

## MONTHLY REVIEW: NOVEMBER 2020



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](mailto:migr-contr@ffm-online.org) or on Twitter [@MigControl](https://twitter.com/MigControl)

### WEST AFRICA

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**Burkina Faso** 23.11.2020: Associated Press: **Burkina Faso counts ballots; extremist threats affected vote**: "Votes are being counted in Burkina Faso after Sunday's presidential and legislative elections, where threats of extremist violence linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State prevented parts of the country from casting ballots."

See also: 26.11.2020: Jeune Afrique: **Burkina Faso: Roch Marc Christian Kaboré réélu pour un second mandat, selon la Ceni**

**Mali** 09.11.2020: Clingendael: **Strategic Missteps: Learning From a Failed EU Sahel Strategy**: The August 18th coup in Mali confronted European leaders with a harsh reality: financial resources, capacity building trainings and security cooperation alone are too thin a strategy to restore peace and stability in the Sahel.

**Mauretania** 09.11.2020: C.R.I.D.E.M.: **Lutte contre l'immigration irrégulière : l'Espagne va mener des patrouilles aériennes depuis la Mauritanie (Fight against irregular migration: Spain will bring air patrols towards Mauritania)**: Irregular immigration to the Canary Islands has increased significantly in recent weeks, resulting in the loss of a significant number of human lives. As part of the collaboration between Mauritania and Spain and in order to strengthen the capacities of the Mauritanian forces involved, a maritime surveillance aircraft of the Spanish Civil Guard has been deployed in Nouakchott, under the Protocol of Bilateral Cooperation, according to a press release received by NDARINFO.

**Niger** 30.10.2020: Jeune Afrique: **Présidentielle au Niger : le fils de Mahamadou Issoufou nommé directeur de campagne de Mohamed Bazoum (Presidential Elections in Niger:the son of Mahmadou Issoufou nominated campaign manager of Mohamed Bazoum)**: Jeune Afrique reports that the son of incumbent Nigerien president Sani Mahmadou Issoufou has been chosen campaign manager for current Minister of the Interior and Presidential Candidate Mohamed Bazoum. The presidential elections will take place on December 27th.

**Senegal/Spain** 22.11.2020: Reuters: **Spain to send more police to Senegal to curb illegal migration, says foreign minister**: Spain will increase its police presence in Senegal to tackle criminal networks behind an upsurge in illegal migration from the West African coast to its territory, Foreign Minister Arancha Gonzalez Laya said on Sunday.

See also: 23.11.2020: [The Independent](#): **Spain's foreign minister visits Senegal to discuss migration**, 23.11.2020: [Infomigrants](#): **Canaries: l'Espagne renforce sa coopération avec le Maroc et le Sénégal**

**Sahel** 26.10.2020: [Clingendael](#): **The 'Fight against Terrorism' in the Sahel revisited**: New initiatives, operations and coalitions fighting terrorism in the Sahel appear regularly. One important negative side effect is that these operations often have severe repercussions for local populations. Indeed, throughout the first months of 2020, violence against civilians by Sahelian state security forces skyrocketed across Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, as local and foreign forces intensified their operations.

## **EAST AFRICA**

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**Ethiopia** 29.11.220: [Human Rights Concern Eritrea](#): **Ethiopia: Thousands of Eritrean Refugees Abducted from Tigray Camps by Eritrean Armed Forces**: "Reports are emerging that 6,000 Eritrean Refugees, who were living in two of the four refugee camps and in the town of Shire in the Tigray Regional State of Ethiopia, have been abducted by Eritrean armed forces working in Tigray with the permission of the Ethiopian army. It is understood that the refugees were removed at gunpoint from the Shimelba and Hitsats camps and Shire town and are being forcibly returned to Eritrea."

**Ethiopia** 10.11.2020: [Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung](#): **Der äthiopische Weg zur „Entwicklung“ Landnahme, Vertreibung und Binnenmigration (The Ethiopian path to development – land grabbing, eviction and internal migration)**: Development has been one of the main objectives of successive governments in Ethiopia – large-scale land grabbing has been one of the consequences. Farmers and cattle ranchers were expropriated and displaced and had to find new jobs in agricultural enterprises and urban areas. An insider's account.

**Sudan** 12.11.2020: [Izindaba](#): **Lehren aus der sudanesischen Dezemberrevolution: Die Revolution im Sudan endete nicht mit der Vertreibung von al-Bashir (Lessons from the Sudanese December Revolution: The revolution in Sudan did not end with the expulsion of al-Bashir)**: The people on the streets keep up the pressure until all their demands are met. Thus, the role of the self-organised resistance committees that coordinated local resistance during the revolution has become even more important during the transition. They were also the ones who faced the triple disaster of COVID-19, the economic collapse and the continuing violence by militias and state security. A portrait of a country after the revolution.

See also: 23.11.2020: [ISS](#): **Sudan's crises are debilitating an already fragile country**: Recent flooding is becoming a humanitarian disaster that could simultaneously endanger Sudan's peace process.

## **NORTH AFRICA**

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**Tunisia** 09.11.2020: Il Manifesto: **Navi e aerei davanti la Tunisia per fermare le barche dei migranti (Ships and planes in front of Tunisia to stop migrants' boats)**: Prior to his visit to Tunisia and Algeria, the French Minister of the Interior, Gerald Darmanin his Italian counterpart, Luciana Lamorgese, to cooperate more closely with the North African countries' Border and Coast Guards. The rhetoric legitimizing the plans strongly draws on narratives of anti-terror prevention. In his visits to Algeria and Tunisia the French minister discuss closer cooperation in the field of migration control, establishing a model akin to the cooperation with the Libyan Border and Coast Guard, and the return of radicalized citizen in return for development aid. With a six-month trial starting soon, that will see mixed brigades made up of Italian and French policemen controlling the borders between the two countries, cooperation on border control will go beyond the maritime border.

*See also:* 10.11.2020: Infomigrants: **Ships, airplanes to search for migrant boats off Tunisia**, 05.11.2020: Forum Tunisien pour les Droits Economiques et Sociaux (Open letter): **Open letter to Mr. Gerald Darmanin, Minister of the Interior Affairs of France**: The fight against salafist jihadist terrorism must be carried out with respect for the rights of Tunisians and migrants, 26.11.2020: Inkyfada: **En Italie, l'expulsion opaque des migrant-es tunisien-nes**: An insider account on a repatriation carried out under the Italian-Tunisian return and readmission agreement concluded in August 2020.

## EUROPE

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**Development Conditionality** 27.11.2020: Statewatch: **European Parliament: compliance with migration control measures should be a condition for receiving EU development aid**: The European Parliament voted in favour of a report that says the provision of development aid by the EU should depend on recipient states' compliance with "migration management" measures. A last-minute amendment by the MEP responsible for the file reversed the original position of the report. Human rights groups have condemned the move.

**FRONTEX** 18.11.2020: Statewatch: **Frontex multi-million euro contracts signed while lobby register still in the works**: Frontex has issued 21 calls for tender with an estimated value of over €210 million since the entry into force of its new Regulation in December 2019. A 34% increase in the agency's budget in 2020, designed to back up its new powers, has stimulated a spending spree on contracts throughout the year. The agency is obliged to introduce a lobbying transparency register, but this is not expected to come into use until early 2021.

**FRONTEX** 26.11. 2020: Spiegel: **Wie Frontex-Chef Leggeri die Öffentlichkeit getäuscht hat (How Frontex Chief Leggeri mislead the public)**: In a letter to the Commission on 11 November, [Leggeri] claimed that preliminary investigations had revealed that there was no evidence of Frontex's involvement in pushbacks in the Aegean Sea. In a newspaper interview shortly before, he had even gone a step further. The Greek government had cleared up his doubts about possible pushbacks, he said. An internal Frontex document available to SPIEGEL now proves that this is not true. Leggeri therefore had knowledge of at least one illegal pushback in the Aegean Sea - as early as 8 May at the latest.

*See also:* 10.11.2020: [Der Spiegel](#): **EU-Kommission stellt Frontex-Chef Leggeri ein Ultimatum (EU Commission gives Frontex boss Leggeri an ultimatum)**, 25.11.20: [Spiegel](#): **Frontex vertuscht Menschenrechtsverletzungen (Frontex conceals human rights abuses)**

**FRONTEX (Germany)** 28.11. 2020: [Zeit Online](#): **Bundespolizei half bei Push-back im Mittelmeer (Federal police helped with push-back in the Mediterranean)**: The German patrol boat BP 62 Uckermark stopped an overcrowded inflatable boat that was already clearly in Greek waters. Instead of taking in the 40 people, including women and children, as required by international maritime law, the Uckermark merely blocked their passage. In fact, the fugitives would have had the right to apply for asylum in Europe.

**New Pact on Migration** 30.11.2020: [Clingendael](#): **Towards mutually beneficial EU-West African migration cooperation? Assessing EU policy trends and their implications for migration cooperation**: This policy brief assesses the extent to which policy trends in the EU external migration governance framework, as put forward in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum and the new EU Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027, match the Union's commitment to building a mutually beneficial partnership with third countries.

**New Pact on Migration** 27.11.2020: [Statewatch](#): **EU: Tracking the Pact: Mediterranean Sub-Saharan Migration Trade Union Network recommendations on the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum**: The Mediterranean Sub-Saharan Migration Trade Union Network issued a set of recommendations. The group called for a number of positive measures, including an increase in safe and legal channels for migrants to seek work in the EU, the simplification of entry conditions, more possibilities for individuals to regularize their status within the EU, an end to the detention of migrants, a halt to externalization policies and transparency over readmission agreements.

## **EUROPEAN MEMBER STATES**

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**France/UK** 28.11.2020: [Al Jazeera](#): **UK, France sign new deal to curb Channel refugee crossings**: UK interior minister Priti Patel said under the deal the number of officers patrolling French beaches would double

**Greece** 24.10.2020: [Statewatch](#): **Greek authorities ordered pushbacks to Turkey, document shows**: Internal emails obtained by EUobserver show that the Greek authorities ordered that a group of people be pushed back to Turkey. The case came to public attention earlier this year when a Danish coast guard vessel operating in the Aegean as part of a Frontex mission refused to carry out the orders.

*See also:* 19.11.2020: [Alarmphone](#): **Ongoing violent pushbacks both at sea and on land**, 23.11.2020: [mediapart](#): **Les Grecs nous ont fait monter sur des radeaux gonflables, puis ils nous ont repoussés (The Greeks put us on inflatable rafts and then push us back)**, 27.11.2020: [Alarmphone](#): **197 People pushed back 200 nautical miles from Crete to Turkey**.

**Italy** 09.11.2020: The New Humanitarian: **Italy's use of ferries to quarantine migrants comes under fire**: Outrage is growing among human rights advocates at the use of commercial ferries by Italian authorities to quarantine asylum seekers and migrants due to COVID-19 – not just new arrivals, but also people from reception centres inland who have been in Italy for years. The initial policy began in April, but civil society organisations and lawyers argue that legitimate public health concerns are now being used as an excuse to detain people in poor conditions on the ferries and to restrict access to asylum, setting a dangerous precedent.

**Malta** 28.11.2020: The Libya Observer: **Malta: Cooperation with Libya prevented monumental crisis**: Maltese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Evarist Bartolo stated that the relatively low number of 2,256 illegalized migrants arriving in the country in 2020 was due to cooperation with Libya. He stated that, otherwise arrivals would be above 7,000 stating that cooperation had prevented a 'huge crisis'.

**Spain** 05.11.2020: InfoMigrants: **Espagne : Frontex de retour aux Canaries pour aider la police espagnole à identifier les migrants (Spain: Frontex back in the Canary Islands to help Spanish police identify migrants )**: Faced with the increase in migrant arrivals that the Spanish Canary Islands for the past months, Frontex agents will be deployed on the Canary Island to support local police to "identify and register migrants", the European border control agency said on Wednesday 4 November on Twitter.

*See also:* 06.11. 2020: PledgeTimes: **Spain and Frontex negotiate an operation to close the Canarian migration route**

**Spain** 04.12.2020: ECRE: **Atlantic Route: Pier of Shame dismantled after Ombudsman dencounces Human Rights violations**: Following critiques from numerous civil society organizations and a visit of the Spanish Ombudsman to the official camp at Arguineguín pier in Gran Canaria cumulating in his demand for the immediate closure of the reception facility the camp was finally dismantled in the end of November. While human rights organizations have called for the transfer of asylum seekers to the mainland, the government continues to oppose such transfers. Instead it has resumed returns to Algeria, Morocco and Mauretania.

*See also:* 22.11. 2020: Frankfurter Rundschau: **Spanien lässt Geflüchtete nicht aufs Festland(Spain does not allow refugees on the mainland)**, 05.12.20: Algerie 360: **Espagne: Expulsion « de dizaines » de Harragas algériens**, 02.12.2020 : EL Diario: **Argelia se suma a Marruecos y Mauritania y ya empieza a aceptar inmigrantes retornados desde España**

## REPORTS

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06.11.2020: European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs: Draft Report on human rights protection and the EU external migration policy

09.11.2020: EDRI: Technological Testing Grounds: Migration Management Experiments and Reflections from the Ground Up: This report, based on over 40 conversations with refugees and people on the move finds that much technological innovation to foster 'migration governance' occurs without adequate governance mechanisms and does not account for the very real impacts on people's rights and lives.

17.11.2020: Border Violence Monitoring Network: Balkan Region Report – October 2020: In October, the Border Violence Monitoring Network published 40 reports of pushbacks and police violence at European Union borders. These cases, which relate the experience of 1003 people-on-the-move, are a testament to the brutal border systems in place at internal and external EU borders. Respondents experienced a range of physical, psychological and structural violence, which is examined in detail in this report.

25.11.2020: Institute for Race Relations: Deadly crossings and the militarizations of Britains borders: The report argues that far from the UK getting a handle on border control post-Brexit, further securitisation of its borders will only result in more human suffering. It is the first English written analysis of channel related death.

26.11.2020: Alarmphone: November Shipwrecks: Hundreds of visible and invisible deaths in the Central Med: "Since 1 November alone, 132 deaths were reported to Alarm Phone only in the Central Mediterranean route. All these deaths are the results of shipwrecks, many of which could have been avoided if only authorities responded adequately to the distress calls."

## CAMPAIGNS

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**#EndJanjaweed** The #EndJanjaweed Campaign is an initiative by the Berlin activist group, SudanUprising Germany, which was founded in January 2019 to support the goals of the Sudanese Revolution and protestor demands for freedom, peace and justice. The long-term objective of #EndJanjaweed is to end Germany and the EU's unethical and immoral policy support for migration control and externalized borders in Sudan, and by extension, its complicity in the rise of the genocidal Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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**Webinar** The Greens/Efa: 09.12.2020, 17.00-18.30h CET: Channel crossings and Brexit: state of play and consequences

**Online Discussion** Hirak Berlin Deutschland: 14.12.2020, 20.30 UTC+01: Ein Jahr nach der Präsidentschaft in Algerien

**Webinar** Statewatch/ The Transnational Institute: 14.12.2020, 14.30-16h CET: Deportation Union: The Role of Frontex

**Webinar** Border Criminologies: 14.12.2020, 14.00- 17.00 GMT: [Migrant Detention and Covid-19 in Italy](#)

**Expert Roundtable** Border Criminologies and Refugee Rights Europe: [Examining the UK Government's 'channel crossing solutions' What lessons can be drawn from Australia's model of deterrence and offshoring?](#)