

This monthly press review covers Eurafrican migration control, migration and displacement in African countries and news on the European border regime. In case there is a news item, report, or campaign you would like to flag for in next month's review please write us to: migr-contr@ffm-online.org or on Twitter @MigControl.

NEW ON MIGRATION-CONTROL.INFO

Blog Migration Movements in, to and from the Horn of Africa: Internal EU-Document by the Migration Control Info Project Editorial Team: "migration-control.info has received an internal paper on the Horn of Africa – Migratory situation, published 30.03.2023, handed over by the Swedish Presidency to the Working Party on External Aspects of Asylum and Migration (EMWP)."

Blog Joint Statement: Tunisia is neither a safe country of origin nor a place of safety for those rescued at sea "We, the undersigned organizations, issue this statement to remind once again that Tunisia is neither a safe country of origin nor a safe third country. Therefore, it cannot be considered as a place of safety for people rescued at sea. Given the Tunisian ongoing authoritarian state transformation and the extreme violence and persecution of the Black population in Tunisia, as well as of people on the move, political opponents and civil society actors, we urge authorities of the European Union and its member states to withdraw their migration control agreements with the Tunisian authorities and express our solidarity with the people concerned," the undersigning Civil Search And Rescue Organizations and migrants solidarity networks state. You can find the statement in [English](#), [French](#), [German](#) and [Arabic](#).

Blog „If we stay here we are going to die“ – Testimonies from refugees in Tunisia about their protest sit-in at the UNHCR in Tunis and its violent eviction: The blog offers an overview of the protests in front of the UNHCR in Tunis and collects testimonies from protestors. It is about the sit-in and in particular recalls the violent eviction from the police that took place after the UNHCR called upon the state forces. This violence and the UNHCR's neglect and refusal to meet its mandate to protect refugees is not an isolated incident - as numerous protests of migrants and refugees in different North African countries demonstrate.

Wiki Nigeria by Kwaku Arhin-Sam: This wiki provides a critical analysis of EU externalization policies to Nigeria that is in contrast to regional migration patterns. In 1979, Nigeria ratified the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol and until today, many internally displaced people seek safety regionally. However, the EU's interest to curb illegalised arrivals and increase deportations shapes policies and shifts the focus of policies on combating transnational networks and stopping illegalised migration to EU. This leads to the absence of legal pathways and thus creates market opportunities for mobility facilitators, increasingly criminalized as smugglers. However, migration movements are still a part of everyday life for many Nigerians and the diaspora engagement, that is entangled with logics of racialized capitalism, is fundamental for the Nigerian government.

EAST AFRICA

Ethiopia 17.04.23: Al Jazeera: **Ethiopia recruits 500,000 women for domestic work in Saudi Arabia** [Background Report]: "Human rights activists have criticised Ethiopia's continuing recruitment of women for domestic work in Saudi Arabia.[...] Administrative documents seen by Al Jazeera reveal plans to recruit as many as half a million women between the ages of 18-40, to send to Saudi Arabia to work as domestic workers. But human rights experts say they are concerned by the mass recruitment drive, given Saudi Arabia's poor human rights record."

Ethiopia 12.04.23: Guardian: **Gun battles erupt in Ethiopia as PM axes Amhara region's security force**: The country's second-biggest state has been riven by mass street protests, armed clashes between local police and the federal military as well as the fatal shooting of two aid workers. Abiy has lost support among the Amhara, Ethiopia's second-largest group, who feel let down by his failure to stop an offensive by the Tigray rebels into their region in 2021 and prevent a series of ethnically motivated attacks against Amhara people in the state of Oromia. Many Amharas say they need their own security force to protect themselves against these twin threats.

Somalia 11.04.23: Al Jazeera: **UN chief sounds alarm on Somalia's 'massive' need for aid**: Five successive failed rainy seasons in parts of Somalia, as well as Kenya and Ethiopia, have led to the worst drought in four decades, wiping out livestock and crops and forcing at least 1.7 million people from their homes in search of food and water. While famine thresholds have not been reached in Somalia, the UN has said about half its population will need humanitarian assistance this year, with 8.3 million affected by the drought.

NORTH AFRICA

Algeria / Niger 01.04.23: Alarmphone Sahara: **Assamaka, Niger-Algeria border: More than 10,000 people deported in 3 months amidst a humanitarian crisis:** “With unprecedented frequency, people of various origins are being deported from Algeria to Niger. In the 3 months from the beginning of 2023 to the 1st of April, at least 11336 people were concerned according to the observations of the Alarme Phone Sahara team. Among them, 4845 people were deported in "official" convoys and 6491 deported in "unofficial" convoys. The latter were deposited, as usual, in the desert in the border area at "point zero" and forced to walk the 15 kilometers to the village of Assamaka.”

Egypt 17.04.23: Al Jazeera: **IMF wants Egypt to make reforms before bailout review: Report:** “The International Monetary Fund wants Egypt to enact more of the reforms that Cairo has committed to before it conducts the first review of the country’s \$3bn rescue package, Bloomberg News has reported. The Washington-based lender wants Cairo to privatize certain state assets and allow flexibility in the Egyptian pound to make sure the review is successful.”

See also: 03.04.23 Al Jazeera: **Egypt’s el-Sisi visits Saudi Arabia amid financial pressure**

Mediterranean 26.04.23: NYT: **Boat Sinks in Mediterranean, and at Least 55 People Drown:** “The latest disaster happened shortly after the bodies of dozens migrants, killed as their boats sank or capsized last week, washed ashore on the beaches of Sabratha, west of Tripoli. And on Monday, 33 people died in four different accidents near the Italian island of Lampedusa, according to Flavio di Giacomo, a spokesman for the U.N. agency. In total, 661 people have died in the central Mediterranean this year, he said. The number of deaths at sea includes people who went “missing” but after some hours are considered dead.”

For data see also [ECRE Weekly 21.04.23](#)

See also 13.04.23 AP: **UN rights chief seeks help as Mediterranean refugee deaths surge**

Sudan 15.04.23: Al Jazeera: **Fighting erupts in Sudan after months of tension:** Sudan woke up to heavy clashes between the army and a powerful paramilitary force known as the Rapid Support Forces on Saturday. The two rivals have long competed for relevance and power, but an internationally backed political process launched last year exacerbated tensions between them, analysts and activists say. Civilians in the capital

of Khartoum reported seeing armoured vehicles from both forces roaming the streets, while hearing heavy gunfire in multiple urban quarters.

See also Al Jazeera 13.04.23: **Fears in Sudan as army and paramilitary force face off; Map of fighting 17.04.23** (NYT, paywall)

Sudan 18.04.23: NYT: **Fighting in Sudan Traps Families as Generals Fail to Keep a Cease-Fire**: “Terrified to step outside because of firefights and bands of armed men in the streets, residents remain stuck in their homes with dwindling supplies of food, water and medicine.”

Sudan 19.04.23: NYT: **Sudan’s Generals Dined With Peace Negotiators, Then Started a War**: “For the last five days, fighting has raged in Khartoum and across Sudan, taking hundreds of lives and opening a volatile and unpredictable chapter for Africa’s third-largest country. On Wednesday, some residents who had been hiding in their homes without food, water or electricity rushed to flee during a patchy 24-hour cease-fire, fully expecting the fighting to continue.”

Sudan 19.04.23: TNH: **Sudan unrest: The view from Darfur**: “Fighting between Sudan’s army and the country’s main paramilitary force for control of the capital, Khartoum, has entered its fifth day. But battles are also raging in the long-restive western Darfur region, deepening an already acute humanitarian and security crisis.”

See also 18.04.23: taz: **Kämpfe in der Region Darfur in Sudan (Fighting in the Darfur region of Sudan)**; 27.04.23: Al Jazeera: **Shifting alliances in Sudan’s Darfur as new civil war fears rise**

Sudan 20.04.23: FP: **In Sudan, U.S. Policies Paved the Way for War**: “If there was a moment when hope for democracy was lost in Sudan, it was when this transitional constitution was agreed to [...] Perhaps the greatest example of U.S. delusions was Washington’s insistence on calling Sudan’s transition “civilian-led.” There was nothing about Sudan’s transition that was civilian-led. The generals publicly committed to reform and democracy, but it seems the only people who believed them were U.S. and U.N. officials.”

Sudan 20.04.23: taz: **Zivile Hilfe zwischen den Fronten (Civilian aid between the fronts)**: The resistance committees, local grassroots organizations, support their neighborhoods in distributing water and food where it is still available. They also resort to means of communication established in the revolution: graffiti and chants. They spray paint “No to

war" on the walls of the city. The committees have a lot of experience in self-organization and logistics. Together with the Sudanese Medical Association, they had set up an elaborate network during the revolution to guarantee medical care in crisis situations. But after five days of bitter fighting, they lack the necessary operating resources.

Sudan 20.04.23: Al Jazeera: **The soft-power campaign of Sudan's RSF leader 'Hemedti':** "Leader of the Rapid Support Forces has used global public relations firms to convince observers he is a force for good."

Sudan 20.04.23: Guardian: **Sudan's outsider: how a paramilitary leader fell out with the army and plunged the country into war** [Background read]: "His unconventional background means he has few allies among Sudan's political elites and military. But as a politician who also happens to own immensely valuable goldmines and run the largest private army in Africa – with about 70,000 soldiers at his disposal – this has not, at least until now, proved an insurmountable obstacle."

Sudan 21.04.23: Al Jazeera: **Protracted war predicted in Sudan with threat of intervention:** "Analysts warn the battle for capital Khartoum is expected to be long and bloody but the army should capture the city since it has a larger military arsenal."

Sudan 21.04.23: taz: **People need protection (Die Menschen brauchen Schutz):** Open the door for threatened people from Sudan and finally a secure status for the many who are already there – that would be the right step now. If you can't do anything for peace in Sudan – you can always do something for people.

Sudan 22.04.23: Al Jazeera: **Sudan 'resistance' activists mobilise as crisis escalates:** "...activists from hundreds of neighbourhoods mobilised to establish committees of medics, nurses and engineers across the country. Their tasks varied from providing shelter to the displaced, rehabilitating hospitals and saving lives amid shelling, gunfire and bombing."

Sudan 23.04.23: Al Jazeera: **Crowdsourcing #safety: How Twitter is helping civilians in Sudan:** "A civilian network organised mainly through Twitter is helping Sudanese people where aid groups cannot."

Sudan 24.04.23 NYT: **Civilians Flee Fighting in Sudan for Troubled Neighboring Countries:** Those displaced are streaming into nations such as Chad, Egypt and South Sudan, adding to a refugee crisis in the region.

See also 29.04.23: Al Jazeera: Sudanese flee to Egypt as Cairo works to avoid 'refugee crisis'

Sudan 25.04.23: Al Jazeera: Sudan fighting forces aid groups to halt, spreading suffering: “For 2023, UN agencies and partners – about 90 organisations in all – had published a Humanitarian Response Plan for Sudan that aimed to help 80 percent of the estimated 15.8 million people in need in the country and to “support the implementation of resilience”. In their estimates, the number of people needing the most basic assistance to stay alive – food, healthcare, water and sanitation – was about 11 million, with big concentrations in the country’s south and east. But these plans were halted.”

Sudan 25.04.23: taz: Ungewisser Zufluchtsort am Nil (Uncertain refuge on the Nile): For days, people have been fleeing the capital to al-Jazirah, many coming as far as Wad Madani. Whereas a ticket by bus from Khartoum to Madani had previously cost 5,000 Sudanese pounds, or about 7.50 euros, it now costs six times that amount: 30,000 pounds. The cost of the bus to the Egyptian border is now said to be over 160,000 pounds, which is over 250 euros. In Wad Madani, life is becoming increasingly expensive. According to Norwegian Refugee Aid, prices for basic foodstuffs have risen by 40 to 100 percent. And there is already a shortage of gasoline. Gasoline is therefore sold expensively on the black market.

Sudan 26.04.23: Al Jazeera: Humanitarian fears as thousands of Sudanese flee to Chad on foot: “Since fierce fighting broke out in Sudan on April 15, an estimated 20,000 people have entered Chad and at least 100,000 are set to arrive, the United Nations said on Tuesday, raising concerns about the stability of a fragile region.”

Sudan 26.04.23 FP: Sudan’s Warring Generals Ignore Truce: Summary of foreign interests in Sudan. Similar: 22.04.23 Al-Monitor: Meet Sudan's web of warlords, foreign backers and their tangled alignments with an extensive analysis of actors.

Sudan 27.04.23: NYT: Looting, Roadblocks: Paramilitary Is a Scary Neighbor in Sudan’s Capital: In the 12 days since war broke out in Sudan, the residents in the capital of Khartoum have learned to survive, living side by side with armed fighters. Civilians negotiate with a feared paramilitary faction at roadblocks for safe passage, grudgingly share food and water with them, and sometimes receive warnings about an upcoming battle – giving residents time to either bolt or run back inside and lock their doors. The fighters have moved into homes and taken over stores and hospitals, alternatively terrifying and wooing civilians. In one neighborhood, a resident said, they handed out

milk. In another, they invited community members to share in the spoils of their looting. In another, they turned vigilantes, punishing petty criminals.

Sudan 27.04.23: Foreign Affairs: **Sudan's Descent Into Chaos**: Comment by Alex de Waal: "What is happening in Sudan is a mobster shootout, and the world is running away from it."

Sudan 28.04.23: Al Jazeera: **What next for Sudan fighting after top Bashir-era officials freed**: "Leading aides of Sudan's former longtime ruler Omar al-Bashir are now free after reports of a prison break earlier this week amid the conflict that has gripped the country. As figures from Sudan's political Islamic movement, which came to power via al-Bashir's military coup in 1989, their revival could tilt the balance of power in the war between Sudan's army and a rival paramilitary."

Sudan 01.05.23: Al Jazeera: **UN refugee agency warns more than 800,000 may flee Sudan**: "In consultation with all concerned governments and partners, we've arrived at a planning figure of 815,000 people that may flee into the seven neighbouring countries," Raouf Mazou, UNHCR assistant high commissioner for refugees, told a member-state briefing in Geneva, Switzerland. Some 73,000 have already left Sudan, he added. Mazou's estimate includes approximately 580,000 Sudanese, while the others are refugees who had settled in the country for safety.

Tunisia 05.04.23 Guardian: **Water ban in drought-stricken Tunisia adds to growing crisis**: Tunisia has introduced water rationing as the country suffers its fourth year of severe drought. Risk of unrest rises amid fourth dry year, poor grain harvest, weak economy and likely food subsidy cuts.

Tunisia 06.04.23 Reuters: **Tunisia president rejects IMF 'diktats', casting doubt on bailout**: Tunisia's President Kais Saied gave his clearest rejection yet of the terms of a stalled \$1.9 billion IMF bailout package when he said on Thursday he would not accept "diktats" and suggested that subsidy cuts could lead to unrest. Tunisia reached a staff-level agreement with the IMF for the loan in September, but it has already missed key commitments, and donors believe the state's finances are increasingly diverging from the figures used to calculate the deal. Without a loan, Tunisia faces a full-blown balance of payments crisis. Most debt is internal but there are foreign loan repayments due later this year, and credit ratings agencies have said Tunisia may default.

Tunisia 18.04.23: Reuters: **Tunisian authorities ban meetings at opposition Ennahda party offices**: "Ennahda fears the move will pave the way for banning the party and comes a

day after police detained Ennahda leader Rached Ghannouchi, the most prominent critic of President Kais Saied and three senior officials, the party said. Hours after Ghannouchi's arrest, police raided the party headquarters early on Tuesday and evacuated all those present to start a search that will take days, party officials said."

Tunisia 19.04.23: ICMPD: **New: Oued Zarga Inter-agency Border Management Training Centre**: Funded by the Republic Germany and implemented by ICMPD in Tunisia, this ambitious endeavour embodies the spirit of integrated border management Tunisia engaged in for some years now, as well as the long-term operational cooperation between the National Guard, the Border Police and Customs.

Tunisia 28.04.23: Al Jazeera: **More than 200 refugees die off Tunisia coast in 10 days**: "Morgues and hospitals in city of Sfax are full, officials say, as the death toll from refugee shipwrecks soars."

See also 12.04.23: IOM: **Deadliest Quarter for Migrants in the Central Mediterranean Since 2017**; 13.04.23 taz: **Tunesien jagt Migranten ins Meer (Tunisia chases migrants into the sea)**; 28.04.23: Info-dienst Migration: **Zentrales Mittelmeer wird gefährlicher (Central Mediterranean becomes more dangerous)**

Western Sahara 29.04.23: Middle East Eye: **Morocco: How French Guiana became a refuge for Sahrawis fleeing repression**: "Since the recognition of the "Moroccanness" of Western Sahara by Washington in December 2020, in return for the resumption of Morocco's relations with Israel, Rabat has been pressing the international community to follow the American example. For several months now, more and more Sahrawis have been arriving in [French Guiana, a] French territory in South America to seek asylum. The phenomenon is too recent to be quantified, but it has been documented by the French refugee rights group Cimade."

WEST AFRICA

Burkina Faso 27.04.23: taz: **Ermittlungen nach Blutbad (Investigation after bloodbath)**: The United Nations (UN) is calling for accountability and clarification in connection with the bloodbath in Karma in northern Burkina Faso. A week ago, at least 150 civilians were murdered there, the UN estimates - and thus possibly one in three inhabitants. The alleged perpetrators belong to the Defenders of the Fatherland (VDP), a paramilitary group.

See also Al Jazeera: 16.04.23: **Dozens of defence forces killed in Burkina Faso attack: Governor**; 24.04.23: Al Jazeera: **Dozens killed in Burkina Faso attack near Mali border**

Ivory Coast / Benin / Togo 08.04.23: France 24: **US eyes aid to stop violence spilling into coastal West Africa**: The United States is preparing long-term assistance for the Ivory Coast, Benin and Togo as concerns rise that jihadist violence in the Sahel could spill into coastal West Africa, officials said. Speaking to AFP, the officials said Western support was also critical to halting Russia's Wagner mercenary group which has made major inroads in violence-torn Sahel countries, including by allying with Mali's military junta. Vice President Kamala Harris, visiting Ghana last month as part of a growing US push in Africa, promised \$100 million over 10 years to reinforce resilience in coastal West Africa.

Mali 11.04.23: RFI: **Mali: le groupe État islamique prend la localité de Tidermène, Ménaka en sursis (Mali: The Islamic State group takes the town of Tidermène, Ménaka on hold)**: The town of Tidermène in northeastern Mali, near the border with Niger, has been in the hands of the Islamic State group since Monday afternoon. The town of Ménaka is now surrounded by El jihadists who have gradually gained the upper hand over their rivals from the al-Qaeda-linked Islamic Support Group (Jnim).

See also 13.04.23: taz: **Zeitenwende in Mali. Die Putschregierung in Bamako genießt hohes Ansehen** (Turn of the tide in Mali. The coup government in Bamako enjoys high esteem)

Mauretania 24.04.23: Cridem: **Regain d'insécurité à la zone frontalière avec le Mali: la Mauritanie interdit les mouvements de civils (Renewed insecurity in the border area with Mali: Mauritania bans civilian movements)**: Mauritanian authorities have banned the movement of civilians in the border area with Mali, the online news site Alakhbar reported Monday, citing an audio recording by the deputy governor of the wilaya of Hodh El Chargui. The decision, taken for security reasons according to the official source, comes after an attack last week on a Malian presidential delegation in the Nara circle, Koulikouro region, near the border with Mauritania.

Niger 11.04.23: Defence Post: **Five Niger Soldiers Die in Desert Attack on Gold Convoy**: The convoy was heading for the town of Arlit from the gold rush site of Tchibarakaten 450 kilometres (280 miles) to the northeast where thousands of people have been drawn hoping to strike the precious metal.

Niger 12.04.23: DW: **German ministers visit Niger, Mali as military focus changes**: German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius and Development Minister Svenja Schulze arrived in

the Nigerien capital, Niamey, on Wednesday at the start of a joint trip to both Niger and Mali. The trip, which was not preannounced for security reasons, comes as Germany is set to gradually withdraw its Bundeswehr troops from the UN mission MINUSMA, which has been carrying out peacekeeping activities in Mali amid an Islamist rebellion. At the same time, the country is stepping up its military engagement in Niger, where German soldiers are to help train local armed forces as part of the new EU-led mission EUMPM.

SUBSAHARAN AFRICA

Angola / DRC 13.04.23: Al Jazeera: Dozens raped as migrant workers deported from Angola to DR Congo: Women and children have been raped and subjected to other abuses during a mass expulsion of migrant workers from Angola to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a doctor, officials and the United Nations say.

Angola has deported thousands of workers in recent months, according to UN figures, echoing previous purges over the past 12 years, during which abuses also occurred, according to human rights groups and the UN.

DRC 26.04.23: taz: Teilrückzug über die Baumgrenze (Partial retreat across the tree line): In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the M23 rebels are said to be relinquishing control. They disappear from the streets and then regroup.

South Africa 10.04.23: Al Jazeera: Why is South Africa not renewing 160,000 Zimbabwean work permits?: Thousands of Zimbabweans living in South Africa face an uncertain future and possible deportation before a June 2023 expiration of their work permits, following an announcement by the home government last year that there will be no extension.

WEST ASIA

Iraq / Turkey 09.04.23: Al Jazeera: Iraq demands Turkey apologise over attack on Sulaimaniyah airport: “The Iraqi government has called on Turkey to apologise for an attack on an airport in the country’s northern Kurdish region, while a US official confirmed there had been an attack on a convoy with US military personnel in the area but said there were no casualties. [...] Turkey, which has spent decades fighting Kurdish armed groups in its east, has conducted several military operations including air raids in northern Iraq and northern Syria against Kurdish-led forces there.”

Yemen 20.04.23: Al Jazeera: At least 78 killed in crush at Ramadan charity event in Yemen: "At least 78 people have been killed in a crush at a school in Yemen's capital Sanaa just days before the Eid al-Fitr festival, according to Houthi officials and media. The crush happened late on Wednesday [April 19] as hundreds of people crowded into a school in the Bab al-Yemen district of Sanaa in the hope of getting a charitable donation of about \$10 that was being handed out by merchants to mark the final days of Ramadan."

EUROPE

Italy 19.04.23: taz: Flucht über das Mittelmeer: Unterlassene Hilfeleistung (Escape across the Mediterranean Sea: Failure to provide assistance): In the six months since Meloni took office, more refugees have arrived than in any six months of the previous five years. Some 55,000 have arrived, including about 35,000 since the beginning of the year. The government is more right-wing than ever, but the number of refugees remains high. In addition to keeping private rescuers away, direct failure to provide assistance is also responsible for the increased number of deaths. The UN migration organization IOM points this out. At least 127 people have drowned this year because government-led rescue operations were delayed, according to the IOM. "The complete lack of response (...) claimed the lives of at least 73 migrants." NGO operations were "significantly reduced," the IOM said.

See also 13.04.23 TAZ: Rechte rufen Notstand aus (Rights declare state of emergency)

Lituvia 23.04.23: taz: Litauen erlaubt illegale Pushbacks von Migranten an der Grenze (Lithuania allows illegal pushbacks of migrants at border): It is particularly explosive that Lithuania also allows the use of so-called "godfathers" in border protection. These are volunteers who are allowed to patrol and take measures against migrants and asylum seekers - such as helping with arrests.

See also 21.04.21: ECRE weekly; 25.04.23: euractiv Lithuania legalises migrant pushbacks

North-Macedonia 22.04.23: MDR: Frontex startet vierte Operation auf Westbalkan (Frontex launches fourth operation on Western Balkans): Frontex will deploy more than 100 officers of the permanent reserve at the border every month, as well as technical equipment and patrol cars in the framework of the operation in Northern Macedonia. Frontex officers always work together with local authorities and under their instructions.

UK / Albania 25.04.23: BalkanInsight: **1,000 Albanians Returned from Britain Since Deal to Curb Migration**: “Over 1,000 Albanian nationals have been returned from Britain to Albania since the two countries signed an agreement to combat illegal migration from the Balkan state in December, officials said.”

See also 26.04.23: euractiv: **Significant drop in Albanians crossing The Channel in 2023**

EUROPEAN UNION

EU Parliament 20.04.23: Guardian: **MEPs approve plans for long-awaited overhaul to EU asylum system**: “The European parliament has approved a series of proposals to overhaul the EU asylum system in a bid to end a years-long deadlock over the issue. Voting in Strasbourg, MEPs approved plans on the distribution of refugees and migrants across the bloc, screening of people at the EU’s external borders and giving non-EU nationals long-term residence permits after three years of legal stay in a member state. The votes open the way for MEPs to negotiate the final laws with EU ministers. All sides have pledged to aim for an agreement by April 2024 – before the European elections later that year.”

Frontex 24.04.23: Statewatch: **Frontex to spend hundreds of millions of euros on surveillance and deportations**: “The total spending earmarked in the 2023 Procurement Plan (pdf) comes to just under €600 million, with the most substantial expenditure – some €260 million – going towards IT systems including software development, infrastructure and administrative systems. The agency also plans to spend at least €180 million on equipment to support its efforts in maritime and land border surveillance, including a drone contract worth up to €144 million.”

Statewatch has also published the **Annual Procurement Plan 2023**.

See also 12.04.23: EGMR: **Griechenland muss Asylbewerberin entschädigen (Greece must compensate asylum seeker)**; 13.04.23: Africaintelligence: **Italian ministry of defence agency wins €40m EU contract**; 17.04.23: taz: **Flüchtlingsdeal zwischen EU und Türkei: Perspektiven statt Grenzen (Refugee deal between EU and Turkey: prospects instead of borders)**

REPORTS

04.23: ECRE: **Country Report: Spain**: The updated AIDA Country Report on Spain provides a detailed overview on legislative and practice-related developments in asylum procedures, reception conditions, detention of asylum seekers and content of international protection in 2022. Further, the report includes an annex providing an overview of temporary protection. The Asylum Information Database (AIDA) is coordinated by the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE). It aims to provide up-to date information on asylum practice in 23 countries. This includes 19 EU Member States (AT, BE, BG, CY, DE, ES, FR, GR, HR, HU, IE, IT, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI) and 4 non-EU countries (Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom) which is accessible to researchers, advocates, legal practitioners and the general public through the dedicated website www.asylumineurope.org. (New reports also on Hungary and Belgium).

April 2023 Tagesspiegel: **Geflüchtete und Kriminalität: Was hinter den Zahlen steckt**: It is striking that significantly fewer suspects come from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq than their share of all asylum seekers would suggest. For the Maghreb countries Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, the opposite is true. Here, the proportion of multiple crime suspects is also particularly high. A peak value is reached for people from Algeria: for 56.6 percent of those who are registered as suspects, this happens more than once. "The young men who stand out in the statistics, who have come from North Africa, have also tended to live on the fringes of society there and more often brought previous experience of crime with them.". Syrians tend to be a cross-section of the population, and this is reflected in a lower rate of crime compared to other countries.

April 2023 AfricaNews: **Niger's Agadez region overwhelmed by migration**: In Arlit, a mining town in the Agadez region of northern Niger, the massive arrival of migrants from all over West Africa has caused the population to explode. As a historical crossroads between the Maghreb and the Sahel, the Agadez region is renowned for its tradition of hospitality. But the rise of insecurity is creating new tensions. Although there are no statistics to link this phenomenon to the massive arrival of foreigners in the region, the feeling felt by the inhabitants is very real. The main international organization on the ground, the IOM invests in so-called "stabilization" actions for the benefit of local communities: boreholes, hygiene infrastructures, and income-generating activities... But the flows are constantly increasing and the transit centers are already saturated. Compared to 2021, "the number of migrants stranded in Niger requesting IOM assistance has increased by 35% in 2022, with more than 17,000 migrants assisted by the Organization," says IOM.

See also IOM 05.04.23: **Needs of Stranded Migrants in Northern Niger Rise as Numbers Soar**

April 2023: ND: **Das Geschäft mit der Grenze (The Border Business)**: Companies, research projects and non-governmental organizations help shape Europe's isolation and earn money from it. This report gives insight into the logics behind the border business and lists some of the companies gaining from this business.

April 2023: LMD: **Massai in Tansania – Geschichte einer fortwährenden Vertreibung (Maasai in Tanzania - History of a Continuous Expulsion)**: Expulsion of the Maasai from the national parks in favor of big game hunters, especially from the UAE. 70,000 people are affected.

April 2023: Clingendael: **Sahel: stabilisation efforts should address internal displacement**: “The conflict situation in the Sahel has created one of the fastest growing displacement crises in the world with more than 2.5 million people displaced over the past decade [...] This brief calls for international partners to pay greater attention to the crisis of internal displacement in the Sahel. Such policies have to make IDPs themselves one of the actors that can help bring ‘stability’ to conflict affected settings.”

April 2023: Mixed Migration Centre: **Human rights in the context of smuggling: Perceptions and experiences of migrants in Mali and Niger**: The study finds that linkages between smuggler usage and human rights in the Central Sahel should be considered in a nuanced manner. In contrast to prevailing narratives around smuggling of migrants, which tend to portray smugglers as criminals and violators of rights, in West Africa smugglers are often an important source of information during the journey and are considered to be service providers.

April 2023: MEE: **Syrian women toil in Lebanon’s fields while facing abuse and sexual exploitation**: “In the Bekaa valley, the majority of the agricultural workers are female Syrian refugees and their lives are beset by exploitation and violence.”

EVENTS

03.04.23 Maldusa Project has been launched: See <https://www.maldusa.org/en/>

01.-06.06 STOP DEPORTATION! PROTEST CAMP – NO DEPORTATION CENTER Berlin At the Berlin-Brandenburg Airport, the government plans to build a massive deportation

prison. Already now, mass deportations via charter flights silently take place there every month. We want to break the silence and are organizing the “Stop Deportation! Protest Camp” in Schönefeld from June 1-6 2023. The Camp will be a place for workshops & skillsharing, raising awareness and connecting movements. Join the Camp from June 1-6 2023! To make our planning easier, please sign up for the camp at signup-stopdeportation@riseup.net (not mandatory, it is also possible to join spontaneously). For more information go [here](#).