

[migration-control.info](https://migration-control.info) would like to wish you the best for the new year!

This monthly press review covers Eurafrikan 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). If you are interested to actively participate in our activities, please find more information [here](#).

### WEST AFRICA

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**Burkina Faso** 05.12.20: [RFI](#): **Au Burkina Faso, bientôt un centre pour accueillir des migrants de retour ou en transit (Soon a transit center to host return and transit migrants will be opened in Burkina Faso)**: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is soon opening a transit centre in Burkina Faso under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) funded IOM-EU Initiative. The centre will offer shelter and assistance to transit migrants who want to return 'voluntary' and also offer reintegration programmes to returned people from Burkina Faso.

*See also* 23.11.20: [AMMODI](#): **The IOM and 'voluntary' return programmes in Africa**

**Chad** 24.12.20: [UN News](#): **Chad: New law safeguards 480,000 refugees**: The UNHCR commended Chad for the adoption of its first-ever asylum law in the end of December. The new law is expected to enhance protection of the nearly 480,000 refugees currently hosted by the country. It aims to ensure refugees and asylum-seekers access to freedom of movement, the right to work and access to healthcare, education and justice.

**The Gambia/Germany** 16.12.20: [migration-control.info](https://migration-control.info): **Resumption of charter deportations from Germany to The Gambia: Exploring the integration – deportation nexus**: OP-ed by Aino Korvensyrjä, PhD researcher at the University of Helsinki and migration justice activist on the double faced use of integration in building support for deportations in the context of recent charter deportations from Germany to The Gambia.

**Ghana** 07.01.20: [BBC](#): **Ghana Presidential election: Nana Addo, Bawumia sworn into office for second term**: Following the national elections in December, incumbent president Nana Akufo-Addo has been sworn in for a second mandate.

**Mali** 17.12.20: [ACLED](#): **Mali: Any End to the Storm?**: "Thus far, 2020 has been the deadliest year on record in Mali. [...] A military coup in August 2020 broke the prevailing and seemingly untenable status quo, and has provided opportunities to change the country's downward trajectory as Malian politics are reshaped. However,

Mali's transitional government faces an uphill battle to build consensus and reign in the violence. As it stands, Mali remains at a crossroads of hope and uncertainty. “

*See also* 01.12.20: [The Africa Report: Does Macron understand how much influence France has lost in Africa? \(Achille Mbembe\)](#), 04.12.20: [Afrique Europe Interact: Stimmen aus Mali zur Sicherheitskrise im Sahel \(Voices from Mali on the security crisis in the Sahel\)](#), 18.12.20: [EXIT MALI - Theses on the MINUSMA mission of the Bundeswehr in Mali](#), 29.12.20: [taz: Expulsion in Mali: Soldaten aus Frankreich getötet \(Expulsions in Mali: Soldiers from France killed\)](#)

**Mali** 22.12.20: [Al Jazeera: UN probe in Mali sees war crimes, crimes against humanity: The International Commission of Inquiry for Mali, which investigated violence in the country between 2012–2018 finalized a report which finds that security forces committed war crimes and crimes against humanity. It recommends the set up of a specialized international court. The report has been sent to the Security Council in December but not yet made public.](#)

**Nigeria** 10.12.20: [New York Times: Executed Nigerian Farmers Were Caught Between Boko Haram and the Army: In the beginning of December more than 70 farmers in Zabamari, a village in northeastern Nigeria were killed by militants. Boko Haram accused the farmers of telling the authorities that the extremist group was in the area.](#)

**Niger** 14.12.20: [Al Jazeera: Boko Haram claims attack in Niger that killed dozens: At least 27 people were killed in an attack in Niger's Diffa region in mid-December, more people were wounded and went missing. Between 800 and 1,000 houses were destroyed and set on fire by the attackers.](#)

**Niger** 16.12.20: [taz: Gegen Terror – und Migration \(Against Terror – and Migration\): European actors are among those that have funded the set up the CMCF \[Compagnie Mobile de Contrôle des Frontières\] a recently founded border police unit in Niger. German and the Dutch played a pivotal role in training the new unit that counts more than 240 police officers. Since 2016, it has been a priority for the EU to reduce migration from West Africa. Meanwhile, the Nigerien Head of the Unit has stressed its importance in the regional fight against terror.](#)

**Senegal** 08.12.20: [Info Migrants: Au Sénégal, le père du jeune Doudou condamné à deux ans de prison dont un mois ferme \(In Senegal, the father of young Doudou sentenced to two years in prison, one month of which is fixed\): A Senegalese court has sentenced the fathers of three boys to two years in prison, one month of which is fixed because they financed their son's irregular crossing to Spain. The sentence has been granted for “endangering the lives of other”.](#)

## **EAST AFRICA**

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**Ethiopia** 23.12.20: [EEPA: Concern over genocidal tendencies in Tigray: “Concern is increasing that the conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia is showing signs of genocidal tendencies. A report indicates that a new provisional administrative](#)

department 'Setit Humera zone' has been created which will include all the areas west of the Tekeze river in Tigray. This includes almost all the lowlands where many Tigrayans live."

*See also* 08.12.20: [Andalou Agency](#): **Ethiopia admits to shooting at UN staffers in Tigray**, 11.12.20: [UNHCR](#): **Statement attributable to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi on the situation in Ethiopia's Tigray region**, 23.12.20: [Human Rights Watch](#): **Interview: Uncovering Crimes Committed in Ethiopia's Tigray Region**

**Ethiopia/Sudan** 20.12.20: [Al Jazeera](#): **Sudan, Ethiopia to hold border demarcation talks week after clash**: Following tensions over a border dispute in Sudan's al-Fashqa border area the governments of Sudan and Ethiopia announced to hold talks on December 22, 2020. The tensions escalated in mid-December when Ethiopian forces and rebels killed at least four Sudanese troops and wounded a dozen others in the Abu Tyour area in eastern Sudan's Gadarif province. The attack was the latest by Ethiopian forces and rebels on Sudanese troops and people over the past months.

**Sudan** 09.12.20: [The Africa Report](#): **With Russia's help, Sudan may find a way out of US list of demands**: On November 16 Russia and Sudan reached an agreement on the construction of the first Russian military base on the African continent. The agreement includes Moscow's 'free assistance' to the Sudanese navy for search and rescue or 'anti-sabotage' missions, as well as Sudan's ability to benefit to from the protection of Russian defense systems on site.

**Sudan** 21.12.20: [Middle East Monitor](#): **US, Sudan to strengthen bilateral military relations, says embassy**: On December 20 the US embassy in Sudan announced that it will continue to work with the Sudanese armed forces. A week earlier the US government removed the country from its terror list enhancing options for military cooperation.

## **NORTH AFRICA**

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**Algeria** 03.12.20: [taz](#): **Entwicklungshilfe gegen Migration (Development aid against migration)**: The German Ministry of International Cooperation and Development has upgraded the status of Algeria to become a privileged receiver of German development aid. This decision has been strongly criticized by Members of Parliament for breaking the ministry's commitment to good governance, human rights and fight against corruption. Instead, they assume migration-related interests to be at the heart of the deal.

*See also* 19.12.20: [taz](#): **Protestbewegung in Algerien: Nordafrikas Vorreiter (Protest Movement in Algeria: North Africa's forerunner)**

**Mediterranean** 18.12.20: [Al Jazeera](#): **'Invisible shipwrecks' belie falling migrant deaths**: **UN**: "The number of deaths recorded on migratory routes fell this year, although COVID-19 difficulties and so-called "invisible shipwrecks" mean the real number is probably much higher, officials at the United Nations migration agency said. The

International Organization for Migration's Missing Migrants Project showed 3,174 deaths compared with 5,327 in 2019."

*See also* **Tunisia** 28.12.20: taz: **Bisher 20 Leichen geborgen (So far 20 dead bodies found)**

**Morocco** 16.12.20: Euractiv: **Morocco rebuffs EU request to re-admit third-country migrants**: Ylva Johansson, EU Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs, visited Morocco in mid-December. According to the Kingdom's Interior Ministry, Morocco refused an EU request for the country to take back third-country nationals.

**Morocco/AU** 18.12.20: Africa News: **African Union inaugurates migration observatory in Morocco**: In mid-December, the African Union opened its African Migration Observatory in the Moroccan capital Rabat. The Observatory aims to contribute to better migration policies and programmes. It will gather African migration data and aims to improve cooperation and exchange among African countries in the field.

**Western Sahara/Morocco** 18.12.20: Human Rights Watch: **Western Sahara: Morocco Cracks Down on Activists**. HRW raises strong concerns over Morocco's crack down of peaceful demonstrations of pro-independence civilian activist in Western Sahara. Moroccan security forces have broken up demonstrations, beaten up, arrested, and attacked the houses of several activist, following an incident at a border crossing on November 13,2020. In the beginning of December, the US administration has recognized Morocco's sovereignty over Western Sahara, which remains internationally contested.

*See also* 15.12.20: taz: **Vergessen in der Wüste (Forgotten in the desert)**, 14.12.20: taz: **Tödliche See, tödlicher Sand (Deadly Sea, Deadly Sand)**

## EU

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**EU budget** 10.12.20: The Guardian: **EU breaks stalemate on €1.8tn seven-year budget and recovery fund**: After Poland and Hungary stalled the adoption of the new EU budget, the MFF could finally be adopted in mid-December. Both countries agreed to the text after being assured that the rule of law condition would only be applied to conditions on future spending.

*See also* 09.12.20: European Parliament: **Deal on EU funds for common asylum, migration and integration policies up to 2027**, 10.12.20: European Parliament: **Agreement on EU instrument supporting border management and common visa policy**

**FRONTEX** 10.12.20: EU Observer: **EU Commission backs embattled Frontex chief**: In the beginning of December, the European Commission defended Frontex Director Fabrice Leggeri. "Leggeri has been under scrutiny following allegations of pushbacks – with some MEPs demanding his resignation. Asked if they still had confidence in Leggeri, the EU's home affair commissioner Ylva Johansson responded "yes"."

**FRONTEX** 22.12.20: Spiegel: **Frontex-Skandal Seehofer deckte offenbar griechische Verbrechen (Frontex scandal Seehofer apparently covered up Greek crimes)**: Investigative reports found that the initial official statement by the spokesperson of the German Ministry of the Interior responding to investigative reports made public in November 2020, according to which the German Federal Police was involved in illegal push backs, were faulty. While the spokesperson stated that the Ministry was not aware such push backs have been carried out, detailed information documenting the incident which occurred in August 2020 was available at the German Federal Police's intranet.

*See also* 08.12.20: Migreurop: **Frontex, 15 years of impunity: The outlaw agency must disappear**, 09.12.20: Refugee Support Aegean (RSA) and Pro Asyl: **Information zur Situation international Schutzberechtigter in Griechenland (Information on the Situation of refugees in Greece)**

**EU-Turkey-Deal** 23.12.20: DailyMail: **EU to spend hundreds of millions more on refugees in Turkey**: The European Commission stated in the end of December that it will extend two programs which provide cash assistance to refugees in Turkey. One of the programs supports refugees to meet their basic needs. The other one financially supports the education of children. "The programs will be extended until early 2022 at a total cost of 485 million euros (\$590 million)."

**EU Asylum Reform/EU's New Pact** 14.12.20: Deutsche Welle: **EU macht bei Migration keine Fortschritte (EU is not making progress on migration)**: In a stocktaking on European asylum system presented by the German Council Presidency on Monday, no agreement was found on any essential points. The proposals to reform asylum and migration law (New Pact), will now be passed on to the Portuguese Presidency.

*See also* 18.12.20: ERCE: **ECRE Comments: on the Commission Amended Proposal for an Asylum Procedures Regulation COM (2020) 611 Border Asylum Procedures and Border Return Procedures**

## EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

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**Italy** 18.12.20: Internazionale: **Che cambia con il nuovo decreto immigrazione (What changes with the new immigration decree)**: On 18 December the Italian Senate adopted a new law which will reform the so-called Salvini decrees, which had, from 2018, substantially undermined the Italian asylum protection system. Changes include the reintroducing residence permits on 'humanitarian' grounds, stronger safe guards against forced returns and refoulement and strengthening legal safeguards for legal actors carrying out search and rescue missions.

*See also* 06.12.20: Al Jazeera **Italy softens harsh migration rules championed by Salvini**, 10.12.20: Il Manifesto: **Decreto sicurezza, la Camera archivia le norme di Salvini: Immigrazione (Security decree, the Chamber files Salvini's rules: Immigration)**

**Bosnia** 23.12.20: The Guardian: **Fire destroys migrant camp in Bosnia**: “A fast-moving fire has destroyed a migrant camp in Bosnia strongly criticized by rights groups as inadequate due to its lack of resources. The blaze broke out at the Lipa camp, close to the border with Croatia, on the same day the International Organization for Migration (IOM) had declared the effective closure of the facility, saying Bosnian authorities had ignored its appeals to supply basic services.”

*See also* 26.12.20: Al Jazeera: **‘We will die’: Hundreds of refugees freezing in Bosnia camp**, 26.12.20: taz: **Tausende der Natur ausgeliefert (Thousands at the mercy of nature)**

## REPORTS

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Africa Center: 01.12.20: **The Puzzle of JNIM and Militant Islamist Groups in the Sahel**: This brief entails an analysis of Jama’at Nusrat al Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM) and other militant Islamist groups in the Sahel. The authors emphasise that despite the group presenting itself as a unified front for Salafist jihad in the Sahel, JNIM is actually a coalition of distinct militant Islamist groups with different organizational structures, leaders, and objectives. Another finding from the brief is that the groups comprising JNIM do not enjoy wide popular support. Rather, these groups have increasingly tapped into local criminal networks and, in some cases, mounted attacks on civilian populations.

Borderline-Europe: 16.12.20: **Incarcerating the Marginalized - The Fight Against Alleged Smugglers on the Greek Hotspot Islands**: Deportation Monitoring Aegean, Aegean Migrant Solidarity and Borderline-Europe published a joint report on the criminalization of refugees and marginalized Turkish citizens who steer boats from Turkey to Greece. Persons concerned are often (arbitrarily) arrested and sentenced to draconian, often life-term, prison terms under the pretext of fighting "smugglers".

Border Violence Monitoring Network: 15.12.20: **Balkan Region Report - November 2020**: "The Border Violence Monitoring Network published 29 testimonies of violent pushbacks in November, involving severe levels of physical, psychological and structural abuse. The testimonies collected last month voice the experience of 951 people-on-the-move. This report offers analysis of the trends observed in each of these accounts, showing how law enforcement carry out these violent collective expulsions at EU borders."

Border Violence Monitoring Network/The European Left 18.12.20: **The Black Book of Pushbacks - Volumes I & II**: The 1500-page Black Book documents the horrific violence suffered by over 12,000 people at the hands of authorities on the EU's external borders has been released by the European Left. It was compiled by Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN) and printed over two volumes.

Danish Institute for International Studies: 08.12.20: **Internally displaced people in Mali's capital city: When a crisis turns chronic**: “As world attention focuses on Central Mali's conflict hot spots, more than 50,000 of the country's 311,193 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have fled to Mali's southern cities, including the capital Bamako. The inhuman conditions in the informal IDP camps manifest an overall failure to protect

civilians despite the presence of more than 25,000 foreign soldiers, 13,000 of whom are UN peace keepers. To support peacekeeping efforts, long-term development investment must be complemented with short-term assistance to provide protection, food and shelter to Mali's most vulnerable victims of war."

**Drone Wars UK: 26.12.20: Crossing a Line: How the use of drones to secure borders threatens everyone's rights:** A new report published by Drone Wars UK investigates the increasing use of military-style drones by governments to patrol state borders. The study, which examines the use of drones at the borders of the UK, EU, US, Russia, China, Australia and elsewhere, concludes that drones are contributing to the militarisation of everyday borders as part of an integrated set of security technologies – including satellites, sensors and smart walls – which pose significant challenges to personal privacy and civil liberties.

**International Crisis Group: 24.12.20: Crisis Group Libya Update #2:** This Briefing Note provides up-to-the-minute analysis of attempts to end Libya's almost decade-long civil war through talks focused on reunifying the country's government, oil-based economy and security forces. It is the second in a series of twice-monthly updates.

**migration-control.info/Statewatch: 23.12.20: Frontex:** Background report on the role, powers and activities of EU Border and Coast Guard Agency, Frontex from 2004 to the present.

## CAMPAIGNS

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**Petition We Move:** EU border chief, resign after human rights abuses. To Fabrice Leggeri, Director of FRONTEX.

**Appeal Joint Appeal:** "Stop alle navi quarantena!": l'appello di oltre 150 organizzazioni italiane e internazionali. ("Stop quarantine ships!": the appeal of over 150 Italian and international organisations)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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**Lecture** Integrative Research Institute Law & Society: 12.01.21, 18.00-20.00 CET: Nora Markard: Rechtssubjekte an der Grenze

**Lecture** University of Ghent: 20.02.21, from 17.30 CET: Confronting the colonial structure of international migration law

**Digitale Außenpolitische Tagung** Heinrich Böll Stiftung: 23.01.21, 10.00-15.45 CET: Frieden und Sicherheit in Afrika – Was leistet die EU-Außenpolitik?