

On the Move – Latest migration news

MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN TÜRKIYE

10/05/2022-24/05/2022

- Turkish authorities rescued [17 migrants](#) off the coasts of Misrata. However, the people were disembarked in Al-Khoms, Libya, where they will face abuse and detention.

05/04/2022-10/05/2022

- Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan [revealed](#) a plan to send back 1 million Syrian refugees. He said the plan is based on voluntary returns and inaugurated thousands of prefabricated houses built for refugees willing to return to Idlib, Syria. The plan aims to build infrastructures such as housing and schools in other Syrian provinces to encourage Syrians to go back.

22/03/2022-05/04/2022

- On 30 of March, Turkish Coast Guard units [saved](#) 38 migrants in the Aegean Sea and intercepted dozens of others across different provinces. They were pushed back by Greek forces into Turkish territorial waters, said coast guard sources.

22/02/2022-08/03/2022

- Crossborder Forum produced a [report](#) of a [conference](#) held in November 2021 titled "Deconstructing the border and building bridges: Towards a critical collective analysis of the French-British-Belgian border". The report addressed four topics: a historical perspective on border controls and the externalisation of the British border; criminalisation and containment; funding the border and the delegation of control to non-state actors; pathways for action and advocacy.

08/02/2022 - 22/02/2022

- In 2021, Turkish authorities rescued [23,676 migrants](#) in the **Aegean Sea**. According to the Turkish newspaper Hurriyet, 15,794 had been pushed back by Greek authorities.
- Refugees in Turkey face [increasing hostility](#) and violence by both the host community and authorities.

25/01/2022 - 08/02/2022

- [150 Syrian refugees](#), mostly students who were living in Istanbul, were deported between 29-30 January 2022 back to northwestern Syria.
- In the beginning of January, Nail al-Naif, a Syrian refugee living in Turkey, was stabbed to death by a group of men. As reported by [Al Jazeera](#), this murder is the last episode showing an alarming increase in violence against refugees in Turkey.

14/12/2021-11/01/2022

- The Turkish Coast Guard intercepted more than [21,400](#) people in 2021.

30/11/2021 - 14/12/2021

- Turkey established a new [residential area](#) in the region of Idlib, in northwest Syria, to host displaced Syrians. The Turkish government built 30,000 brick houses in the village of Meshed Ruhin, close to the Turkish border. The plan is to build 20,000 more houses in an effort to stop the influx of Syrian refugees in Turkey, which hosts about 3.6 million Syrians.
- The Council of Europe's Special Representative on Migration and Refugees published a [report](#) on his mission in Turkey. The purpose of the mission was to provide an overview of the situation of migrants and refugees in the country and observe the developments since the previous visit in 2016. The Representative made recommendations to improve "access to asylum and the treatment of vulnerable persons, reception conditions, administrative detention, long-term prospects and border issues" and align them with the Council of Europe's standards.

16/11/2021 - 29/11/2021

- EU Commission Vice President Margaritis Schinas [visited](#) Turkey as part of its trip to Middle-Eastern countries to de-escalate the situation at the Belarus-Poland border. In the previous weeks, Turkey had banned citizens of Syria, Iraq, and Yemen from buying plane tickets to Belarus.

25/10/2021 - 15/11/2021

- [164 Afghans](#) were captured by Turkish authorities in the beginning of November. Eleven were arrested with charges of smuggling. During the G20 Summit in Rome, Erdogan stated that Turkey will not open its doors to new migrants as it already hosts 300,000 **Afghans** in its territory.

23/09/2021 - 05/10/2021

- The European Council [approved](#), on 29 September 2021, EUR 149.6 million from the EU budget to support Syrian refugees in Turkey.
- At the end of September 2021, at least [335 migrants](#) have been stopped, some of them detained, by Turkish authorities in different provinces. On 26 September 2021, [254 migrants](#), from Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Pakistan,

and Bangladesh, have been held by local authorities in southwestern Turkey.

6/09/2021 - 22/09/2021

- Increased [fears](#) among Afghanis in Turkey.

19/08/2021 - 06/09/2021

- On 19 August 2021, Turkey's president, Tayyip Erdogan, [said](#) that Turkey will not become "Europe's migrant storage unit", urging EU member states to take responsibility for migrants coming from Afghanistan.
- The Ministry of the Interior has [allocated](#) 35 special operations teams and 50 armed vehicles to control the border with Iran. There will be, in addition to the wall at the border, 58 watchtowers and 45 communication towers "equipped with thermal cameras, radars, sensors and fire control systems". Many Afghan refugees in Turkey's Van province at the Iran-Turkey border are being violently [pushed back to Iran](#): in a single operation in July, more than 1,400 Afghans were pushed back by Turkish border guards and military police.

27/07/2021 - 19/08/2021

- Turkey declared it expand the construction of a [wall](#) along its border with Iran to cover the entirety of the 295-km border and it's [sending soldiers](#) at border to prevent Afghan refugees to access its territory.

5/07/2021 - 27/07/2021

- During the second week of July, Turkish security forces have [detained 1,500 migrants](#), most of them Afghans, near the southeastern border with Iran, amid rising violence in Afghanistan. At least 12 people were [killed](#) after a smuggler's minibus overturned on the Tatvan highway, and 60 people drowned after a boat capsized on Lake Van in June 2021. The potential instability in Afghanistan, following the withdrawal of US and NATO troops, led Finland to [temporarily stop forced returns](#) to Afghanistan.
- On 23 July 2021, a [shipwreck](#) off the Turkish town of Kas caused at least 45 deaths.

26/05/2021 - 7/06/2021

- On 5 June 2021, a suspected Turkish airstrike near Makhmour refugee camp in northern Iraq killed [three people](#).
- The Mercator Dialogue on Asylum and Migration (MEDAM) [published](#) its Assessment Report *EU-Turkey: Toward sustainable cooperation in migration management and refugee protection*.