

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 United Kingdom by Helen Brewer: In her brilliant report, Helen Brewer analyses the British migration policies and migration movements from the time of the British Empire to the current post-Brexit phase. Brewer shows who benefits and who suffers from the British hostile environment policies and highlights (migrants') strategies of resistance.



Dinghy on a beach near Calais in January 2019. Photo: [Julia Druelle](#)

EAST AFRICA

Ethiopia/Tigray 01.06.21: Al Jazeera: **Over 90 percent of people in war-hit Tigray need food aid**: "A total of 5.2 million people in Ethiopia's war-hit Tigray region, or 91 percent of its population, need emergency food aid, the United Nations has warned. The warning by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) came as it appealed for more than \$200m to scale up its response in the northern region where nearly seven months of fighting has caused an increase in already high hunger levels".

See also 30.06.21: Al Jazeera: **TPLF says Ethiopian gov't claim of Mekelle withdrawal a 'lie'**; 30.06.21: taz: **Äthopiens Armee flieht vor der Tigray-Guerilla (Ethiopia's army flees from Tigray guerrillas)**

Sudan 03.06.21: Al Jazeera: **Sudan protesters mark second anniversary of army sit-in crackdown**: "Thousands of Sudanese have rallied in Khartoum on the second anniversary of a bloody crackdown by security forces on a large pro-democracy sit-in in the capital, demanding justice for dozens of people killed". Those who joined the protests aimed to clarify that after 2 years after the crackdown, "people are still suffering".

See also 30.06.21: Al Jazeera: **Sudan protesters demand gov't step down over economic reforms**

Sudan 18.06.21: Al Jazeera: **Sudan to form new joint force to 'crack down on insecurity'**: The military has given notice that a new force, which will include the RSF paramilitary unit, police, armed forces, and 'representatives' of rebel groups is going to be introduced. "The announcement was made through an order from General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo" and was published on June 17th. The claimed aim is to control the situation in the capital Khartoum, where different gangs have disturbed the public.

See also 16.06.21: Al Jazeera: **Sudan: Striving for humanitarian care where no one cares**; 24.06.21: Al Jazeera: **Civilians fear abductions as Sudan-Ethiopia border row deadlocked**

Yemen 15.06.21: Arab News: **Hundreds of migrants feared dead in shipwreck off Yemen**: Fishermen reported a shipwreck and at least 25 bodies found dead at the coast of Lahji in Yemen on June 14th. The shipwreck supposedly carried hundreds of people from the African continent that are feared to be dead.

See also 24.06.21: Daily Sabah: **300 migrants feared dead in shipwreck off Yemen, UN says**

Uganda 19.06.21: Al Jazeera: **Uganda imposes new COVID restrictions as cases surge**: "Uganda is tightening its COVID lockdown measures to try and stem a surge in infections in the East African country [...]. A continuing nighttime curfew will stay in place. The new measures will last 42 days." Although such drastic measures have been taken, numbers are rising and are putting the fragile health system at risk.

NORTH AFRICA

Algeria/Niger 01.06.21: Niamey et les 2 jours: **Migration clandestine : Entre 500 et 600 migrants refoulés d'Algérie chaque semaine vers le Niger (Between 500 and 600 migrants deported from Algeria to Niger each week)**: "The National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) has announced that between 500 and 600 migrants are deported each week from Algeria to Niger. These operations generally take place between 2 and 3 am, 15 km from the locality of Assamaka in the heart of the Sahara, at the so-called Zero point."

Algeria 17.06.21: taz: **Algeriens Peiniger gewinnen die Wahl (Algeria's tormentors win the election)**: While no party was able to collect the majority of votes, the winner of the parliamentary election in Algeria is the Front de libération nationale (FLN), that has been the leading political party in Algeria for decades. Voter participation hit a new low with only 23%, partly because of the opposition's voting boycott, due to allegations the election may have been susceptible to manipulation.

See also 21.06.21: Al Jazeera: **Low turnout as Algerians vote in parliamentary election**

Morocco/UNODC 16.06.21: UNODC: **Morocco: Criminal intelligence analysis allows authorities to stay a step ahead**: "UNODC, through the regional European Union-funded

project “Dismantling human trafficking and migrant smuggling criminal networks in North Africa,” cooperates with the Moroccan Ministry of Interior (Moi) to strengthen its criminal intelligence analysis capacities. In this context, UNODC organized four certified training sessions for Moroccan authorities on communications data analysis for 20 law enforcement officers to ensure a progressive and sustainable acquisition of skills on the Mercure V4 software.”

Libya 20.06.21: AP: Libyan guards accused of sexually assaulting minors: Several young Somali women have told the AP that they have been sexually assaulted by guards at a government-run detention center in the Libyan capital Tripoli. The Shara al-Zawiya detention center is “one of a network of centers run by Libya’s Department for Combating Illegal Immigration, or DCIM, which is supported by the European Union in its campaign to build Libya into a bulwark against mainly African migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea.”

See also 24.06.21: The Guardian: Violence towards refugees at Libyan detention centres forces MSF to pull out

Tunisia 15.06.21: The Guardian: Protests over police violence spread through Tunisian capital: Ahmed Ben Ammar was killed on June 8th in his cell after being taken into police custody. His death sparked “a week of protests against police violence”. On June 9th, “footage went viral of officers stripping and beating another man” who joined the protests. Police violence is a reoccurring issue in Tunisia which is being confirmed by different human rights organizations, such as “the World against Torture”.

WEST AFRICA

Benin 10.06.21: North Africa Journal: Benin: Growing risk of Jihad contagion from the Sahel in West Africa’s Benin: Jihadists operating near Benin’s borders with Burkina Faso and Niger may coopt intensifying communal conflicts in the country’s north as they seek to extend their influence, a Dutch security report said on Thursday.

Burkina Faso 25.06.21: Reuters: Child soldiers carried out Burkina Faso massacre, says government: On June 5th, the town of Solhan in north-eastern Burkina Faso was attacked with indiscriminately shootings at residents and setting fire to houses and the market. In the evening, the local authorities said, that at least 138 people had been killed. The assassins turned out to be mostly child soldiers between 12 and 14 years of age that belong to militias.

Chad 05.06.21: North Africa Journal: Sahel: Chad facing humanitarian disaster: “The United Nations launched an appeal jointly with the Chadian government for \$617.5 million dollars to help the central African state of Chad meet an escalating humanitarian emergency. Around 5.5 million people — a third of the population — need support for food, health, shelter, clean water and other essentials. The 2021 request, equivalent to 510 million euros, is 13 percent higher than in 2020. The international community has stumped up less than \$50 million for this year.”

Ivory Coast 11.06.21: Defence Post: **Ivory Coast opens counter-terrorism academy in partnership with France**: "The International Academy for the Fight Against Terrorism (AILCT), in the outskirts of Ivory Coast's commercial capital Abidjan, will include a school for government officials, a training center for special forces, and a research institute." The increasing militarization is based on the fact that the country is facing rising terrorist attacks.

See also 07.06.21: Timbuktu Institute: **Radicalisation et perception de la menace terroriste dans l'extrême-Nord de la Côte d'Ivoire** (Radicalisation and perception of the terrorist threat in the far north of Côte d'Ivoire)

Mali 11.06.21: DW: **Mali: New government filled with military leaders**: "Mali's transitional government announced a new government on Friday, with several positions filled by army leaders. Colonel Sadio Camara, who was removed from office last month, is taking up his old post as defense minister. Colonel Daoud Aly Mohammedine was named security minister." The posts were newly remitted after French president Macron a drawdown of troops in the Sahel region.

See also 31.05.21: ISS: **A new coup derails Mali's transition**; 03.06.21: Al Jazeera: **France halts joint army operations with Malian forces over coup**; 04.06.21: North Africa Journal: **Sahel: France losing grip of Mali and issues threats after army-man Goita took over power**

Mali/MINUSMA 01.07.21: taz: **UN-Mission in Mali verlängert** (UN Mission in Mali prolonged): On June 29th, the UN Security Council renewed the Mali mission for another year, which has been hotly debated in Germany since the attack on the Bundeswehr. An enlargement of the troops that are stationed in Mali is not planned, but the focus is going to be drawn on the upcoming elections in February 2022. The ongoing mission is justified as the UN insists to have the first democratic elections to go ahead as planned.

See also 27.06.21: taz: **Bundeswehr in Mali: Im Wüstensumpf** (Bundeswehr in Mali: In the desert swamp); 26.07.21: Telepolis: **Verletzte in Mali - wofür?** (Injured in Mali - for what?)

Niger 28.05.21: Bloomberg: **Rise of Anti-Jihadist Groups in Niger Could Help IS Recruiting**: "The rise of anti-jihadist vigilante groups in Niger's northern Tillabery region could fuel local grievances and provide the Islamic State with additional recruits in one of its last strongholds. The void left by local and state authorities provides fertile ground for militants linked to Islamic State to expand and cement its reach across West Africa's Sahel region", International Crisis Group said in a report on May 28th.

Sahel 29.06.21: Niamey et les 2 jours: **Menace terroriste: L'Italie pour une force d'intervention internationale au Sahel** (Terrorist threat: Italy for an international intervention force in the Sahel): Luigi Di Maio, the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, announced on 28 June his country's intention to set up a rapid intervention force to counter the growing terrorist threat. This was on the sidelines of a meeting of the coalition against the Islamic State. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said he supported the initiative. "With the support of the United States and many other partners,

I have proposed the creation of an African task force to identify and stop Islamist-related terrorist threats on the continent," said the head of Italian diplomacy.

Sahel/Burkina Faso 15.06.21: DW: **Burkina Faso: Amid growing instability, France signals it will reduce military presence**: Islamist militias in Burkina Faso raid villages and extort money from residents to fund their fight to establish a caliphate. But as violence increases, France wants to reduce its military presence in the region.

See also 07.06.21: RFI: **Après l'attaque de Solhan, le gouvernement burkinabè ferme des sites d'orpaillage (After the Solhan attack, the Burkinabe government closes gold panning sites)**; 14.06.21: Marketwatch: **Burkina Faso Closes Artisanal Gold Mining Sites After Jihadist Killings**:

Sahel 27.06.21: Financial Times: **Instability in the Sahel: how a jihadi gold rush is fueling violence in Africa** [paywall]: Solhan lies in northeastern Burkina Faso, which forms part of the tri-state region with Mali and Niger that has for the last few years been at the center of a surge in jihadi activity, killing thousands, displacing millions and rendering wide swaths of the region completely ungoverned. The wave of violence, now increasingly targeting gold mining areas, is threatening to destabilize the wider region, including coastal states such as Ivory Coast and Ghana.

See also 30.06.21: Al Jazeera: **What does end of France's Barkhane mission mean for Burkina Faso?**

Senegal 16.06.21: Le Point: **Fin de Barkhane : quelles répercussions sur le Sénégal ? (End of Barkhane: What repercussions for Senegal?)**: The recent announcement of the end of the French operation Barkhane in Mali is of greater concern to Senegal than ever before and has led it to fear repercussions on its national territory.

EUROPE

Croatia/BiH 23.06.21: Spiegel: **“Wir sind für sie wie Tiere” (“We are like animals to them”)**: In an investigative research, der Spiegel and several international media outlets document systematic illegal and law-breaking pushbacks including pregnant women and children at the border between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

Denmark 03.06.21: Al Jazeera: **Danish parliament approves law to deport asylum seekers**: On Thursday, 03 June 2021, the Danish parliament voted in favor of a law allowing the country to relocate asylum seekers who had arrived in Denmark to centers in so-called partner countries outside the EU, following their line of a “zero asylum seekers” policy.

See also **UK** 28.06.21: The London Economic: **Patel's ‘disgusting plan’ to hold migrants in offshore hubs sparks fury**

Greece 07.06.21: ekathimerini: **Turkey designated a ‘safe country’ for asylum seekers**: With the declaration of Turkey as a so-called ‘safe country’, Greece assumes that

people from Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Somalia “face no risk on the grounds of race, religion, nationality, political belief or social status” which allows Greece to legally deport those seeking asylum in Greece back to Turkey.

Greece 13.06.21: Al Jazeera: **Greece: Four Afghan migrants jailed over Moria camp fire:** Four Afghan asylum-seekers have been sentenced to 10 years in prison in Chios for their part in a fire that destroyed the Moria migrant camp in Greece in Sept 2020. Defence lawyers said the trial was not fair and appealed immediately after the court had announced its decision.

See also 13.06.21: #FreeTheMoria6: **Press Release**; 24.06.21: AYS: **Greece: #Vial15 under trial**; 29.06.21: Can't Evict Solidarity: **Press release: Final judgement against the Vial 15**; 25.06.21: NYT: **He Saved 31 People at Sea. Then Got a 142-Year Prison Sentence.**

Lithuania/FRONTEX 18.06.21 RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty: **Lithuania Says Lukahsenka is Flooding Baltic State's Border With Migrants:** As the number of migrants stuck on the Lithuanian border rises, "Lithuanian authorities have requested Frontex support at its external border. The agency is currently working closely with the national authorities to determine the scope of its assistance," the Frontex press office told RFE/RL in e-mailed comments.

See also 30.06.21: EUObserver: **Belarus using migrants to counter-attack EU**

Mediterranean/Libya 11.06.21 ECRE: **Med: EU Tour de Migration Control Continues as Do Returns to Libya and Crack-Down on Civil SAR despite No Evidence of Pull-factor:** Libyan Prime Minister, Abd Alhamid Aldabaiba confirmed that the so-called Libyan coast guard has intercepted more than 9,000 people in 2021. Five civilian search and rescue vessels are blocked by Italian authorities in the ongoing crackdown as fact check debunks claims that they constitute a pull-factor.

Mediterranean/Italy 18.06.21: ECRE: **UN Condemnation of Returns to Unsafe Libya by Merchant Ship, Survivors Rescued in Maltese SAR Zone Accepted by Italy, Parliament President Urges EU Lead on Rescues at Sea:** The Un Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the international Organization for Migration (IOM) condemn the return to Libya of 270 people rescued in international waters by the Merchant ship Vos Triton. Hundreds of people rescued in the Maltese SAR zone have been accepted by Italy after authorities in Malta rejected responsibility. European parliament president, David Sassoli urges EU lead on search and rescue on the Mediterranean.

See also 17.06.21: DW: **Hilfsschiffe bringen Hunderte Bootsmigranten nach Italien (Aid ships bring hundreds of boat migrants to Italy)**

Spain 18.06.21: ECRE: **Spain: Hundreds Disappeared on Atlantic Route while the Misery of Children in the Canary Islands, Ceuta and Melilla Persists:** Thousands of lives have been lost on migration routes to Spain and more deaths are feared with nearly 500 people disappearing along the Atlantic Route within the past two weeks. In the Canary Islands, Ceuta and Melilla, the situation of children remains harrowing with alleged sexual assault, overcrowded and unsanitary living conditions, and violations of the right of education.

See also 07.06.21: Statewatch: [The Canary cage: the making of deportation islands on Spain's Atlantic border](#)

EUROPEAN UNION

EU/Greece 04.06.21: ECRE: [EU Funded Spending Spree Continues with Tender on Closed Camps, New Legislation to Increase Deportations, Commission Response on Inadmissibility Decisions](#): A tender totaling 142 million Euro funded by the EU has been published by Greek authorities for the construction of two closed controlled camps on Lesbos and Chios and the upgrade of a pre-removal detention facility in the Evros region. The EU has invested 3 billion Euro in security technology research following the peak of arrivals in 2015-16 and the expansion of the toolbox of securitization and deterrence is visible in Greece. The extensive list of “futuristic measures” developed in cooperation with private firms tested and introduced in projects in Greece include an automated surveillance network under construction at the Greek-Turkish border with river and land patrols using searchlights and long-range acoustic devices, AI-powered lie detectors and virtual border-guard interview bots, integrated satellite data with footage from drones on land, air, sea and underwater.

EU/Turkey 23.06.21: The Guardian: [EU plan to fund Turkey border control 'risks refugees' forces return](#): “According to a leaked plan seen by the Guardian, the European Commission wants to fund “border control” at Turkey’s eastern frontier as part of efforts to deter refugees and migrants from coming to Europe. The draft – to be debated by EU leaders at a summit on Thursday – calls for €3bn (£2.5bn) from the EU budget to fund refugee aid and migration policy in Turkey, with an unspecified part of the money earmarked for border control.”

REPORTS

June 2021: Amnesty International: [Greece: Violence, Lies, And Pushbacks](#): “This research documents 21 new pushback incidents and other abuses occurring between June and December 2020, based on the testimonies of 16 individuals. Through their experience and building upon the compelling body of evidence by international human rights bodies, civil society, and journalists, it proves the continued, routine use of these brutal tactics by Greece as an entrenched method of border control at land and sea.”

See also June 2021: Oxfam: [Lesbos Bulletin. Update on the EU response in Lesbos, by the Greek Council for refugees & Oxfam](#)

June 2021: BVMN: [Balkan Report May 2021](#): “In May, the Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN) reported on a total of 43 pushbacks, impacting a combined number of 760 people-on-the-move at borders across the Balkans. The reports illustrate a range of different tactics and rights breaches which have become embedded in EU border enforcement, including extreme physical and racialized violence.”

June 2021: Clingendael: **Laws of Attraction. Northern Benin and risk of violent extremist spillover**: “West Africa’s coastal states are at risk of Islamist violence spilling over from the Sahel. The Islamic State of the Greater Sahara (ISGS), Jama’at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimeen (JNIM/Katiba Macina), and the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) have announced their intentions to move into the Gulf of Guinea.² In 2018, JNIMs Kouffa, for example, attempted to mobilize Fulani across the West Africa region.[...] This report fills this gap by exploring local problems in one country possibly at risk: Benin, specifically the regions of Alibori, Borgou and Atacora.”

June 2021: ERPS: **Asylum in the EU: Facts and Figures**: “This infographic provides an overview of the number of third-country nationals seeking asylum in EU Member States, their success in asylum procedures, and requests for transfers between Member States, as a consequence of the Dublin Regulation.”

June 2021: FTDES: **Decrypting ICMPD**: “After the opening of its Tunis office in 2015, ICMPD significantly expanded its Tunisia operations and is today involved in a wide array of Europe-funded projects, aimed at fortifying Tunisia’s land and sea borders and at externalizing the European border control regime to North African shores.”

June 2021: HRW: **Frontex Failing to Protect People at EU Borders**: “An analysis of the actions of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, known as Frontex, shows a pattern of failure to credibly investigate or take steps to mitigate abuses against migrants at EU external borders, even in the face of clear evidence of rights violations.”

June 2021: Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs: **The EU Approach on Migration in the Mediterranean**: “This study, commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE Committee, examines the EU approach on migration in the Mediterranean, covering developments from the 2015 refugee crisis up to the Covid-19 pandemic, assessing the effect these events have had on the design, implementation, and reform of EU policy on asylum, migration and external border control, and documenting the ramifications these changes have had on the actors who operate and are impacted by these policies, including immigration authorities, civil society organizations, and the migrants themselves.”

June 2021: Matthias Monroy: **Grenzdrohnen. Unbemannte Überwachung der Festung Europa (Border drones. Unmanned surveillance of Fortress Europe)**: “Originally military high technology, drones are now taking over the EU’s forward migration defence. At the external borders, they create new sales markets for the European, US and Israeli arms industries. In total, the EU has spent well over a billion euros on these technologies to date. The drone missions are intended to intimidate and promote a military friend-or-foe mindset. Refugees crossing borders are seen as a threat in this logic and thus dehumanized.”

June 2021: MMC: **Migration drivers and decision-making of West and Central Africans on the move in West and North Africa**: “Based on 2,083 surveys carried out with refugees and migrants surveyed in West and North Africa as part of the Mixed Migration Centre’s 4Mi project, this paper seeks to contribute to the empirical basis for a holistic migrant-centered approach to departures by examining a variety of elements.”

June 2021: **Pro Asyl: [Abgelehnt im Niemandsland. Vom Flughafenverfahren zum "New Pact on Migration and Asylum" - Warum Asylgrenzverfahren unfair und mangelhaft sind](#)** (Rejected in No Man's Land. From Airport Procedures to the "New Pact on Migration and Asylum" – Why Asylum Border Procedures are Unfair and Flawed): "The study shows how problematic such accelerated procedures that involve *de facto* detention due to the fiction of non-entry are – even when applied to comparatively modest number of cases [...]" says Wiebke Judith, legal policy officer at PRO ASYL and author of the study.

June 2021: **Refugee Rights Europe: [Pushbacks, Homelessness and Human Rights Abuses. Greece During COVID-19](#)**: In this report, the Greek Government's actions in relation to the aforementioned issues [escalation in pushbacks, rising homelessness, the reduction of resources and support, an increase in domestic abuse, spiralling mental health problems, the curtailment of movement and a further worsening of camp and detention conditions] are assessed, with reference to relevant international standards. The research conducted and gathered by all report partners during this time underlines the wide-ranging gross human rights abuses unfolding on Greek soil, and indicates that these violations are intrinsically connected with Greek and European migration and asylum policies.

June 2021: **UNITED: [Updated List of Deaths](#)**: The list now has 44,764 entries. 44,764 humans who lost their lives, many of them unknown, unnamed. Many more likely never found. Not by accident, but as a result of the European migration policies.

CAMPAIGNS

Campaign Statewatch: [Global Call to Ban Public Biometric Surveillance](#): As public and private sector institutions push ahead with the development and deployment of remote biometric surveillance systems – currently best-exemplified by facial recognition technology – opposition is increasing. A statement signed by over 200 individuals and organisations from across the globe to launch the [#BanBS](#) campaign demands action – namely, “an outright ban on uses of facial recognition and remote biometric recognition technologies that enable mass surveillance and discriminatory targeted surveillance.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Discussion 15th July // 2-4pm (CEST) [Discussing the EP Frontex Scrutiny Working Group's Report](#)