

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](https://twitter.com/MigControl)

NEW ON MIGRATION-CONTROL.INFO

Wiki Processus de Khartoum // عملية الخرطوم par Louise Sullivan: "Le processus de Khartoum étend les frontières de l'Union européenne aux États africains et décharge l'Afrique de la responsabilité de la gestion de ces frontières, récompensant ainsi le renforcement des contrôles et la réduction des arrivées de migrant.es dans l'UE."

Wiki Tschad // Chad by Helga Dickow with assistance by Magdalena Maier and Malte Jursch: "There are different forms of migration in Chad: internal migration (transhumance) and migration across national borders. The country is a destination for refugees and fugitives from neighbouring states. Chadians flee and migrate in turn to neighbouring countries and, in smaller numbers, to Europe and Canada. [...] In its development cooperation with Chad, the EU focuses on improving governance, infrastructure and sustainable development. Under the European Development Fund (2014 – 2020), support amounted to €552 million. Migration control is not the main focus of cooperation; the emphasis has been on infrastructure development."

الجزائر **Wiki**

بعثة الأمم المتحدة المتكاملة المتعددة الأبعاد لتحقيق الاستقرار في مالي والعمليات العسكرية في منطقة الساحل **Wiki**

EAST AFRICA

Uganda/DRC 24.05.21: The Conversation: How COVID-19 affected informal cross-border trade between Uganda and DRC: Research has shown that cross-border trade has been severely affected by the COVID-19 control measures, with knock-on effects on various aspects of lives far beyond the borderlands. Informal trade is an important income source for wide parts of the population in the Ugandan/DRC border regions. The border closure has also led to spiralling debt, as the lack of income pushed many informal trade to take informal loans.

Ethiopia 03.06.21: ACLED: Launch Ethiopia Peace Observatory: Despite Ethiopia's importance as a lynchpin for peace in a turbulent region, information about the many conflicts occurring within the state is difficult to acquire. To meet this challenge, ACLED has launched the EPO to serve as a dedicated platform for governments, media, civil society, and the public to access reliable data on political violence and unrest throughout the country.

WEST AFRICA

Burkina Faso/Sahel 07.05.21: Reuters: UN says armed attacks in Burkina Faso displace over 17,500 in past 10 days: “More than 17,500 people in Burkina Faso have been forcefully displaced from their homes in the past ten days due to a series of attacks by unidentified armed groups that have killed 45 people, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said on Friday. Attacks by jihadist armed groups linked to al Qaeda and the Islamic State in the West African Sahel region have been rising sharply since the start of the year, particularly in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, with civilians bearing the brunt.”

Chad 09.05.21: Africanews: Tchad : un blessé dans des rassemblements dispersés par la police (Chad: One injured in rallies dispersed by police): The Chadian police dispersed with tear gas some sporadic demonstrations on Saturday of dozens of people, wounding one of them. The demonstrators had responded to the call of the opposition and civil society in N'Djamena against the junta that took power after the death of President Idriss Déby Itno.

See also 08.05.21: Al Jazeera with Video: Chad police use tear gas to disperse anti-military gov't protests; 13.05.21: Guardian: Idriss Déby obituary

Chad 10.05.21: Le Monde: Au Tchad, l'opération contre les rebelles est « finie », affirme l'armée (In Chad, the operation against the rebels is "over", says the army): Several hundred vehicles and armoured vehicles of the Chadian army returned to the Chadian capital N'Djamena on Sunday to celebrate the end of operations in the west of the country, an AFP journalist noted. The Chadian army presented 156 FACT prisoners to the press, as well as many seized vehicles.

See also 14.05.21: taz: „Wir sind keine Söldner“ (We are no mercenaries): Interview with Mohamed Mahdi Ali, founder and leader of the Chadian rebel army FACT

Mali 26.05.21: The Conversation: Inside Mali's coup within a coup: “On the afternoon of May 24, the Malian transitional president, Bah Ndaw, and his prime minister, Moctar Ouane, were arrested by members of the armed forces and taken to the Soundiata Keïta military facility in Kati.” The attitude of ECOWAS, and more generally of the international community – France, the United States and the UN through its Malian mission, Minusma – will be decisive in the outcome of events. The coup plotters are aware of this and are now seeking to secure the support of the people and political actors, in particular M5 – the protest movement that, in weakening Keïta's power, allowed the 2020 coup to take place.

See also 29.05.21: Al Jazeera: What next for Mali after second coup within a year?; 31.05.21: Al Jazeera: ECOWAS suspends Mali over second coup in nine months; 01.06.21: Deutsche Welle: African Union suspends Mali following military coup

Mali 28.05.21: German-Foreign-Policy: Putsch im Einsatzgebiet (Coup in the field): On the occasion of video talks between German Defence Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer and German soldiers in Bamako and Gao, it was said at the beginning of May that the Bundeswehr would receive an additional drone in Mali. On 19 May, the Bundestag approved an expansion of the German contingent in EUTM Mali to up to

600 military personnel (previously: 450). France, in turn, is increasing the size of Task Force Takuba.

EU/Mali 29.05.21: Deutsche Welle: **Oberst Goïta ist Malis neuer Interimspräsident (Goita named interim president)**: The EU wants to continue its military mission EUTM despite the chaos of the coup.

Sahel/Gulf of Guinea/Denmark 27.05.21: CPH Post Online: **Denmark to deploy military to Sahel and West Africa**: The Danish parliament backed plans to send military contributions to the Sahel and the Gulf of Guinea. Contributions to the Sahel will be part of French-led Operation Barkhane, while contributions in the Gulf of Guinea will be part of international operations fighting pirates.

NORTH AFRICA

Algeria 13.05.21: North Africa Journal: **Algeria: Unable to govern, unpopular regime uses repression to stay in power**: “The UN voiced alarm Tuesday at reports of sexual violence in detention and disproportionate use of force against protesters in Algeria, calling for investigations into all alleged abuses. The UN Human Rights office said it had received numerous reports of abuses in Algeria since weekly mass demonstrations by the Hirak pro-democracy movement resumed in February.”

Libya 11.05.21: taz: **Das libysche Geschäft mit den Migranten (Migration Business in Libya)**: Manon Radost, member of the Libya Advisor Forum, a network of non-governmental organisations, confirms that the situation for migrants in Libya has deteriorated dramatically since the beginning of the year. In mid-January, even migrants with jobs and papers from the UN refugee agency UNHCR were abducted from the streets or from their homes, the Frenchwoman reports. According to the UN, more than 571,000 migrants from 43 countries are currently living in Libya. Radosta says that around 5,000 migrants are in official prisons.

Libya/Turkey 31.05.21: The National News: **Turkey can play a constructive role in Libya. But will it?**: “In recent weeks, Turkey has begun working with the Libyan coastguard to intercept migrant boats headed for Europe, including a dinghy carrying nearly 100 people earlier this month. [...] “Turkey aims to support the Frontex EU border security,” Turkish presidential adviser Mesut Casin said last week, adding that Italy and Malta backed Turkey’s efforts off the Libyan coast.”

Tunisia 30.05.21: Welt: **Tunesien, das neue Schlüsselland der Migration (Tunisia, key country of migration)**: Italy and the EU seem to have agreed on the outlines of a new migration deal with Tunisia. This is reminiscent of the agreements with Turkey, Morocco and Libya.

EUROPEAN UNION

EU 05.05.21: Statewatch: **EU: Detention at the borders to increase "voluntary" return of migrants**: The European Commission's new strategy on "voluntary" return and reintegration sees "return border procedures" as key to increasing "voluntary" returns. The proposed procedure foresees that people arriving at the EU's borders could be subject to mandatory detention for up to 10 months. The proposal also calls for full use of Frontex's new powers.

EU 07.05.21: EU Observer: **EU mulls using new 'peace' fund to help Libyan coast guard**: In order to cooperate more effectively with the Libyan coastguard, the EU considers using part of the European Peace Facility Funds. The European Peace Facility was implemented in April and allows funding of foreign military operations, in this case the Libyan coast guard and military. The respective document "was signed off by the commander of Operation Irini. Irini is the EU's naval mission in the Mediterranean Sea, intended to prevent weapons from entering Libya".

EU/Turkey 31.05.21: The National News: **EU builds digital fortress to keep illegal migrants at bay**: "The EU is testing futuristic surveillance technology along Greece's border with Turkey to deter migrants". The aim is to detect people as soon as possible and prevent them from entering Greek territory. Part of the surveillance equipment are lie detectors, drones, virtual border guard bots, satellite data, as well as a 'sound canon'.

Frontex 20.05.21: BuzzFeed: **Frontex: Rund 180 Geflüchtete ertranken trotz Überwachung aus der Luft (Frontex: Around 180 refugees drowned despite aerial surveillance)**: BuzzFeed News has reconstructed several cases in which a total of more than 180 refugees drowned despite Frontex planes previously circling nearby.

EUROPE

Mediterranean 04.05.21: Al Jazeera: **Deaths at sea highlight failings in Europe immigration policy**: An analysis of communication of Alarm Phone, the NGO SOS Mediteranee as well as reports by the Libyan Coastguard show that responses of national authorities were slow and insufficient. "In all, approximately 130 people are believed to have died between April 21 and April 22 as they waited in vain for someone to save them, roughly 45km (30 miles) from the Libyan coast."

Italy 05.05.21: Tagesspiegel: **Italiens Regierung will Tausenden Migranten Papiere ausstellen (Italy's government wants to issue papers to thousands of migrants)**: Italy's Minister of Agriculture, Teresa Bellanova, advocates for the regularisation of undocumented people in Italy. The condition should be proof of an existing employment status. In this way, Bellanova plans to replace seasonal workers from other countries who are urgently needed in agriculture and who are absent due to the corona pandemic, and at the same time provide access to the health care system for people who were previously without papers.

See also 02.05.21: Tagesspiegel: **Die Pandemie verschlechtert die ohnehin katastrophale Lage der Erntehelfer (The pandemic worsens the already catastrophic situation of the harvest workers)**

Denmark/Rwanda 06.05.21: Euronews: **Does Denmark want to send its refugees to Rwanda?**: During the visit of the Danish Immigration Minister to Rwanda, Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs published a "Memorandum of Understanding regarding cooperation on asylum and migration issues" on May 5th, whose language has sparked concerns that the agreement could lead Rwanda to hosting refugees for Denmark. The MoU "also stresses that it is 'the vision of the Danish Government that the processing of asylum applications should take place outside of the EU,'" stating earlier this year how such steps would decrease human trafficking, as well as the costs of deporting people out of Denmark.

See also 05.05.21: Amnesty International: **Denmark: Plans to send asylum-seekers to Rwanda "unconscionable and potentially unlawful"**

Italy/Libya 11.05.21: taz: **Über 2.000 Flüchtlinge erreichen Lampedusa (More than 2,000 Boat People arrive in Lampedusa)**: The good weather and calm sea allowed up to 2,000 refugees to reach the Italian island Lampedusa. Totò Martello, Mayor of Lampedusa emphasized that the island's capacity is stable, as long as refugees would be able to carry on to the mainland.

Spain/Ceuta 20.05.21: The Guardian: **Ceuta influx highlights fragility of EU's approach to migration**: Spain deployed troops, military trucks and helicopters in its North African enclave of Ceuta after thousands of people crossed over from Morocco. More than 8,000 migrants, including nearly 1,500 minors, arrived on the beaches of Ceuta on May 17th and May 18th, mostly swimming or aboard inflatable boats, according to the Spanish authorities. It is one of the largest movements of migrants reported in the area in recent years. Spain's Interior Ministry said that 5,600 of the 8,000 people who had crossed into Spain earlier in the week had been sent back by May 19th, citing a decades-old bilateral agreement that allows the return of adults who cross the border irregularly.

See also 30.05.21: SZ: **Die verlorenen Kinder von Ceuta (The lost Children from Ceuta)**: Hundreds of minors are stuck in the Spanish exclave. They can neither return to Morocco nor travel on to Europe. Many are hiding out of mistrust of the police.

REPORTS

May 2021: OHCHR: [“Lethal Disregard” Search and rescue and the protection of migrants in the central Mediterranean Sea](#): According to the report, evidence suggests that the lack of human rights protection for migrants at sea “is not a tragic anomaly, but rather a consequence of concrete policy decisions and practices by the Libyan authorities, the European Union (EU) Member States and institutions, and other actors that have combined to create an environment where the dignity and human rights of migrants are at risk.”

05.05.21: Guardian: [Revealed: 2,000 refugee deaths linked to illegal EU pushbacks](#): The Guardian's analysis revealed that “EU member states have used illegal operations to push back at least 40,000 asylum seekers from Europe's borders during the pandemic, methods being linked to the death of more than 2,000 people.” This is based on reports released by UN agencies, combined with a database of incidents collected by non-governmental organisations.

25.05.21: ISS: [A dangerous road home for Horn of Africa migrants](#): “For a long time, the Eastern Route between the Gulf states via Yemen and the Horn of Africa has been used mainly by Yemenis fleeing the war in their country. Since the first half of 2020, however, African migrants in Yemen have been using this route – each paying smugglers US\$300 – to get home to the Horn via Djibouti. Migrants are returning for three main reasons: their inability to find work in Yemen, increased human rights abuses in Yemen, and the closure of the Yemen-Saudi Arabia border.”

14.05.21: IOM: [East And Horn of Africa – A Region on the Move – 2020 Mobility Overview in the East and Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula](#): The International Organization for Migration (IOM) published its annual report on migration trends and population movements in the region. The report highlights the impact of the pandemic, border closures and other restrictions on most vulnerable migrants across East Africa and the Horn of Africa. At least 300,000 migrants across the East and Horn of Africa have been affected by COVID-19 in 2020 and thousands of migrants, mostly Ethiopian, are stranded in Djibouti, Somalia, and Yemen, unable to continue their journey to reach Saudi Arabia via Yemen.

April 21: Protecting Rights at Borders: [Pushing back responsibility](#): The Protecting Rights at Borders (Prab) initiative has recorded 2,162 cases of “pushbacks” at different borders in Italy, Greece, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Hungary. Over a third of these pushbacks violated rights such as the access to an asylum procedure, the pushbacks include physical abuse and assault, theft, extortion, and destruction of property at the hands of national border police and law enforcement officials. “Further, testimonies collected at different borders seem to point to cooperation practices between different EU Member States, to circumvent their responsibility and push unwanted groups outside of the EU.”

31.05.21: ASGI: [Trafficking and exploitation of Nigerian women: the impact of borders externalization policies on the right to international protection](#): “The containment of mobility from Libya and the use of so-called voluntary return programmes have a specific impact on the access to protection of migrants. This focus analyzes, through five in-depth articles, the way in which Nigerian women victims of trafficking blocked

in Libya are effectively excluded from international protection and exposed to the risk of re-trafficking.”

CAMPAIGNS

Campaign // Petition #FreeTheMoria6: “On 11 June 2021, the trial against four of the six teenage migrants accused of burning down Moria Camp will take place on the Greek island of Chios. [...] We are deeply concerned that their right to a fair and just trial based on the presumption of innocence is not guaranteed and that they are instead made scapegoats for the inhumane EU migration policy.” Find the [petition](#) here.

Campaign Abolish Frontex: “The aim of Abolish Frontex is not to reform or improve Frontex, or to replace it with more of the same. Instead, we are targeting the policies and system that keeps Frontex in place. We are working towards the dismantling of the border-industrial complex, and the building of a society where people are free to move and live.”

Campaign Zensur brechen: Wer sind die Fluggesellschaften, die Sammelabschiebungen durchführen? (Who are the airlines that carry out collective deportations?): No border assembly tracked all European charter airlines and, based on certain patterns, created an almost complete list of airlines that have carried out deportations in 2020. This information was not published by the German government for the year 2020. The initiative demands full transparency from the German government on deportations. In addition, they call for a clear and public stand against racism from the airlines and an end to their cooperation with deportations.

Campaign 19th June Caravan for Freedom of Movement: “On Saturday 19 June, we will promote a caravan for freedom of movement, starting from Piazza Libertà in Trieste, a crossroads of solidarity and care, with the aim of reaching Maljevac, on the Croatian-Bosnian border. Crossing countries and borders that embody the hypocrisy of European policies, we want to denounce those who implement chain rejections and unroll barbed wire, to demand the opening of borders, the closure of all the detention camps and the end of violence and pushbacks.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Key Note Lecture June 17th AMMODI Key Note Lecture Nanja Nyabola: Annual Lecture with author, scholar and activist Nanjala Nyabola. The lecture will be followed by the annual network meeting of the Collaborative Working Group on African Migration, Mobility and Displacement (AMMODI), which is open to researchers and policy experts interested in these themes.

Conference June 18/19th Border Abolition 2021: Border Abolition 2021 will be a two-day online event aimed at connecting organising, campaigning, activist research and academic work around border violence, racism, incarceration and abolitionism. Register [here](#).

Webinar June 24th **TNI: Revolutionary Rehearsals: Rhythms of Resistance in North Africa, Algeria, Morocco & Western Sahara**: This 3rd webinar in the series ‘the Arab uprisings a decade on: Taking stock, Looking forward’, covers some of the second wave uprisings (2018–2021) in Algeria and Sudan and highlight some of the social and political struggles in Morocco in the last decade it also centers on the decolonisation struggle of Western Sahara.

Conference June 25/26th **From the Sea to the City Conference**: “The conference ‘From the Sea to the City’ will bring together European mayors, city representatives and civil society from all over Europe that advocate for safe passage in order to open up opportunities for practical, open-minded solutions which place human rights at the center of the future migration politics”.