

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)

The July edition of our Monthly Review is a shortened version because some members of the editing team are on their summer break. Enjoy!

### NEW ON MIGRATION-CONTROL.INFO

---

**Blog/Call for papers De-Centring and Contesting Externalisation in West Africa and Beyond. A call by the West Africa Working Group of the Migration Control Info Project:**

“Organised by the West Africa working group of the migration-control.info network, this project aims to bring scholars, activists and practitioners based in West Africa to exchange around these issues. This exchange will initially take the form of a hybrid workshop, which will take place on 19 September at SOAS. Subsequent to this, we invite contributions to a special issue of ‘movements: a journal of critical migration and border studies’ that will further advance the conversations of the workshop. In the case of both the workshop and the special issue, we aim to bridge barriers between academic and activist knowledge. The workshop will do so by organising discussion in a range of formats, beyond the standard academic panel formula, while the special issue equally seeks contributions in the form of short reflective pieces, op-ed style articles, interviews, in addition to academic journal articles.”

**Blog Europe Killing Migrants** by the Migration Control Editorial Team: On the 24th June, about “2,000 people approached Melilla at dawn on Friday 24 June 2022 and more than 500 managed to enter a border control area after cutting a fence with shears” (The Guardian, 25.06.22). Their attempt to enter European territory was answered with brutal violence by Spanish and Moroccan border guards. According to ECRE, at least 37 people were killed. In this blog entry, we collect relevant press releases and media coverages as well as activist statements and argue that Europe is killing people on the move.

**Blog One-way Ticket to Africa** by Thomas Müller, Simone Schindwein, Merle Thiel, Sascha Zinflou: This blog post discusses the migration agreement between the United Kingdom and Rwanda and places it in the context of the increasing externalisation of Britain's borders. With Brexit, the border between France and the UK has become an external border of the EU and the UK is no longer part of the “Dublin system”. To compensate for the end of Dublin deportations, the government called for new deportation agreements and worked on “developing the capacity for an offshore asylum process” to be implemented with the migration agreement with Rwanda. Rwanda itself benefits politically and financially from the agreement. The country was already a destination for charter flights with people fleeing before this agreement.

**Blog Forcing People into Invisibility: Greece's Decision to Declare Turkey Safe** by Gianni Manzella: In the blog entry, Gianni Manzella looks at the current situation on the Greek so-called hotspot island Samos. The author analyses how the declaration of Turkey as a safe country for asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Somalia, and Syria, in continuity of the EU-Turkey statement known as the EU-Turkey deal, influences the situation of people on the move on the island, stating that *“What we can witness on Samos today however is only one part of European system of marginalisation, discrimination and destitution that many non-EU citizen face. Rather than offering solutions to underlying problems, the new pact on migration and asylum fails to propose alternatives and focusses once more on returns and extensive security measures, leaving many asylum seekers in indefinite limbo on external EU-borders such as Samos. Being told to keep waiting time after time by authorities, people keep being trapped in no man’s land and are – step by step – forced into invisibility.”*

## CENTRAL AFRICA

---

**Chad** 21.07.22: ISS: **Chad's political transition lags behind deadline**: Chad's political transition was meant to take 18 months, from April 2021 to September 2022, but it now appears an extension will be needed. The country is saddled with security problems internally and at its borders, significant food shortages and poor public governance. Delaying the transition could provoke further turmoil.

**Chad** 18.07.22: Al Jazeera: **Over 20 rebel groups suspend participation in Chad peace talks**: More than 20 Chadian rebel groups have suspended their participation in negotiations taking place in the Qatari capital, Doha, accusing the Chad's military government of destabilising peace efforts.

## EAST AFRICA

---

**Ethiopia** 13.07.22: The East African: **Ethiopia agrees to UN rebuilding of war-torn Tigray**: The Ethiopian government has signed a provisional agreement to allow the UN to begin reconstruction works in war-torn Tigray until parties negotiate a permanent peace deal. The agreement with the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) means the agency can begin rebuilding certain basic social services with funding from the World Bank which announced the grant earlier in April.

*See also* 14.07.22: Addis Standard: **News: Ethiopia to repatriate 12,000 nationals from Africa, Middle East as of today**

**Ethiopia** 28.07.22: The Guardian: **Eritrean refugees say they are being arbitrarily detained in Ethiopian camps**: Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia say they are being targeted for arbitrary arrest and forcible relocation to war-torn parts of the country, despite having UN permission to remain in Ethiopia. Government security officers are accused of rounding up, abusing and unlawfully detaining refugees who have legal status, as well as Eritreans who have foreign citizenship.

**Ethiopia** 05.07.22: Al Jazeera: **Ethiopia's Abiy reports new civilian killings in Oromia:** Ethiopian prime minister accuses the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) rebels of a 'new massacre' as survivor tells state media that as many as 300 bodies had been collected.

**Sudan** 05.07.22: Al Jazeera: **Sudan activists reject army offer as 'ruse', urge more protests:** Sudan's main civilian political bloc, the Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC), have rejected a proposal by the country's coup leader to make way for democratic rule as a "tactical retreat" and have urged people to continue protesting.

*See also* 01.07.22: Al Jazeera: **Thousands return to Sudan streets demanding end of military rule;** 30.06.22: Al Jazeera: **Eight reported killed at protests against military rule in Sudan**

**Sudan** 17.07.22: The Guardian: **Sudan: scores of people killed in tribal clashes in Blue Nile state:** The death toll from days of tribal clashes in the southern Sudanese state of Blue Nile has climbed to at least 65 people, according to a senior health official. Around 150 people have been injured in the fighting between the Hausa and Birta ethnic groups, the state's health minister, Gamal Nasser al-Sayed, said. Most of the dead were young men, he added.

## **NORTH AFRICA**

---

**Libya** 22.07.22: AP: **A new Libyan force emerges, accused of abusing migrants:** The SSA (Stabilization Support Authority), an umbrella group of militias, has risen to become one of the main forces carrying out Libya's European Union-aided effort to stop migrants from crossing to European shores. Though migrants have long been brutalized in Libya, rights groups and former detainees say the abuse is taking on a more organized and dangerous nature under this feared new body. And officials say it also is benefiting from EU support.

**Libya** 06.07.22: Al Jazeera: **What is behind the protests rocking Libya?:** Protesters take to the streets in east and west Libya, as anger rises over political deadlock and living conditions. "There are many reasons why protesters have decided to take to the streets in anger. But they can be summarised simply by the failure of the politicians to reach a political accord and their preference instead to wrestle with each other over power at the expense of ordinary citizens," Libyan academic and writer Ahmed Mayouf told Al Jazeera. "This failure has naturally resulted in the deterioration of living conditions across the board, affecting even those citizens who have little interest in the politics."

*See also* 04.07.22: taz: **„Wir wollen Licht, wir wollen Wahlen“;** 01.07.22: Al Jazeera: **Libya protesters storm parliament building in Tobruk**

**Morocco/Spain** 19.07.22: NYT (Paywall): **Migrants in Morocco Are Sentenced in Attempt to Cross Into Spanish Enclave:** Thirty-three men, part of a larger group, were given 11 months in prison after a deadly border-crossing effort.

*See also* our Migration Control Info Project Blog Entry **Europe Killing Migrants**; 13.07.22: Al Jazeera: **Moroccan probe finds 23 Melilla border dead likely 'suffocated'**; 19.07. taz: **Prozess nach Ansturm auf Melilla (Trial after rush to Melilla)**

**Mediterranean** 25.07.22: Alarmphone: **Busy weekend in the Med!**: The last days were very busy at the EU external borders, especially in the central Mediterranean. Besides many "autonomous" arrivals in Lampedusa, from Tunisia and Libya, there were many rescue operations, also from a very large fishing boat with 674 people on board. This was rescued by Italian units. 5 people have died. Alarm Phone alerted to 6 boats with over 500 people, rescued by the #civilfleet: 3 boats, with 113, 106 & 16 people were rescued by #SeaWatch3. 3 boats, with 87, 108 & 73 people were rescued by #OceanViking. Several boats are still in distress at sea!

*See also* 24.07.22: Al Jazeera: **Mediterranean ships recover 5 bodies, rescue over 1,100 refugees**; 10.07.22: Al Jazeera: **Italy relocates refugees after Lampedusa centre overwhelmed**

**Tunisia** 25.07.22: The Guardian: **Tunisians set to hand president almost total power in referendum**: Low turnout suggests voters unconcerned by Kais Saied's new constitution, which some say marks the end of the Arab spring.

## WEST AFRICA

---

**Burkina Faso** 11.07.22. Al Jazeera: **Burkina Faso's military government struggles to contain violence**: Since January's coup, the number of attacks has increased by more than 23 percent, compared with the five months before.

**Mali** 30.07.22: DW: **USA rufen die meisten Regierungsmitarbeiter aus Mali zurück (U.S. recalls most government workers from Mali)**: In an updated travel advisory, the State Department in Washington urged "U.S. government employees, including family members, who are not required for emergency operations" to leave Mali. The department said terrorists and other armed groups continue to plan kidnappings and attacks. On Wednesday, at least 15 soldiers and three civilians were killed in three attacks in Mali.

*See also* 21.07.22: taz: **Die Krise zwischen Militärregierung und UN-Blauhelmission in Mali eskaliert weiter (The crisis between the military government and the UN blue helmet mission in Mali continues to escalate.)**; 19.07.22: FP's Africa Brief: **Egypt to withdraw troops from Mali peacekeeping mission: UN**; 18.07.: taz **Mali blockiert Blauhelme (Mali blocks blue helmets)**

**Mali** 08.07.22: The Guardian: **'Children were hunted by armed men': Malians seek safety in Mauritania**: At least 8,000 people and 800,000 head of livestock have arrived in M'bera camp, in the south-east of Mauritania, since December. About 7,000 new arrivals were registered in March and April alone – three times more than during the same period last year. More Malians live in villages outside the camp. The camp has been taking in refugees since fighting broke out between the government and armed groups in 2012. It was home to more than 75,000 people in 2013. While that number

declined to a low of 41,000 in 2016, the population has steadily been increasing since 2018 and now stands at more than 78,000.

**Niger** 17.07.22: The Libya Observer: **EU and Niger launch operational partnership to block migrant smuggling to Libya**: “The European Union (EU) and Niger have launched a joint partnership to fight the smuggling and trafficking of migrants and prevent their influx to neighboring Libya, whose shores they are trying to reach in the hope of arriving on the other side of the Mediterranean. A joint press release issued by Niger and the EU on Saturday said that combating the trafficking of migrants is a common challenge that requires strong cooperation and coordination with key partner countries alongside the migration routes, in line with the EU's comprehensive approach to migration.”

**Sahel** 20.07.22: The Clingendal Institute: **Echoes of the Sahel**: This week in the Sahel, in Niger, President Bazoum and his Chadian counterpart Déby signed a new security agreement last Wednesday and vowed to revitalise the joint counter-terrorism force of the G5 Sahel which Mali exited in May. Amid France's withdrawal from neighbouring Mali, French Foreign Minister Colonna and French Defence Minister Lecornu met with their Nigerian counterparts and President Bazoum in Niamey on Thursday and Friday to discuss security and development cooperation. On Monday, the EU announced 25 million euros in security assistance to bolster Niger's military against VEOs.

**Senegal** 13.07.22: Africa Briefing: **Senegal's Macky Sall sees greater support for gas as 'transition fuel' in Africa**: “[...] But the war in Ukraine and efforts by developed economies to reduce their reliance on Russia have led to renewed interest in African gas. The German government, for example, said in May that it might help explore a gas field in Senegal.”

## EUROPE

---

**Germany** 20.07.22: taz: **Abschiebe-Business von Airlines (Deportation business of airlines)**: 206 mass charter flights have been ordered by the German government in 2021 to deport almost 5,500 people. This information has been published on the new website [deportationalarm.com](https://deportationalarm.com) by the "Deportation Alarm" group by the activist network "No Border Assembly". The website compiles information on charter deportation flights and calculates financial flows in connection with deportations. A total of 18 airlines are named that profited from deportations by the Federal Republic in 2021. In the lead is Wamos Air, a Spanish charter airline, which made over 3.5 million euros in revenue in 2021 by operating deportation flights from Germany.

**Greece** 08.07.22: HRW: **European Court Slams Greece Over Deadly Migrant Pushback**: The European Court of Human Rights issued a historic ruling on July 7 concerning Greece's illegal and life-threatening practice of pushing boats of asylum seekers back to Turkey. Eleven women and children, including infants, died off the Greek island of Farmakonisi on January 20, 2014, in what survivors describe as a pushback operation. They said a Greek Coast Guard vessel was towing their boat, carrying 28 Afghans and Syrians, back towards the Turkish coast at high speed in

bad weather conditions when the boat capsized. Eight years later, the Court has ruled that Greek authorities had not done all that could reasonably be expected of them during the operation to prevent the tragedy and protect the people on board. The court also found that authorities had not carried out a thorough investigation

**UK** 09.07.22: The Guardian: **Priti Patel's plan to end Channel crossings in disarray as navy threatens to 'walk away'**: The Royal Navy is threatening to "walk away" from Boris Johnson and Priti Patel's plan to stem the number of boats carrying asylum seekers across the Channel as official data shows how spectacularly the policy has backfired. Defence chiefs are said to be fed up with trying to enact the prime minister and home secretary's rapidly imploding plan of using the military to control small boats in the Channel. Meanwhile, senior Home Office sources have admitted the UK could receive up to 60,000 people by small boat this year – double last year's record – with another 20,000 arriving by different routes, undermining the credibility of Patel, who has made reducing crossings her priority.

## EUROPEAN UNION

---

**Frontex** 21.07.22: Statewatch: **EU: Tracking the Pact: Plan for Frontex to deploy "vessels, surveillance equipment, and carry out operational tasks" in Senegal and Mauritania**: The EU's border agency is also due to open a "risk analysis cell" in Nouakchott, Mauritania, in autumn this year, according to documents obtained by Statewatch and published here. The two "action files" put heavy emphasis on the "prevention of irregular departures" towards the Canary Islands and increased cooperation on border management and anti-smuggling activities. Earlier this month, the Council authorised the opening of negotiations on status agreements that would allow Frontex to operate in both countries.

*See also* **Senegal: Fiche Action - Sénégal - Renforcement de la coopération avec l'agence Frontex** (WK 7990/2022 INIT, LIMITE, 7 June 2022, pdf), and **Mauretania: Fiche Action - Mauritanie - Renforcement de la coopération avec l'agence Frontex** (WK 7989/2022 INIT, LIMITE, 7 June 2022, pdf)

**Frontex** 29.07.22: Der Spiegel: **Classified Report Reveals Full Extent of Frontex Scandal**: "The EU's anti-fraud office has found that the European border agency covered up and helped to finance illegal pushbacks of asylum-seekers in Greece. The report, which DER SPIEGEL has obtained, puts pressure on the EU Commission – and could also spell trouble for Frontex's new leadership."

**Security Architectures in the EU** 26.07.22: Matthias Monroy: **Secret border surveillance: Italy drastically restricts freedom of information**: Italian media no longer receive information about their country's cooperation with the Libyan coast guard. Whether many millions of euros for equipment have been wasted there can now hardly be clarified. It also makes the EU border agency Frontex more opaque.

## REPORTS

---

TNH 19.07.22: **Why the spoils of war may outweigh incentives for peace in Cameroon:** The dynamics of the violence have changed with the growth of a lucrative “war economy”, typically involving kidnapping and the broader extortion of the civilian population. The political and economic spoils of the war have reduced the incentive to find a negotiated settlement. “This is no longer a struggle for the common man, but instead an economic venture,” Alhaji Mohammed Aboubakar, the influential imam of the Central Mosque in Buea, Southwest region, told The New Humanitarian by cell phone earlier this year.

## CAMPAIGNS & PROJECTS

---

**Petition Refugee Legal Support (RLS) and others: Greece must revoke the decision to consider Turkey a safe country:** The Refugee Legal Support and around 40 other organisations have co-signed a petition calling on the “Greek government to revoke their Joint Ministerial Decision of 7th June 2021. Turkey is not a safe country and people’s asylum claims should be properly processed in a fair and lawful manner.”

**New Documentation Project Lucy Mayblin, University of Sheffield, UK: Crimes of Solidarity and Humanitarianism. Documenting legal cases against people helping irregular migrants, known as crimes of solidarity and humanitarianism:** “Around the world, a growing number of people are subjected to criminal measures for helping irregular migrants, including those who are seeking asylum. Acts as simple as leaving water in the desert, saving someone from drowning in the sea, giving someone a lift to a medical facility, or a bed for the night, lead those offering such assistance open to arrest and imprisonment. While activists keep records of arrests in different countries, and there has been a lot of research in Europe on the criminalisation of solidarity activities, we currently have little understanding of this as a global phenomenon. The Crimes of Solidarity and Humanitarianism database aims to build understanding of criminalisation across borders for research and resistance.”

**Website Relaunch Migration and Technology Monitor: Migration and Tech Monitor:** “The MTM’s mission is to monitor surveillance tech, automation, and the use of Artificial Intelligence to screen, track, and make decisions about people on the move. Designed for inclusion by the incredible Azza Abbaro, our platform is specifically optimized for small screens to make it as accessible as possible for mobile populations and is available in Arabic, French, Spanish, and English. You will find a resource page in partnership with Truth on Borders, a global interactive map of border technologies and much more.”

## UPCOMING EVENTS

---

**Commemoration Day 14.08.22, 12 h (CEST), Osnabrück, Germany: Eulogy Event for M. Hassan Numan in Osnabrück on the 14th of August:** On the night of 10-11 July 2022, our friend and comrade M. Hassan Numan passed away at the age of 45. With his

activism and incredible energy, he was an active part of the Sudanese community in Osnabrück, Germany, and the group No Lager Osnabrück for many years. Especially with the self-organised peaceful protests against deportations in the collective accommodation Ickerweg on the outskirts of Osnabrück, he inspired people beyond the borders of the city and Germany. #whistlesofhope. On Sunday, 14 August at 12 noon, we want to commemorate M. Hassan Numan together at the town hall in Osnabrück.

**Webinar** 05.09.22, 13h - 15h CET, online: **The Many Tools of OPCAT for Preventing Harmful Migration-related Detention**: The **Global Detention Project** is excited to announce the third instalment in our interactive webinar series on how civil society organisations can mobilise international and regional human rights monitors to promote the rights of detained refugees and migrants. This webinar will focus on the various mechanisms established by the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT) that can help prevent human rights violations in migration-related detention, including the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture (SPT) and National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs).