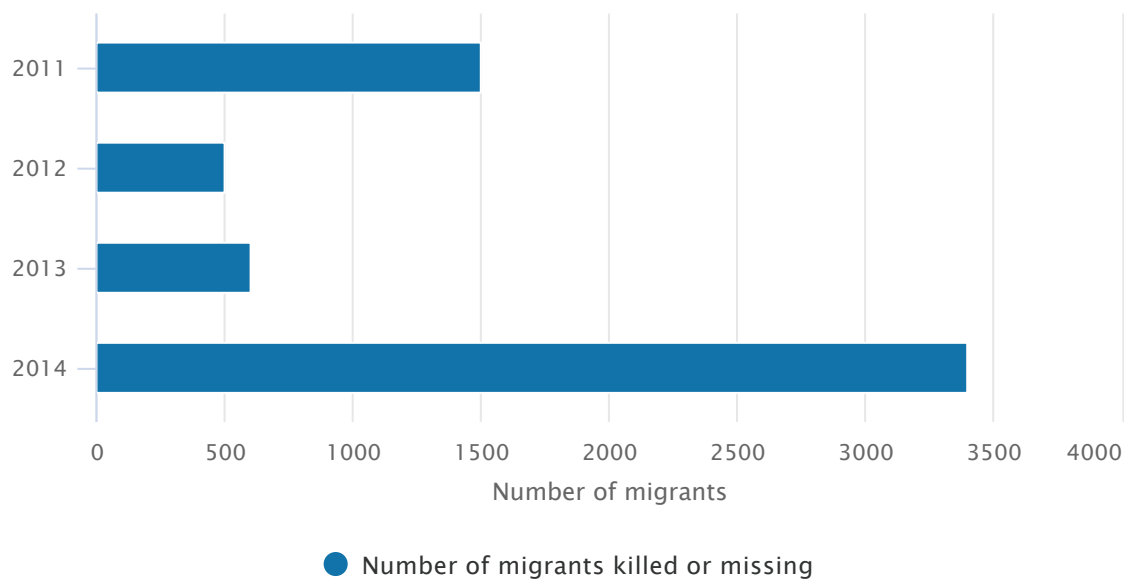
How many migrants die trying to cross the Mediterranean and worldwide?

In 2014, 3,400 people attempting to enter Europe via Italy and other European countries died or went missing in the Mediterranean Sea. As previously mentioned, this is more than double the figure in 2011 and makes up the majority of the worldwide figure of 4,272 figure, making it the "deadliest" route, according to the UNHCR.

It is important to note this data is based on estimates and the real figure could be higher.

More migrants have died this year coming to Europe than in the last three years

Source: UN Refugee Agency



Highcharts.com

In south east Asia, 540 people have died attempting to cross the Bay of Bengal, while 242 died trying to cross the Red Sea and Gulf Aden. In the Caribbean, the UNHCR said the number reported missing or dead is 71.

How does the UNHCR believe the deaths can be avoided?

António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said the problem would only be solved if the real root causes behind the increased migration numbers were addressed.

"This means looking at why people are fleeing, what prevents them from seeking asylum by safer means, and what can be done to crack down on the criminal networks who prosper from this, while at the same time protecting their victims," he explained.

The commissioner also attacked governments for considering "keeping foreigners out as being a higher priority than upholding asylum".

The UNHCR spokesman told the Telegraph that the issue can only be tackled with closer cooperation between states of origin, transit and destination.

"[C]ritical to reducing loss of life at sea [is] addressing the drivers of dangerous sea journeys, as well as ensuring that responses by states upon arrival and disembarkation uphold human rights and dignity, and address[ing] specific needs for protection of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees," he added.

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Italy finds second 'ghost ship' with no crew but 450 migrants

Officers board a 240-ft merchant ship adrift in the Adriatic - and packed with terrified Syrian refugees

By Nick Squires

02 January 2015 • 16:40 pm



Italy's coast guard rescued a second abandoned "ghost ship" adrift in the Adriatic on Friday as experts warned that people traffickers had adopted a dangerous new tactic to smuggle migrants into Europe.

Amid stormy weather, six Italian coast guard officers were lowered from a helicopter onto the deck of the Ezadeen after the merchant ship was abandoned by its crew.

The 240-ft vessel, originally designed to carry livestock, was packed with around 450 refugees. The ship was flying the flag of Sierra Leone, but registered to a Lebanese company, when it was discovered about 25 miles off the Italian coast.

Those on board are believed to be Syrians and the Ezadeen is thought to have begun its voyage in the Syrian port of Tartus.

There were dozens of women on board and around 60 children, who were "visibly distressed but overall in good medical condition", said the Italian authorities.

The alarm was raised when one refugee managed to broadcast a message over the ship's radio saying: "We are alone, there is no one - help us!"

The coast guard officers took control of the vessel and steered it towards a port in the southern region of Calabria.

The discovery of the ship was strikingly similar to the interception on Wednesday of another abandoned vessel, the Moldovan-registered Blue Sky M, which had no crew but nearly 1,000 refugees.

It had been set on auto-pilot - despite the risk of running aground - before the Italian coast guard managed to take control and deliver it to the port of Gallipoli.

After years of sending tens of thousands of migrants towards Italy and Malta in fishing boats and rubber dinghies, traffickers have hit on a new and even more cynical way of dispatching their human cargo towards Europe, experts said.

Those on board are believed to be Syrians and the Ezadeen, pictured, is thought to have begun its voyage in the Syrian port of Tartus. (ICELANDIC COAST GUARD/AFP/GETTY)

“We started to see the arrival of this type of cargo ship packed with refugees in the late autumn and since then there have been about 10 of them,” said Ewa Moncure, from Frontex, the EU’s border control agency.

“At first we wondered if it was a one-off, but it now seems to be a trend.

The smugglers typically acquire a decommissioned cargo ship, pack it with migrants and then abandon their passengers at sea, telling them to call the rescue services.

“The use of larger cargo ships is a new trend,” said Vincent Cochetel, the head of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Europe. “It is part of an ongoing and worrying situation that can no longer be ignored by European governments.”

More than 170,000 migrants and refugees have reached Italy in the past 14 months by crossing the Mediterranean from North Africa.

They generally travelled in the warmer months of the spring, summer and early autumn in order to take advantage of calmer weather.

But using larger vessels, such as the two intercepted this week, enables traffickers to operate throughout the winter.

Buying an entire ship to fill with refugees may seem like a costly enterprise, but the financial rewards clearly outweigh the expense.

The 970 refugees on board the Blue Sky M were charged about \$6,000 (£4,000) each. This passage from Turkey cost roughly triple what migrants usually pay to cross from North Africa to Italy.

The higher price appears to reflect the fact that while many of those leaving from North Africa are impoverished, those on the boats coming from Turkey are often middle-class Syrians, fleeing their country's civil war.

Among the migrants who disembarked from the Blue Sky M were engineers and pharmacists.

“We don't know where they are buying the boats,” said Ms Moncure of Frontex. “But we know they are flying in crew, sometimes from a long way away. One crewman came from Murmansk in Russia. It's big business.”

In Italy, questions were asked about how the Turkish authorities could have allowed - or failed to notice - nearly 1,000 Syrians boarding such a large vessel in one of their ports.

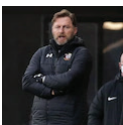
The arrival of the two “ghost ships” came shortly after Italy had to deal with a car ferry travelling from Greece, which caught fire in the middle of the Adriatic, leading to the deaths of at least 13 people.



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Analysis: smugglers turn to bigger 'ghost' ships that can be used all year

The use of large cargo vessels allows smugglers to traffic far more people at a time

By Nick Squires

02 January 2015 • 13:23 pm



The interception of two merchant ships in the Adriatic crammed with refugees and bound for the coast of Italy appears to represent a radical change of strategy by people smugglers.

The two vessels were apparently set on auto-pilot, headed for southern Italy, and ran the risk of crashing into the coastline.

Only the prompt intervention of the Italian air force, navy and coast guard saved the ships from ramming into the coast.

More than 170,000 migrants and refugees have reached Italy in the past 14 months by sea, crossing the Mediterranean from the coast of North Africa.

The vast majority arrived in ramshackle former fishing boats or in large rubber dinghies, some of which capsized and sank, leading to the loss of more than 3,000 lives.

The small size of the craft meant that most attempted the crossing during the spring and summer months, when the weather was at its calmest.

But using much larger vessels such as the two intercepted this week – both of them believed to have come from Turkey – enables traffickers to operate throughout the winter.

They are robust enough to withstand storms and rough seas that might well sink smaller boats.

“We started seeing this type of cargo ship packed with refugees in the late autumn,” Ewa Moncure, from Frontex, the EU’s border control agency, which has ships and aircraft deployed in the Mediterranean, told The Telegraph.

“At first we wondered if it was a one-off, but it now seems to be a trend. The smugglers acquire a decommissioned cargo ship, recruit a crew, pack it with migrants and then abandon them at sea, telling them to call the rescue services. It’s a very dangerous new development, especially in bad weather.”

Buying an entire ship to fill with refugees may seem like a costly enterprise, but the financial rewards clearly outweigh the initial outlay.

The 970 refugees on board the Blue Sky M, which was intercepted by the Italian coast guard and safely brought to the port of Gallipoli in the southern region of Puglia on Wednesday, were reportedly charged on average of \$6,000 each – a total of \$6 million.

Even taking into account the expense of buying a second-hand, rust-bucket merchant vessel, there seems ample opportunity to make a profit.

The second ship to be detected in the Adriatic, the Ezadeen, is a former livestock carrier that was built 50 years ago.

It is not known what the traffickers paid to acquire it, but charging refugees, most of them Syrian, an average of \$6,000 each is triple what migrants pay to cross the Mediterranean from North Africa to Italy or Malta.

The much higher price appears to reflect that while many of those leaving from North Africa are impoverished people from sub-Saharan Africa and Horn of Africa countries such as Eritrea, those on the boats coming from Turkey are relatively well-off, middle-class Syrians.

Among the migrants who disembarked from the Blue Sky M were Syrian engineers, pharmacists and other professionals.

“We don’t know where they are buying the boats,” said Ms Moncure of Frontex. “But we know they are flying in crew, sometimes from a long way away – one crewman came from Murmansk in Russia. It’s big business. The people in charge may be enticing crew members by saying that if they are arrested, they will only receive very light prison sentences.”

William Spindler, from the UNHCR, said Syrians were being driven to pay such high prices out of desperation as they flee the chaos caused by the civil war in their home country.

“We think there needs to be a crackdown on the criminal organisations that are prospering from this trafficking but at the same time we need to protect the victims, these refugees who are fleeing conflicts such as the one in Syria,” he told the BBC’s Today programme.

It was initially thought that the crew of the first “ghost ship”, the Blue Sky M, had abandoned the vessel, perhaps fleeing in smaller boats.

But it now appears that they remained on board and tried to hide among the refugees in the hope of not being detected.

“No one knew the captain or crew were, there was a mafia-like climate on board,” Muhammad, a 47-year-old Syrian engineer on board the ship, told the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera. “We knew, though, that once we had disembarked, they tried to mix in amongst us.”

However, four were arrested by the Italian police after the merchant vessel docked at Gallipoli.

They had been allegedly planning the voyage since mid-December, with the Blue Sky M leaving the Turkish port of Mersin, not far from the Syrian border, just before Christmas.

The ship had reportedly been bought two weeks before by a Syrian businessman.

The four are being detained in a prison in the city of Lecce in Puglia.

The Italians are asking how the Turkish authorities could have allowed nearly 1,000 Syrians to board the vessel in one of their ports.

“Did the smugglers really act alone, or did they operate with the complicity of the Turks?” one newspaper, *Il Fatto Quotidiano*, asked.



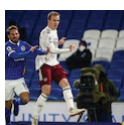
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Lebanon imposes rules limiting entry of Syrian refugees

Lebanon issues new border restrictions for refugees, meaning Syrians will now need a visa to enter country

By Ruth Sherlock

05 January 2015 • 18:53 pm



In a new blow for the millions of refugees from the Syrian conflict, Lebanon imposed new restrictions on its borders on Monday to limit the flood of people pouring into the country.

For the first time since the two countries' borders were carved out after the First World War, Syrians will now need a visa to enter Lebanon.

Those already in the country will also find it more difficult to gain employment under the new plans, as the government tries to enforce complicated and expensive legal procedures to obtain work permits.

The measure is the response of a country that says it is simply no longer able to cope with hosting what is now the highest per capita number of refugees anywhere in the world, according to UNHCR, the United Nations refugee agency.

More than 1.5 million people have taken shelter in the tiny country that has a population of four and a half million people since the beginning of the Syrian conflict – the population equivalent of 20 million people landing in Britain in less than four years.

The unprecedented influx has overwhelmed the Lebanon's water and electricity supplies, increased rents and depressed the economy, pushing host communities to breaking point.

"We have enough. There's no capacity anymore to host more displaced," said Nohad Machnouk, the interior minister, in a press conference carried on local television.

When the war in neighbouring Syria began, Lebanese citizens mostly welcomed refugees. Some rented them land on which they could build shelters, others opened their houses to them for free.

The Masnaa border crossing between Lebanon and Syria (Reuters)

But as the crisis reaches its fifth year, with no end to the war in sight, that hospitality is souring into resentment.

More than 45 towns and villages have imposed curfews, enforced by local, often violent vigilantes, banning Syrian refugees from moving after dark.

There are an increasing number of attacks recorded on the informal settlements, with some tents burned to the ground.

In part the aggression against the mostly Sunni Muslim refugees is sectarian: a reopening of wounds latent in Lebanese society from its own twenty-year-long civil war.

But it is also a response to an increasing economic crisis.

Lebanese say that the fallout from the Syrian war is rendering them as poor as their refugee guests. The country already has a weak government and few social services.

In Meshaa, a Sunni village in the north of the country, Amar Zoghbi, 40, who runs a grocery store where Syrian refugees can swap UN supplied vouchers for food said he was now having to loan supplies to Lebanese residents in the town because they too cannot afford to eat.

In what was always a poor part of the country, he had allowed a few people to shop on the promise of future payment even before the Syrian war. But in the last year, the figure had doubled, Mr Zoghbi said, fingering a fat notebook where he wrote the debts owed.

Local residents told The Telegraph they had been pushed out of their jobs by Syrians who were willing to work for lower wages.

In the town, youths loitered beside empty shops that had recently gone out of business.

Jamal Alloush, the mayor of Meshaa, said that the volume of new arrivals had pushed unemployment up in this small village alone by almost one third.

Prior to the regulations, Syrians were automatically given a residency permit on arrival that lasted up to six months – a law that became a lifeline for civilians fleeing from a war that has already claimed upwards of 200,000 lives. Many also managed to find work, skirting round poorly enforced employment laws.

But travellers from Damascus will now need to make a formal application to enter the country, giving a specific purpose for their visit, be it tourism, student, medical or business. There is no provision for those seeking asylum.

The government has indicated that it will continue to accept extremely vulnerable cases, such as wounded civilians, on humanitarian grounds.

Khalil Jebara, adviser to Lebanon's interior minister, said: "We respect our international obligations. We will not expel anyone and there will be humanitarian exceptions."

Rod Redmond, regional spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said the agency understood the government's reasoning and would work with Lebanon to ensure "refugees aren't being pushed back into situations where their lives are in danger".

Around half of Syria's 22 million people have been forced to leave their homes in the war, and that figure is growing.

But as Lebanon and Jordan seek to insulate themselves from the crisis by shutting off their borders, Turkey is the only neighbouring country to which Syrians may easily flee.

It too is already struggling to manage the more than one million people living in its tented refugee camps, and increasingly on the streets.



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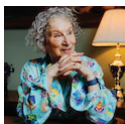
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What will be on the agenda when David Cameron and Angela Merkel meet in Downing Street?

The German Chancellor arrives in London for most important talks of Prime Minister's time in office

By Rosa Prince *and* Rosaprince

07 January 2015 • 06:00 am



Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor, arrives in Britain for what could prove the most important visit by a foreign leader of David Cameron's time in office.

Immigration, the crisis in Ukraine, Greece's role within the euro and the threat from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant will all be on the agenda.

But it is Mrs Merkel's attitude towards the Prime Minister's push to renegotiate the European Treaty, crucial if he is to satisfy his desire to change British domestic policy enough to repel the UK Independence Party at the forthcoming election, which will prove key to Mr Cameron's re-election prospects.

So, what is due to take place when the two centre-right leaders of Europe's largest economies meet?

What is on Chancellor Angela Merkel's agenda?

Mrs Merkel's visit begins at the British Museum, where she will be welcomed by Mr Cameron before the two view an exhibition called "Germany: memories of a nation." They will then go on to Downing Street where they are due to have discussions lasting an hour followed by a joint press conference. Their talks will continue over an early supper at Number 10 before the Chancellor returns home.

What will they be discussing?

Officially the meeting will focus on Ukraine, with Mrs Merkel wanting the support of the rest of Europe before she travels to talks with Russian leader Vladimir Putin in Kazakhstan aimed at resolving the crisis there. They are also likely to touch on Greece, with Germany having warned that a vote for the left-wing Syriza party at the end of the month could lead to an exit from the euro.

The ongoing threat from Isil will be of interest to both nations, and of course immigration will also be at the top of their minds. In Germany, escalating Pegida protests over the "Islamisation" of Europe have been condemned by Mrs Merkel. Which will inevitably bring them on to the topic which is Mr Cameron is most eager to discuss: Treaty renegotiation.

Farage: PM will not get any major concessions from Merkel

How are the issues of immigration and the renegotiation of the EU Treaty linked?

Mr Cameron is desperate to make headway in his pledge to reduce immigration levels, but finds himself thwarted by Europe. His big idea, of restricting welfare payments to migrants, or even limiting the numbers who travel to the UK, perhaps by introducing a quota on the issuing of National Insurance numbers to unskilled workers, was met with a firm "nein" from Mrs Merkel.

She pointed out that freedom of movement was one of the founding principles of the EU, and in November it emerged that she had even warned the Prime Minister that she was prepared to see Britain leave the EU rather than compromise on it.

Why doesn't Mrs Merkel want substantive renegotiation of the EU Treaty?

As well as being instinctively unwilling to alter the founding principles of the EU, there are practical reasons why Mrs Merkel is reluctant to open the Pandora's box that is Treaty renegotiation. In particular, while Mr Cameron sees Treaty renegotiation as a means of obtaining a positive result in the in-out referendum on EU membership which he has promised by 2017, Mrs Merkel fears that such a move would lead to referendums elsewhere in Europe, which could have unpredictable results. And instability is anathema to a Chancellor who takes seriously her role as the leader of Europe.

So why is Mr Cameron so keen to have renegotiation and a referendum?

If Mr Cameron fails to achieve what he has described as substantive renegotiation then huge chunks of his domestic policy platform ahead of the general election will collapse. From cutting the welfare bill to tackling immigration levels, to votes for prisoners, his hands are currently bound by Europe and he has staked his premiership on being able to free them.

At the very least, he needs to be able to prove to his own party – his MPs as well as traditional Tory voters – that they should stick by him at a time when the Ukip, with its policy of withdrawing from the EU altogether, is looking increasingly attractive.

What will the outcome be?

Hard to say. Mrs Merkel and Mr Cameron have had an uncharacteristically rocky relationship for two leaders who pride themselves on their good interpersonal skills. Their last meeting on British soil 11 months ago was a huge success, as was a return visit by the Cameron family to the Chancellor's country retreat a few months later.

Since then it has been all downhill, with the two leaders clashing over the nomination of the federalist Jean-Claude Juncker to head the European Commission in June and that very public slapdown from Mrs Merkel at a Brussels Summit in October, when she warned that Mr Cameron was "approaching the point of no return." Mr Cameron will be hoping that the homey atmosphere of No 10 will work its magic once again.

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Of all the EU failures, its policy on asylum seekers is the worst

Europe is now being besieged by nearly half a million more of these people every year, says Christopher Booker

By Christopher Booker

10 January 2015 • 19:56 pm



Bulgaria tries to keep them out with a high steel security fence along its frontier with Turkey. Malta keeps them away from tourists in squalid camps in the south of the island. Hungary locks them up in prison cells or overcrowded army barracks, many sedated with drugs.

In bankrupt Greece, conditions are so bad that most prefer to head for Italy, which tries to move them on as soon as possible. In Spain's African enclaves, so many were shot or ill-treated that they all but stopped coming. In France, where they are given just £9 a week to live on, many head for Calais, sleeping under plastic sheets, ready to risk death in a bid to reach a friendlier Britain. Last year, more than 3,000 failed to reach Europe at all, as their pitifully inadequate boats turned the Mediterranean, as the Pope put it, into "a cemetery".

Europe is now being besieged by nearly half a million more of these "asylum seekers" every year, desperately craving refuge from appalling conditions in their own countries – mainly from Syria and the Middle East, or from Eritrea, Somalia and other parts of Africa. And even this is only a small part of what has become an immense worldwide tragedy, arising from the chaos that, according to the UN High Commission for Refugees, has displaced more than 50 million people from their homes, causing millions to seek an escape to the developed world, the US, Australia and Europe.

But nowhere is the resulting shambles more obvious than in that surrounding what the EU calls its "Common European Asylum System". So little does the EU know what to do about this crisis that it simply allows its 28 member states to break international and its own law in all directions.

Under the UN's 1951 Refugee Convention, which belongs to a different age, no country is allowed to turn away or turn back any refugees forced to flee their own country. The EU has now reinforced this in a swathe of directives under the Amsterdam treaty, requiring asylum seekers to be fairly treated. But in force since 1997 has also been the notorious "Dublin Regulation", laying down that, since any asylum seekers managing to enter the EU without a visa are illegal immigrants, their right to remain must be "processed" in the country where they first arrived.

In practice, two massive problems have made a nonsense of this law. One is that it imposes such a burden on the "front line" states where most asylum seekers arrive, notably Italy, Malta and Greece, that they do all they can to evade the law, by moving the refugees on to be "processed" in other countries, which are then responsible for them. The other is that most asylum seekers have no wish to remain in southern Europe anyway. They are only too happy not to be "processed" until they reach the richer countries to the north, such as Germany, Sweden or Britain, where they hope to settle.

This is why, in 2013, according to the latest Eurostat figures, by far the largest number of asylum applications was in Germany, 126,705. France took on 64,760 and Sweden 54,270, with Britain a distant fourth on 29,875. But legally this is only the start of the problem

because, even though many applicants may be rejected (62 per cent in the UK), the host countries are virtually powerless to send them away again.

In Britain, as the Public Accounts Committee reported in October, the UK Border Agency officials “could not find” 50,000 rejected asylum seekers who had simply vanished off their radar. Another 11,000 had been waiting for at least seven years to be “processed”, and 29,000 cases dating back to before 2007 still had not been resolved (this in addition to the agency having wasted up to £1 billion on failed IT systems).

Another reason for this shambles is the army of lawyers, who then use the Council of Europe’s Convention on Human Rights to make confusion worse confounded. One famous example was the case 15 years ago, in which senior British judges ruled that it is not “safe” even to send asylum seekers back to France, whence most arrive, because neither France nor Germany can be trusted not to deport them to their countries of origin, where they might face persecution. Another major contributor to the crisis is the way “people trafficking” – as by the gangs that charge asylum seekers huge sums to board those “death ships” in the Mediterranean – has become a multi-billion-pound criminal industry.

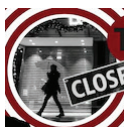
In human terms, the total failure of the EU’s “common asylum policy” puts into the shade even the mess it has made of its other “common European policies”, on agriculture, fisheries or the euro. But even this pales into insignificance compared with the plight of those 2.9 million exiled Syrians, living in horrendous conditions in camps in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and elsewhere, or the half-million refugees in Kenya, or the Eritreans being slaughtered in camps in southern Sudan. The EU might begin by giving much more assistance to those refugees and governments in the places where much of this horrendous problem originated in the first place.



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Forget this mega refugee crisis, let's talk about global warming

Three million Syrian refugees are in makeshift camps, but Ban Ki-moon is more interested in the climate, writes Christopher Booker

By Christopher Booker

17 January 2015 • 19:56 pm



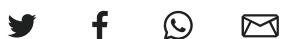
Under the heading “We are the last generation that can fight climate change. We have a duty to act”, the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, set out in *The Guardian* (where else?) his global agenda for 2015. Ebola got a mention, as did Ukraine, terrorism and the recent events in Paris. But his only specific proposal for action was his wish to see “an ambitious and universal agreement in Paris in December to keep the rise in global

temperatures below the dangerous threshold of 2 degrees C” (the treaty that isn’t going to happen).

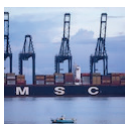
Apart from one cursory mention, there was nothing about what another member of his organisation, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, is calling “the biggest humanitarian crisis of our era”. It is, of course, the appalling plight of those millions of Syrian refugees – now made even worse as three million of them freeze in makeshift Turkish and Lebanese camps that, despite Mr Ban’s obsession with global warming, are under several inches of snow.

The desperation of these refugees has become the largest single contributor to that other horror story I described last week, the total shambles the EU and its member states are making of the Syrians’ desire to find “asylum” in Europe, which in every direction is making nonsense of the law. One law dictates that asylum seekers must be welcomed. But another makes it illegal to enter the EU without a visa, while it is made as dangerous as possible to do so. A third then places responsibility for those who do manage to do so on the first EU country they enter, usually Italy, where their application to remain must be “processed”. But the only wish of these countries is to evade the law by moving them on to the countries most actually wish to reach, such as Germany, Sweden or Britain.

We thus see the farcical situation where France, while otherwise doing as little as it can to help the asylum seekers, then uses EU cash to build a £6 million camp for them outside Calais, complete with hot showers, a Michelin restaurant chef, charging points for their mobiles and three football pitches – all to assist thousands of them to move illegally on to Britain, knowing that human-rights law makes it virtually impossible for them to be returned. Last week, even the European Parliament held a debate on a crisis now facing the EU with half a million new asylum seekers a year. But our own MPs were far too busy discussing how many parties should be allowed to appear on election broadcasts, like so many angels jostling to get on a pin. As with Mr Ban, it seems displacement activity from the real world has become the order of the day.



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French police accused of brutality at Calais migrant camp

A report by Human Rights Watch into the situation in Calais – where more 2,000 migrants are camped out, has detailed accusations of beatings by French police

By Harriet Alexander

20 January 2015 • 13:54 pm



Migrants in Calais hoping to cross the Channel to the UK have accused the [French](#) police of beating them.

Researchers from Human Rights Watch spoke to 44 asylum seekers and migrants in Calais, including three children.

Nineteen, including two of the children, said police had abused them at least once, including beatings. Eight had visible broken limbs or other injuries, which they alleged were caused by police in Calais and surrounding areas. Twenty one, including two children, said police had sprayed them with pepper spray.

"Asylum seekers and migrants shouldn't have to face police violence in France, and no one who applies for asylum should be left to live in the street," said Izza Leghtas, Western Europe researcher at Human Rights Watch.

"Providing adequate reception conditions and humane treatment for asylum seekers isn't only a matter of meeting legal obligations, it is also the right thing to do to help end the limbo for many asylum seekers in Calais."

HRW produced a video of some of their interviews, with migrants showing their cut and bruised faces and arms in slings.

But the French police told HRW they were unaware of any accusations of abuse.

The situation in Calais reached crisis point last year, as the continued instability in Syria and north Africa coupled with the lack of government authority in Libya - a key stage of the migrants' route from the Horn of Africa into Europe - created a surge in migrant numbers.

France: Migrants, Asylum Seekers Abused and De...



The migrants, who come mainly from Eritrea, Sudan and Afghanistan, are currently camped out in the woods near Calais' port, or sleeping rough in the town centre.

Over the summer running battles were fought between migrants and police, and gangs of men attempted to storm the port. Every night dozens attempt to clamber across the fences protecting the port or sneak onto lorries - forcing the Channel tunnel authorities to invest more and more money in detecting stowaways.

French police unions have protested that they are vastly outnumbered.

Natacha Bouchart, the mayor of the town, has blamed the problem on Britain's benefits system, which she says is seen as "El Dorado" by migrants.

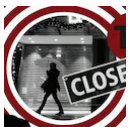
But others have said that it is a Europe-wide problem, which must be tackled at the border points - primarily in Greece and Italy.



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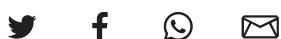
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Calais migrants given green light to use European human rights laws to come to Britain

In a landmark ruling that could lead to chaos in Britain's asylum system, a court decided that four Syrian migrants should immediately be brought to the UK from “The Jungle” camp in Calais because of their right to a family life

By Peter Dominiczak

20 January 2015 • 22:00 pm



Migrants in Calais have been given the green light to use European human rights laws to join their relatives who are already living in Britain.

In a landmark judgment that could see thousands of migrants come to the UK, [a British court ruled](#) that four Syrian migrants should immediately be brought to the UK from [“The Jungle” camp in Calais](#) because of their right to a family life.

The ruling came as Britain's asylum system was thrown into chaos, prompting [David Cameron](#) to order a review of the country's border security.

AT A GLANCE

David Cameron's EU demands



- Protect Britain's access to the Single Market
- Cut red tape and ensure 'competitiveness is written into Europe's DNA'
- End abuse of 'freedom of movement' by EU migrants
- Exempt Britain from 'ever-closer union'

being deported.

Such is the concern surrounding the migrant crisis that European leaders suggested that they will extend a crucial February summit to discuss the situation, prompting fears that talks over the British referendum could be overshadowed.

On Thursday Mr Cameron will call on British business leaders to "join me" in making the case for Britain staying in the European Union. Goldman Sachs, the investment bank, on Wednesday [pledged a six-figure sum to the campaign to keep Britain in the EU](#).

Ministers said that it is now imperative that Mr Cameron holds a June referendum, warning that an escalation of the migrant crisis over the summer months could see Britain to leave the EU if the vote is delayed.

Brussels on Wednesday threatened to stop Britain deporting migrants unless it agreed to accept [“quotas” of migrants](#), something which could see the UK forced to admit 90,000 refugees.

If Britain refuses to accept the quota, the EU has said the UK will no longer be able to use the Dublin Regulation - the rule which states that migrants must seek asylum in the first European country they arrive - to deport foreigners illegally entering the country.

Senior Conservatives warned that there will be “chaos” in Calais because the changes to EU rules would create a “fast track for migrants” trying to enter the UK.

There were also warnings that the EU rule change could see [thousands more migrants attempting to make the journey](#) to the UK because there will be no chance of them

Philip Hammond, the Foreign Secretary, said: “We are very concerned by the noises coming out the Commission about changes to the Dublin agreement.”

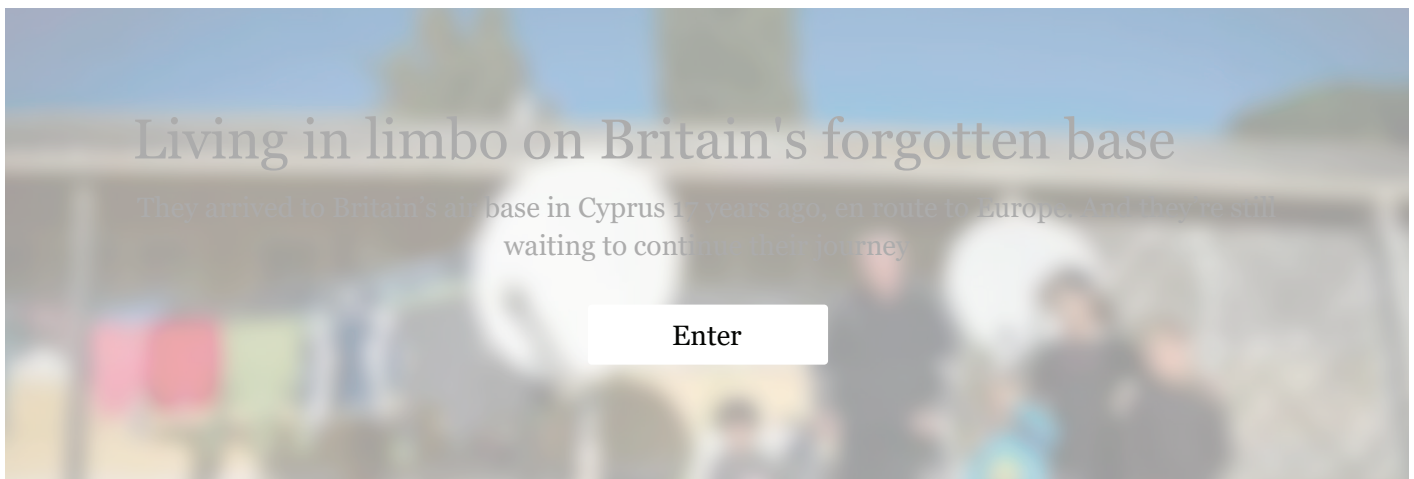
But Mr Cameron faced a second blow to the UK's border security when a UK judge allowed four migrants to come to the UK from [the Jungle in Calais](#), citing their human rights.

The ruling appears to significantly widen the scope of the human rights act, meaning that migrants can now use the act to argue that right to a family life encompasses siblings as well as dependents.

In a decision that could have far-reaching implications for border controls in the UK, the Immigration and Asylum Tribunal in central London ordered that four Syrian refugees living in the Calais migrant camp are immediately brought to Britain.

The court heard that the young men all faced "intolerable" conditions in the camp and were desperate to be reunited with their siblings in Britain.

At least one was able to successfully argue he should be allowed to come to Britain because he suffers post-traumatic stress disorder.



It could set an important legal precedent that could allow many other refugees wanting to cross the Channel from Calais to come to Britain.

Critics described the ruling, which the Home Office is expected to appeal, as a move to “short-circuit” international asylum laws.

The 26-year-old brother of one applicant, named only as Ahmed, said he was "very, very worried" about his teenage sibling, who suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder and has been living in the Jungle since October.

It was unclear whether the mental health problems emerged as a result of his journey as a migrant or from earlier in his life.

Alp Mehmet, of MigrationWatch UK, which campaigns for tougher border controls, said: "The decision is simply wrong. It will encourage more and more to bypass the system for asylum."

Meanwhile, there was fury over the EU's attempt to change the rules which have allowed Britain to deport around 12,000 migrants since 2003.

Under the Dublin Regulation, Britain is currently able to return migrants to their point of entry in Europe.

However, Brussels is now proposing to link the right to use those deportation rules to its controversial plans for quotas of refugees to be imposed on member states.

[The International Monetary Fund has forecast](#) that up to four million migrants could reach Europe by the end of next year.

If a quota were to be imposed on Britain based on the size of its population, it could mean as many as 90,000 migrants coming to the UK.

Britain has secured a deal allowing it to opt out of any quota regime. Downing Street on Wednesday said that it will not agree to any system of quotas.

However, there were fears that without the ability to deport migrants under the Dublin rules, thousands of foreigners massing in Calais will have an extra incentive to attempt the journey to Britain.

Sources told the Telegraph that Mr Cameron will order a review of border security to ensure that there is not a significant influx of migrants coming to the UK.

One Eurosceptic minister said: "What this shows is that when there are real issues that affect other countries in the European Union, in particular in areas like the Eurozone and Schengen, what matters to Britain is just an afterthought."

Liam Fox, the former Conservative defence secretary, told ITV News: "What it would mean is a fast track for migrants coming to Northern Europe, including the United Kingdom. You can imagine the chaos you might see at places like Calais were that to happen."

Peter Bone, Tory MP for Wellingborough, added: "Changing the rules would mean if migrants get into this country they cannot be sent back.

"It sends completely the wrong message. Thousands of migrants try and get their way in by storming the Channel Tunnel if this happens."

What is the 'Dublin regulation'?

The Dublin regulation determines which European country must deal with an asylum claim.

It asserts a clear principle: that a claim must be processed in the first EU country in which a refugee set foot.

The aim is to solve a claim quickly and prevent people being trapped in limbo between states. Its signatories, meeting in the Irish capital in 1990, could not have imagined the influx that struck Europe this summer.

How does it work?

If an asylum seeker turns up in, for example, Sweden, its officials can check to see if they had registered elsewhere in the EU. If they were logged as arriving elsewhere, such as Hungary, they can issue a request to transfer the case and the person to Budapest.

The biggest beneficiaries are wealthy northern European states such as Britain, Sweden, Germany and Denmark that are highly attractive to migrants, but are tricky to reach on foot without crossing another EU state. The losers are states such as Italy and Bulgaria – which are entry points for migrants into the EU on their trek north.

What went wrong?

The system has been overwhelmed by an influx via the Mediterranean of more than a million people in 2015, with most travelling through Italy and Greece attempting to reach the wealthy north.

Faced with the influx, Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, discarded the system, and said Germany would not deport Syrians who had arrived via Italy or Greece. It was a recognition the system was “obsolete”, but critics say it triggered a stampede into Germany as word quickly spread of the “invitation.”

Immigrants arriving via Italy and Greece have also refused to be fingerprinted in their determination to reach Germany, to the frustration of Brussels officials in charge of policing the system.

What happens now?

The EU is drawing up a revision to the plan, which is said to abandon the “first country principle”. An announcement will be made in March, and extensive discussion with EU member states will happen in the next months.

One option favoured by Jean-Claude Juncker is a new quota system – sharing out asylum seekers according to a formula taking into account population and economic size.

A similar scheme has been set up to move 160,000 people, but so far it has moved barely 300.

Dimitris Avramopoulos, the migration commissioner, said last week he wants to see refugees “quasi-automatically distributed to a member state.”

He added: “When Dublin was adopted the situation and the landscape was very different, things have changed. The ones who defend the old Dublin, I wonder whether they really understand the situation today.”

What’s in it for Britain?

Britain can opt out of a raft of EU home affairs legislation, but it is a huge fan of Dublin. It has allowed more than 1000 refugees a year to be removed since 2003.

Britain will have a choice on whether to sign up to any new quota system – but it appears that the power to remove people is in serious jeopardy.

Experts say that will encourage many more people to attempt a dangerous illicit through the Channel tunnel, or turn to a smuggler at Dunkirk, because they will escape deportation if they reach Britain.

Is it bad news for the renegotiation?

On the whole, yes. David Cameron is having to use every ounce of diplomatic capital to secure a new EU deal in mid-February. He cannot afford to pick a fight with Jean-Claude Juncker, or states such as Italy, on this.

If Dublin goes, it will make it far harder for Mr Cameron to claim that EU membership helps control migration.

Does the government have allies?

It appears so. Eastern European countries such as Poland and the Czech Republic were fiercely opposed to the temporary relocation scheme, arguing control of a border is a fundamental part of national sovereignty. States such as Denmark and Sweden are likely to want to keep their deportation powers, as Britain can. And others, such as France, question whether such an elaborate quota scheme could ever work, given the monumental failure of the temporary system.

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Italy fears refugee exodus from Libya will cross Mediterranean

Interior ministry estimates that at least 200,000 refugees and immigrants are poised to make the crossing to Italy

By Nick Squires

17 February 2015 • 16:45 pm



Italy fears being swamped by an exodus of up to 200,000 migrants and refugees waiting to cross the Mediterranean from [Libya](#), as the North African country sinks further into chaos.

There is acute alarm in Italy that Islamic State has now established a presence on the shores of the Mediterranean, just a few hundred miles from Italian soil, [boasting in the](#)

past few days of its plans to “conquer Rome”.

The growing presence of Isil in Libya could force tens of thousands of migrants to flee, especially Christians from Eritrea and West Africa, who may fear meeting the same fate as a group of 21 Egyptian Copts who were killed by Isil-affiliated extremists.

The Italian authorities also fear that terrorists could surreptitiously enter the country by mingling with the thousands of migrants who are streaming across the Mediterranean.

The interior ministry estimates that at least 200,000 refugees and immigrants are poised to make the crossing to Sicily or the tiny island of Lampedusa, Italy’s southernmost territory.

Last year more than 170,000 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by boat, including tens of thousands of Syrians fleeing the civil war in their home country.

There are fears that at least as many may try to cross the Mediterranean this year.

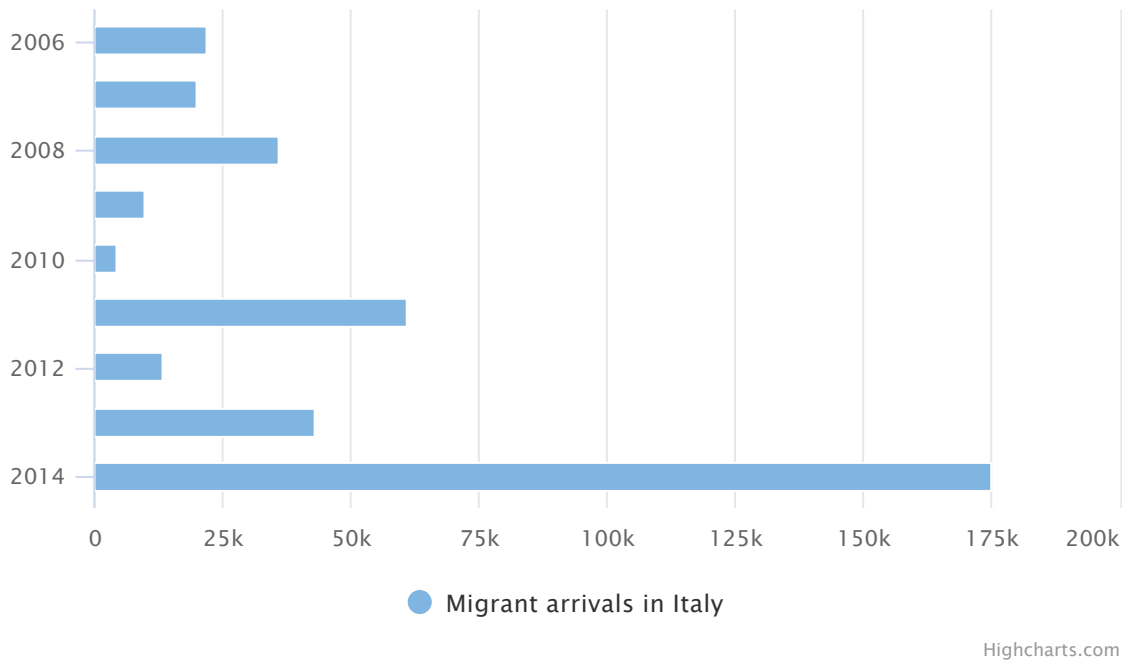
“Migrants are telling us that conditions in Libya are even worse than last year,” said Flavio Di Giacomo, a spokesman for the International Organisation for Migration.

“They are herded into halfway houses where they wait for days or even weeks, before the smugglers take them to the boats. Once you pay, you can’t change your mind – even if you see that the vessel is unseaworthy and dangerous. The smugglers use guns and sticks to force people on board.”

Irregular arrivals by sea reported in Italy



Source: UNHCR



In January, 3,500 refugees were rescued and brought to Italy, compared to 2,100 in the same period last year.

An additional 4,000 people were rescued in the past four days.

Italy's migrant reception centres are at breaking point, with most of them full to capacity. Some facilities now accommodate twice as many people as they were designed for.

Immigrants being rescued by the Italian Navy near Lampedusa last year (AFP)

Of the 170,000 people who made the journey across the Mediterranean last year, 85,000 were rescued by the Italian navy under a search and rescued operation named Mare Nostrum.

But the operation was shut down by the Italian government in November, largely because of its high cost, and replaced by a much smaller EU operation, code-named Triton.

The more limited scope of the EU effort has led to fears that many more people will die at sea this year because Triton vessels patrol a much smaller area.

Search and rescue efforts entered a dangerous new phase on Sunday, when an Italian coast guard patrol boat rescuing migrants 50 miles off the Libyan coast was [threatened by smugglers armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles](#).

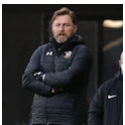
The smugglers ordered the coast guard crew, who were unarmed, to leave behind a boat in which the migrants had been packed, apparently with the intention of reusing the vessel for another consignment of human cargo.

On Tuesday, Pope Francis prayed for the Egyptian Copts who were executed by Isil-affiliated militants.

During a Mass at his private residence in the Vatican, he invited the congregation to join him in prayer for “our brother Copts, whose throats were slit for the sole reason of being Christian.”



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Leave migrants on boats, says Italy's far-Right party leader

Matteo Salvini, the head of the Northern League, said help the migrants but do not let them come to Italy because Italy has "enough of them"

By Alice Philipson

16 February 2015 • 16:22 pm



The leader of [Italy's](#) Right-wing party has said that immigrants making the treacherous journey across the sea from Libya should be left on board their boats.

Matteo Salvini, the head of the Northern League, posted the comment on Twitter just hours after the Italian coastguard launched a huge operation to rescue more than 2,000 migrants in difficulty between the Italian island of Lampedusa and the Libyan coast.

Migrants arrive by boat at the Sicilian harbour of Pozzallo on Sunday (Reuters)

He said: "12 boats filled with immigrants south of Lampedusa. Help them, but don't let them get off: we have enough of them!"

He also posted on Facebook: "12 boats filled with immigrants (all peaceful?) were spotted south of Lampedusa. If I had my way, I would help them, care for them and give them food and drink.

"But I would keep them away and would not let them get off, we have enough of them. Do you agree?" Some 2,164 migrants coming from [Libya](#) had to be saved from a dozen boats on Sunday.

The Italian transport ministry said [the coastguard had been threatened by four armed men earlier](#) in the day who approached them by speedboat from the Libyan coast.

The men, wielding Kalashnikovs, forced the rescuers to return a boat that had been emptied of migrants.

Mr Salvini's comments provoked outrage on social media while Andrea Cozzolino, the deputy of the ruling Democratic Party, described Mr Salvini's words as "irresponsible".

Italian coastguards, helped by other vessels, moved in to rescue at least 1,000 migrants in difficulty

One woman, Mariella Siviglia, wrote on Twitter: "Doesn't Matteo Salvini realise? We are at war and he insists on saying these things about people who are trying to flee from that war."

Another user, Zu Palidda, posted: "Salvini is not human. Nor can we expect humanity from him or those who support him."

Fabbio Nacio wrote: "How do you help castaways who are hungry, thirsty and dying? It's obvious: leave them to drown in the sea! #Delirious"

The head of the populist party later reiterated his statement at a trade fair in Milan. He said: "No one should be allowed to disembark."

Mr Salvini is seen as a rising political force in Italy and his party, which seeks an exit from the [EU](#), has experienced a recent surge in popularity amid continuing recession in the country.

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Immigration is here to stay. Our job is to make it work

Migration is the new normal, and there's nothing either the Tories or Ukip can do about it. Instead we must make sure those who come to this country fully embrace it - and establish a British version of the American dream

By Allister Heath

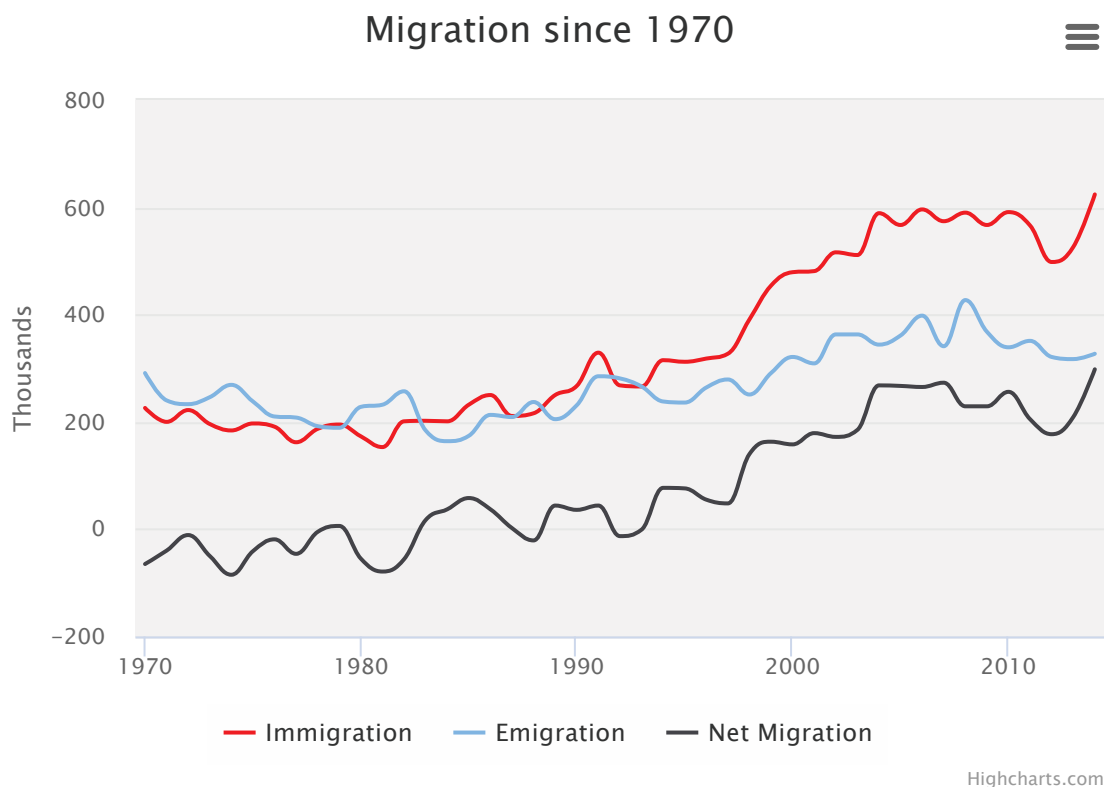
04 March 2015 • 21:00 pm



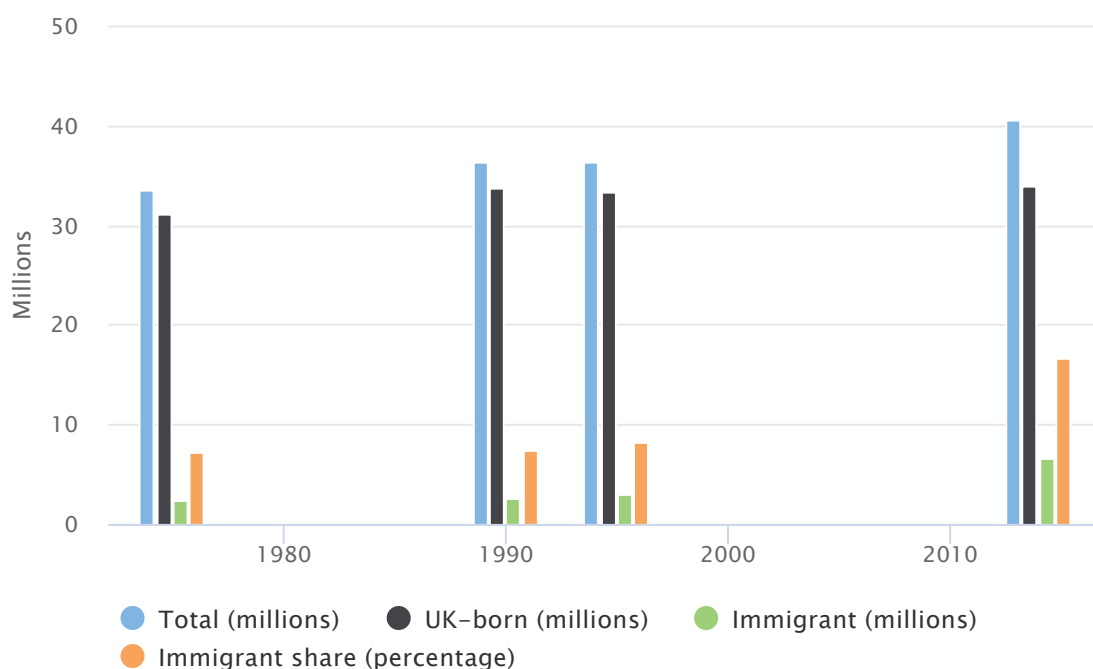
No first-time visit to New York is complete without a trip to the Statue of Liberty. The lines on the plaque beneath the statue, from a sonnet by Emma Lazarus, are as uplifting as they are famous: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

There is no such shrine to the free movement of people in the UK, no similar paeon to the liberating potential of immigration. There should be: Britain has turned into America, albeit by default and without any real national debate. Last year, 16.6 per cent of the UK population of working age was born abroad; in 2013, 16.3 per cent of the US civilian workforce was foreign-born.

Of course, virtually all Americans are at the very least the great-grandchildren of immigrants; that is still much less true of Brits. But 36 per cent of New York City's entire population is foreign-born; [an almost identical 37 per cent of Londoners were born overseas](#). London now feels more cosmopolitan even than New York.



Immigrants in the UK's working age population (16–64)



Highcharts.com

The difference is that the US sees itself, self-consciously, as a nation of immigrants while we do not. In part, this is because a large percentage of the British public remains unhappy about this new reality; but given that it won't change, regardless of who wins the next election, the best strategy now should be to try to make it work as best as possible for us.

These numbers certainly highlight the intellectual bankruptcy of what passes for our national debate on immigration. Even if we were to pull out of the EU and introduce a points system for new arrivals, none of what has already happened would be reversed. The inflow of migrants would be reduced but not halted; and the share of the foreign-born in the workforce would only decline slowly, if at all.

It is hard to keep a lid on immigration in today's globalised world. While the US has long imposed a far stricter immigration policy – unlike our effectively open borders with Europe – its share of migrant workers is the same as ours. It also has a much bigger problem with illegal immigration. Changing the UK's rules would cut the number of arrivals but not by as much as proponents are hoping.

Even if you want to regulate immigration, or change the composition of those who move here, it's pretty hard truly to slash overall numbers while simultaneously maintaining an open, prosperous society. [Australia's point system is often held up as the answer,](#)

including by Ukip; but 27.7 per cent of Australians were born abroad, compared with 13 per cent of UK residents.

Where are the immigrants? This [map](#) will tell you



Figures for 2014 are year to September

Instead of vainly trying to eliminate migration, the policy in America and Australia is to absorb new arrivals and to ensure that they embrace their new country. This doesn't always work as well as it should but it is a better attitude than sticking one's head in the sand. It should also be Britain's approach.

Citizenship ceremonies are not enough; we need a much more aggressive policy of integration, especially among [those groups most susceptible to fall for Islamist propaganda](#). We also need to reform welfare further for new arrivals, making sure that it is never attractive to move to the UK merely for benefits; but [we shouldn't kid ourselves that this would make much of a difference](#) to the overall numbers of arrivals, [which are primarily driven by jobs](#).

The UK has another peculiarity: like many other rich countries, we import a lot of people; but unlike them we also export a lot of Brits. The Home Office estimates that 4.7 million UK-born people live abroad. We rank eighth highest globally for the number of emigrants, an astounding figure for a small, wealthy country.

The vast majority of those departing our shores are of working age and they are often highly qualified – they are economic migrants in pursuit of a better life, just like the Eastern Europeans who arrive daily in Britain. Lots of UK pensioners now live in Spain and France, of course, but they are atypical. It is hard for a country to object to people moving in when so many of its own people are moving out.

Source: Long-term International Migration - Office for National Statistics

Where are the British migrants in Europe? This map will tell you



All of this brings us to the concept of controlling net migration, perhaps the greatest, most dishonest idea to have been adopted by the Westminster political establishment in recent years. As recently as the 2005 general election, when Michael Howard was defeated by

Tony Blair, the Tory manifesto still called for “controlled immigration” – in other words, stricter limits on the numbers of people moving here, or what statisticians call gross immigration. That pledge was widely seen to have backfired.

By 2010 David Cameron was promising to slash something else altogether: net migration, the difference between people arriving and people leaving. It was a pledge that has ended in total failure. But he never stood a chance: by definition, net migration cannot be controlled by governments.

One can, in theory at least, control the numbers of foreign passport holders coming into a country, though only by pulling out of the EU and ceasing to welcome genuine political refugees. Mr Cameron didn't want to pursue either of these two avenues (and the latter would be inhumane); his only tool was thus to reduce non-EU immigration.

But net migration is not just about the number of people coming in; it also accounts for those leaving. No free society can or should control the number of people seeking to move abroad, or prevent UK citizens from moving back in. So the government was trying to target a statistic of which it controlled at most one out of five determinants. The only way it could have worked was if a recession in the UK had encouraged an exodus and reduced our economy's attractiveness to migrants.

The Tories originally adopted the concept as a way to tap into anti-immigration sentiment while explicitly rejecting bigotry. The official, stated aim was no longer to stop people moving here from other countries: it was about ensuring that the population did not go up too quickly. The subtext was neo-Malthusian, rather than xenophobic – too much net immigration will increase the population too rapidly, it was claimed, pressurising housing, schools and hospitals, areas that are controlled by a public sector incapable of managing demand for its services. The new approach was a way for politicians to appeal to the immigration-sceptic mainstream while distancing themselves from BNP supporters.

There is one additional logical problem with this approach. If what we worry about is population growth, then we should care equally about other ways it can grow, including baby booms or the fact that pensioners are living longer. Needless to say, we don't, and rightly so; we should cease to see humanity as a burden, and treat a growing population as a wonderful opportunity.

Our politicians should tell the public the truth: immigration to the UK will remain high for the foreseeable future, even if we quit the EU. The focus should be on stamping out abuse, drastically tightening welfare, improving the education and incentives of the UK-

born to work, building more homes and, last but not least, imbuing newcomers with a love of Britain. Like America, we have become a nation of immigrants; we now need a British version of the American Dream to make sure that we continue to absorb newcomers while strengthening our society.

Labour Force Survey (LFS)



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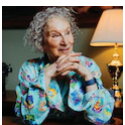
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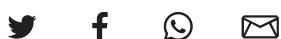
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Greece's defence minister threatens to send migrants including jihadists to Western Europe

Panos Kammenos, Greece's defence minister, threatens to open country's borders to refugees – including potential members of Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (Isil) - unless Athens receives debt crisis support

By Bruno Waterfield

09 March 2015 • 17:19 pm



[Greece](#) will unleash a “wave of millions of economic migrants” and jihadists on Europe unless the eurozone backs down on austerity demands, the country's defence and foreign ministers have threatened.

The threat comes as Greece struggles to convince the eurozone and International Monetary Fund to continue payments on a £172billion bailout of Greek finances.

Without the funding, Greece will go bust later this month forcing the recession-ravaged and highly indebted country out of the EU's single currency.

Greece's border with Turkey is the EU's frontline against illegal immigration and European measures to stop extremists travelling to and from [Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant \(Isil\)](#) bases in Syria and Iraq.

Panos Kammenos, the Greek defence minister, warned that if the eurozone allowed Greece to go bust it would give EU travel papers to illegal immigrants crossing its borders or to the 10,000 currently held in detention centres.

"If they deal a blow to Greece, then they should know the the migrants will get papers to go to Berlin," he said.

"If Europe leaves us in the crisis, we will flood it with migrants, and it will be even worse for Berlin if in that wave of millions of economic migrants there will be some jihadists of the Islamic State too."

Mr Kammenos, who is the leader of the Right-wing Independent Greeks party which is in coalition with Greece's ruling far-Left Syriza government, said that the EU's passport free "Schengen" travel zone left the eurozone vulnerable.

"If they strike us, we will strike them. We will give to migrants from everywhere the documents they need to travel in the Schengen area, so that the human wave could go straight to Berlin," he said.

Last week, Nikos Kotzias, the Greek foreign minister, also told a meeting of his EU colleagues that if Greece was forced out of the euro "there will be tens of millions of immigrants and thousands of jihadists".

EU officials have been so concerned by the Greek threats that the European Commission last week sought "assurances... that no measures to open up detention centres are being taken".

Britain would not be as badly hit as Germany if Greece opened its frontier with Turkey as it has retained border controls but the Greek threat would place extra pressure on crossings such as Calais and increase the overall terror threat for all Europe.

Greece and its eurozone creditors agreed two weeks ago to extend the Greek bailout but negotiations with the new government have run in trouble threatening to cut Athens off from funds by the end of March.



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Britain to blame for illegal immigrant crisis, says Calais mayor

Natacha Bouchart, the mayor of the French port, says Britain should be forced to abandon border checks for travellers arriving from Europe

By David Barrett and Davidbarrett

30 March 2015 • 12:39 pm



Britain is to blame for illegal immigrant problems on the French side of the Channel because of its lack of commitment to the “European project”, the mayor of Calais has claimed.

Natacha Bouchart accused the British government of “despising” the native population of Calais and said the UK should be forced to sign up to Europe’s open borders agreement.

A Polish lorry driver opens his vehicle to find migrants from Eritrea hiding inside at a lorry park at the port of Calais last year

Miss Bouchart intensified her war of words with Britain as the French port struggles to cope with thousands of illegal immigrants, mainly from African countries, who have gathered in the town to attempt illegal crossings into this country.

In an interview given by Miss Bouchart to the Council of Europe’s journal, she said: “We are suffering the consequences of the British government’s actions, which takes from Europe the things that suit it, but doesn’t want to get fully involved in the European project.

“The British government ... has a tendency too often to despise the local population, to disregard elected officials, and frankly will take no part of the responsibility.”

She repeated previous claims that Britain’s generous benefits system is a magnet for illegal immigrants

“They want to go to England because they can expect better conditions on arrival there than anywhere else in Europe or even internationally,” the mayor said.

“There are no ID cards. They can easily find work outside the formal economy, which is not really controlled.

“They can get social welfare support that doesn’t exist in other countries.

“It’s migrants themselves who arrive in England, and who pass on the message that there is plenty more space for migrants to come.”

She said Calais had to deal with the migrants because Britain “has not adopted the EU rules contained in the Schengen agreement”, which removed internal border controls across 26 member states.

The Home Office set up UK border controls in France 15 years ago in a bid to prevent illegal immigrants reaching British soil to claim asylum.

“The UK is not really interested, since border controls take place on French soil,” said Miss Bouchart.

“It provides no support to the city of Calais, nor to the local population, and it leaves the mayor of Calais to manage the problem without financial assistance.”

In another thinly-veiled reference to Britain, she added: “A country cannot remain both in and out of Europe, creating problems but providing no compensation and no support to local authorities, such as mine and others, which are left alone to assume huge responsibilities.”

The mayor called for the EU to force all nations to join a new version of the Schengen system – meaning Britain would be required to drop passport checks at the border.

“At European level we need to insist that all EU countries sign up to the Schengen accords, which must also be revised,” said Miss Bouchart.

“Each European country must be obliged to participate in a new mechanism.

• Calais mayor threatens to block port over immigration row with Britain

• Calais illegal immigrants: Lorry drivers told 'don't stop within 100 miles of port'

• Illegal immigrants at Calais 'could target tourist cars'

“There must be restrictions, quotas that are revised every two to three years according to world events, because that’s key.

“Each country will have to create reception centres to provide the humanitarian assistance to migrants – something that doesn’t yet exist.

“We need to sanction European countries who don’t want to take any responsibility in this global problem.

“Attention paid to the consequences of migration is inadequate.

“We need to stop the hypocrisy. This is not going to stop tomorrow. The conflicts continue. People continue to arrive.”

Last year **Miss Bouchart told MPs migrants were drawn by this country’s £36 a week hand-outs to asylum seekers.**

Many were prepared to risk their lives in order to reach Britain, believing they are heading to “El Dorado”, she said.

“The real magnet is not the city of Calais but the benefits that are perceived in Great Britain,” she told the home affairs select committee.



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Turkey closes two border crossings with Syria amid fears of 'terrorist attack'

The Oncupinar and Cilvegözü border gates in Hatay Province were initially closed on March 9

By Louisa Loveluck

30 March 2015 • 18:16 pm



[Turkey](#) has partially closed its two remaining border crossings with [Syria](#), exacerbating a serious refugee crisis amid fears of a terrorist attack.

The Bab al-Hawa and Bab al-Salameh border gates were initially closed on March 9, after clashes in northern Syria. While aid trucks have since been allowed to cross the border

into Syria individuals have not been able to travel in either direction.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, an intelligence official [told the New York Times](#) that the decision to close the crossing was based on "solid intelligence about a large-scale terrorist attack".

The decision is a policy reversal for a country that has been praised for its open-door stance towards refugees. Turkey hosts more than two million Syrian refugees – more than any other country in the world.

Eleven other Turkish crossing points have shut over the past four years, as Syria's intractable civil war has intensified.

Before the partial closures, a border official estimated that up to 1,500 people travelled from Syria by way of the Bab al-Salameh crossing each day. A slightly lower number passed through Bab al-Hawa.

"On the one side the Assad regime is shelling the people and on the other side Turkey has closed its doors," Mustafa al-Najar, manager of the Syrian side of Bab al-Salameh [told the Wall Street Journal](#). "So where are the people supposed to go?"

Syrian refugees play in makeshift accommodation in the Suleymaniye district of Istanbul, Turkey (Getty Images)

The move to strangle migration flows in and out of Syria underscores the depth of the challenge facing Turkey as it wrestles with the dual challenges of a humanitarian crisis on its border, and the rising threat posed by Islamic extremists inspired by the fight in Syria and Iraq.

On Monday, Bashar al-Assad, Syria's president, accused Turkey of letting would-be jihadists cross the border on "a daily basis".

Five Dutch citizens were reportedly detained by Turkish security forces on Sunday, suspected of trying to cross into Syria illegally.

Turkey's porous 560-mile border with Syria remains a key entry point for foreign fighters flocking to join the [Islamic State's](#) self-declared caliphate.

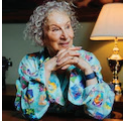
It is also the site of a flourishing black market that pours money into the coffers of rebel groups of varying ideological stripes.



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Image of dead Syrian boy captures human tragedy of Europe's migrant crisis

As politicians argue over how to handle the worst migrant crisis since the Second World War, the body of a little boy still dressed in T-shirt and shorts washes ashore

By Nick Squires and Peter Foster

02 September 2015 • 20:04 pm



It was an image that captured the human tragedy of [Europe's](#) migrant crisis: a [Turkish](#) border guard tenderly cradling the lifeless body of a [Syrian](#)-Kurdish toddler, washed ashore on the beach of a holiday resort.



The body of the little boy, still dressed in bright red t-shirt and shorts, was found lying face-down in the surf on the beach near the resort town of Bodrum, 250 miles west of the city of Antalya on Turkey's idyllic 'Turquoise Coast'.

As [Europe's politicians](#) struggle to reach consensus over how best to handle [the worst migrant crisis since the Second World War](#), the image of the dead child lit up the internet under the heading "humanity washed ashore".

The boy was among 23 migrants who Turkish naval officials said had set off in two small boats from the Bodrum peninsular in a failed attempt to reach the Greek island of Kos, where thousands of migrants have arrived in recent weeks.

He was named by Turkish state news agency as three-year-old Aylan Kurdi, who drowned along with his five-year-old brother Galip and their mother. Their father reportedly survived.

A total of five children and one woman were confirmed dead in the incident, while seven others were rescued and two reached the shore in lifejackets. Officials added that hopes of finding two other missing people alive were fading.

The deaths at Bodrum were only the most heart-breaking incident in another day of crisis along Europe's troubled borders, with new figures from Frontex, the European border control agency, estimating that 23,000 people had arrived in Greece alone last week.

That was a 50 per cent increase on the previous week and brought the total number of refugees to reach Greece in the first nine months of this year to 160,000 - already surpassing the total figure for last year.

Separately in Greece, two ships carrying more than 4,200 people, travelled to Piraeus port over night after leaving the island of Lesbos, another destination that has been deluged in recent weeks with migrants escaping North Africa and the war-torn Middle East.

Hungary

Meanwhile in eastern Europe, more than [2,000 migrants remained stranded outside the main railway station](#) in Budapest after Hungarian police refused to allow them to board trains to Germany and beyond.

Germany has already indicated it is willing to take larger numbers of migrants in a bid to encourage other European countries to shoulder their own share of the burden, but Hungarian officials appeared determined not set a precedent by allowing the migrants to leave Budapest.

A Hungarian government spokesman accused the German government of exacerbating the crisis by creating a "set of misunderstandings" that they would "take anyone who says they come from Syria".

"They play with us like a football"

Mohamad, a 34-year-old father of three from Damascus

Mehmet Ali, a Syrian migrant among the several hundred demonstrating in front of a police line blocking access to Budapest's Keleti train terminal, complained at his treatment at the hands of the Budapest police, but said he would not be deterred from trying to reach Germany.

“We will stay here to the end,” he told The Telegraph, adding that many of the migrants had been finger-printed, “no one wants to stay in Hungary. The police almost kill us.”

Conditions outside the station - designated a legally indeterminate “transit zone” by the Hungarian authorities - have become increasingly grim, with only one shower facility for approximately 2,000 people.

“They play with us like a football” said Mohamad, a 34-year-old father of three who has left his family in Damascus and had a rail ticket he hoped would get him out of Budapest, before the police intervened.

Austria

Across the border in Austria, police in Vienna rescued 24 young Afghan men from the back of a white van whose doors had been welded shut, narrowly avoiding a repeat of an incident last week when 71 migrants were found to have suffocated in the back of a lorry in a lay-by outside the city.

The migrants, who were all young Afghan men aged between 16 and 20 were found crammed into an almost airtight space measuring just 11 feet by 6 feet and were in “grave danger”, according to police.

The driver, a 30-year-old Romanian, fled on foot, and didn’t stop even after a warning shot was fired. He was later discovered by a police dog hiding nearby.

Czech Republic

As pressure on transit states intensified, In the Czech Republic, police were accused of evoking memories of 70 years ago after they began forcing migrants from trains on their way to Germany and writing identification numbers on their arms in ink.

Czech police were photographed writing the numbers on women and children at Breclav station, near the border with Austria. Around 200 migrants were ordered off trains arriving from Austria and Hungary on Monday night.

Most of the migrants, who were reported to be mainly Syrians, were believed to be trying to reach Germany on the trains that pass through the Czech Republic on their way to the German border.

Migrants told reporters they had bought valid tickets for the train and been allowed to board in Budapest.

Czech police backed down, announcing they would no longer prevent Syrian migrants from travelling to Germany, releasing the detainees on condition they leave the country within seven days. Alternatively, they are free to apply for asylum in the Czech Republic.

Germany

In Germany, which has unilaterally suspended the EU rules for Syrian asylum-seekers, there were signs of growing support for demands by Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, for the other European nations to share the burden of migrant flows from a war-torn Middle East.

Among them, a German internet service which connects refugees and citizens willing to share their homes said it had been [overwhelmed by offers of accommodation and financial support](#).

The Berlin-based website has helped people from countries including Syria, Somalia, and Burkina Faso, with more than 780 Germans signing up to offer assistance. So far, 26 people have been placed in private homes with 124 refugees matched overall across Germany and Austria.

Two of the founders of “Flüchtlinge Willkommen” - Refugees Welcome - site said they had opened their own home to a 39-year-old Malian refugee while he waits for a work permit.

The set the scheme up after camps in Germany became so full that the western city of Schwerte even proposed placing 21 refugees in a Nazi-era concentration camp barracks.

Slovakia

Under the EU's Dublin regulation, migrants are supposed to apply for asylum in the first member state, and face deportation if they travel to another. But Germany has said it will not deport Syrians fleeing the civil war in their country, and will process their applications.

The German approach has angered several smaller eastern European countries, including Slovakia and the Czech Republic, which have become routes for tens of thousands of migrants attempt to cross Europe to reach Germany, Sweden and other rich northern EU states.

Bohuslav Sobotka, the Czech prime minister, has called for a meeting with his Austrian and Slovak counterparts to discuss the migrant crisis in the region.

Brussels

As Brussels attracted mounting criticism for its apparent inaction in the face of the crisis, the European Commission tried to challenge the narrative of failure, saying Jean Claude Juncker, the Commission president had been working “day and night” on the migrant issue.

A spokesman for Mr Juncker said the Commission had tripled resources in the mediterranean since May and that the situation would have been far worse if they had not acted as they did.

In a bid to show they were gripping the crisis, the EU vice-president Frans Timmermans will lead a delegation to the Dodecanese on the Island of Kos on Friday to meet local politicians, NGOs and border force officials. They will also go to Piraeus, a major centre of migration processing.

Meanwhile EU Defence ministers met in Luxembourg to discuss moving the EU military operation in the Mediterranean into a second phase that would involve seizing trafficking vessels in international waters.

The plans came as Tory MEPs responded angrily to suggestions from Werner Faymann, the Austrian Chancellor, and allies of Angela Merkel that [Britain be denied a fair deal under its renegotiation](#) because of its refusal to share the migrant burden.

"Austria and Germany took their own decisions to join the Schengen borderless zone. They must not now try to blame Britain or punish us for the consequences," said Ashley Fox MEP.

Additional reporting by James Badcock in Budapest, Justin Huggler in Berlin, Matthew Holehouse in Brussels



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Refugee crisis: plight of migrant children stirs Europe's conscience

Questions are raised over the sustainability of Europe's freedom of movement as a migrant family grieves for their two boys

By Gordon Rayner And Peter Dominiczak; Peter Dominiczak and Gordonrayner

02 September 2015 • 22:38 pm



The plight of dying and suffering children has intensified debate across Europe about how to respond to the ever-worsening migrant crisis.

In Turkey, the [bodies of two boys reported to be aged three and five were washed ashore](#) after an overcrowded dinghy of Syrian refugees capsized on its way to Greece, prompting a huge outpouring of sympathy across the Continent.

- [EU refugee crisis: latest news](#)

Meanwhile, in Macedonia a policeman pictured carrying a screaming baby at the barbed wire border with Greece encapsulated the plight of the countless children making desperate journeys through the Balkans.

The images became a rallying point for those who argue Europe should be opening its arms to refugees.

But Wednesday night borders were being re-established, curtailing the free movement of people within the Schengen zone.

Border checks were carried out between Italy and Austria at the request of Germany amid signs that officials now believe the principle of “freedom of movement” within the EU is not sustainable. [David Cameron responded to calls for the UK to accept its “fair share” of refugees](#) by saying the answer to the crisis was not for Britain to take in “more and more” people.

After criticism from [Germany, which is giving homes](#) to 800,000 refugees, the Prime Minister said: “We have taken a number of genuine asylum seekers from Syrian refugee camps and we keep that under review, but we think the most important thing is to try to bring peace and stability to that part of the world. I don’t think there is an answer that can be achieved simply by taking more and more refugees.”

His stance was controversial even within his own party. David Burrowes, a Conservative MP and vice-chairman of the all-party parliamentary group on refugees, said the Government should give homes to “thousands” more people.

He told The Telegraph: “At the very least what we should be doing is accepting more than one per cent of Syrian refugees because we accept more than one per cent responsibility. We should be looking in the region of thousands rather than hundreds.”

Lord Dannatt, a former head of the Army, said: “Increasingly I’m coming to the view that we’re not doing enough. I know there is a domestic debate about immigration but I think the other debate is whether the European Union is doing enough.”

Schengen agreement 'under threat'

The implementation of checks at the Austria-Italy border came after tough new controls were imposed along Austria’s eastern border with Hungary.

Diplomats said that the Schengen system of open borders in the EU was “under threat”.

Stephan Mayer, a German MP and home affairs spokesman for Angel Merkel’s group of MPs, said: “I am extremely pleased that these border controls between Italy and Austria are under way. That was the express wish of the Bavarian government, given the dramatic increase in asylum seekers and refugees in southern Bavaria.”

Under the Schengen agreement, a country can introduce border controls in “exceptional circumstances”, where a “serious threat to public policy or internal security” is identified, but only for 30 days.

[Nigel Farage, the Ukip leader, said: “Schengen has now hit the buffers of the real world and is falling apart.”](#) In a crisis, national interests always prevail over European ideology.”

The European Commission described the controls as “police checks” and denied that it was a contravention of the Schengen agreement.

In [Calais](#), passengers on a Eurostar train from Paris to London took 16 hours to complete their journey after a security breach by migrants left them stranded. Up to 150 migrants tried to climb on to the carriages after stopping the train by lying on the tracks, forcing police to turn off the power to the overhead cables. Passengers spent five hours in hot, airless and dark carriages before being taken to a nearby station. Some fainted and a pregnant woman had to be taken to hospital.

Nevertheless, many passengers expressed sympathy for the migrants’ plight, saying their own inconvenience was nothing compared with those who risked their lives in a desperate attempt to reach the UK for a better life.

The two Kurdish boys whose bodies were washed ashore in Bodrum, Turkey, were named as Aylan Kurdi, three, and his brother Galip, five. Their mother also died but their father was among four survivors out of 23 passengers on two boats who set off from Turkey for the island of Kos. The couple went to a mortuary to say their goodbyes, but collapsed with grief and exhaustion and were taken to hospital.

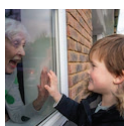
Downing Street said that a scheme for vulnerable Syrian refugees had resettled 216 in the UK since the beginning of the conflict there in 2011. A spokesman said that around 5,000 Syrians had been granted asylum in “the last few years”.

[Yvette Cooper](#), the shadow home secretary, said: “When mothers are desperately trying to stop their babies from drowning when their boat has capsized, when people are being left to suffocate in the backs of lorries by evil gangs of traffickers and when children’s bodies are being washed to shore, Britain needs to act.”

Frontex, the European border control agency, estimated that 23,000 people had arrived in Greece alone last week, a 50 per cent increase on the previous week, taking the total so far this year to 160,000.



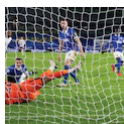
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Refugee crisis: How many Syrians have applied for asylum in Europe, and how many has Britain helped?

Amid a growing migrant crisis, here are how many refugees have been seeking asylum, and how many the UK has taken in

By Asa Bennett and Asa Bennet

03 September 2015 • 14:48 pm



Images of the Syrian toddler Aylan Kurdi, [washed up on a Turkish beach](#), have horrified social media and spawned widespread sympathy - under the "[#refugeeswelcome](#)" banner - and outrage at the perceived inaction of developed nations in helping refugees.

- [EU refugee crisis: latest news and updates](#)

Calls have mounted for Britain to take in more refugees, with supporters often claiming that it has only take in in 216 refugees out of the 4.1 million displaced by Syria's civil war. "That's not even a plane load," the Refugee Council's meme reads.

David Cameron has said we should not take any more refugees. We could hardly take any fewer. pic.twitter.com/CsAeKRloHr

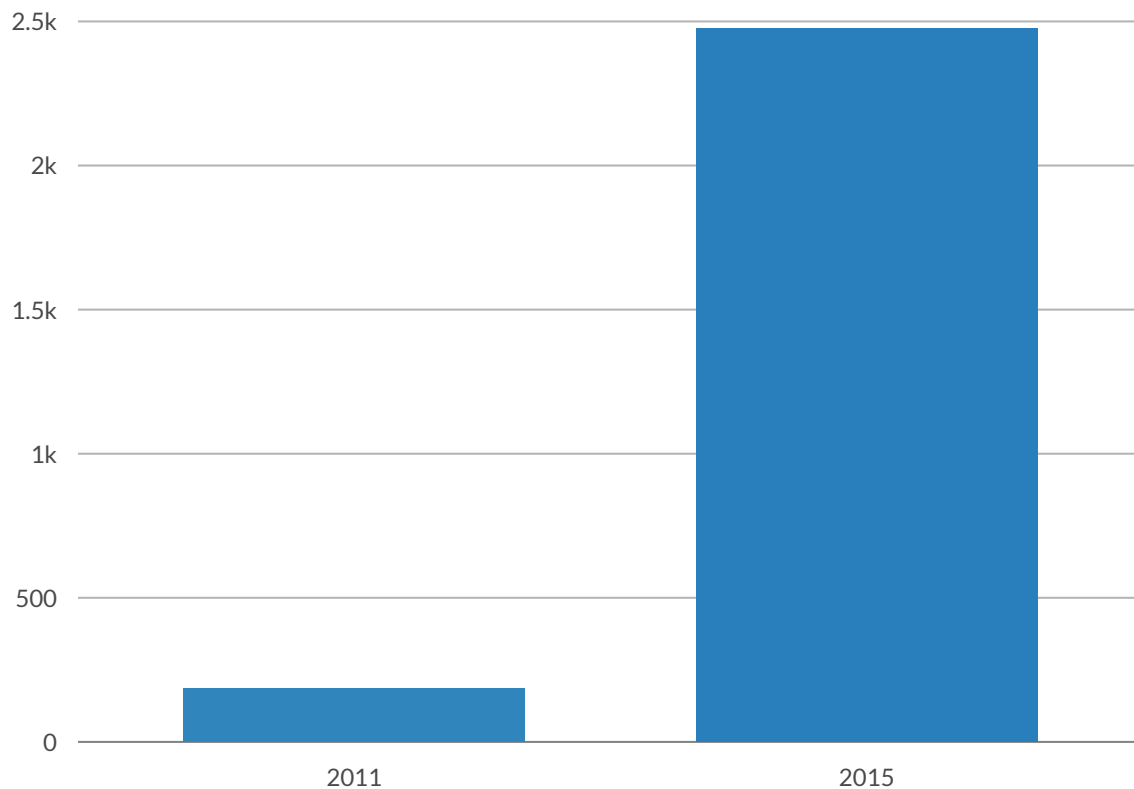
— Tim Montgomerie ☺ (@montie) [September 2, 2015](#)

But the official figures show Britain has taken significantly more since the Syrian crisis began in 2011, with many more refugees flocking to other countries like Germany for help. According to the Home Office, [4,866 Syrian nationals](#) have been granted asylum in Britain since early 2011.

The 216 figure refers to the number helped by the UK Government's "[Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme](#)", which was set up in January 2014 with the aim of helping several hundred refugees over the following three years, although there is no fixed quota.

Britain's appeal as a refuge for Syrian nationals has increased vastly over the last few years, with the number of applications received soaring following the outbreak of the civil war. In the year ending June 2015, including dependants, there were 2,475 asylum applications from Syrian nationals, as the chart below shows, compared to 186 in the year ending June 2011.

UK Asylum applications from Syrian nationals, including dependants, have soared over recent years

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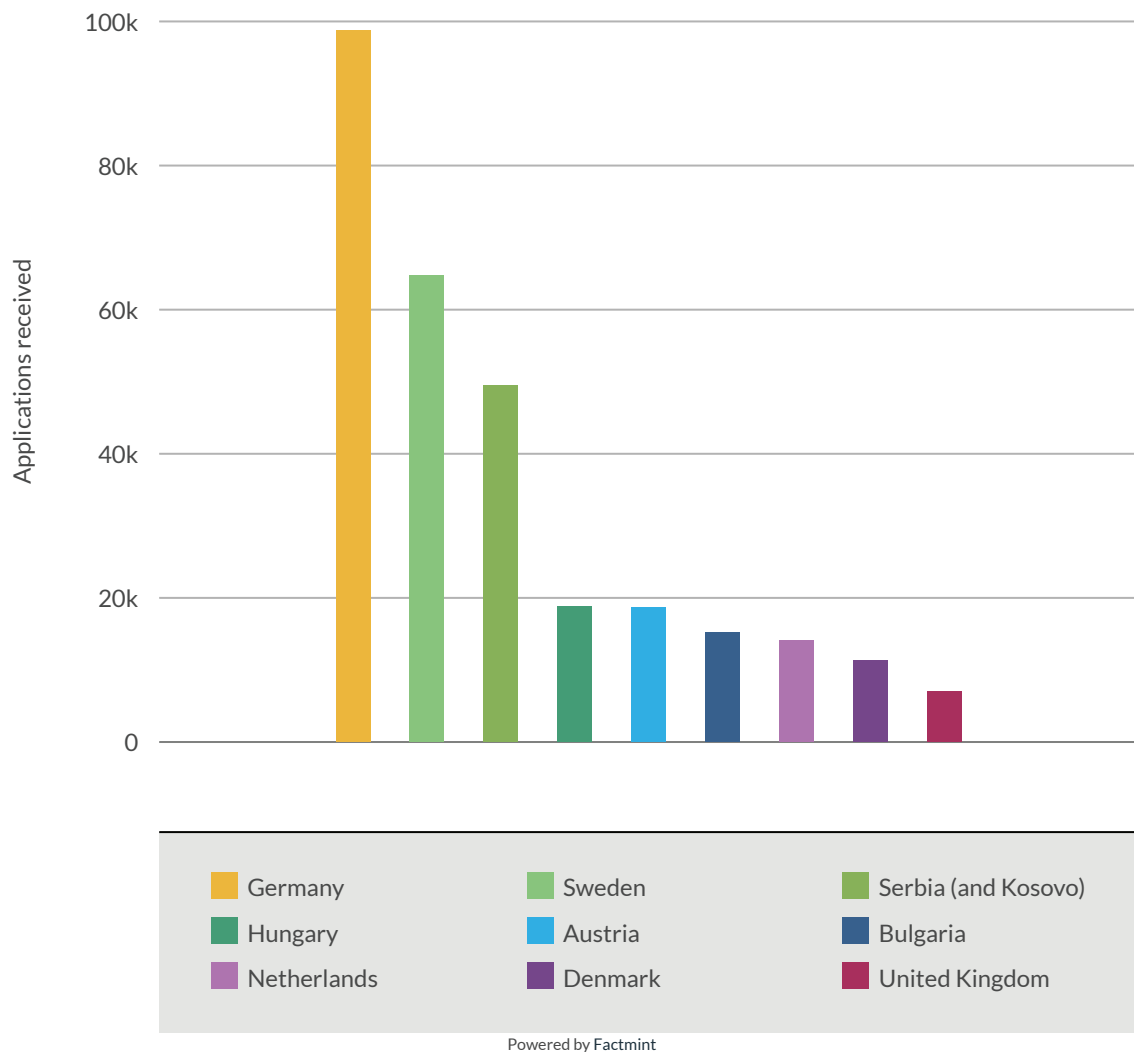
Home Office

Syrians have tended to flee to nearby countries like [Turkey](#), where the United Nation's High Commissioner for Refugees reports there being around 1.7 million refugees registered. [Lebanon is host to around 1.2 million](#), Jordan has [around 628,000](#), Iraq [approximately 247,861](#) and [Egypt around 133,862](#).

Increasing numbers of Syrians have come to Europe, [the UNHCR notes](#), "although it remains comparatively low, with around 6% of Syrians who have fled the conflict have sought safety in Europe".

Where have Syrian refugees been trying to seek asylum in Europe? An estimated 348,540 applications were made between April 2011 and July 2015, [according to the UNHCR](#), with Germany and Sweden being the most popular places, receiving nearly half of the applications made.

Europe: Where have Syrians applied for asylum? (from April 2011 to July 2015)



UNHCR

The United Kingdom has received just over 7,000 applications for asylum from Syrian nationals, significantly fewer than European partners like Austria (18,647) and Sweden (64,685).

The UK seems to have been as popular as European neighbours like France, which received 6,657 asylum applications over the period and Spain, which received 5,554.

The least popular European destinations were Iceland (14 asylum applications), Lithuania (28), Estonia (41), Latvia (89) and Ireland (101).

The influx of Syrian refugees has already made its mark in Europe, with Syria second only to Kosovo in popularity as country of origin for EU asylum seekers in early 2015.

[According to Eurostat](#), there were around 29,100 Syrians seeking asylum for the first time in Europe in the first three months of 2015.

The UK government is coming under increasing pressure to let in more Syrian refugees, with campaigners criticising the few numbers that have been granted asylum. Home Office minister James Brokenshire defended the government's approach in June, telling MPs that it was better to offer aid rather than sign up to a quota.

"We will continue to bring groups here on a regular basis. We have said we expect the scheme to help several hundred people over three years, and we remain on track to achieve that. In addition, over 4,200 Syrians have been granted asylum or other forms of leave in the UK under our normal asylum rules since the Syrian crisis began in 2011," [he said](#).

"...the Government believes the UK can add most value through a complementary scheme, focusing on helping the most vulnerable refugees who cannot be supported effectively in the region rather than a quota. With millions of people in need, we strongly believe that the UK can have the greatest impact by continuing to prioritise significant aid; we have donated £800 million, making the UK the second largest bi-lateral donor after the USA and helping to provide vital support to hundreds of thousands of people across the region. The Syrian conflict is a crisis of international proportions and we continue to play our full part in discussions with international partners."

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Prepare yourselves: The Great Migration will be with us for decades

It is not war, but money, that drives people abroad. That is not going to change any time soon

By Fraser Nelson

03 September 2015 • 19:26 pm



When the crew of HMS Bulwark [first fished immigrants out of the Mediterranean](#), they were expecting to find the world's hungry, wretched and destitute. Instead, they found them relatively healthy, well-dressed and carrying mobile phones and credit cards, which they intended to use upon arrival in Italy.

- [EU refugee crisis: latest news and updates](#)

The military learnt then what politicians are only slowly beginning to work out – that this is not simply a refugee crisis. The world's poor are on the move because they're not quite so poor as they used to be, and can afford to travel. A great migration has begun, and it could be with us for decades.

"This Great Migration was not expected because, for years, politicians believed that there would be less of it as poor countries became richer. In fact, the reverse is true."

Fraser Nelson

The photographs of [the body of Aylan Kurdi, a three-year-old Syrian boy](#), vividly convey the human tragedy on Europe's borders – but not the complexity. Many are fleeing war, but many are fleeing poverty. The Royal Navy [found a pregnant Nigerian woman who had paid \\$1,200 for the journey](#) and a father from Faisalabad, an industrial city in Pakistan.

Under European rules, they would be judged by whether they were fleeing war or poverty – but the distinction seems moot. All were prepared to risk death to give their families a better life; seeking only the right to start at the very bottom.



This Great Migration was not expected because, for years, politicians believed that there would be less of it as poor countries became richer. Give aid, not shelter, ran the argument. "As the benefits of economic growth are spread in Mexico," Bill Clinton once

assured Americans, “there will be less illegal immigration because more Mexicans will be able to support their children by staying home.”

When José Manuel Barroso led the European Commission, he made the same argument: third world development will tackle the “root causes” of the problem. In fact, the reverse is true.

Never has there been less hardship; since Clinton’s day, the share of the population in extreme poverty (surviving on less than \$1.25 a day) has halved. Never has there been less violence: the Syrian conflict is an exception in a period of history where war has waned. It might not feel like it, but the world is [more prosperous and peaceful than at any time in human history](#) – yet the number of emigrants stands at a record high. But there is no paradox. As more people have the money to move, more are doing so – and at extraordinary personal risk.

"A photograph of a drowned child is heartbreaking, but should not change policy: a botched response can lead to many more dead children. Hundreds of Yemeni children will likely starve this winter, victims of its civil war – we won't see the pictures, so we're unlikely to see anyone petitioning Parliament about them. But it's no less of a tragedy."

So the Great Migration is a side-effect of perhaps the greatest success of our times: the collapse in global poverty. The Washington-based Center for Global Development recently set this out, in a study drawing on more than a thousand national censuses over five decades.

When a poor country becomes richer, its emigration rate rises until it becomes as wealthy as Albania or Armenia are today. This process usually takes decades, and only afterwards does wealth subdue emigration. War is a catalyst. If conflict strikes, and the country isn't quite as poor as it once was, more of those affected now have the means to cross the world.

The digital age means they also have the information.

When the world was poorer, Europe could be pretty relaxed about immigration laws. The British Nationality Act of 1948 declared that all 600 million of the King's subjects had the right to settle in Britain – which, today, seems like lunacy. But then, no one cared: very few of those subjects had the means (or inclination) to migrate to our cold, depopulating island.

Even after shocks like the partition of India, which claimed a million souls and displaced at least 10 times as many, Britain was not deluged with immigration applications. In 1951, we signed the UN Refugee Convention promising to shelter anyone with a “well-founded

fear of persecution.” Wars kept being waged, but newcomers arrived at the rate of 100 a day.

Now, they’re arriving at 1,500 a day. Globalisation has transformed the global movement of people, as well as goods and money – and Britain handles this perhaps better than any country in Europe. We are one of the few countries in the world where unemployment rates for immigrants are no higher than for natives, and where there is no far-Right party causing havoc in Parliament.

We impose fairly tough rules (we even deport Frenchmen who don’t work) but Britain [is now the most successful melting pot in Europe](#). The countries currently urging us to take on more asylum seekers are, by and large, the same ones who are in crisis after accepting more than they have been able to handle.

If you misjudge the refugee crisis, you incubate a political crisis: this is the lesson that David Cameron has learnt. Efforts intended to help can end up causing harm, costing more lives. Since the Italian navy decided to send rescue missions to the Mediterranean, the number of people making the crossing (and perishing) has trebled.

Doubtless Angela Merkel meant well when she invited every Syrian to apply for asylum in Germany. But she will be toasted by the new breed of people traffickers, who will now have far more families to extort and leave stranded in Budapest or pack into boats on the coast of Libya.



A photograph of a drowned child is heartbreaking, but should not change policy: a botched response can lead to many more dead children. Hundreds of Yemeni children will likely starve this winter, victims of its civil war – we won't see the pictures, so we're unlikely to see anyone petitioning Parliament about them. But it's no less of a tragedy. There is, of course, more that Britain could and should do for Syrians; even taking 10,000, as Yvette Cooper suggests, is manageable for a country that absorbs this number of immigrants every week. But let's not pretend our doing so will help the rest of Syria's four million registered refugees.

The Great Migration is a 21st century problem, far bigger than Syria and bigger than the authorities in Brussels seem able to comprehend. To panic now, as Mrs Merkel is doing, will just bring more to panic about. The solutions of the last century – refugee camps, or the notion that you can stem the flow of migrants with foreign aid – need to be abandoned, and a new agenda needs to be forged. Europe, in short, needs to begin a new conversation. Given that David Cameron is one of the few people in Europe keeping his head throughout this crisis, he's the ideal man to start it.

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The refugees should stop coming by boat. Instead, we should fly them here

Europe has a duty to protect them, and treating them as temporary refugees saves money and stops them risking their lives on the Mediterranean

By Fran Ois Dufour

04 September 2015 • 12:47 pm



An [emergency situation requires an emergency solution](#). To stop the shipwrecks and the drownings in the Mediterranean (2,800 dead migrants since January), let's put the presumed refugees, or "would-be refugees" as described by the British press, on planes directly to Europe.

In the last 8 months, around 3 out of 4 migrants crossing the Med were asylum seekers. The other quarter was made up of economic migrants searching for jobs. For them, it's another story that I won't address here.

- [EU refugee crisis: latest news and updates](#)

According to the [UNHCR \(the UN Refugee agency\)](#), seven out of ten migrants in 2015 have been asylum seekers coming principally from 5 countries: Syria, Afghanistan, Erithrea, Somalia, Nigeria. Consequently one migrant out of two on those death-boats has the right to come to Europe.

More importantly, Europe has a duty to protect them. The 1951 Geneva Convention protects any "person owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion".

Europe also protects those who would take serious risks if they decide to return to their home country - this principle is called subsidiary or temporary protection.

Here's the problem: as long as they have not received refugee or protected person status or at the very least an asylum visa, they can not present themselves at airport check-in counters. Despite the fact that a flight would be less expensive and infinitely less risky, as demonstrated by the very convincing video made by demographer Hans Rosling.

Why Boat Refugees Don't Fly! - Factpod #16



The common sense solution is to grant them refugee or protected person status in situ. To do this, one must answer two questions: who grants this status? And whereabouts could it be granted in situ?

A first option: a UNHCR center in Tripoli or elsewhere on the African coast. With the power to grant refugee/protected person status, on behalf of European countries.

A second option: a European Union embassy, with the same power, in a few safe countries (which have flights to at least one European country): Algeria? Tunisia? Morocco? Sudan? Djibouti? Kenya? Lebanon? Countries that are safer than the ones the "boat-people" are fleeing from: Eritrea, Syria (for half of them, in 2015). But also: Somalia, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Iraq...

- [How many Syrians have applied for asylum in Europe?](#)

And this must be all be accomplished with great expediency as demanded by this emergency situation. Bear in mind that very few future refugees are currently requesting an asylum visa from say, a French Consulate in Africa -authorizing them to seek asylum or protection in France especially as the French agency for refugees (l'OFPRA) can take between 3 months to 2 years to resolve application requests.



Both options (via the UNHCR or via a European embassy) then require the repartition of the total number of refugees amongst the 28 EU countries.

Two main criteria could be used: population and wealth (GNP per inhabitant) and of course the foreign languages spoken by the refugees.

Another advantage of this on the spot solution: it reduces the large number of rejected [asylum seekers in Europe](#) who stay on illegally (around 3 out of 4) and who live in poverty.

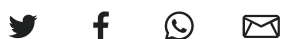
For the past 10 years I have interviewed African youths, both boys and girls, on the island of Lampedusa, in Italy.

During their journey, theoretically "from the African inferno to the European eldorado", they all have been robbed, assaulted, exploited, some of them tortured, others raped. Without mentioning all those who have drowned.

Why did they take such chances? Abdi, 15, and Sihan, 17, left a situation of total chaos in Somalia. Mohamed, an 18-year-old boy from Eritrea, refused to be chain-ganged for life into the dictator's army. Just like Abel, 16 and Rubel, 17. Gift, 18, from Nigeria, fled Boko Haram. Cynthia, a Nigerian an 18 year-old orphan, was sold by her uncle.

After hearing their stories, I always say to myself: in their shoes, [I too I would have fled](#) towards the Mediterranean.

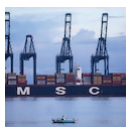
François Dufour is a reporter and Lampedusa specialist



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The UK must keep shifting away from continental Europe

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The lifeless body of Aylan Kurdi has changed everything

Bryony Gordon asks: how can we sweat the small stuff when little boys are washing up like flotsam and jetsam?

By Bryony Gordon

04 September 2015 • 14:04 pm



It all seems so laughable now, doesn't it? All that fuss about the people forced to spend a shocking *five* hours on a Eurostar train in sweltering carriages with no lights? The stories of passengers, terrified by the "migrants" climbing on the roof of the train, as if they were zombies or vampires ready to suck the life out of everyone, rather than young men desperate for a life that doesn't involve beheading and raping? (Please can we start calling the men at Calais refugees, too?).

And then the pictures of the passengers in Paris wrapped in foil blankets... These photographs – and the importance we attached to them – feel as if they were taken in another lifetime, rather than at the beginning of the week.

The lifeless body of Aylan Kurdi has changed everything. [How can we care about the inconveniences that befall holiday-makers when three-year-olds are washing up on beaches?](#) How can we stress about Tube strikes and house prices and whether or not Taylor Swift's latest video is racist because it is set in Africa but only features two black people?

Oh yes, this may seem like the ultimate example of 'whataboutery', the practice whereby people dismiss someone's concerns because there are worse things going on in the world.

But really, what *about* your five hours sitting on a train when there are thousands of refugees who would *love* to be stuck on the Eurostar, heading to a nice warm bed in Paris or London, were it not for the fact that they are crammed like sardines – no, I mean *really* crammed like sardines, for days on end, and not just for 15 minutes in a Tube tunnel on their way home from work – into carriages outside Budapest that are going nowhere?

What *about* your rubbish journey back from a lovely long weekend in Paris, or the extra hours you had to spend in the car en route to your villa in the south of France? [What about all of this, when little boys are washing up like flotsam and jetsam](#) and scenes that could have come straight from a film about the Holocaust are being played out right now, in the year of our Lord 2015?

These images have galvanised people. Some Labour leadership candidates have held up signs saying "Refugees Welcome". Hundreds of thousands of people have signed petitions calling for the Government to allow these refugees in to the country.

All week we have (rightly) been talking about what we can give to these displaced people – can we buy them tents, jackets and sleeping bags? – but the more I see of this humanitarian crisis, the more I realise that these refugees have something incredibly valuable to give us.

[They can teach us about stoicism, humility, bravery and patience.](#) They can teach us perspective. From these people we can learn that all that really matters is family, health and safety. The rest of it is just white noise.

And perhaps, because of them, we can look at changing our own behaviour. In the age of social media, with nuanced debate at an all time low, it is all too easy to shout and scream

before tiring and moving on to something else – a dead lion, perhaps, or any one of the other desperate causes that have trended on Twitter since its inception. (Remember #bringbackourgirls? They are still kidnapped.)

But this humanitarian crisis doesn't end with David Cameron rolling over and opening up the doors to Britain. [Once here, Syrian refugees need housing, food, jobs, support. They will no doubt need counselling.](#) None of these things can be plucked out of thin air, nor out of a week's worth of well-intentioned tweets.

The empathy shown on social media in the last few days comes from a good place, but it is worth next to nothing if in a fortnight's time the reason for it is forgotten. So we must not turn away from refugees, and the issues that surround them. There are whispers of this being a moment, but we must not let it just be a moment. It needs to be more than that. It needs to be a movement.

• [EU refugee crisis: latest news and updates](#)



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Migration crisis: Desperate refugees escape camps and start a 110-mile trek to Austria

Stand-off continues at Bicske station between Hungarian authorities and refugees

By Raziye Akkoc

04 September 2015 • 19:40 pm



- 300 refugees and migrants broke out of camp near Serbia - later caught
- Refugees walk from Budapest station and say they will go 110 miles to Austria
- Four Syrians charged over the deaths of 12 including Aylan Kurdi
-

Cameron confirms Britain will accept thousands of refugees

- [Father of drowned child takes his family to Kobane](#)
- EU migrant crisis: as it happened September 3

Latest

19.40

Conclusion

Thank you for following the Telegraph's live coverage of the refugee crisis. But before the Telegraph ends this blog, here is a summary of what has happened today:

- 1 This morning the day began yet again as the previous day ended: the siege in Bicske station, Hungary, continued with more than 500 migrants and refugees on a train refusing to be taken to a nearby camp. That siege continued for the rest of the day until a few hundred decided they would walk to Austria...
- 2 ...which is what happened at Keleti station in Budapest where more than 2,000 migrants and refugees had slept for several days after first being refused inside the rail station then allowed to enter but no international trains available. Today again, international trains were cancelled

- 3 Some 500 of those decided they would walk 110-miles to Austria and are walking this evening.
- 4 At a camp near Rozke, hundreds of refugees broke out of a camp near the Serbian border and authorities closed the nearby border post. However they were soon captured, police said.
- 5 Abdullah Kurdi buried his three-year-old and five-year-old sons and wife Rehan Kurdi who died after drowning in their attempt to go to Greece. The distraught father wept as the coffins were lowered into the ground.
- 6 Meanwhile in Turkey, four Syrian men were charged with multiple manslaughter and people trafficking after 12 people died in the boat sinking that killed Mr Kurdi's family. They have been remanded in custody.
- 7 After a meeting of eastern European leaders in Prague, the ministers of Czech Republic and Slovakia suggested creating a rail corridor between Hungary and Germany.

18.45**'Why do they treat us like animals?'**

Peter Foster has been speaking to those marching from Keleti railway station towards Austria (which is 110 miles away).

“Why do they treat us like dogs, like animals – no other country does this?” said 18-year-old

Salah Zooabie, a Syrian student who left the southern town of Dar'aa

two years ago for Egypt before crossing to Greece by boat and then by land to Hungary.

Like many on the march from Keleti rail station, Mr Zooabie had paid €125 for a railway ticket to Austria, but had been unable to use it after the Hungarian authorities shut the international train lines in a bid to draw a line under the mass-migration of recent months which has seen 160,000 migrants enter Hungary this year.

UPDATE: Nick Squires in Bodrum shared this: At the end of the hearing, the four men were charged with multiple manslaughter and people trafficking. They were remanded in custody.

18.12**Four Syrians formally charged in Turkey over boat deaths**

A prosecutor has charged four Syrian individuals over the deaths of at least 12 people, including three-year-old Aylan Kurdi, a local police chief told **Reuters**.

This is from **Reuters**: Prosecutors charged the Syrians with smuggling migrants and causing multiple deaths by "conscious negligence" in connection with the drowning of the group after it set off from the Turkish resort peninsula of Bodrum.

18.04

'Dead child image shows need for tough Australia-style border policies'

Tony Abbott, Australia's prime minister, says the images of a dead Syrian boy on a Turkish beach were "very sad" but showed the need for tough Australian-style border policies, writes **Jonathan Pearlman in Sydney**.

"If you want to stop the deaths, if you want to stop the drownings you have got to stop the boats," he told ABC News.

"We saw yesterday on our screens a very sad, poignant image of children tragically dead at sea in illegal migration. Thankfully, we have stopped that in Australia because we have stopped the illegal boats.

"We have said to the people smugglers: 'Your trade is closed down.'"

Since winning a general election in 2013, Mr Abbott has effectively ended the flow of asylum seekers but his measures have been criticised as illegal under international law. His suite of measures have included allegedly paying people smugglers to turn around and sending all arrivals to offshore island detention camps.

One of the camps, in the remote Pacific nation of Nauru, was this week labelled unsafe and inappropriate by a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr Abbott's approach was criticised as "unconscionable" in a [New York Times editorial](#) on Thursday.

The piece, which was widely reported in Australia, said Mr Abbott's policies have been "inhumane, of dubious legality and strikingly at odds with the country's tradition of welcoming people fleeing persecution and war".

"It is inexcusable that some [asylum seekers] find themselves today in situations that are more hopeless and degrading than the ones that prompted them to flee," it said.

17.43

You will remember (those of you following the blog since earlier this afternoon) that 300 migrants and refugees broke out of Roszke camp in Hungary near the Serbia border and were later all captured, police said.

Now more have broken through a barrier and have been involved in clashes with riot police, according to **Reuters**.

Czech Republic and Slovakia have also suggested creating a rail corridor for Syrian refugees that would link Germany and Hungary.

"The Czech Republic and Slovakia can create a rail corridor for Syrian refugees travelling from Hungary to Germany, if Berlin and Budapest agree," Milan Chovanec, Czech interior minister, said at a joint press conference in Prague.

17.25**17.05**

Faisal Alazem who leads the Syrian Canadian council has told the Telegraph Syrians around the world are "emotionally devastated" at what happened to Aylan Kurdi and his family, and also to the plight for Syrians around the world, **US Editor Ruth Sherlock** and **former Middle East correspondent**.

There are more than 2000 Syrians who have died in the same way as Aylan. Whenever people escape Syria they think that they are safe. They have fled Isis [Isil], Assad, the

bombs. But no, they are still very vulnerable. They are unable to work and they know the war will take a long time. So they are looking for long term solutions.

"The problem is there is no legal process by which they can leave. The embassies don't accept applications and in so doing, we are encouraging them to make this dangerous journey by sea."

Mr Alazem said that for the past four years he has received "at least 10 messages per day" from Syrians asking for help in getting asylum status or financial support so they can smuggle themselves out.

16.59

Eastern Europe rejects quotas

The prime ministers of Hungary, Poland and the Czech and Slovak republics have rejected the proposal of migrant quotas, branding the idea as "unacceptable" in a further blow to the chances of finding a European consensus on the migration crisis.

The rejection came following a meeting of the four countries - known collectively as the Visegrad Group - in Prague on Friday. In a joint statement, the leaders said:

Preserving the voluntary nature of EU solidarity measures – so that each member state may build on its experience, best practices and available resources; principles agreed at the highest political level, including in European Council conclusions must be respected. Any proposal leading to introduction of mandatory and permanent quota for solidarity measures would be unacceptable."

In a swipe at Germany the four also called for all member states to abide to their legal obligations and return migrants to the country where they first registered for asylum.

16.45

A series of tweets, which come from a Twitter account believed to be that of Austin Mitchell, former Labour MP, have raised the eyebrows of many sympathetic to the refugee crisis, writes **Helena Horton**.

He tweeted: "Idea. Why no[sic] welcome refugees and expell[sic] an equivalent number of Eastern E£uropeans[sic] to make space?"

"Isn't bringing Syrian refugees from camps outside the EU favouring the least enterprising who'd not had the initiative to escape?"

Mr Mitchell was the MP for Grimsby from 1977 to May 2015 and has previously been embroiled in a [Twitter controversy with ex-Conservative MP Louise Mensch](#), tweeting: "A good wife doesn't disagree with her master in public and a good little girl doesn't lie about why she quit politics."

A Labour press officer told the Telegraph: "I don't know why we would give you a quote about a former MP."

[@AVMitchell2010](#) Another idea. Why not expel ex-politicians to desert island without internet? You John Prescott & George Galloway for start
— Gorgeous Wreck (@DeGorgeousWreck) [September 4, 2015](#)

The wrong sort of refugees? What a tool..[@WikiGuido](#)
— James (@_JamboJim) [September 4, 2015](#)

He's the second former politician to cause a stir on Twitter because of ill-advised tweets. Yesterday, Peter Bucklitsch, who stood as a candidate in general elections for both Ukip and the Lib Dems, and campaigned for the Conservatives, tweeted: "The little Syrian boy was well clothed and fed. He died because his parents were greedy for the good life in Europe. Queue jumping costs."

Both the Lib Dems and Ukip distanced themselves from Mr Bucklitsch after viewing the tweet.

16.17

German customs have seized packages of Syrian passports being sent in the post, the finance ministry said on Friday, writes **Justin Huggler in Berlin**.

It is suspected they may be used by economic migrants to pose as refugees fleeing the civil war in Syria. Both genuine and fake Syrian passports are believed to have been found in the packages that were intercepted.

A spokesman for the ministry told reporters police were currently investigating the documents, but would not comment on how many were found.

There is believed to be a market for Syrian documents as European countries tighten the rules to make sure only those in genuine need are admitted as asylum-seekers.

Germany has unilaterally suspended EU rules for Syrian refugees, and said it will process their asylum claims regardless of where they entered the EU.

But Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, is trying to change the country's asylum system to deter economic migrants from safe countries like the Balkans, by making it easier for them to be deported.

"A lot of people enter Turkey with fake Syrian papers, because they know that they'll get asylum in the EU more easily," Fabrice Leggeri, the head of Frontex, the EU's border agency, told French radio.

Pregnant migrant rescued from water shortly before giving birth

A heavily pregnant Nigerian woman pulled to safety from a dinghy along with 104 other migrants gave birth on board the Italian coast guard ship that had rescued her before taken to hospital on the Italian island of Lampedusa, writes **Chiara Palazzo**.

16.12

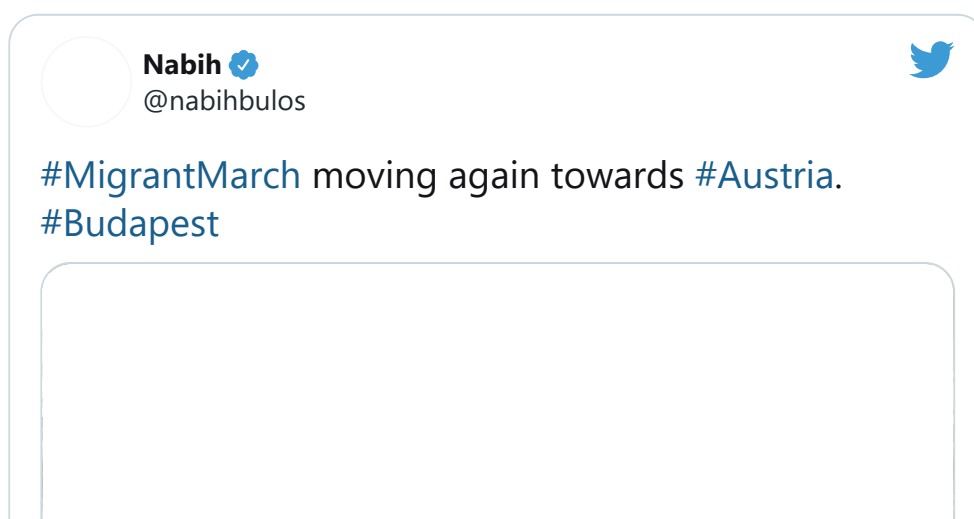
Hundreds of migrants and refugees who set off from Budapest's railway station this morning at 10am are now about nine miles from central Budapest on the M1 motorway to Vienna, writes **Peter Foster** at the scene.

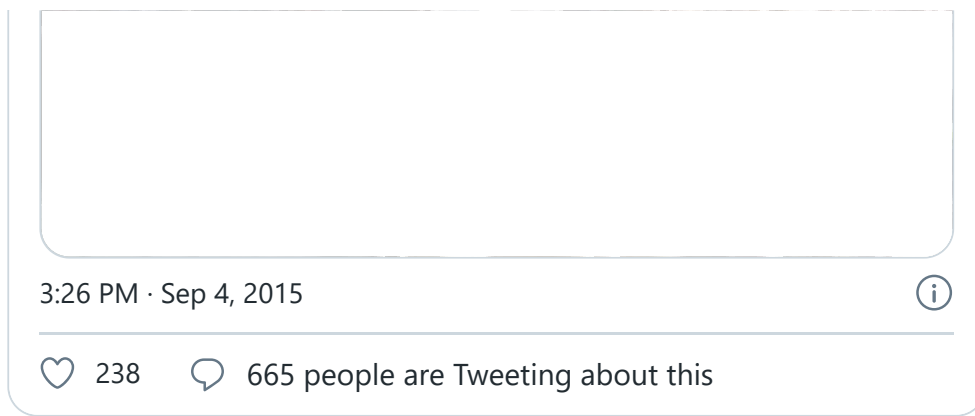
The exodus is taking place alongside afternoon commuter traffic, with a wailing escort of police, and a helicopter overhead.

Loya Kamal, a 17 year old Somali who says he spent five days at the station concourse said he would march "until Germany".

"My country is very poor. We have had 18 years of war," he said in broken English, adding he had come from a refugee camp in Turkey where he had lived for several years.

Like a lot of people, many with children, he said he wanted to come to Europe for a better life. "We want peace. And better life. Better life."





15.45

European leaders attempting to impose quotas of migrants on countries across the continent are “encouraging” people to make “potentially lethal” journeys, David Cameron has said, writes **Peter Dominiczak, The Telegraph's Political Editor**.

The Prime Minister rejected calls from Jean-Claude Juncker, the European Commission president, and other European leaders including Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, for Britain to take its “fair share” of migrants.

He said that the Government’s plan to resettle thousands of Syrian refugees is “a better approach” because you are not encouraging people to make “dangerous crossings”.

Speaking in Madrid, he said: “Britain is not part of Schengen. We’ve maintained our border controls. So we don’t take part in this quota of migrants who’ve arrived in Europe and get spread around Europe. But we will do our bit by taking migrants directly – sorry, refugees directly from the refugee camps, which we think is a better approach because you’re not saying to people, ‘make a dangerous crossing and we’ll give you asylum’.

“We’re saying we will play our part in resettling those people who need resettling, but we’ll take you from refugee camps rather than encourage people to make this dangerous, potentially lethal crossing.”

15.39

How many Syrians have applied for asylum in Europe?

Where have Syrian refugees been trying to seek asylum in Europe? An estimated 348,540 applications were made between April 2011 and July 2015, according to the UNHCR, with Germany and Sweden being the most popular places, receiving nearly half of the applications made, writes **The Telegraph's Asa Bennett**.

UK Asylum applications from Syrian nationals, including dependants, have soared over recent years

Year ending Asylum applications from Syrian nationals

2011	186
2015	2475

[Home Office](#)

[You can read Bennett's piece in full here](#) where he also explains how many Syrian refugees the UK has taken (216 via a special scheme but nearly 5,000 have been given asylum).

15.23

Another breakout of refugees in Hungary

Hungarian state news agency is reporting that up to 300 migrants and refugees at Biske rail station have escaped.

These were among the 500 stopped at the train station on their way to Sopron, close to the border with Austria, after 48 hours of being outside Keleti rail station in Budapest.

They had not been given permission to enter the station in the Hungarian capital and once the two days passed, police abandoned their positions and they were able to enter the station.

Police are also now saying that they have captured the majority of the 300 who escaped from Roszke camp near the Serbian border, **Reuters** reports.

15.15

UK to give £100m more to Syrian refugees

The total contribution from the UK to those fleeing the Syrian civil war has increased to £1 billion after the Prime Minister announced an additional £100 million in aid.

David Cameron has just given a speech and is taking questions now with Spain's prime minister, Mariano Rajoy.

15.10

Hungary crisis: emergency anti-migration laws passed

As migrants and refugees remain in a standoff and some start walking to Austria, Hungary's parliament upped its response and has just introduced emergency anti-

migration laws.

AFP reports that new measures include three-year jail sentences for those who climb over a newly-built razor wire fence on the border with Serbia. Other measure include new border "transit zones" that will hold asylum seekers while applications are processed.

14.59

'Desperate refugees walk to Austria'

How did the crisis at Keleti rail station in Budapest begin?

According to Reuters, more than 400 migrants - led by a Syrian man - have decided to march through Budapest and added they would walk to Austria.

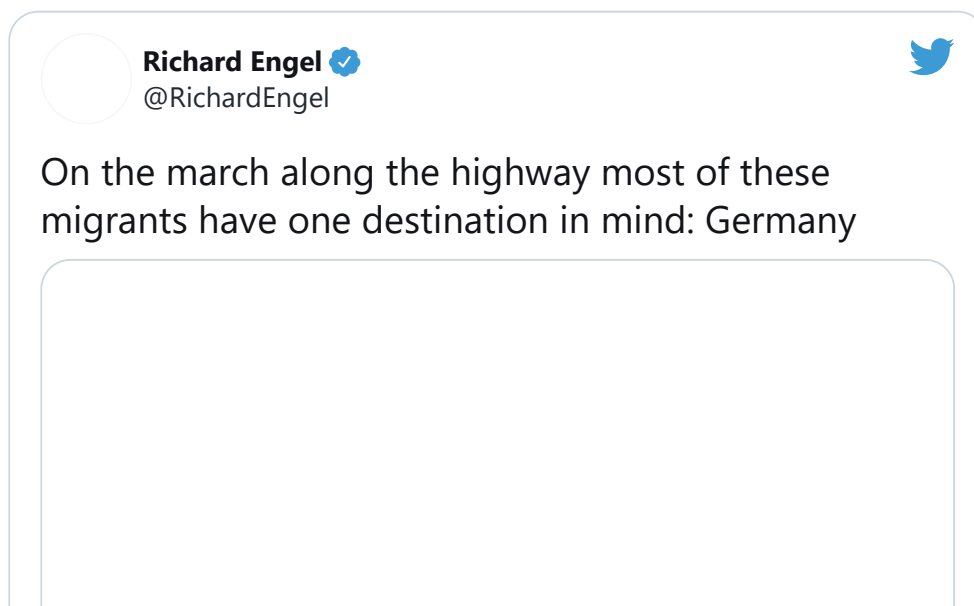
Some news outlets predict the number of those walking is higher and could be up to 1,000.

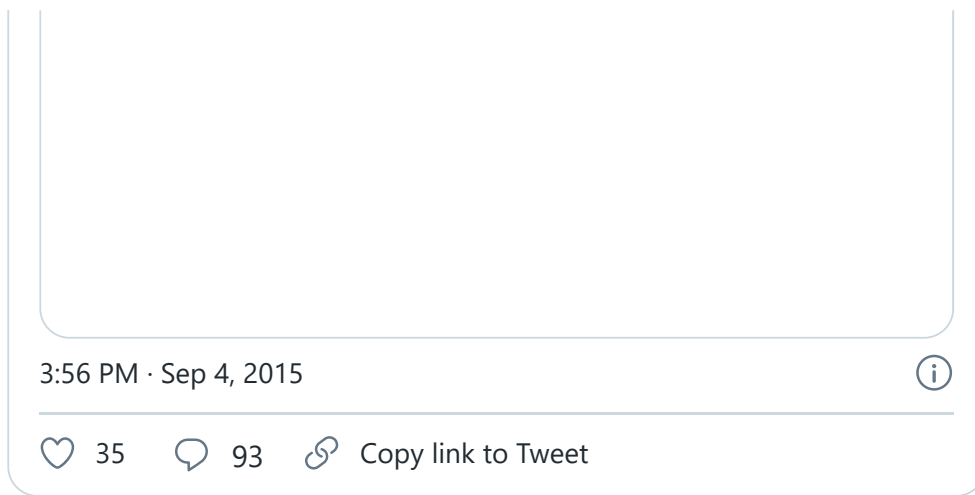
According to Hussein Kesvani, a reporter at of BuzzFeed News who has been in Budapest this morning at Keleti station, those on the march are still walking, "most people relying on iPhone GPS and walking routes to avoid kettling".

Walking still continuing and most people relying on iPhone GPS and walking routes to avoid kettling

— Hussein Kesvani (@HKesvani) [September 4, 2015](#)

Richard Engel of NBC News says the one destination the migrants and refugees are thinking of is Germany. Those walking told Engel that after the Syrian war, "they can handle this walk no matter how long it is".





14.41

How do we solve this crisis?

Jan Semmelroggen, expert on migration policy and management at Nottingham Trent University, spoke to the Telegraph earlier this week.

He said there was no easy solution because what would solve the crisis would be to end the wars in the Middle East and to get rid of economic inequality - things that of course would not be easy.

But in the long term, democracy and equal rights were issues that needed to be addressed in countries where people fled from, he added.

He criticised the lack of a burden-sharing agreement in relation to the refugees and migrants after the UK and eastern European countries refused to participate.

Germany and Sweden are taking the vast majority of refugees, who are fleeing wars, especially in Syria.

"Initially the German government thought it would take 400,000, now it's 800,000. 40,000 [the number given by European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker earlier this year for EU countries to home] won't cut it anymore."

"This is a humanitarian crisis. Look at countries like Turkey and Lebanon taking three million, carrying the majority of the burden."

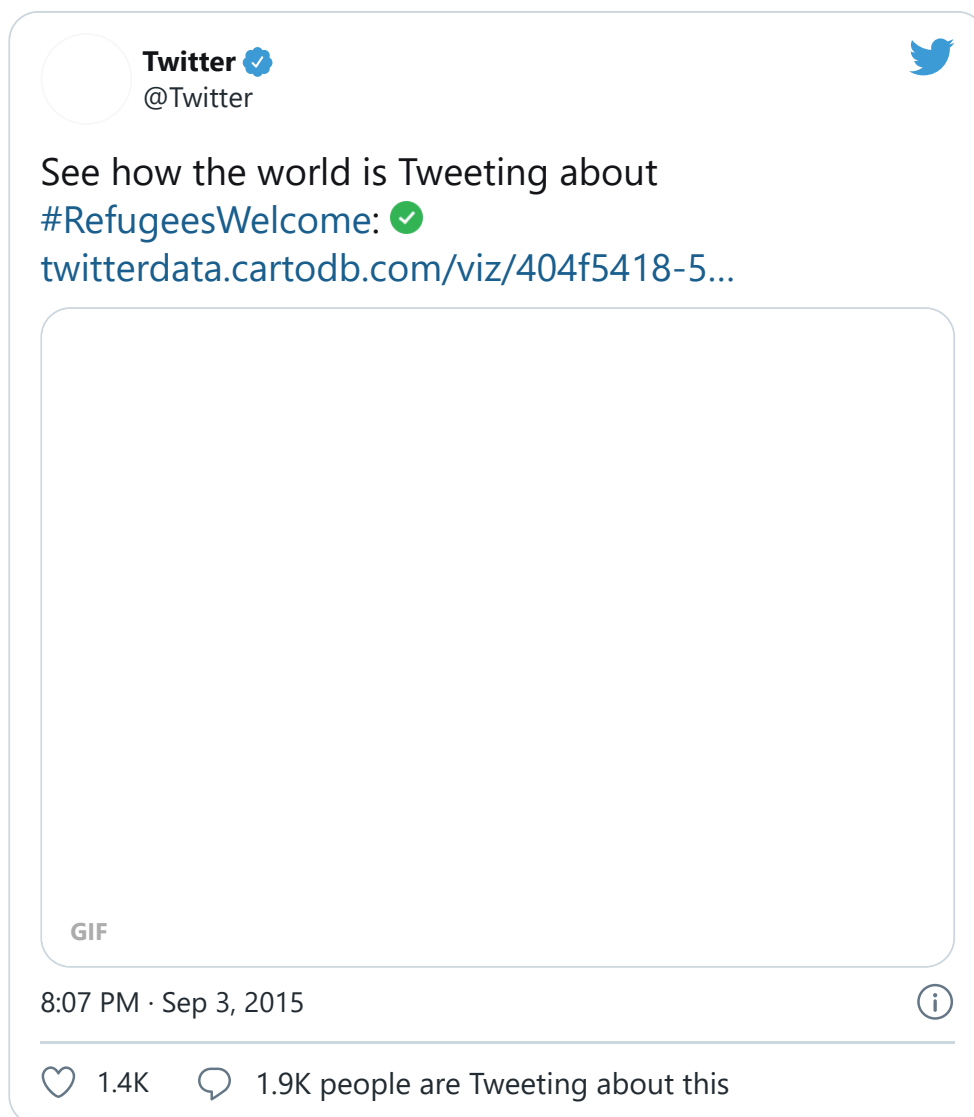
"There needs to be an agreement right now - this is a crisis happening right now."

He warned this crisis would not end any time soon. "The Syrian war will continue for at least a couple of years."

He also attacked the policy thus far in the UK on immigration which is "politically toxic" he said.

"The UK Government's policy is keep them out and keep the borders shut. The UK is not pulling its weight."

On Calais, he made remarks that may cause concern. Mr Semmelroggen said it would get worse as more migrants sought escape to the UK via other ferry and transport links.



14.06

Abdullah Kurdi tells Arab governments to help

It was mentioned earlier that Abdullah Kurdi cried as he watched his youngest child's body placed into a coffin and lowered into the ground along with those of his brother

Galip, 5, and their mother Rehan, 35, in the 'Martyrs' Cemetery' in Kobane.

For those not too familiar, Kobane is a mainly Kurdish town in northern Syria close to the border with Turkey that has come under attack from Isil.

"I want Arab governments - not European countries - to see (what happened to) my children, and because of them to help people," he said.

13.39

Nigel Farage, speaking in central London, has given his view on the refugee crisis, saying that 95 per cent of those entering Europe are economic migrants, writes **David Hodari**.

Mr Farage listed a number of causes for alarm and suspicion.

You only have to look at Calais and the summer of total disruption in Kent... to understand that we face the risk - be it in Italy or Greece or Hungary - that at some point someone gets so tired of what's going on and realises that all they have to do [get] EU passports and then they [refugees] would be free to travel to the UK. We're not isolated in any way of course."

The Ukip MEP also stoked fears of international terrorism.

"When ISIS [Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant - Isil] say they will use they will use the migrant tide to flood Europe with 500,000 of their own jihadists," he said. "I think we'd better listen. Five hundred thousand may not be realistic. But what if it's 5,000? what if it's 500?"



as follows:

13.26 Hungary crisis: a summary

In this blog, the Telegraph has mentioned situations in three different places where migrants and refugees which are

Bicske, where more than 500 migrants and refugees have been in a standoff with authorities. They are refusing to leave the train and slept on it last night. It began after police stopped the train at the station once it had departed from Keleti train station.

Keleti train station is where more than 1,000 migrants stranded for days and forced to sleep outside the station when authorities forbid them from entering, are now walking to the Austrian border, according to AFP.

A "huge crowd" have said they will walk 110 miles to the border and among the crowd are people in wheelchairs and crutches.

People have said the trail of refugees trying to leave is over 1km
pic.twitter.com/IZ50VRAAf8

— Hussein Kesvani (@HKesvani) [September 4, 2015](#)

23-year-old Osama from Syria told AFP: "We are very happy that something is happening at last, The next stop is Austria. The children are very tired, Hungary is very bad, we have to go somehow."

And at a camp near Rozke, apparently 300 migrants and refugees broke out of a reception camp and now the Hungarian authorities have closed the nearby border post with Serbia.

12.49

More than 2,000 migrants and refugees at a Hungarian reception camp near the Serbian border are threatening to break out if their demands - which are not known - are not met, police have said, according to **Reuters**.

The camp near Rozke has already seen 300 break out but police said they were trying to capture all of them, after they broke into small groups.

Viktoria Csiszer-Kovacs, a police spokesman, said they were seeking a peaceful solution but a riot unit had been called in to secure it.

Meanwhile in Kobane...

The funerals for Aylan, Galip and Rehan Kurdi have taken place with Abdullah Kurdi saying his final goodbyes to his family after they drowned attempting to cross from Turkey to Greece.

12.39

'We're going to die'

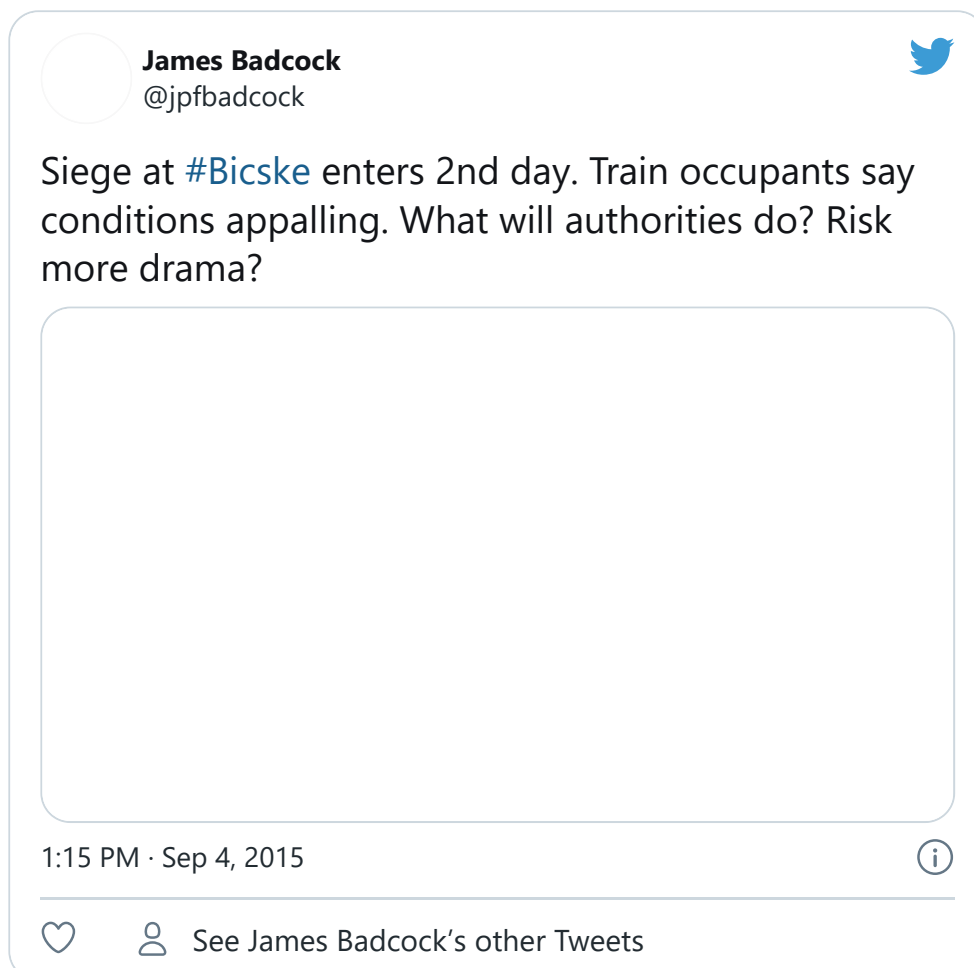
Refugees and migrants at the centre of the siege at Bicske station have told of desperate conditions on the train as the standoff enters a second dramatic day, writes **James Badcock in Bicske**.

A man who said he had travelled from Syria emerged from the stationary train to plea for international assistance to end the crisis and allow the passengers to move on to their desired destination of Germany.

"We have no food, no water; it's too dirty. We are going to die," the man said, flanked by several mothers and fathers with their small children, and other migrants demanding that the train be allowed to continue its journey.

Some of the women screamed and smashed their hands against the wire fence separating the tracks on which the packed train stands from reporters gathered in front of the station building.

One man momentarily dangled his son over the fence, shouting to the police that they could take the boy but not him.



“Where is the United Nations or our human rights?” the Syrian man asked. “The Hungary government and all the world should see our women and children.”

He said that the authorities had delivered just 20 sandwiches and two boxes of water for the occupants of the train. The men, he said, did not need to eat or drink, but the women and children were becoming weak. He claimed that one woman on the train was close to giving birth and a diabetic person did not have insulin or sugar to take.

Red Cross workers then handed several packs of bottled water over the fence.

As riot police continue to surround the train with buses waiting outside the station to take the migrants away to ensure they have all registered asylum claims in Hungary, more Syrians have arrived to effectively join the protest.

Mohamed, a 25-year-old who said he started his journey in Damascus, explained how he and his 12 companions had been detained by police yesterday at Tatabanya station in Hungary when they were heading for the border town of Hegyeshalom.

After the police had registered them by taking their fingerprints, he said they had been told to take a train to Bicske, from where they could get to Budapest. Mohamed said that having been foiled in their bid to walk across the border, they wanted to return to the impromptu refugee camp at Budapest’s Keleti station to be with relatives who are still in the capital.

“We will stay here with these people on the train; they are Syrians. We want to go to Germany too,” Mohamed said from his group’s resting place in an alcove by the station building.

“They caught us in the tunnel [under the platforms] and wanted to take us away. We saw the buses outside and did not want to go. Once outside they could not force us with all the cameras here.”

12.13

Bob Geldof opens home to refugees

Bob Geldof has joined those opening their homes to refugees, writes **Helena Horton**.

The singer has opened his Kent and London homes to four refugee families in disgust at the crisis in Europe.

He joins MPs, Councils and the York Minster in welcoming refugees to the UK. The aid worker has said that refugees are welcome at his family home in Kent and his apartment in London.

He told the Irish radio station RTE: "If there's a new economy then there needs to be a new politics and it's a failure of that new politics that's led to this disgrace, this absolute sickening disgrace."

"I'm prepared - I'm lucky, I've a place in Kent and a flat in London - me and (partner) Jeanne would be prepared to take three families immediately in our place in Kent and a family in our flat in London, immediately, and put them up until such time as they can get going and get a purchase on their future."

He said that the tragic images of Syrian-Kurd Aylan Kurdi were a source of shame and that he wanted to do something about it.

11.47

Of course we all heard David Cameron's comments earlier but the UN claims the UK will take 4,000 Syrian refugees to Associated Press.

In a comment, Number 10 said specifics re numbers would be given next week as the British Prime Minister said in his speech earlier today.

The UN refugee agency said they believed the UK's decision would create "momentum". However, the Prime Minister has only said thousands and the 4,000 number is not confirmed as true.

"We obviously welcome very much the move to increase resettlement spaces for Syrians in the UK. Those spaces are going to be critical to the lives and future of 4,000 people," said spokesman Melissa Fleming.

"We certainly believe that there's the momentum here" for other countries to follow suit.

11.34

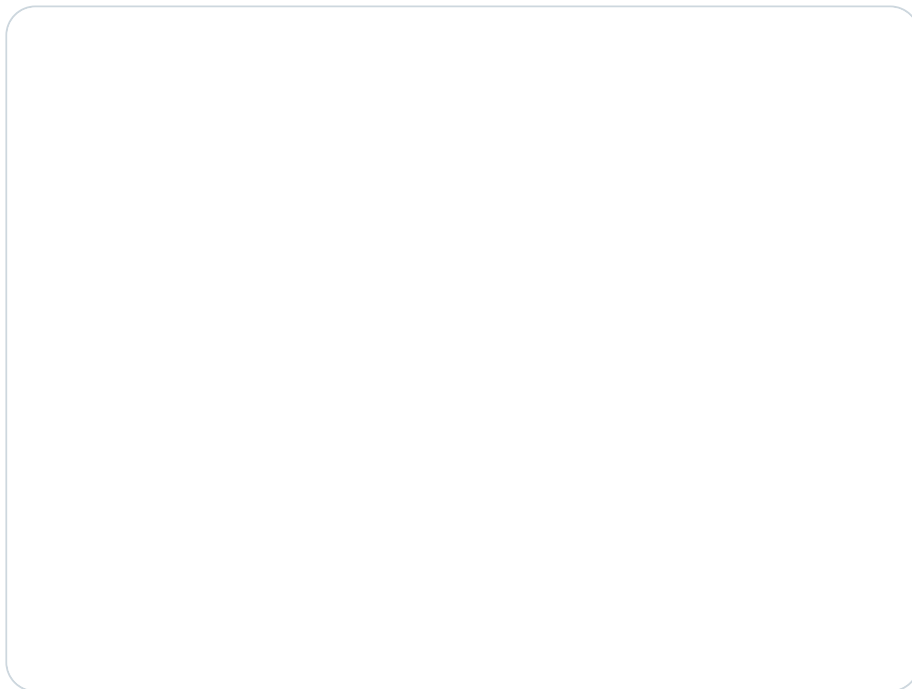
According to Jenan Moussa - which the Telegraph has been unable to independently verify - the two children and mother who drowned off the Turkish coast have been buried in Kobane.



Jenan Moussa 
@jenanmoussa



These pics are heartbreaking. [#AlanKurdi](#), Ghalib Kurdi & mom now burried in [#Kobane](#), same town they were trying 2flee



11:18 AM · Sep 4, 2015



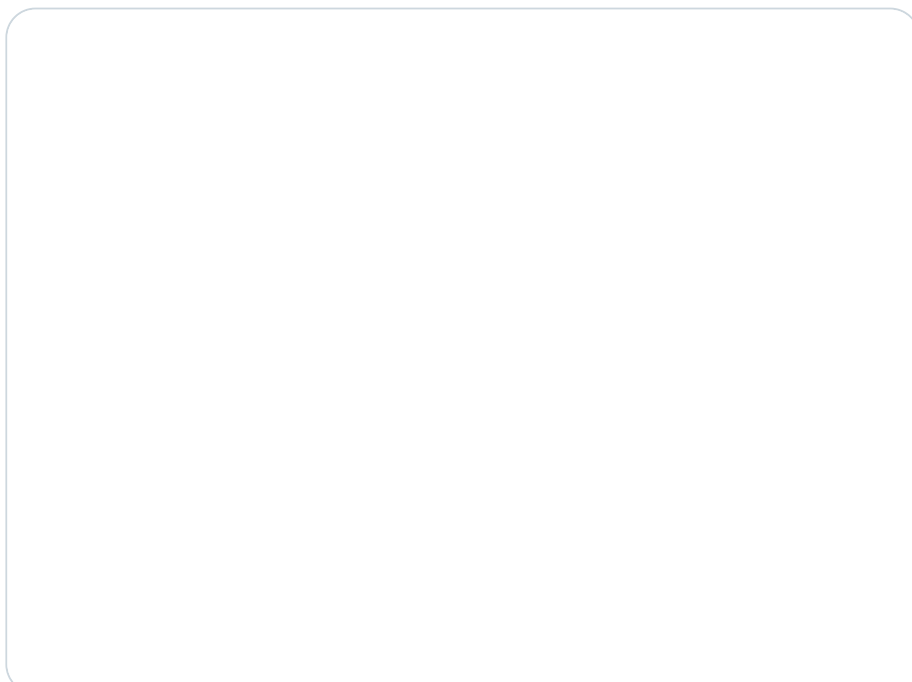
118 429 people are Tweeting about this



Jenan Moussa 
@jenanmoussa



Farewell Alan, Ghalib and Rehana. Just burried. RIP.
[#AlanKurdi](#)



11:10 AM · Sep 4, 2015



89 239 people are Tweeting about this

11.11

Some 500 French have signed up to a bed and breakfast website offering refugees whose asylum requests have been accepted a roof for at least two weeks. CALM (Comme A La Maison, or "just like at home) - including a chateau owner, writes **Henry Samuel in Paris**.

That is a jump of 300 subscribers in 24 hours. Those offering rooms are a varied group, said Alice Barbe, co-founder of Singa, the association running the initiative.

"We have lots of families with spare bedrooms because children have grown up or left, and lots of people living alone, or farmers, people living in rural areas. We even have someone living in a chateau," she told France Info.

For now, 50 refugees have come forward to ask for housing via CALM, mainly from Syria, Eritrea and Sudan.

To ensure the cohabitation works well, the organisers set rules via a charter and offer 24-hour assistance in case of any problems and a mediator if necessary. The association also offers training for interested families.

There is no financial aspect to the arrangement, which either party can discontinue at any time.

CALM's aim is to help statutory refugees who have rights, notably to work, but have no French connections. "These refugees are entrepreneurs, talents and a source of inter-cultural wealth and job creation," said Ms Barbe told France Info.

Giving them a temporary roof helps them "take their bearings, better understand the society they're in, meet French people and above all find some tranquility during this stressful period".

10.49

'No one has done more than UK'

Speaking in Lisbon alongside the Portuguese Prime Minister, Mr Cameron confirmed Britain will accept thousands more Syrian refugees, writes **Laura Hughes, Political**

Correspondent.

"No European country has done more than Britain in this regard. Were it not for that massive aid, the numbers making the perilous journey to Europe today would be even higher."

"Britain will act with its head and its heart providing refuge for those in need while working on a long term solution to the crisis."

Mr Cameron said he would set out further details next week and the UK government will now discuss how best to design these schemes and the numbers Britain will take with NGOs and partners.

He added: "Britain will continue to work with partners to tackle the conflict in Syria, to provide support to the region, to go after the smuggling gangs exploiting these people and to save lives at sea."

"HMS Enterprise remains in the Mediterranean alongside the Border Force cutters and together with HMS Bulwark, they have now rescued more than 6,700 people."

10.34**Cameron: UK will take more refugees**

The British Prime Minister has just been speaking live on Sky News and other channels at a press conference where he said the UK would take thousands more Syrian refugees.

David Cameron said:

Britain has accepted 5,000 Syrian refugees and we've introduced a specific scheme [to take more]. As I earlier, we will accept thousands more and we will keep that under review.

"We will soon announce resettlement plans for thousands for refugees to offer a more safe and direct route."

"We will discuss how best to design these schemes and we will set out more details next week."

10.26

Refugees and migrants do not want to come to Slovakia because there are "generous asylum system of benefits" in the UK and in other countries, according to Miroslav Lajcak, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the country.

Ask these people whether they want to come to Slovakia, they don't, they don't even want to stay in France and they want to come to the UK.

"You know when we have all seen the pictures from Calais - there is no administrative solution to this problem if people don't even know Slovakia exists and you will send here a contingent of angry people because they did not risk their lives to end up in Slovakia, in Latvia, in Estonia."

"They want to go to countries where there is a more generous asylum system of benefits."

10.17

Images of Mr Kurdi arriving with his family's caskets have been published on social media.

Returning home. Aylan Kurdi & family cross from Turkey to [#Kobane](#) in [#Syria](#). Funeral today via [@ABDIJEWAN](#) [#Kobani](#) pic.twitter.com/w7v7fXXkQI
— Quentin Sommerville (@sommervillebbc) [September 4, 2015](#)



10.16

Four alleged smugglers accused of being responsible for the tragedy off the Turkish coast are appearing in court in Bodrum, a few miles from where the dinghy capsized, writes **Nick Squires in Bodrum.**

The four Syrian men were handcuffed as they were led up the courtroom steps. One of them was sobbing and another tried to hide his face with his hands.

A judge was to question them and decide whether to formally charge them. So far they have been detained but not charged.

"It is a closed hearing, not open to the press," a court spokesman said.

Two of the men were identified as Mustafa Halil and Hassan Ali Salih. Both their mothers wept and insisted their sons were innocent.

10.14

Churches, councils and civilians open their doors to welcome refugees in the UK, writes **Helena Horton.**

A variety of people and venues in the UK have been moved by the stories of stranded refugees, and have offered to house them.

The York Minster, the second largest Gothic cathedral in northern Europe, has [opened its doors to refugees and offered to house as many as it can.](#)

York has a history of helping refugees, most recently offering sanctuary to 90 Kosovian Albanians in 1999.

Councils have also offered to help refugees, with Glasgow city council offering 50 to 60 Syrian people, and councils in Kingston, Birmingham, Newcastle and Edinburgh agreeing to take 50 refugees each.

Many individuals have said that they would [open their homes](#) to refugees, [most notably SNP MP Drew Hendry and Labour MPs Jess Phillips and Steve Reed.](#)



William
@_RedTyneside



I'm not affluent, middle-class, seeking to adopt a foreign

infant, [@ukhomeoffice](#). I'm working-class and inviting a [#refugee](#) to live with me.

9:08 PM · Sep 2, 2015



See William's other Tweets



London Lyme

@Londonlyme



[#ukhelpsyrians](#) I'd welcome a Syrian refugee to live in my home. Please pledge & share. We must make our gov listen [#refugee](#) [#uk](#)

11:38 PM · Sep 1, 2015



See London Lyme's other Tweets

10.04

Sturgeon calls on Cameron to accept more refugees

The SNP leader has written a letter to David Cameron calling on the government to increase the number of refugees taken in by the UK, writes **Laura Hughes**.

Nicola Sturgeon said Britain has a "moral obligation" to tackle the crisis and Scotland is standing "ready to help offer sanctuary to refugees who need our help".

The First Minister wrote: "We, with our neighbours and friends across the EU, have a moral obligation to offer a place of safety to these desperate people fleeing conflict and persecution.

"I welcomed the expansion of the Syrian Vulnerable Person scheme but I would stress that this in itself is not sufficient to address the crisis we are witnessing.

"I strongly urge you to reconsider the UK Government's current response. The Scottish Government believes we must take part in the EU response."

10.03

'Christian roots threatened'

Yesterday, Viktor Orban made some inflammatory comments regarding Muslim migrants and his fears of Europe's Christian roots being threatened.

All countries have a right to decide whether they want to live with large numbers of Muslims in their countries. If they want to, they can. We don't want to, and we have a right to decide we do not want a large number of Muslim people in our country. We do not like the consequences of having large numbers of Muslim communities that we see in other countries, and I see no reason for anyone to force us to create ways of living together."

The Hungarian prime minister said that "Hungarians are full of fear" at a Brussels news conference. He also warned that the surge of predominantly Muslims from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere would be damaging to Europe's Christian roots in an opinion piece for Germany's Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung,

We must not forget that those who are coming in have been brought up under a different religion and represent a profoundly different culture.

"The majority are not Christians but Muslims. That is an important question because Europe and European culture have Christian roots.

"Or is it not already, and in itself, alarming that Europe's Christian culture is barely able to uphold Europe's own Christian values?"

09.41

Where are the refugees from?

And how many has the UK accepted? David Stevenson explains in charts



And some of you (including those this writer knows) were asking: how many Syrian refugees are in other countries in the Middle East?

**Asma**

@LibyanBentBladi



Number of Syrian refugees taken in by countries in the Middle East [#migrantcrisis](#) [#Syria](#)

4:31 AM · Sep 4, 2015



258 841 people are Tweeting about this

09.35

Abdullah Kurdi, father of the three-year-old boy whose body washed up on Bodrum beach, has returned to his hometown Kobane on Friday to bury his family, an AFP photographer says.

Mr Kurdi arrived at Suruc with the caskets of his two sons and wife and then entered Kobane.

The car carrying the father and the caskets entered Kobane and returned to Turkey while a convoy of journalists and activists was stopped at the border.

AFP said preparations to bury the Kurdi family members as "martyrs of Kobane who lost their lives to flee the war" had begun.

08.57

The scene at Budapest's Keleti station this morning is calm, in stark contrast to yesterday's frantic scramble to leave Hungary, writes **James Badcock** at the station.

International trains to western Europe remain cancelled. The migrants camping outside the station I spoke to were aware of the fate of those who set off towards the Austrian border yesterday, and who remain locked in a siege at Bicske station with the passengers still refusing to leave the train.

Associated Press reported that 16 people voluntarily checked into the asylum centre yesterday, while 500 others refused, according to Col Laszlo Balazs, the head of police border control.

08.52

The Turkish photographer who took the heart-breaking picture of a toddler's lifeless body lying on a beach has described the moment she came across the child, writes **Nick Squires in Bodrum**.

Nilufer Demir said she was "petrified" when she saw the tiny body of three-year-old Aylan Kurdi on a beach near the tourist resort town of Bodrum but felt she had to take the photo to draw attention to the desperate plight of refugees trying to cross the Aegean to the Greek islands.

She came across the body at around 6am on Wednesday and then found the body of Aylan's brother, Galip. Neither was wearing a life jacket.

"He (Aylan) was lying lifeless, face down in the surf, in his red T-shirt and dark blue shorts. The only thing I could do was to make his outcry heard," Ms Demir told the [Hurriyet Daily News, a Turkish English-language newspaper](#).

"Galip was lying 100 metres away from his brother. I approached him. I noticed they didn't have any life jackets on them, any arm floats, anything to help them to float in the water."

She was on the beach with other journalists, covering attempts by migrants and refugees to reach the nearby island of Kos, just four miles across the sea from the Bodrum peninsula.

"We were shocked; we felt sorrow for them. The best thing to do was to make this tragedy heard."

08.48

A heavy police presence along the coast near the resort town of Bodrum, on Turkey's Aegean coast, seems to have deterred smugglers and refugees/migrants - at least for now, writes **Nick Squires in Bodrum**.

With a photographer colleague, I was up at 4am this morning to drive from Bodrum to a beach regularly used by smugglers to launch motorised dinghies heading to the nearby Greek island of Kos, which lies just four miles away and is clearly visible.

In the dawn half-light, there were no boats, no smugglers and no Syrian refugees - just police cars and police motorbikes. A life jacket had washed up on the shore, along with an Iranian man's wallet - who knows whether he is alive or dead?

08.45**'Refugee crisis is a global problem'**

Sir Malcolm Rifkind, the former foreign secretary told Radio 4 this morning that living in Turkey means your life is not in danger, writes **Laura Hughes, Political Correspondent**.

The point I would have to make from a humanitarian view, I don't blame people wanting to find a better life in the countries of northern Europe, but from an asylum point of view, if you are already in Turkey than your life is not in danger, your children are not going to lose their lives, your children are safe from Syria, so it becomes a separate issue as to whether the countries of Europe should be expected to have, as it were, an open ended position for anyone who wants to come here.

Sir Malcolm said a refugee crisis would be an obligation for the world and not just the UK or EU:

When people talk about a refugee crisis and the moral obligations that implies, that is not just an obligation for Britain or for Europe. People go back to the Second World War and the huge refugee crisis that involved and of course very large number went to the United States, to Canada, to South America, to Australia and other countries.

"So this is not a question of what is the quota for Britain, or quota for Europe, if this is a global problem, which it is, then we should be expecting other developed countries also to be playing their part and there had been very little discussion about that.

"I have no doubt that the United Kingdom, with a very long reputation as a country that does give refuge to people with genuine asylum requirements, should respond in a positive way and that that must run into thousands of people being admitted into this country.

Aunt of Aylan Kurdi speaks of her brother's ordeal with smugglers**08.33**

Since the siege continues in Bicske and yesterday's comments by Viktor Orban, the Hungarian prime minister about the "German problem", he has again made controversial remarks, offending many.

He claimed that the crisis would mean Europeans are a minority in their own continent.

The reality is that Europe is threatened by a mass inflow of people, many tens of millions of people could come to Europe.

"Now we talk about hundreds of thousands but next year we will talk about millions and there is no end to this," he said.

"All of a sudden we will see that we are in minority in our own continent."

His comments come as previously mentioned a siege continues at Bicske where hundreds of refugees were forced to sleep inside a train after authorities refused to let the train continue its journey near the Austrian border.

08.02

Hello and welcome to the Telegraph's live coverage of the **EU refugee crisis** unfolding across the continent.

The world has been left asking: 'what can be done?' since images of Aylan Kurdi, 3, were published online and in newspapers on Wednesday and yesterday.

They say a picture is a 1,000 words and with the images of Aylan, washed up on a Turkish beach lying face down, the plight of hundreds of thousands of people has dominated conversation as the EU starts to consider how it should react. Today many will hope for strong reaction and action as EU foreign ministers are set to meet later to discuss the escalating crisis.

But this crisis did not begin a few days ago, not even a few months ago but record numbers of refugees and migrants have come to Europe via the Mediterranean crossing, the Balkans route, from Turkey to Greek islands and even via a remote Arctic border to Norway on bikes.

What's happened so far?

Yesterday night we reported that UK Prime Minister **David Cameron** is planning to announce that the UK will take up to 10,000 Syrian refugees.

The news came as Viktor Orban, Hungarian prime minister, said the crisis was a "German problem" since the migrants sought asylum in Germany.

Yesterday morning in Hungary, after a 48-hour blockade, police abandoned their positions at Keleti station in Budapest and allowed migrants and refugees into the station.

International trains were cancelled but refugees and migrants desperate for somewhere to go near Austria stayed on the train going to Sopron near Austria.

Hundreds of people entered and more than 500 boarded one train going towards the Austrian border which subsequently was stopped by authorities in Bicske.

The train departed at 11am BST and shortly stopped at Bicske which is near a refugee camp.

However migrants and refugees desperate not to be taken remained on the train and refused to leave. That stand-off continues, **James Badock in Budapest**, said.

But at Keleti station today, international trains going to western Europe remain cancelled.

EU migrant crisis: Father describes moment children slipped away - as it happened on Sept 3rd 2015



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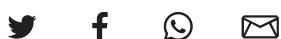
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Why do refugees and migrants come to Europe, and what must be done to ease the crisis?

2015 has been a record year for migration levels into Europe via different routes. Academics from King's College London explain why refugees and migrants risk their lives to be on the continent

By King's College London

04 September 2015 • 20:21 pm



After [three-year-old Aylan Kurdi's body](#) was found on a [Turkish](#) beach on Wednesday, the photographs published online shocked the world and led to greater calls for [EU](#) governments to accept more Syrian refugees.

This year there has been record numbers of arrivals and figures show 100,000 reached EU borders in July. In one week in mid-August, 20,843 migrants - virtually all of them fleeing war and persecution in Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq - washed up on the shores of Greek islands, making up nearly half of last year's total.

Since the beginning of the year, [more than 160,000 migrants have made their way to Greece](#) - nearly four times the 43,500 who arrived in the country during all of 2014, the UN refugee agency said.

But why do refugees and migrants come to Europe? And what can be done to solve the crisis? King's College London academics explain.

Why do refugees come to Europe?

[Charles Kirchofer](#), PhD Candidate, department of war studies

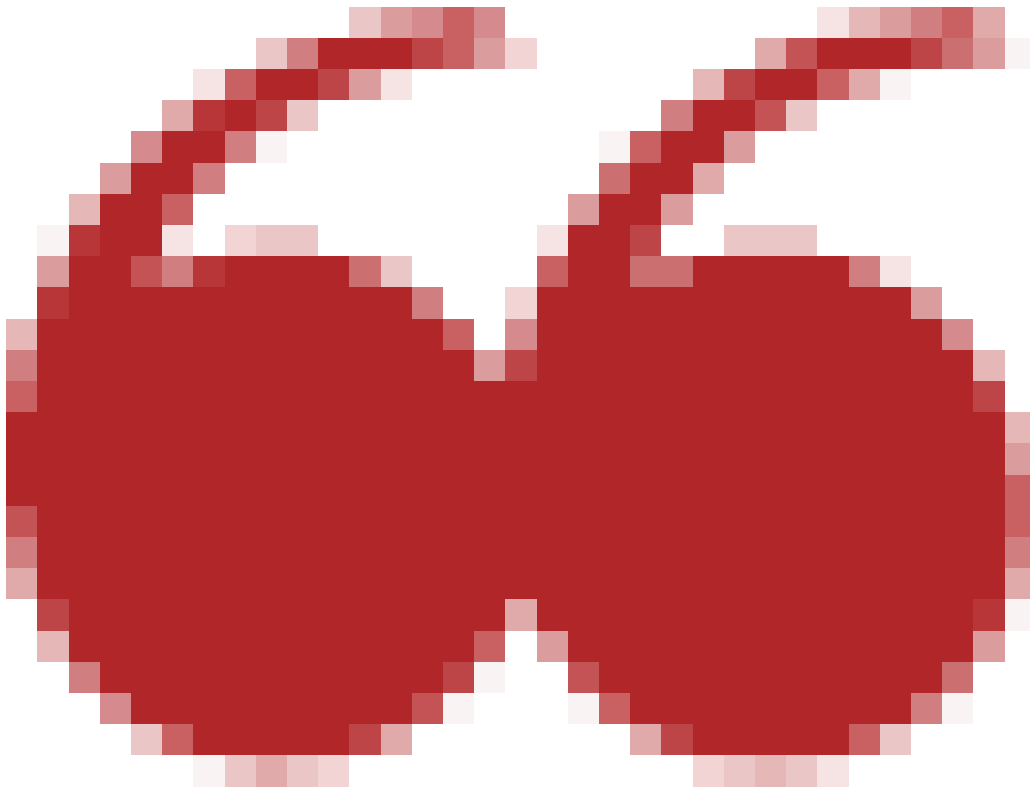


Middle Eastern countries are destinations for refugees, with the UN expecting the number in Jordan alone to exceed one million by the end of this year. That is a substantial burden for a country with a population of only 6.5 million and a per capita GDP of just £3,400 per year. With a population 10 times the size, per capita GDP 8 times as high, and just 170,000 refugees, the UK could certainly do more.

But Jordan is struggling to supply all the refugees within the country with basic services like food, sanitation, and health care. Refugees are thus forced to continue onward to reach a better life, preferably in a rich country in Europe. The UN reports around 1.2 million refugees in Lebanon, with most coming from Syria. The Lebanese government is notoriously ineffectual, unable to supply its own citizens with steady electricity or, [since this summer, Beirut with sufficient rubbish collection](#).

Its ability to care for the masses of refugees, even with the assistance of the UN, is therefore limited. It is thus no wonder many seek placement, through official channels or otherwise, in [Europe](#).

Eugenio Lilli, department of war studies



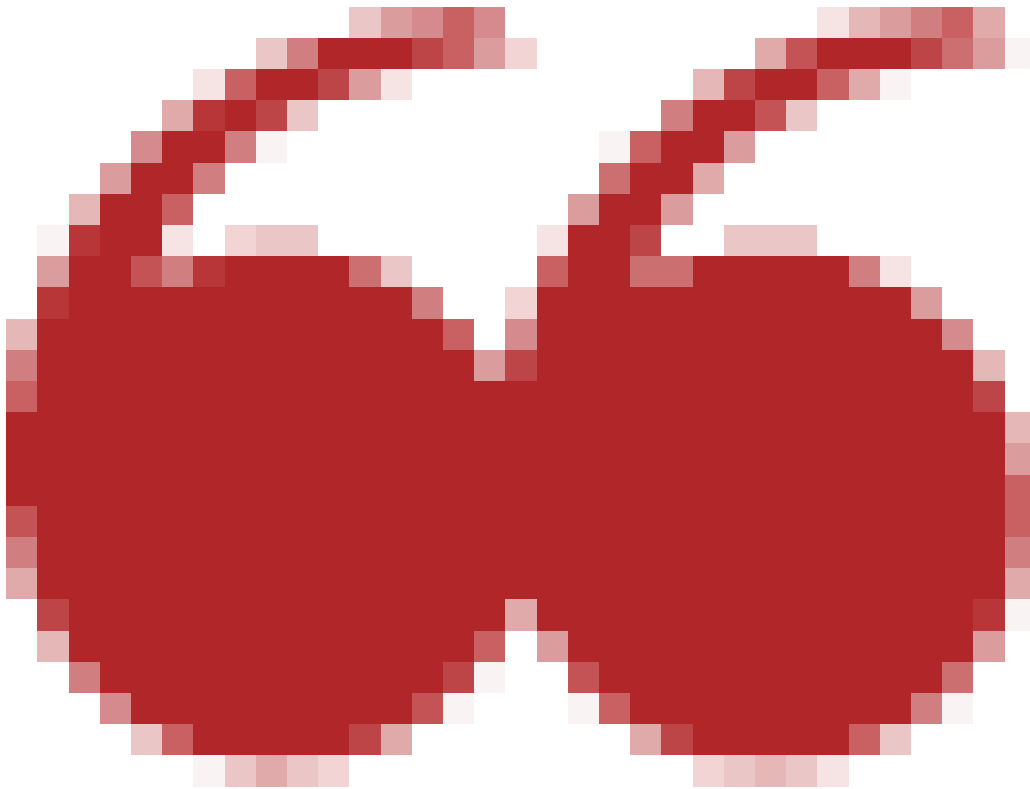
People fleeing armed conflict in the Middle East migrate to Europe because they see Europe as a place of peace and wealth compared to the violence and despair that characterise their home countries.

However, such a trend should not be overemphasised. For example, in the case of Syria, the data available clearly shows that the great majority of Syrian refugees has so far resettled in neighbouring Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey and not in European countries.



Mapped: Where do migrants apply for asylum in Europe?

Pablo de Orellana, teaching fellow, department of war studies



This is not a crisis of economic migration. The human tragedy in the Mediterranean is the humanitarian fallout of two wars that have no prospect of resolution. In Libya the fall of Muammar Gaddafi has left the country divided and spiralling into increased violence, while in Syria horrifying human rights abuses, particularly of religious and ethnic minorities, are a self-explanatory incentive to flee.

It is now impossible to pretend that these refugees choose to become economic migrants, or that Western policy in Libya and Syria is unrelated.

Dalibor Rohac, research fellow at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington DC

According to Frontex, the largest ethnic group of asylum-seekers that have entered the EU this year are Syrians, followed by Afghanis. The humanitarian catastrophe in Syria has

been dramatic and the bulk of the displaced Syrians have so far sought refuge in other Arab countries, such as Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, or Egypt.

In contrast, some of the wealthier states of the region, most conspicuously Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, have shown very little willingness to let refugees in.



How can we solve the migrant crisis?

Nick Cowen, PhD candidate, department of political economy

Our best evidence suggests that immigration is usually economically beneficial for host countries. The majority of refugees arriving on European shores are able-bodied and unlikely to be an exception to this general rule. So the best way for Europe to help would be to offer immediate legal residency and access to labour markets. It might be politically expedient to restrict access to some welfare benefits but most migrants will be keen to work regardless.

Eugenio Lilli, department of war studies and founding chairman of King's College US Foreign Policy Research Group

The only way to permanently ease the migrant situation in Europe is to get serious about solving the conflicts that make people flee their home countries in the first place. With regard to Syria, this has not been the case. Conversely, policies implemented by some international and regional actors have only compounded the situation there. Absent this long term solution, the

European Commission's plan for national refugee quotas seems a sensible temporary option

Dalibor Rohac, research fellow at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington DC

The failure of the EU's response stems from the fact that border protection and asylum processing have been left in the hands of individual Schengen countries. Assisting the refugees and processing asylum requests have become common pool problems, with individual countries not facing the common Schengen border having little incentive to help.

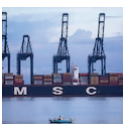
The idea of quotas, which would redistributing the burden more evenly across the Schengen space is laudable but will likely prove incompatible with the continuation of the freedom of movement in the EU. What is needed therefore, is a commonly administered asylum process, run by the EU, not by politicians in member states.



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Refugee crisis: What will the true cost of taking Syria's displaced be?

Europe was right to open its arms to Syrian refugees. But now it has to address issues of financial cost, security and the very future of European identity

By Tim Stanley

05 September 2015 • 15:31 pm



One photo of the refugee/migrant crisis that really packs a punch is from last year, from

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/syria/11846175/What-will-the-true-cost-of-taking-Syrias-refugees-be.html>

the Spanish enclave of Melilla in Morocco. [As Europeans play golf, dozens of Africans climb over the high security fences](#). Depending on your point of view, it's either a break-in or a puncturing of bourgeois self-indulgence.

•

Refugee crisis: Hungary won't shoot at migrants crossing fence, says PM Viktor Orban - live
The scene raises so many questions. Are the climbers fleeing war or poverty, and is there a material difference? Is the existence of Melilla an insult to the poor of Africa or a beacon of economic opportunity? And if Melilla was to tear down that fence, would the influx of people destroy its wealth and, with it, the few opportunities that it offers? It's the European crisis in microcosm. How far are we prepared to blur the boundaries between the developed and the developing world in pursuit of human good?

Britain has experienced an emotional catharsis this week, a reaction to a series of deeply moving images. [Some have decried this as infantile, but it's nothing to be ashamed of](#). On the contrary, [an ability to empathise is one of the things that makes us human – and who looks at the photo of a dead child and feels nothing?](#)

There is now political will to [take refugees direct from Syria \(direct in order to discourage the dangerous sea-crossing\)](#). This is not only the proper human response but also necessary for the maintenance of Britain's reputation as a force for human rights. If we'd resolutely said no, we'd have been labelled a pariah. The UK can pat itself on its back. It did good.



But now comes the serious thinking about the future. [Public attitudes towards the crisis will likely have changed following the images of people walking in their thousands towards Austria.](#) Suddenly the narrative switches from the fate of an individual child to the fate of countless families – and people are less sympathetic towards faceless masses. Britain is already dealing with record levels of net migration and voters are worried about it. Prior to this news cycle, the politics of asylum was very different.

[In March 2015, a Freedom of Information request revealed that the UK spends more than £700,000 a day housing and feeding asylum seekers – prompting representatives of Ukip and the Taxpayers' alliance to complain that people were not being processed quickly enough.](#) Once the cost of taking, say, 10,000 Syrian refugees is properly understood, we could see a political backlash against it. Where are the school places? The hospital beds?

Better, then, to give support to refugees living within the region? [This Britain already does and the Government is keen that we should know it.](#) Cameron boasts that the UK has given a total of £920million in aid to Syrian refugees since 2011 – more than anyone except the Americans. Our focus has been upon helping people to stay in camps, where they can be housed and fed. [Now there is discussion about building enclaves, protected by the West, which are presumably rather more comfortable and permanent.](#)

•

EU refugee crisis: Who is helping the migrants?

A sort of Syrian Hong Kong. At the very least, camps and enclaves are the ideal places to process asylum applications before transporting people to Europe. But they come with complications. No one wants to live in camps: they're horrible. Camps, once constructed, often stay in place for decades. They may be targets of terrorist activity. And, finally, they are not a long-term solution to the Syrian problem. If Europeans are worried about a “tide of humanity” passing through it, then it would be wise to try to bring peace to Syria. Handwringing about neo-colonialism is useless. The outside world has to help.

But even if we help bring peace to Syria, we shouldn't expect the Great Migration to stop. [Because it's about more than people fleeing immediate peril. It's about a desire to economically better oneself and it's made possible by a revolution in cheap communications.](#) The old world order of nation states is crumbling. Europe can either accept that and try to adapt to it, or it can try to prop up the old order with walls and fences. At the end of this process, how “Western” will the West still be?

[Intellectuals and populists warn that huge transfers of populations are bound to change the culture of the country involved.](#) That's the argument of [Hungary's controversial](#)

[premier, Viktor Orban, who has spoken of the erosion of Christian identity](#). On the other hand, walls and fences are contrary to the liberal, democratic, *Christian* tradition. I return to that photo of the golf course in Melilla. Isn't there something disgusting about a handful of rich people playing golf surrounded by a continent of poor people with empty bellies? It's almost taunting. When Christians ask themselves "Where would Jesus be?", the answer is obvious. He'd be on the African side of the fence. Tearing it down.

In the future, the line between "the West" and "the rest" will dissolve. We can no longer think of things happening "over there" – over the fence – as if they are not our responsibility and will not have consequences for us at home. Historically, that is right. Syria and North Africa are a part of Europe's history, either as cradles of civilisation or as remnants of the old empire. [Hence, we have fretted about the fate of poor Palmyra because it's as scandalous to us as, say, the demolition of Stonehenge or the Eiffel Tower](#).

But Palmyra is ultimately just heritage: I'd surrender a million Palmyras to save one child.

As human beings flee into Europe this will raise tough questions that will, in turn, fragment Western politics. The Left will champion the newcomers and the Right will defend the good life enjoyed by the Europeans. Somewhere in the middle has to emerge a political agenda that satisfies moral outrage, assuages fears and offers practical solutions.

If that sounds trite then it's because no simple answers exist. Beware people on either side who claim to offer them. They are wrong.



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Without borders in Europe, there is no hope of ending this migrant crisis

The principle of free movement cannot withstand this influx of refugees and the criminal efforts of people traffickers

By Janet Daley

05 September 2015 • 18:44 pm



The lesson of the past week is that a picture of a dead child can move a continent and overturn the stance of a government – but only, it seems, if that picture suits the politics of influential voices in the public dialogue. For some reason, the appalling photographs of the bodies of children who had been [deliberately gassed by the Assad regime](#), laid out on

a concrete floor in Syria two years ago, were not sufficiently moving to compel the world to take action. Are dead children only a moral outrage when they are on the beaches of Europe? Or is it just easier to use the image of that single drowned child to support the notion of Western guilt, whereas an indictment of Assad and the intervention that would logically follow from it would have invited all the recrimination which self-loathing Western opinion delights in?

- Refugee crisis: Hungary won't shoot at migrants crossing fence, says PM Viktor Orban - live
The two things are joined fatally together. Europe (and America too) does have a moral obligation to those who have been misled and abandoned by its past irresponsibility. The failure to act against the Assad regime and against the Isil forces which have benefited from that failure, has created the conditions for a crisis which has no solution. Having largely ignored the problem through the summer – perhaps because most of the EU high command was on holiday – European leaders have suddenly sprung into incoherent and contradictory action. So the original irresponsibility has now been compounded by a desperate frenzy of implausible policy-making to deal with the migrant influx. Demands for a properly managed consistent programme to be agreed between member states were almost immediately undermined by unilateral pronouncements: Germany, clearly believing it owed the world restitution for its historical crimes, summarily announced that it was prepared to take 800,000 refugees.

Unfortunately, it failed to accompany this promise with any provision for their safe transport, so its offer of welcome was, in effect, an invitation to yet more thousands of people to risk their lives, as well as being a gift to the people-smuggling industry. ([Which is why David Cameron's solution of taking Syrian refugees](#) – in supervised transit – only from UN centres in the region rather than from the migrant camps already in Europe is a good alternative.) Angela Merkel's gesture was also an extraordinary flouting of the concerns of much poorer European partners. The shocking scenes in Hungary, and the furious obstinacy of its “hard-line” prime minister Viktor Orban, are a direct consequence of her open-handed inducement (apparently taken without consultation with Eastern European governments) to make Germany the destination of choice for Syrian asylum seekers.

The nations of the old Soviet bloc which are struggling to get their fledgling economies established are being turned into a chaotic corridor for waves of migrants seeking the benevolence of rich, secure countries like Germany and Sweden. As Mr Orban said: “Nobody wants to stay in Hungary [or] Slovakia, nor Poland, nor Estonia. All want to go to Germany.” And yet his country, and potentially others which have the misfortune to be on the Balkan land route, are being forced to cope with the consequences of this mass movement of peoples. Imagine if you were a poor householder, just managing to keep

your financial head above water while you attempted to turn your circumstances around, and a very wealthy neighbour decided to throw open his doors to the needy – and one obvious way that those in need could reach that welcoming haven was by tramping through your house. Might you find yourself inclined to be unhelpful in the hopes of discouraging others from taking the same path?

The real fear of the Hungarians and their fellow Eastern Europeans is that the uncontrolled flow of migrants will force an end to the EU free movement policy which was one of the great attractions of membership for those states. And, of course, they are absolutely right. It is almost inevitable that border controls will be re-established for the duration of the present emergency. Arguably the Schengen principle is one of the causes of this crisis. It is now clearly understood all over the world that all of rich modern Europe will become instantly accessible if you can manage to set foot on any corner of an EU state: so the tiniest Greek island or the southernmost tip of the poorest region of Italy, which have no resources for registering and processing the arrival of huge numbers of people, become the entry points for unrestricted movement. What was intended to be a domestic freedom for Europeans within their own continent has become unbounded territory for the desperate populations of the world. This surely must be the irresistible pitch of the people traffickers.

The restoration of open borders, assuming it becomes necessary to suspend them, will become a moot point to be debated at great length and with maximum acrimony. This will be especially awkward since the forcible “redistribution” of migrants now under consideration must require border controls. The unelected European Commission is to propose a plan for 160,000 asylum seekers from Hungary, Italy and Greece [to be “relocated” around the EU states](#). This would involve imposing quotas of more than 55,000 refugees on countries such as Spain and the Eastern states even though they had opposed a previous plan that involved taking more modest numbers. This is what the EU regards as democracy.

Disregarding national governments and their electorates is profoundly dangerous: it is probably no more than gross insensitivity but it might as well be a deliberate provocation to far-Right nationalist forces. (A French opinion poll last week asked, “Should [France welcome a share of migrants and refugees](#) currently trying to reach the EU, notably from Syria?” 56 per cent of respondents said “No”.) If this is not handled properly, if the EU becomes ever more heavy-handed in its panic, then the potential for public resentment turning to political unrest will be serious. Even in Britain, which would not be subject to the European Commission quotas, there are anxieties that cannot be ignored. Concerns about infrastructure and community are legitimate and plausible. The people I have met

who express most alarm about taking in migrants are neither racist nor inhumane: they are simply aware of the pressures on their hospitals and GPs' surgeries, and of shortages of housing and school places. These are not callous excuses for xenophobia. They are grown-up responsible concerns which deserve a fair hearing.

In any event, the quotas and forcible redistribution which are coming to those European states where popular resistance is not getting much of a hearing will be meaningless concepts if there is unrestricted movement of people between countries. Anyone "redistributed" to a country he doesn't like could just jump on a train and redistribute himself to the place he actually wanted to live. Or are these relocated migrants to be subjected to some sort of surveillance which would inhibit their movement? (I daresay the European courts would have something to say about that.) I doubt that anyone has thought about this problem much at all.



Almost nothing in the shambolic, belated response of the EU institutions seems to be being thought through. There is no sense of genuine cooperation, mutual understanding of the problems of member countries or consideration of the consequences for infrastructure and social cohesion. There is just accusation and suspicion and a strange kind of self-abnegation [as if this must all be our fault](#) – which really helps no one and certainly does nothing to address the central problem of the region which presents the most urgent refugee need. We now have a lawless, life-threatening dilemma in our midst which will become a full-scale catastrophe if it is not faced with the enlightened conscientiousness which was once Europe's great gift to the world.

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Migrant crisis: Refugees welcomed in Germany like war heroes as Berlin expects 10,000 in one day

German residents greeted migrants and refugees arriving with applause but tensions increase on the island of Lesbos

By Melanie Hall; Matthew Holehouse and Nick Squires

06 September 2015 • 20:19 pm



For those who had risked their lives to flee a cruel civil war by rickety boat or in a smugglers' truck, it would have been a remarkable sight.

• [Migrant crisis: latest news - live](#)

[Germans](#) gathered by the hundred at train stations on Sunday to welcome refugees arriving in their cities as if they were long-lost friends or returning war heroes.

An estimated 10,000 refugees were expected to arrive in Germany by train from Hungary and Austria on Sunday, and they were greeted with spontaneous rounds of applause and songs, as well as sweets, pastries and toys, on station platforms across the country.

At Munich station, volunteers amassed a large stockpile of food. Helpers at the main train station in Frankfurt formed human chains to pass bags of food, clothing and toiletries to the exhausted arrivals, whom they welcomed with banners and balloons.

Others clutched placards bearing the words 'We love refugees', while graffiti artists painted 'a warm welcome' in Arabic on the side of a train in Dresden.

[Angela Merkel](#), the German chancellor, last week announced that [Germany would grant asylum to all Syrians](#) in the country, a move credited with hastening the exodus from the east. The country expects to take up to 800,000 refugees this year.

The interior ministry on Sunday night warned other states must still abide by the rules on processing – and therefore looking after - asylum seekers. It warned that "the big willingness to help, which Germany has shown in the last weeks and months, should not be overstretched."

Last week there were [chaotic scenes in Budapest when Hungarian police attempted to stop migrants](#) from taking trains over the border, citing European rules that state migrants must be processed where they arrive.

But on Sunday a convoy of around 140 Austrian and German drivers set off from Vienna, determined to bring [people waiting in Budapest back in their family cars](#).

Ola Almasalmeh, 25, arrived in Munich station on Saturday night, which teemed with revellers dressed in the traditional Bavarian costume of Dirndl and Lederhosen. She had travelled for a month from Syria.

"I feel very safe here," she told the Telegraph. "I don't want to go to another country. I like Merkel, she has a big heart."

Matteo Palenberg, aged 11, took a bowl of sweets he had collected over a year to hand out to children arriving at Munich station.

His father Markus, 45, said the [treatment of refugees in Hungary was "shameful" and said that he liked that Germany](#) was no longer being seen as the "bad people in Europe" following Mrs Merkel's hardball approach to the Greek financial crisis.

But he added that because of Germany's hospitality, "the downside is that I'm afraid that it will create a huge second wave [of migrants]" who aren't genuinely seeking asylum.

Those arriving in Bavaria are promptly allocated new homes in states across Germany. On Saturday night, some 350 were dispatched to Berlin, 700 to Braunschweig and 460 to Frankfurt.

On Sunday morning, police in Bavaria announced that many trains carrying refugees would no longer be stopping there, with several heading directly to places like Berlin, North Rhine-Westphalia and Baden-Württemberg.

In Dortmund, the less accommodating face of German society was shown. On Saturday night, 29 supporters of the far-right party "Die Rechte" staged a protest rally at the central station in Dortmund when a train carrying almost 1,000 migrants arrived.

Three police officers were injured and four people were arrested in ensuing clashes.

In Rome, [Pope Francis](#) announced he will shelter two refugee families at the [Vatican](#) and said all [parishes, convents and monasteries across Europe should do the same](#).

He said: "Faced with the tragedy of tens of thousands of refugees who are fleeing death by war and by hunger, and who are on a path toward a hope for life, the Gospel calls us to be neighbours to the smallest and most abandoned, to give them concrete hope.

But while scenes of kindness and generosity were being played out across much of Germany, [the picture in Greece was less harmonious on Sunday](#).

[Soldiers and police were dispatched to Lesbos, the holiday island that threatens to become the latest flashpoint](#) in the migrant crisis, and now resembles an African transit camp where 20,000 migrants live in squalid conditions, with nowhere to sleep or wash.

The United Nations refugee agency called on Sunday for "exceptional measures" to speed up the registration of thousands of refugees stranded on the island.



Amid growing tension and two nights of clashes between police and refugees, two extra riot squads arrived on the island while 60 more regular ordinary police officers were also sent.

There were reports that a pair of locals on a motorbike threw two Molotov cocktails at refugees sleeping in a park in the island's main town, Mytilene.

Some of the refugees have been stuck on the island for two weeks or more, waiting for the Greek authorities to issue them with travel permits that will allow them to board ferries to Athens.

Lesbos is the entry point for around half of the 230,000 who have arrived in Greece so far this year.

“The registration process is very slow, due to lack of resources in the Greek police and coast guard. We need to reduce the congestion. People are arriving every day and there are not enough ferries to take them to Athens, to the point where it’s a crisis. They are extremely frustrated,” Alessandra Morelli, the UNHCR representative on the island, told The Telegraph.

Spyros Galinos, the mayor of Lesbos, also called for more ferries to alleviate the acute crisis on the island. He has described the [situation as a bomb about to explode in his hands](#).

Meanwhile, [Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, faced criticism after saying Israel could not cope with refugees](#). “[Israel](#) is a small country, a very small country, that lacks demographic and geographic depth; therefore, we must control our borders against illegal migrants and terrorism,” he said.

Isaac Herzog, the opposition leader, urged him to let some Syrians in. “Have you forgotten what it’s like to be Jews, refugees, hunted?” he wrote on Facebook.

[Iran](#), meanwhile, praised the EU’s willingness to take refugees. The Islamic Republic is a major sponsor of Bashar al-Assad, whose forces are behind much of the violence that has forced four million Syrians from their country.



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Migrant crisis: Jean-Claude Juncker plans to compensate countries for each refugee taken in

European Commission president will announce plans to give €6,000 for every refugee a country accepts

By Alice Philipson and Matthew Holehouse

06 September 2015 • 20:37 pm



[Jean-Claude Juncker](#) will this week attempt to overcome hostility from eastern [Europe](#) to a programme of migrant distribution quotas by offering bounties worth thousands of euros.

In a 'State of the Union' address to the European Parliament – a speech modeled on that delivered annually by the US president – the European Commission president is expected to highlight compensation of €6,000 (£4,400) to be given for each refugee a country accepts.

Countries will be paid €500 in transport costs for every asylum seeker who arrives in their country that needs to be relocated to an EU neighbour within the scheme.

Mr Juncker – under fire for the EU's response to the crisis - is expected to use the address to build political support for a [mandatory scheme to relocate some 160,000 refugees](#) from Italy, Greece and Hungary around the bloc.

It is an ambitious target: a similar plan for just [40,000 people had to be downgraded from a mandatory to a voluntary scheme earlier this year](#) after meeting with objections from member states.



The Visegrad states – the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia – on Friday said the revived proposals are “unacceptable”. Hungary and Slovakia regard the Middle Eastern

migrants as a threat to their countries' Christian identity.

Mr Juncker insisted the crisis will not force leaders to “set aside Schengen,” amid warnings the free movement zone is under pressure from the migratory flow.

“The right to free movement is an achievement of Europe and it is untouchable. We must not jeopardise Schengen, just because some member states violate European rules, and regard solidarity as fair-weather word,” he told the Bild newspaper.

[Werner Faymann, the Austrian chancellor](#), on Sunday called for an emergency summit of EU leaders to address the crisis.

Federica Mogherini, the [EU](#)'s chief diplomat, said that the flow is "here to stay", and said those coming to Europe are refugees who required legal protection.

That contradicts the stance of eastern European countries which claim the incomers are motivated by higher standards of living and are coming from states such as Pakistan and Mali.

"It is partially a migrant flow, but it is mainly a refugee flow, which puts us in a different situation when it comes to our legal and moral duties," said Mrs Mogherini.

[German chancellor Angela Merkel](#)'s decision to [allow thousands of migrants stranded in Hungary to enter Germany](#) caused a split in her conservative coalition.

Leaders of Bavaria's Christian Social Union agreed in a conference call that the decision "sent totally the wrong signal", and that federal states that have to deal with the influx were not consulted.



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Migrant crisis: Lesbos 'on verge of explosion' after fresh clashes

Up to 2,500 migrants surged towards a government-chartered ship bound for Athens on Monday night, with baton-wielding riot police screaming "Keep back"

By Nick Squires

08 September 2015 • 09:40 am



Fresh clashes erupted between police and migrants on the [Greek](#) island of [Lesbos](#) on Monday night, which authorities said was "on the verge of explosion".

A dozen or so coastguards and riot police armed with batons struggled to control some 2,500 migrants on Lesbos, screaming "Keep back" at the crowds as they surged towards a government-chartered ship [bound for Athens](#).

Europe's borders are near breaking point as authorities struggle to cope with influx of people fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and Africa, with thousands making their way across the Balkans and the Mediterranean every day.

Lesbos, home to some 85,000 people, is one of several Greek islands struggling to cope with a wave of voyagers setting sail from the nearby Turkish coast for Western Europe.



Up to 20,000 refugees are living rough in and around the island's main port of Mytilini, waiting for the Greek authorities to issue them with travel permits that will allow them to board ferries to Athens and [from there journey through the Balkans](#) to northern [Europe](#).

"I stayed here eight, nine days - oh my God, I can't even remember," said Aleddin, an engineering student who is hoping to join his brother in Germany.

"Some people have been here for 14 or 15 days. The government doesn't care."

Hours after a Greek passenger ferry sent lifeboats to rescue 61 migrants off Lesbos, junior interior minister Yiannis Mouzalas told To Vima radio the port of "Mytilene currently has 15,000-17,000 refugees... The situation is on the verge of explosion."

Evangelos Meimarakis, leader of Greece's hard-right New Democracy party which could return to power this month, said the country should strengthen its borders so as not to "the message that 'it's good over here, come over'".

The United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) on Sunday called for “exceptional measures” to speed up the registration of thousands of refugees stranded on the island.

Amid growing tension and clashes between police and refugees, two extra riot squads arrived on the island while 60 more regular ordinary police officers were also sent.



Lesbos is the entry point for around half of the 230,000 who have arrived in Greece so far this year but the Greek authorities' response to the crisis has so far been woefully inadequate.

In [Mytilini there is only one tiny office to deal with the thousands of refugees](#) – a battered container unit inside the ferry terminal.

Long queues form outside it every day but opening hours are erratic and applications were being processed by just two police officers.

As a result, some of the refugees have been stuck on the island for two weeks or more, sleeping rough or in tents which now crowd the port area, an adjacent beach and a park shaded by pine trees.

“Exceptional measures need to be put in place to increase the Greek authorities' capacity to register refugees,” Alessandra Morelli, the UNHCR representative on the island, told The Telegraph.

“The registration process is very slow, due to lack of resources in the Greek police and coast guard. We need to reduce the congestion. People are arriving every day and there are not enough ferries to take them to Athens, to the point where it's a crisis. They are extremely frustrated.”

Spyros Galinos, the mayor of Lesbos, also called for more ferries to alleviate the acute crisis on the island, which he described as a bomb about to explode in his hands.



In the port area,
stray dogs
wandered around
looking for scraps,
barefoot children
holding teddy bears
walk amid puddles
of urine and there
was rubbish
everywhere – dirty
nappies, plastic

bottles, food packets and banana peels.

Many adults slept on the concrete, without so much as a piece of flattened cardboard to lie on. Small children and babies were also sleeping on the ground, some without sheets or sleeping bags.

“We didn’t expect this from Europe,” said Mohamed Ibrahim, 29, a lawyer from Aleppo in Syria. “Nobody knows when we will get the documents. We are without hope.”

People were washing in water gathered from two broken standpipes in the port area, in scenes reminiscent of refugee camps in Africa and Asia.

There were no lavatories and the acrid smell of human waste was pervasive.



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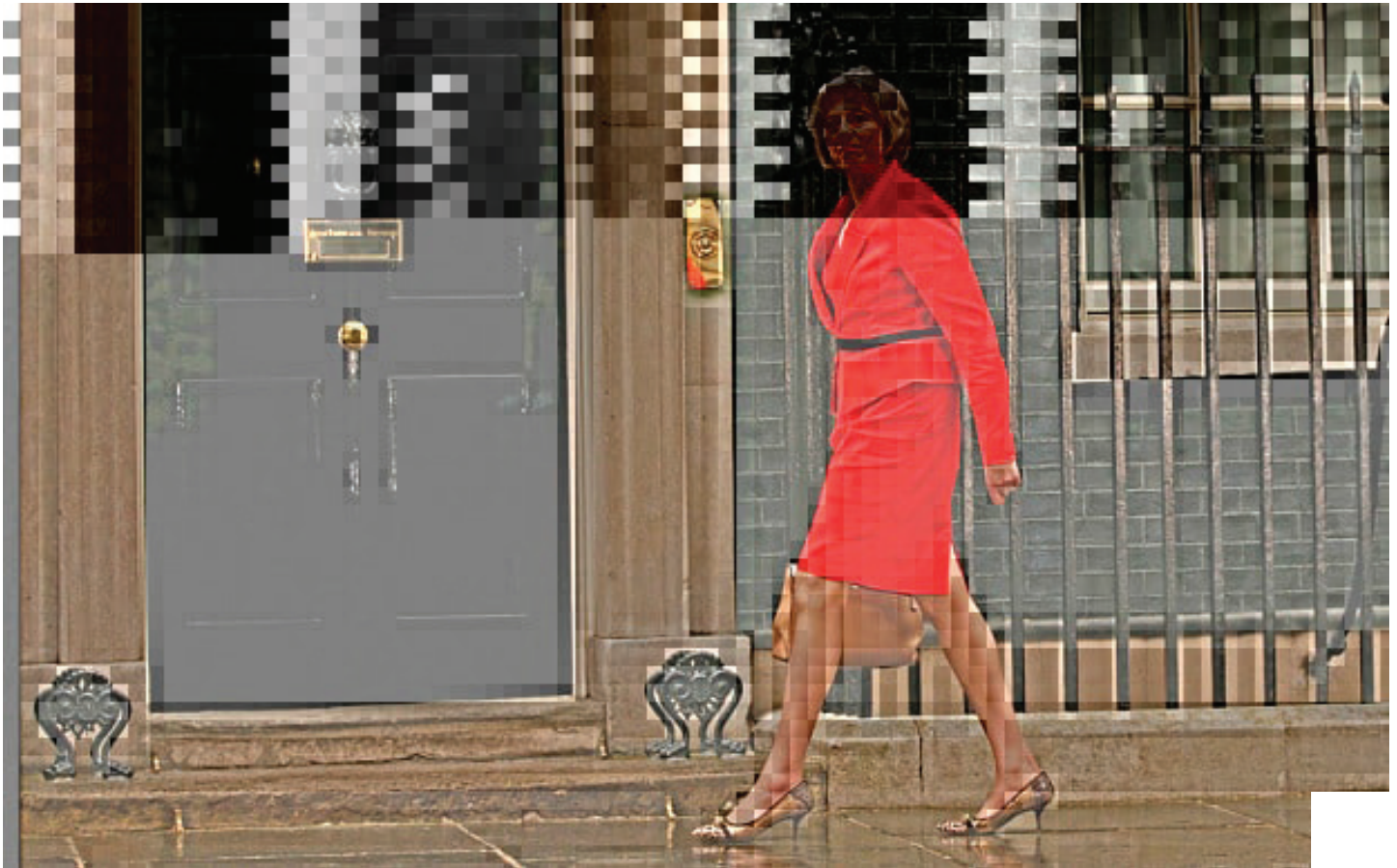


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Refugee crisis: Theresa May has a serious compassion deficit which could be her undoing

David Cameron has relegated 'Teflon' Theresa May to the subs bench during the refugee crisis. Cathy Newman reports

By Cathy Newman

09 September 2015 • 13:10 pm



If you're a cabinet minister, you know you've got a crisis on your hands when the prime minister bigfoots you. And so it is with Theresa May and the exodus of refugees from Syria.

The Home Secretary held the fort when migrants were scaling fences and boarding trains in Calais. But when Aylan Kurdi's lifeless body awakened the world to the scale of the disaster, the Prime Minister stepped in. Theresa May has been relegated to the subs' bench.

This is in no way a criticism of her performance, I'm told. In fact, she got a special mention in a meeting of the political cabinet yesterday for her handling of the chaos at Calais.

But this got me thinking that the Home Secretary's greatest skill is also her biggest liability as a politician. She's tough, uncompromising – and entirely unemotional. Which is great for a Home Secretary. But when it comes to aspiring to lead her party, it's a hurdle to be overcome.

David Cameron, like Tony Blair before him, is never averse to letting a bit of emotion show, particularly when it comes to talking about his kids or other people's. It was noticeable, then, that when it came to drowning Syrian children, his empathy kicked in rather late in the day.

Mrs May, by contrast, has always been the hard woman of the cabinet. As one government insider puts it: "She's a tank. She's very controlled, but that's a good thing." It's true, it's served her well in her current post – a notorious political graveyard. She's dodged numerous bullets, and is now the longest-serving Home Secretary for more than half a century (and by the way she'll break that record if she sticks around until Christmas). No wonder they call her [Teflon Theresa](#).

"As Home Secretary, the potential for downside is huge. Almost nobody enhances their reputation in that job. It's a real tribute to Theresa that she's managed to do that," a friend says.

She's attempting to see through a pledge to reduce net immigration to the tens of thousands. That's tough. In fact, it proved impossible last parliament. Yet still Mrs May refuses to compromise.

So it would have been entirely out of character to hear her make the case, as Angela Merkel did, to throw open the doors to the refugees escaping the Syrian war or the migrants hoping for a better, more profitable life.

But if she's serious about having a go at the leadership she knows she needs to expand her horizons beyond the Home Office and show a softer side too.

That perhaps explains why she's been so keen to announce more "human" policies on slavery and domestic abuse. Actions will have to speak louder than words, a friend says. "Theresa doesn't do emotion, but when you think of some of the things she's done like modern slavery that are slightly out of the box, she's capable of saying this is a big issue, particularly when it comes to women."

She's also given the odd interview – just the odd one, mind - offering a glimpse of vulnerability behind the steely façade.

It's a tall order though, and the recent historical precedents for home secretaries becoming leaders aren't encouraging.

Michael Howard was a famously hardline Home Secretary and when Ann Widdecombe decided there was "something of the night" about him, that put paid to his chances of leading his party in 1997. It was only when Iain Duncan Smith floundered that he was given what was effectively a caretaker role until the next election.

Admittedly Tony Blair was shadow Home Secretary before becoming leader, but his tough message on crime appealed to a party desperate to prove, after years in the political wilderness, it would be equally robust on the economy.

Interestingly, Mr Blair's popularity ratings soared after his emotional - [some said mawkish - response to the death of Princess Diana.](#)

So if Mrs May has any hope of achieving greater things, she does need to do emotion. It's just questionable whether that's compatible with her current job.

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Denmark becomes latest migration flashpoint as it gives refugees free passage to Sweden

Security forces give up efforts to detain refugees after days of chaos at borders, drawing angry accusations of breaking EU asylum rules

10 September 2015 • 19:57 pm

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Denmark became the latest flashpoint in Europe's migration crisis on Thursday as the country gave free passage to refugees trying to reach Sweden, drawing angry accusations that it was ripping up EU rules on asylum registrations.

Danish police announced on Thursday that they would no longer detain refugees aiming to travel through the country to Sweden, after days of chaos at its borders with Germany

as security forces tried to curb the rising inflow. 3,200 people have entered the country since Sunday as a wave of migrants, many of them Syrian, pushes north through Europe in the hope of refuge.

Sweden's prime minister, Stefan Lofven, attacked Denmark's "unfortunate decision" to send trains onward to its neighbour without attempting to register anyone on board, as the pressure of the greatest refugee crisis since the Second World War pushed EU asylum rules to breaking point.

"This is an unfortunate decision," Mr Lofven said. "The Dublin Regulation says that the country which refugees first come to is the country where they should be registered. This is how we act in Sweden, and we intend to follow the rules."

Danish security forces had briefly [closed a major ferry and rail crossing](#) after a standoff at the port of Rodby with two trains carrying 350 refugees demanding to be allowed through to Sweden, but re-opened it on Wednesday, as well as a motorway link which had been shut on and off over recent days.

A temporary asylum centre set up to register asylum seekers in Rodby has now been closed, with refugees left to travel on by train unhindered.

The country's national train operator DSB said on Thursday it was now allowing refugees to travel through the country for free.

Jens Henrik Hojberg, Denmark's national police commissioner, said that the authorities had been forced to stop trying to register all refugees, as they lacked the resources.

"We obviously cannot not keep so many people in detention indefinitely, so there is no other option than to leave them at liberty, and therefore we cannot prevent them from travelling wherever they want," he said.

According to the Danish Ministry of Justice, just 400 of the refugees who have crossed over into Denmark since Sunday have applied for asylum in the country.

"The large majority of the arrivals have refused to communicate with Danish authorities," it said in a statement. "Most of those who have had contact with the Danish police have stated that they want to go to Sweden to claim asylum."

Sweden expects to receive 80,000 refugees this year and has more asylum seekers per capita than any other European nation thanks to a [generous immigration policy allowing](#)

automatic permanent residency for Syrians.

Denmark is not the only country in Europe pushed into taking extraordinary measures by the scale of the crisis, as the stream of refugees moving up towards Germany and northern Europe continues unabated.

Austrian railways ordered all train services to and from Hungary stopped on Thursday after what it described as “massive overcrowding” by refugees, while Macedonia said it was now considering building a Hungarian-style border fence.

More than 3,000 refugees arrived overnight at the Nickelsdorf im Burgenland rail border crossing, according to police in Austria.

By 10.30am there were 3,700 refugees crowded into the border station, with thousands more on their way from Hungary.

Buses and shuttle trains taking the arriving refugees on to Vienna were unable to cope with the numbers and the Austrian army was deployed to the station to keep order.

The Austrian railway company OeBB said in a statement it had no choice but to temporarily suspend service “because of massive overcrowding on trains arriving from Hungary”.

The company added it was selling no more tickets to Hungary.

“We don’t know how many refugees we have to prepare ourselves for,” Christian Stella, deputy director of the Burgenland state police, told Krone newspaper.

Around 1,500 were expected on a train from the Hungarian town of Győr, he said.

In Budapest, there were reports of police cordons holding back crowds of some 2,000 refugees who wanted to board trains to Austria.

Some 3,300 refugees crossed from Serbia into Hungary after having made their way through the country from Macedonia, according to Serbian reports, while there were another 4,000 massed in the Serbian border town of Kanjiza.

Macedonian Foreign Minister Nikola Poposki said on Thursday that a fence or an army deployment may be necessary to secure the country's border with Greece.

In an interview with Hungarian business weekly Figyelo, he said Macedonia will probably also need “some kind of a physical defence” though this would not be a long-term solution.

“But if we take seriously what Europe is asking us to do, we will need that, too. Either soldiers or a fence or a combination of the two,” he said.



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Why I've given up my middle-class life to rescue refugees in the Mediterranean

Alison Criado-Perez explains why she's left her comfortable home in Rutland for life on the front line of the refugee crisis

By Alison Criado Perez and India Sturgis

12 September 2015 • 10:00 am



When the body of the [Syrian toddler Aylan Kurdi](#) washed up on a Turkish beach last week, the world came to a collective standstill. The photos of his tiny corpse [provoked widespread horror](#) and marked a major turning point in the public view of the ongoing migrant crisis.

The same day Aylan's tragedy was being broadcast around the globe, I hauled a small boy (he looked barely a year old) on to a boat. The infant had been rescued from a wooden vessel containing [hundreds of refugees trying to reach a new life](#). So overladen and waterlogged was the boat that it was close to capsizing.

Moments earlier, an urgent call had called us up to the deck. I had stopped checking the drugs, monitors, ventilators and bandages piled high in our onboard clinic and rushed outside. Below, a rigid-hulled inflatable boat (a RHIB) had swung alongside our 40m-long search-and-rescue vessel, having picked up the desperate souls bobbing around on the waves a few hundred metres away. I peered down and saw the RHIB was full to the brim with people, a sea of brown eyes gazing up in terrified exhaustion.

I never found out the name of the tiny boy who was passed up to me first, but his face will forever stay with me: eyes opened wide in stunned amazement, dirty skin and crumpled clothing swaddling a fragile body. All I could think was: "Ali, don't drop him back into the water." His fate could so easily have been the same as Aylan's.

Amid such horror, it is strange to imagine that barely two weeks earlier I had been cycling up and down the green hills that surround my home in Rutland, East Midlands. As the 65-year-old mother of three children – Sebastian, 35, Nicholas, 33, and Caroline, 31 (whom you might remember as [the journalist who campaigned to have women depicted on bank notes](#) two years ago) – I may seem an unlikely candidate to be on the front line, and indeed it has been a bumpy road to get here.

"No one would make this treacherous journey unless there was no alternative"

It all started when I resurrected my career as a nurse after I got divorced from my husband, Carlos Criado-Perez, an Argentinian businessman. We had married when I was in my late twenties and I spent the next two decades following him around the world,

wherever his work took him. We lived in Spain, Brazil, Portugal and Taiwan, but hardly ever long enough for me to learn the language fluently and get some kind of work. I was a glorified handbag wife – something I found unfulfilling, but had no option, as a wife and mother, but to accept.

When we separated in the late Nineties, I hit rock bottom. It was devastating. I was lost, physically sick with grief at times, and overwhelmed with a feeling of inadequacy and despair. Supported by friends and family, eventually I picked myself up and, after doing a Back to Nursing course, I took up a post in the A&E department at the Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham. Around that time, I met a director of the international aid charity

Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders, or MSF, as it is known) and started thinking working in emergency humanitarian aid.

I had wanted to work in this sector since I first qualified as a nurse, but at this stage I severely doubted I had the guts to drop my life and set off into the unknown for nine months at a time. Yet the opportunity struck me as a potential silver lining to the black cloud of divorce. Momentum swept me along and, a few years later, [I landed in the Central African Republic](#) to run mobile medical clinics.

[Fast-forward seven years](#) and here I am, on a three-month mission as the medical team leader working with MSF on the refugee crisis in the Mediterranean. For the next eight weeks I will be stationed on The Phoenix, an adapted fishing vessel bought by the American philanthropist who founded the Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS) to carry out rescue operations for migrant vessels that are in distress in the sea between Libya and Sicily.

That day last week we rescued 332 men, women and children, a bedraggled stream of humanity [suffering from dehydration, exposure and general exhaustion](#). Many needed urgent medical attention; others collapsed on deck or in passageways in blankets, nursing water packs and nutritional biscuits, thankful for sleep.



In the following days, while on our way to dock in Reggio di Calabria, Italy, where the refugees disembarked this time, we attended a constant stream of patients. Their medical conditions

ranged from high fever and skin infections to severe wounds and abscesses and chronic conditions such as diabetes and asthma. We also checked the pregnant women on board. The case of one 16-year-old Eritrean girl who was travelling alone was particularly distressing. She had a high fever due to pneumonia, which I treated with antibiotics, but her leg was badly damaged. She'd been beaten in Libya, maybe by traffickers after more money, and could hardly walk. I gave her tablets for the pain but could do little for her mental state.

The day before my arrival, the medical team on board had entered the hold of a ship to find 52 people dead, asphyxiated. They were crammed together in the most inhumane way imaginable. Only one man was alive; he was brought aboard, intubated and stabilised and medevac'd out by helicopter to Italy.

•

The EU migrant crisis explained in 90 seconds

In a week we've rescued two boats. The first contained 415 people, which pushed The Phoenix to the limit, as our capacity is 350. There were 20 nationalities on board, from Eritrea, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Iraq, Bangladesh and Palestine, but mostly from Syria.

One, a young man from sub-Saharan Africa, stands out for me: he was suffering from paranoid delusions, probably from the atrocities he had faced. We stayed with him through the night to reassure him that he was safe. He hardly spoke and mostly cowered in a corner of the clinic.

This enterprise is my 13th mission since I began working for MSF in 2007. Despite my years of experience in unstable situations, I am always anxious about how I will cope. Medically, I know it will probably be overwhelming, but it's the emotional fallout that is harder to predict. Sometimes small things from home can make all the difference. With me on the boat I have a small down pillow, Earl Grey tea bags and an iPod so that I can listen to audio books. It is a dry ship but, back on land, a bottle of gin from duty free can prove a balsam.

My children worry about me. Caroline says she battles with being both extremely proud of my work and terrified I won't return. I once wrote a letter to my children, before visiting a highly dangerous area of Libya, that said: "If by some chance I don't come back, don't be angry with me, and understand I was doing something I really loved." I gave it to a colleague, who looked aghast, but you have to be practical. My family know how important this is to me.

I've been to northern Nigeria to treat lead poisoning, evacuated war-wounded from Libya and dealt with refugees from all over the world. Working on the Turkish-Syrian border to set up medical facilities for Syrian refugees in 2011, I heard stories of bombings, of friends and family killed and lives destroyed every day. Most arrived with no possessions after terrifying treks to the border with pregnant wives or small children. The tales I've heard on board Phoenix are similar; only the length of the journeys has extended.

- [Hungary's wire border](#)

-

Mediterranean migrants try to reach Europe: in pictures

Earlier this year, in Sierra Leone I worked with the Ebola outbreak, from which I have terrible memories of people haemorrhaging and dying in the treatment centre, collapsed, alone. They are images that continue to haunt me.

But little has had such an impact on me as the current humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean. The desperation is absolute and the number of young children making the journey shocking. More than 2,800 people have lost their lives at sea this year, and every day huge numbers more take the same risk.



We came across one man from Syria who had applied to 13 embassies for asylum, including the UK's and France's, before taking matters into his own hands and making the Mediterranean crossing. No one would make this treacherous journey unless there was no alternative.

I am so lucky to have wound up, through the lottery of life, with a peaceful place to live in a beautiful house in Britain. These refugees have done nothing to deserve the situation they are in. Most are civilians fleeing for their lives with nothing as the bombs rain down back home.

Being able to provide help where it is most needed makes me feel both fortunate and happy. The sad truth is, my work is barely a drop in the ocean – never more so than now, while wave after wave of refugees floods in across Europe.

As The Phoenix pulled into Reggio di Calabria earlier this week a young Eritrean woman wearing a bright pink headscarf stood up and began chanting and clapping. Others joined her, and soon the entire deck was on their feet jubilantly singing, their faces wreathed in smiles. They sang in hope, in relief and in expectation. Tears streamed down my cheeks; I could hold them back no longer. The people before me had been through so much already, but so much more uncertainty lay ahead.

If you would like to donate to Medecins Sans Frontieres, please visit www.msf.org.uk

• As told to India Sturgis



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Refugee crisis: Emergency EU migrant talks as border controls return to Europe

Germany and Austria temporarily reintroduce border controls as tens of thousands of migrants pour in ahead of talks on Monday

By Justin Huggler

14 September 2015 • 07:38 am



European ministers will hold emergency talks on Monday on plans to distribute migrants around the continent, after Germany reintroduced border controls admitting it could no longer cope with the influx.

As city after city across Germany announced it had no more room for the tens of thousands of refugees pouring into the country, and the mayor of Munich warned that new arrivals would soon be sleeping in the streets, chancellor Angela Merkel's government announced it was reimposing controls on its border with Austria.



All train services between the two countries were stopped at 5pm local time (4pm BST), and hundreds of police were on their way to secure the border.

“The aim of this measure is to limit the current flow to Germany and restore an orderly process,” Thomas de Maiziere, the German interior minister, said in a terse statement in Berlin.

Within hours, the Czech Republic announced that it was imposing similar measures on its own border with Austria.

It came as the UN refugee agency warned that the EU must avoid fragmenting into a patchwork of countries with different border rules that would plunge thousands of refugees into "legal limbo".

Decisions by a meeting of EU ministers of the interior on Monday would be "even more critical", UNHCR said.

The announcement in Berlin signalled a dramatic shift in policy by Mrs Merkel's government. Just a week ago, there were emotional scenes in Munich as hundreds of local people turned out to cheer arriving refugees, after Germany announced it would let them in to avert a humanitarian crisis.

But on Sunday, Mr de Maiziere said the country could not be expected to cope with the burden alone.

“In recent weeks Germany has shown great willingness to help, from both professionals and volunteers. But this willingness should not be overstretched,” he said.

“This measure is therefore also a signal to all of Europe: Germany is committed to its humanitarian responsibilities, but the burden of such a large number of refugees must be shared fairly around Europe.”

The European Commission said Germany appeared to be legally justified in reimposing the border controls, which are allowed as a temporary emergency measure under the Schengen agreement.



“The German decision of today underlines the urgency to agree on the measures proposed by the European Commission in order to manage the refugee crisis,” it said in a statement.

EU ministers will discuss a proposal by Jean-Claude Juncker, the Commission president, to redistribute 160,000 refugees among member states.

Britain will not have to take any refugees under the scheme, as it has an opt-out.

The refugee crisis has exposed huge cracks in the EU's current Dublin system, under which migrants must seek asylum in the country in which they first arrive.

EU governments have descended into open sparring over responsibility for the new arrivals, with neighbours accusing each other of failing to register migrants and instead shunting them on to the next destination. Others complain of unfairly large burdens, or argue that they cannot be expected to intercept migrants bent on reaching the country of their choice.

But Mr de Maiziere stressed that until a new system was in place, member states would have to follow the existing rules.

“Under current European law Germany is not responsible for the vast majority of asylum seekers,” he said.

“The competent member state has a responsibility not only to register asylum-seekers, but to carry out the asylum procedure.”

Refugees cannot pick and choose which country to settle in, he said.

“Asylum-seekers have to accept that they cannot choose which EU member state gives them protection. This will also apply when it comes to a European distribution.”

Earlier on Sunday, Mr de Maiziere said: “It can't be our duty to pay benefits laid out in German law to refugees who have been allocated to one EU country and then come to Germany anyway.

Sigmar Gabriel, Germany's vice-chancellor, blamed "Europe's inaction" in the refugee crisis for having stretched his country's capacity to host asylum-seekers to its limit.

"Europe's inaction in the refugee crisis had driven Germany in the meanwhile to the limit of its capacity," Mr Gabriel told the Tagesspiegel newspaper.

The problem is "not the number of refugees but the rapidity at which they arrived", which complicated the work of regional states and German cities, he told the Berlin daily.

Mr Gabriel, who is also economy minister, urged Europe to examine how it can "quickly help in an efficient way the countries of origins of these refugees".

He suggested "immediate aid of €1.5 billion (£1.1 billion)" put forward by Germany and Europe for the biggest refugee camps, such as those in Lebanon and Jordan, for schools, food and lodgings.

Currently, most refugees want to go to Germany or Sweden, where they get a warmer welcome and more generous benefits.

The apparent U-turn by Mrs Merkel's government came after authorities in Munich, the entry point for most migrants in Germany, appealed for help to cope with the influx.

"We are simply full here in Munich," Dieter Reiter, the mayor told ZDF television after 12,000 migrants arrived in the southern German city on Saturday alone – the most yet in a single day.

"From tonight, I can no longer ensure that refugees do not have to sleep at the station, or elsewhere in the city under the open sky."

Some 80 refugees were forced to sleep rough in the city station on Saturday, and authorities were stockpiling sleeping bags and camping mats.

The city is preparing to open an Olympic arena as a temporary shelter for refugees, and the German army will provide 1,000 places at a barracks in northern Bavaria.

There was no sign of a let up in the numbers heading north towards Germany. Austrian authorities said 6,700 arrived across the border with Hungary on Saturday, and they were expecting 6,000 to 8,000 more on Sunday.

Further south along the route, 4,330 refugees crossed into Hungary on Saturday, the most the country has seen in a single day.

Hungary's hardline prime minister Viktor Orban welcomed Berlin's decision as a "necessary" move to protect European values in the face of a record migrant influx.

Mr Orban said he was also convinced that "this is only the first step".

"We must also protect Europe's borders in Greece as soon as possible - with the cohesion of Europe, all of its member states and organisations," he added.

Britain announced it had appointed a minister to deal specifically with the 20,000 Syrian refugees that the country has agreed to resettle from camps bordering the war-torn country.

"The queen has been pleased to approve the appointment of Richard Harrington MP as a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State jointly at the Home Office, the Department for Communities and Local Government, and the Department for International Development," said a statement from the Downing Street office of David Cameron on Monday.

On Tuesday, a controversial new law is to come into effect in Hungary, under which refugees could be jailed for trying to cross its new 120-mile fence along its border with

Serbia. Some are thought to be trying to make it through before the deadline.



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Dalai Lama: real answer to Europe's refugee crisis lies in Middle East

'Impossible' for Europe to accommodate all refugees – says world's most famous exile

By John Bingham and Johnbingham

14 September 2015 • 16:59 pm



The answer to the [refugee crisis](#) must be found in the Middle East because it would be “impossible” for Europe to provide sanctuary to everyone in need, the Dalai Lama has insisted.

The Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader, who has himself been in exile for 56 years, praised Germany in particular for offering sanctuary to thousands of people fleeing war in Syria and elsewhere as “wonderful” but insisted it was not a “long-term solution”.

His remarks came at a meeting Oxford, where he inaugurated the Dalai Lama Centre for Compassion – which will specialise in the study of ethics – at the start of a 10-day visit to the UK which will include addressing thousands of people at the O2 arena on Saturday.

He spoke of the need for the interests of “humanity” to come before those of countries or even continents.

But asked for his impressions on the European response to the refugee crisis, he said: “I think some, especially Germany, [have given] a very good response, and Austria.

“And then this country also now is showing serious consideration about that – wonderful.

“But then you have to think, it is impossible for [everyone outside] Europe [to] come to Europe, impossible.

“They are taking care about these refugees, a small number, but ultimately we have to think how to reduce this killing in their own countries.

“And the way to reduce [that] is not using force ... in certain cases maybe but generally using force never solves these problems.”

He said that only education, dialogue, and personal contact could resolve conflicts in the long-term.

“So taking care of several thousand refugees [is] wonderful, but [in the] mean time you have to think about long-term solutions, how to bring genuine peace and genuine development, mainly through education, for these Muslim countries,” he said.

The 80-year-old also spoke about the possibility that the role of Dalai Lama would not continue after his death insisting that it should be up to the Tibetan people to decide if he were to have a successor.

He joked that the Communist government in China seemed more concerned about the possibility of him being reincarnated than he was himself.

There was [controversy in China earlier this year](#) when he repeated his suggestion that he might be the last Dalai Lama rather than being reincarnated in line with Tibetan Buddhists beliefs.

Beijing sees itself as the proper guardian of the process of choosing his successor and even determining how the process of reincarnation might be determined.

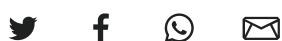
Asked about the controversy the Dalai Lama remarked: “I am not much concerned about Dalai Lama institution.

“As early as 1969 in [a] public statement I mentioned [\[the question of\] whether the Dalai Lama institution should continue or not is up to Tibetan people](#).

“If majority of people feel that this institution has not much relevance then it [will] automatically cease.

“I have not much concern.”

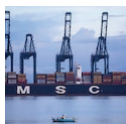
Laughing, he added: “It seems the Chinese government, communists who do not believe in rebirth and very critical about the Tibetan tradition, I think that they are more concerned about Dalai Lama institution than myself.”



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